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WHC PLN VCM WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN			

WHC_PLN_VCM_WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

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1 INTRODUCTION

The Vickery Coal Mine (VCM) is located in the Gunnedah Coal Basin, approximately 25 kilometres (km) north of Gunnedah in New South Wales (NSW) (Figure 1-1). The VCM is operated by Vickery Coal Pty Limited (VCPL) (a wholly owned subsidiary of Whitehaven Coal Limited [WHC]).


Development Consent (SSD-7480) was granted to VCPL on 12 August 2020 by the NSW Independent Planning Commission as a delegate of the NSW Minister for Planning under Section 75J of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979* (EP&A Act). Development Consent allows for the development of an open cut mine and associated infrastructure with a 25 year mine life, extracting run-of-mine (ROM) coal at up to 10 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) and processing the coal, as well as coal from WHC's Tarrawonga Mine, at an on-site coal handling and processing plant (CHPP) for off-site transport by rail.

1.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This Waste Management Plan (Waste MP) has been prepared by WHC as per the Waste Management Plan requirements of Condition B95, Schedule 2 of SSD-7480 (Table 1-1).

Table 1-1 – Specific Waste Management Plan Conditions in SSD-7480

VCM Development Consent (SSD-7480) Schedule 2	Relevant Waste Management Plan Section
<i>B92(a). The Applicant must take all reasonable steps to minimise the waste (including coal rejects) generated by the development;</i>	Section 6.1
<i>B92(b). The Applicant must classify all waste in accordance with the Waste Classification Guidelines (EPA, 2014);</i>	Section 3
<i>B92(c). The Applicant must dispose of all waste at appropriately licensed waste facilities;</i>	Section 6.2
<i>B92(d). The Applicant must manage on-site sewage treatment and disposal in accordance with the requirements of GSC and NSC; and</i>	Section 6.3
<i>B92(e). The Applicant must monitor and report on the effectiveness of the waste minimisation and management measures in the Annual Review referred to in condition E9.</i>	Section 6.4 and Section 8.1
<i>B93. Except for the receipt and disposal of coal reject from the Whitehaven CHPP and except as expressly permitted in an applicable EPL, specific resource recovery order or exemption under the Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2014, the Applicant must not receive waste at the site for storage, treatment, processing, reprocessing or disposal.</i>	Section 6.1
<i>B94. The Applicant must ensure that biosolids used on the site are managed in accordance with the Environmental Guidelines: Use and Disposal of Biosolids Products (EPA, 1997) (or its latest version).</i>	Not applicable to construction, not to be used for construction.
<i>B95. The Applicant must prepare a Waste Management Plan for the development to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. This plan must:</i>	
<i>(a) be prepared in consultation with EPA, GSC and NSC;</i>	Section 1.2
<i>(b) identify all waste types generated by the development; and</i>	Section 3
<i>(c) describe the measures to ensure the management of waste generated by, and received at, the development complies with the requirements of conditions B92 to B94.</i>	Section 6.4 and Section 8
<i>B96. The Applicant must implement the Waste Management Plan as approved by the Planning Secretary.</i>	Entire document


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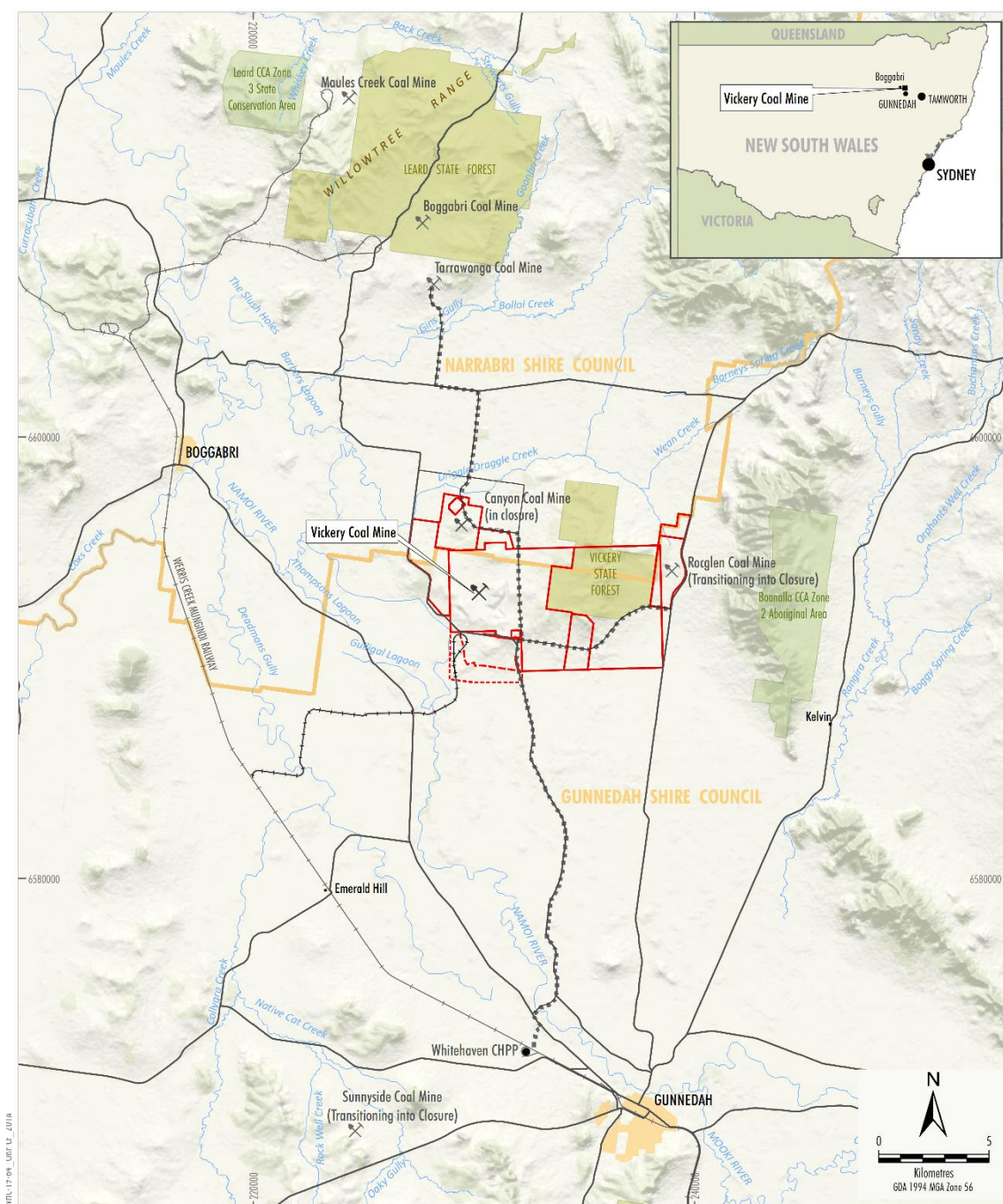
This Waste Management Plan has been prepared in accordance with the standard requirement for management plans listed in Condition E4, Schedule 2 of SSD-7480 (see Table 1-2). Table 1-2 presents these requirements and indicates where each is addressed within this Waste Management Plan.

Table 1-2 – General Management Plan requirements

Condition E4 Schedule 2, VCM Development Consent (SSD-7480)	Relevant Waste Management Plan Section
<i>E4. Management plans required under this consent must be prepared in accordance with relevant guidelines, and include where relevant:</i>	Entire Document
(a) <i>summary of relevant background or baseline data;</i>	Section 3
(b) <i>details of:</i>	-
(i) <i>the relevant statutory requirements (including any relevant approval, licence or lease conditions);</i>	Section 2
(ii) <i>any relevant limits or performance measures and criteria; and</i>	Section 5
(iii) <i>the specific performance indicators that are proposed to be used to judge the performance of, or guide the implementation of, the development or any management measures;</i>	Section 5
(c) <i>any relevant commitments or recommendations identified in the document/s listed in condition A2(c);</i>	Section 6
(d) <i>a description of the measures to be implemented to comply with the relevant statutory requirements, limits, or performance measures and criteria;</i>	Section 7
(e) <i>a program to monitor and report on the:</i>	
(i) <i>impacts and environmental performance of the development; and</i>	Section 8
(ii) <i>effectiveness of the management measures set out pursuant to paragraph (d)</i>	Section 8
(f) <i>a contingency plan to manage any unpredicted impacts and their consequences and to ensure that ongoing impacts reduce to levels below relevant impact assessment criteria as quickly as possible;</i>	Section 7
(g) <i>a program to investigate and implement ways to improve the environmental performance of the development over time;</i>	Section 8
(h) <i>a protocol for managing and reporting any:</i>	
(i) <i>incident, non-compliance or exceedance of any impact assessment criterion or performance measure;</i>	Section 9.1
(ii) <i>complaint; or</i>	Section 9.2
(iii) <i>failure to comply with other statutory requirements;</i>	Section 9.3
(i) <i>public sources of information and data to assist stakeholders in understanding environmental impacts of the development; and</i>	Section 8
(j) <i>a protocol for periodic review of the plan.</i>	Section 8.1

Note: The Planning Secretary may waive some of these requirements if they are unnecessary or unwarranted for particular management plans.

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- LEGEND**
- Mining Tenement Boundary (ML, CL and AUTH)
 - Exploration Licence Boundary (EL)
 - Mining Lease Application (MLA)
 - Local Government Boundary
 - State Forest
 - State Conservation Area, Aboriginal Area
 - Major Roads
 - Railway
 - Approved Road Transport Route
 - Indicative Project Rail Spur

Source: LPMA - Topographic Base (2010); NSW Department of Industry (2015)


VICKERY COAL MINE
 Project Location

Figure 1-1

Figure 1-1 Regional Location

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On 11 December 2020 the Secretary approved the progressive submission of environmental management plans for the VCM in accordance with Condition A25(a), Schedule 2 of SSD-7480. The scope of this Waste Management Plan is specifically related to the VCM construction and initial mining activities.

The construction and initial mining stage is anticipated to take approximately 30 months based on sequencing of the major construction activities, with the bulk of significant construction earthworks to occur within a 12 - 18 month period, and will include:

- construction of the CHPP;
- construction of the rail spur and loop and train load-out facility;
- construction of the mine industrial area (MIA);
- construction of ROM and product coal stockpile pads;
- initial development of the box cut;
- construction of temporary infrastructure facilities;
- construction of temporary ROM coal stockpiles;
- construction of workshops and offices;
- construction of water supply bores and Namoi River pump station and pipelines;
- construction of dams, sediment dams, up-catchment diversions, channels and other water management infrastructure;
- construction of soil stockpile areas;
- construction of access roads and internal roads;
- closure of a portion of Braymont Road;
- construction of connection to the existing 66 kilovolt powerline and construction of substations and power supply;
- construction of ancillary infrastructure including consumable storage areas, laydown areas, explosives storage facilities;
- ongoing exploration activities; and
- other associated minor infrastructure construction, use of other plant and other activities.

The general arrangement of the VCM is shown on Figures 1-2 and 1-3. The VCM layout at the end of the construction and initial mining stage is shown on Figure 1-4.

Earthworks associated with the development of the above infrastructure would include the excavation of waste rock, gravel and coal material from within the VCM open cut footprint. The earthworks will include the initial development of the box cut, with a small volume of ROM coal extracted for stockpile pad treatment, commissioning activities and transport to the Gunnedah CHPP. Additionally, a small volume of coal from WHC's other mines may be delivered to the VCM for stockpile pad treatment and CHPP commissioning activities as noted in section 2.2 of the EIS.

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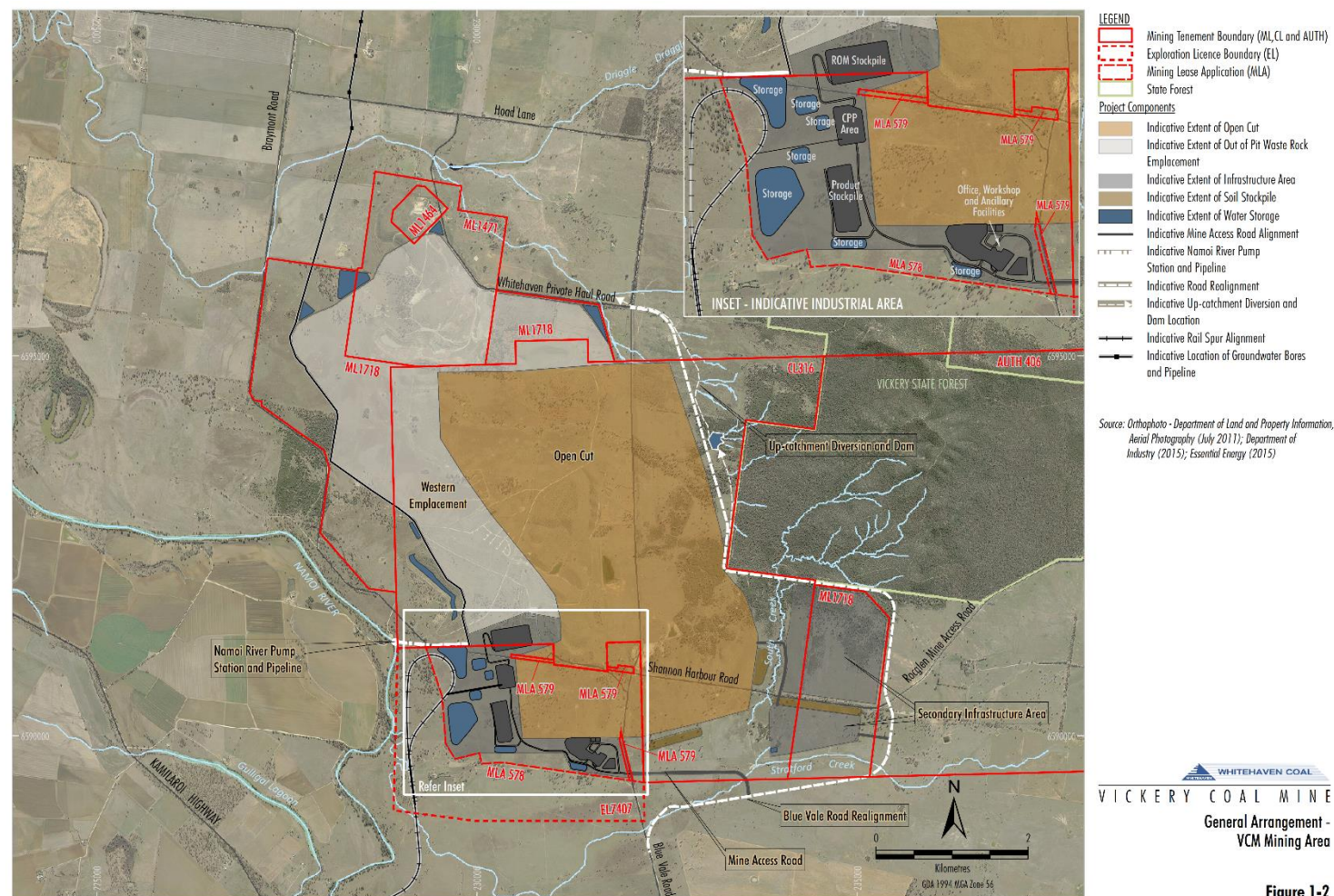



Figure 1-2

Figure 1-2 Vickers Coal Mine General Arrangement

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1.2 **CONSULTATION**

In accordance with Condition B95, Schedule 2 of SSD-7480, this Waste Management Plan has been prepared in consultation with the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), Gunnedah Shire Council (GSC) and Narrabri Shire Council (NSC).

1.3 **STRUCTURE OF THE WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The remainder of this Waste Management Plan is structured as follows:

- Section 2 Outlines the relevant statutory requirements and policies relevant to this Waste Management Plan.
- Section 3 Describes the waste streams and classification.
- Section 4 Describes the baseline data.
- Section 5 Details the specific performance measures WHC proposes to use to guide the implementation of waste management and assess their performance.
- Section 6 Describes the waste management measures to be implemented at the VCM.
- Section 7 Describes the contingency plans to manage unprecedented impacts and their consequences.
- Section 8 Describes the review and improvement of environmental performance.
- Section 9 Describes the procedures in place for management and reporting of incidents, complaints and non-compliance's with statutory requirements.
- Section 10 Provides references cited in this Waste Management Plan.

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2 RELEVANT STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES

WHC's statutory obligations relevant to waste management are contained in:

- the conditions of SSD-7480;
- the relevant licences and permits, including conditions attached to mining leases; and
- other relevant legislation.

Obligations relevant to this Waste Management Plan are described below.

2.1 DEVELOPMENT CONSENT (SSD-7480)

The conditions of SSD-7480 relevant to the content and structure of this Waste Management Plan are described below.

2.1.1 Waste Requirements

Condition B92 to B94, Schedule 2 of SSD-7480 requires the management of Waste in a certain manner which is presented in Table 1-2.

2.1.2 Waste Management Plan Requirements

Condition B95, Schedule 2 of SSD-7480 requires the preparation of a Waste Management Plan (refer to Table 1-1).


2.1.3 General Management Plan Requirements

This Waste Management Plan has been prepared in accordance with the standard requirement for management plans listed in Condition E4, Schedule 2 of SSD-7480 (see Table 1-2).

2.2 LICENSES, PERMITS AND LEASES

In addition to SSD-7480, activities associated with the VCM will be undertaken in accordance with the following licences, permits and leases:

- Coal Lease (CL) 316, Mining Leases (MLs) 1718, 1471, 1464 and MLA 578.
- The VCM Construction Mining Operations Plan.
- Environment Protection Licence (EPL) No. 21283.
- Mining and workplace health and safety related approvals.

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2.3 **OTHER LEGISLATION**

In addition to the statutory obligations described above, the following NSW Acts (and their regulations) may be applicable to the conduct of the VCM:

- EP&A Act;
- *Mining Act, 1992*;
- *Protection of the Environment Operations Act, 1997 (PoEO Act)*;
- *Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2014*;
- *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act, 2001*;
- *Work Health and Safety Act, 2011*; and
- *Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Act, 2013*.

Other guidelines and standards that were considered during the preparation of this Waste Management Plan include, but are not limited to:

- *Environmental Guidelines: Use and Disposal of Biosolids Products (EPA, 1997)*.
- *Waste Classification Guidelines (EPA, 2014)*.


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3 WASTE STREAMS AND CLASSIFICATION

The principal wastes that will be generated at the Project will be categorised as per the EPA's waste classification guidelines (EPA, 2014) prior to disposal. The list is not exhaustive and wastes will be managed as per EPA waste classification guidelines (Table 3-1).

Table 3-1 Waste streams

Waste types generated	
Drill cuttings and fluids	Lead acid batteries
General domestic and recyclable wastes from the onsite buildings and routine maintenance	Sewage and waste water
Food waste	Nightsoil (sewage)
Hydrocarbons, including by-products from dirty water from maintenance workshop, wash down pad and fuel storage areas, oil	Asbestos and asbestos containing materials
Oil/fuel filters	Scrap metal
Tyres	Paint
Construction and demolition waste	Lead paint

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4 BASELINE DATA


The type and quantity of waste generated at the Site will be tracked on a monthly basis through waste disposal receipts and delivery dockets.

5 PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Consistent with Condition E4, Schedule 2 of the Project Approval, the table below outlines the performance indicators that will be used to assess the performance of the Waste MP, and in particular whether suitable measures are in place to minimise waste and ensure waste is appropriately stored, handled and disposed of.

Table 5-1 Waste performance indicators

Aspect	Performance Indicator
Waste generation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site induction to include waste management controls. <p>Waste generation has been minimised by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in amount of type of waste recycled; Decrease in amount of waste generated that is disposed of at licenced landfill facilities; No practicable opportunities for additional waste minimisation have been identified to those currently being implemented.
Storage of waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste has been separated, signposted and stored according to type in appropriate storage facilities (e.g. sealed containers for liquid waste). Appropriate waste receptacles are available and signposted. <p>No long term storage of any waste destined for off-site disposal.</p>
Handling and disposal of waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The transport of particular waste types has been tracked in accordance with NSW EPA waste tracking requirements. <p>Whitehaven Coal's waste management contracts, where relevant, specify that the waste is to be transported by an appropriately licensed contractor and disposed of at an appropriately licensed facility.</p>

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6 WASTE MANAGEMENT

The objectives of waste management at the mine are as follows:


- To minimise waste production;
- To identify waste types and quantities on site;
- To maximise the beneficial use of excavated material for site construction and rehabilitation activities;
- To identify potential re-use or recycling opportunities and ensure appropriate handling and collection procedures are in place;
- To investigate methods to minimise waste generated by the mine and implement reasonable and feasible measures to minimise waste;
- To ensure the disposal of wastes conforms with applicable guidelines or licences; and
- To ensure storage areas for fuels, oils or other potential contaminants are appropriately bunded.

6.1 GENERAL SITE WASTE MANAGEMENT

The following strategies will be put in place to ensure the management of waste generated by and received by the Site are minimised (Table 6-1).

Table 6-1 Waste minimisation strategies

Waste minimisation strategies	
Site induction including information regarding the management of waste and correct disposal of waste streams to support segregation and recycling occurs where available.	No long term storage of any waste.
Waste storage areas appropriately signposted.	Avoid over-ordering of materials.
Appropriate waste receptacles made available.	Procuring alternate products or bulk ordering will be considered to reduce packaging.
Drill wastes will be disposed of in accordance with the relevant approvals. The disposal of drill wastes is subject to obtaining the necessary approvals under the EP&A Act and will be disposed of in accordance with that approval.	Regular review of stock levels.
Coal rejects from the Gunnedah CHPP will be managed in accordance with the Vickery Extension Project EIS (WHC, 2018) that describes the coal reject disposal strategy. Rejects from the Project CHPP and/or Whitehaven CHPP will be co-disposed with waste rock. No reject material would be placed within 30 m of the edge of the Western Emplacement, and reject material will be covered with at least 5 m of inert material on the outer surfaces of the waste rock emplacement.	Except as permitted in the applicable EPL, specific resource recovery order or exemption under the <i>Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2014</i> , receiving waste at the site for storage, treatment, processing, reprocessing or disposal will not be undertaken.

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6.2 WASTE CLASSIFICATION AND DISPOSAL

General waste minimisation principles (i.e. reduce, re-use and recycle) will be applied at the Project to minimise the quantity of wastes that require off-site disposal (Figure 6-1). Following the waste hierarchy, if minimisation, reuse, recycling and recovery of waste options have been exhausted, then the waste will be disposed of at an appropriately licenced facility after the waste has been classified as per the *Waste Classification Guidelines* (EPA, 2014). The two closest licenced waste facilities to the Project is the Gunnedah Waste Management Facility (EPL 5940) and the Narrabri Landfill (EPL 12193). If hazardous waste requires disposal, this will be taken to an appropriately licenced facility including any required consultation with the facility prior to disposal.

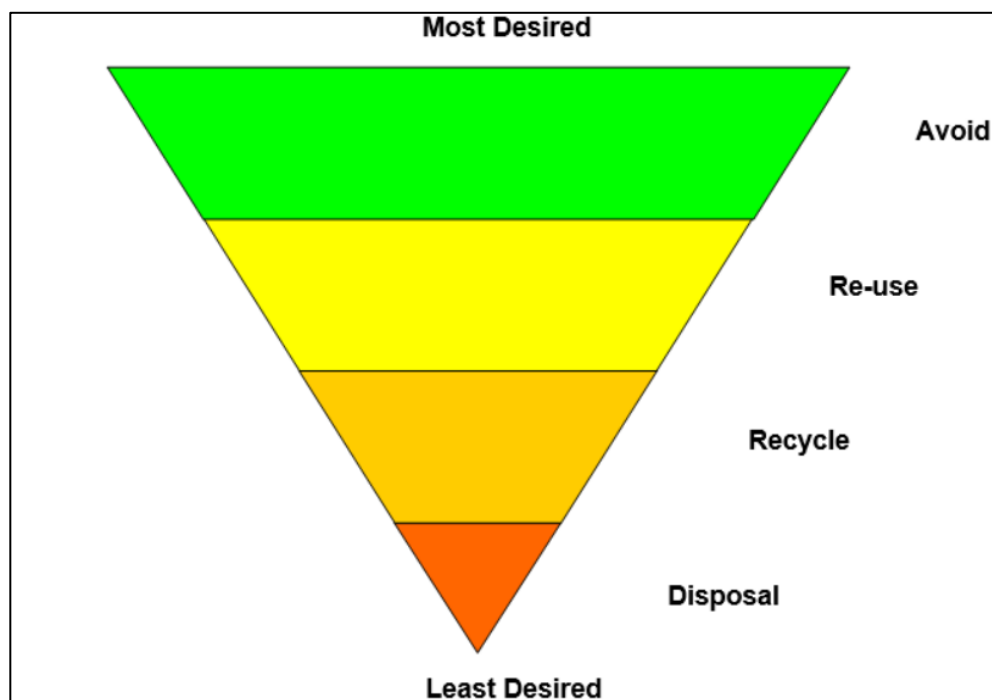



Figure 6-1 – Waste Hierarchy

Disposal of tyres should also follow the waste hierarchy. Where reuse, on-site recycling or recovery options have been exhausted or considered not feasible, disposal to the waste emplacement will be undertaken. The assessment of risk in relation to the disposal of end of life large mining equipment waste tyres was addressed in the VEP EIS, s 3.1.4 Appendix P. Waste tyres from mining equipment will be stockpiled prior to being disposed of within the footprint of the open cut void as the open cut advances

Consistent with other tyre management processes at Whitehaven Coal operations in the region where on-site tyre disposal via burial is permitted to occur, a pre-task risk assessment, detailed recording of location and inventory, and associated reporting and documentation will be undertaken to ensure management of end-of-life mining equipment tyre burial. The preliminary

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risk assessment will include consideration to both the location and manner in which the tyres will be disposed, monitoring, appropriate burial depth below final rehabilitation height, minimising the risk to groundwater or surface water contamination, as well as proximity to coal rejects and potentially acid-forming (PAF) material.

Application to include the activity within an Environment Protection Licence (EPL) will be undertaken.

6.3 SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL

Sewage and wastewater from on-site ablution facilities will be collected and treated in biocycle sewage treatment system and serviced by a licensed waste disposal contractor on an as-needs basis. Treated effluent will be irrigated at a small wastewater disposal area in accordance with the Environmental Guidelines: Use of Effluent by Irrigation (NSW Department of Environment and Conservation, 2004). Consultation will occur with Gunnedah Shire Council, where required, in addition to any previous consultation effort regarding the relevant requirements to manage on-site sewage treatment and disposal. Where required, approval from the required Council will be sought under Section 68 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.


Monthly monitoring will be undertaken at the wastewater disposal area to ensure soil health is maintained and the irrigation of the effluent does not result in pollution of waters or land.

6.4 MONITORING

Waste generated at the Project will be monitored on a monthly basis through waste disposal receipts provided by the waste contractors. Waste data will be collected and recorded according to type in the Site Waste Register.


The Waste Register and monthly inspection will be used to assess the performance of the mine against the performance indicators:

- an increase in the amount or type of waste recycled;
- a decrease in the amount of waste generated that is disposed of at licensed landfill facilities; and/or
- no practicable opportunities for additional waste minimisation has been identified to those currently being implemented.
- reduction in over ordering goods,
- tracking of wastes,
- transport of waste by licenced waste transporter,
- waste receptacles are appropriately used and signposted.

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In accordance with the POEO Act and its regulations, it is the Sites responsibility to ensure that any transporter of waste is appropriately licensed to transport the waste, and the facility that is to receive the waste is legally able to receive the type of waste concerned. To comply with condition C7 of the Project Approval for the transporting of construction waste materials, a separate document – *Construction Traffic Management Plan* will be prepared.

Waste management performance will be reported annually in the Annual Review.

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7 CONTINGENCY PLAN

In the event waste management criteria (detailed in Section 4) may not have been met or a performance indicator is considered to have been exceeded, WHC will implement the following Contingency Plan for the VCM:


- The Environmental Superintendent or authorised delegate will report the event as an incident, in accordance with Section 9.1.
- WHC will apply adaptive management (Section 7.1).
- WHC will identify the appropriate course of action with respect to the identified impact(s), in consultation with technical specialists, the Secretary and any other relevant agencies, as necessary. For example, contingency measures, such as, but not limited to, those described in Section 9.2.
- WHC will, in the event there is a dispute over the proposed remedial course of action or if the actions conflict with current approvals, submit the appropriate course of action to the Secretary for approval.
- WHC will implement the appropriate course of action to the satisfaction of the Secretary.

7.1 ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

In accordance with Condition E3, Schedule 2 of SSD-7480, WHC will assess and manage risks to comply with the criteria and/or performance measures outlined in Schedule 2 of SSD-7480.

Where any exceedance of the criteria and/or performance measures occurs, at the earliest opportunity WHC will:


- take all reasonable and feasible steps to ensure that the exceedance ceases and does not reoccur;
- consider all reasonable and feasible options for remediation (where relevant) and submit a report to the Secretary describing those options and any preferred remediation measures or other courses of action; and
- implement remediation measures as directed by the Secretary, to the satisfaction of the Secretary.

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7.2 **POTENTIAL CONTINGENCY MEASURES**

Potential contingency measures will be reviewed during revisions of this Waste Management Plan. Key potential contingency measures to be implemented may include the following:

- Audit of waste management system, reviewing waste management measures;
- Identification of potential system improvements such as upgrade of waste infrastructure and handling procedures;
- Implementation of modifications to the waste management system; and
- Additional monitoring.

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8 REPORTING AND REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

8.1 ANNUAL REVIEW

In accordance with Condition E9, Schedule 2 of SSD-7480, WHC will review the environmental performance of the VCM for the previous calendar year and report results within the Annual Review to the satisfaction of the Secretary.

In relation to waste management, the Annual Review will (where relevant):

- describe the development that was carried out in the past calendar year, and the development that is proposed to be carried out over the current calendar year;
- include a comprehensive review of the monitoring results and complaints records of the development over the past year, which includes a comparison of these results against the:
 - relevant statutory requirements, limits or performance measures/criteria;
 - monitoring results of previous years; and
 - relevant predictions in the EIS;
- identify any non-compliance over the last year, and describe what actions were (or are being) taken to ensure compliance;
- identify any trends in the monitoring data over the life of the development;
- identify any discrepancies between the predicted and actual impacts of the development, and analyse the potential cause of any significant discrepancies; and
- describe what measures will be implemented over the next year to improve the environmental performance of the development.


The Annual Review will be made publicly available on the WHC website in accordance with Condition E14, Schedule 2 of SSD-7480.

8.2 WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN REVISION

In accordance with Condition E5, Schedule 2 of SSD-7480, this Waste Management Plan will be reviewed, and if necessary revised (to the satisfaction of the Secretary), within three months of the submission of:

- an Annual Review (Condition E9, Schedule 2);
- an incident report (Condition E7, Schedule 2);
- an Independent Environmental Audit (Condition E10, Schedule 2); or
- any modification to the conditions of SSD-7480 (unless the conditions require otherwise).

The reviews will be undertaken to ensure this Waste Management Plan is updated on a regular basis and to incorporate potential measures to improve the environmental performance of the VCM.

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The revision status of this Waste Management Plan is indicated on the first page of each copy. The approved Waste Management Plan will be implemented and made publicly available on the WHC website, in accordance with Condition E14, Schedule 2 of SSD-7480.

8.3 INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT

In accordance with Condition E10, Schedule 2 of the SSD-7480, an Independent Environmental Audit (IEA) of the VCM will be conducted by a suitably qualified and experienced auditor whose appointment has been endorsed by the Secretary.

The IEA will be undertaken to address the relevant requirements of E10, Schedule 2 of the SSD-7480 and will assess the environmental performance of the VCM including the adequacy of this Waste Management Plan. If necessary, appropriate measures or actions to improve the environmental performance of the VCM in regards to management of waste will be recommended. A copy of the IEA report will be submitted to the Planning Secretary, and any other NSW agency that requests it, together with the response to any recommendations contained in the IEA report, and a timetable proposed for the implementation of the recommendations.

Within 1 year from the commencement of construction and every 3 years thereafter, WHC shall commission an IEA of the VCM. The IEA and WHC's response to recommendations in the Audit, will be made publicly available on WHC's website as per Condition E14, Schedule 2 of SSD-7480.

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9 REPORTING PROCEDURES

In accordance with Condition E4(j), Schedule 2 of SSD-7480, WHC has developed a protocol for managing and reporting the following:

- incidents;
- complaints;
- non-compliances with statutory requirements; and
- exceedances of the impact assessment criteria and/or performance criteria.

These protocols are described in the VCM's Environmental Management Strategy (EMS).

In accordance with Condition E14 (a), Schedule 2 of SSD-7480, WHC will provide regular reporting on the environmental performance of the VCM on the WHC website. Access to information will be addressed as outlined in the Environmental Management Strategy (EMS) and per condition E14.

9.1 INCIDENT AND NON-COMPLIANCE REPORTING


An incident is defined as an occurrence or set of circumstances that causes or threatens to cause material harm or a breach of the limits or performance measures in the project approval which may or may not be or cause a non-compliance. A non-compliance is defined as an occurrence, set of circumstances or development that is a breach of the condition of SSD-7480.

In the event that a waste incident has occurred, the incident will be reported in accordance with Condition E7, Schedule 2 of SSD-7480 and relevant conditions of EPL 21283 and mining leases. WHC will immediately notify the Secretary and any other relevant agencies.

The notification will be provided to the Secretary in writing via compliance@planning.nsw.gov.au and will identify the VCM (including the development application number and name) and set out the location and nature of the incident.

Within seven days of the date of the incident, WHC will provide the Secretary and any other relevant agencies with a report on the incident. The report will include details required within the approval, including:

- describe the date, time and nature of the exceedance/incident;
- identify the cause (or likely cause) of the exceedance/incident;
- describe what action has been taken to date; and
- describe reasonable and feasible options to address the incident and identify the preferred option to address the incident (Section 9.1).

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9.2 **COMPLAINTS**

WHC will maintain a Community Complaints Line and online contact via the WHC website (www.whitehavencoal.com.au) for the sole purpose of receiving community complaints, or enquiries. The Community Complaints Line number will be available on the website. The Community Complaints Line will be staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week during construction and operations. WHC will respond to callers on the next business day.

Detailed records of each complaint are kept in WHC's record management systems.

In accordance with Condition E14(ix), Schedule 2 of SSD-7480, a complaints register will be made available on the WHC website during the construction and operational stages of the VCM. The complaints register will include:

- the date and time of the complaint;
- the method by which engagement was made;
- any personal details provided or, if no such details were provided, a note to that effect;
- the nature of the complaint; and
- any actions (if any required) taken by WHC in relation to the complaint.

Investigations into complaints will generally commence within 24 hours of receipt, or as soon as practical. The cause of the complaint will be analysed and actions to attempt to address the complaint taken as soon as reasonably possible. In complex cases where resolution will take more than 48 hours, WHC will commit to updating the community member.

9.3 **NON-COMPLIANCE WITH STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS**


A protocol for managing and reporting non-compliances with statutory requirements has been developed as a component of the VCM's EMS and is described below.

Compliance with all approvals, plans and procedures is the responsibility of all personnel (staff and contractors) employed on or in association with WHC and the VCM.

A VCM representative will undertake required inspections during the construction and initial mining period and initiate directions to address any actions identified, if required, and areas of actual or potential non-compliance.

As described in Section 9.1, WHC will report incidents in accordance with Condition E7, Schedule 2 of SSD-7480 and dependent on the incident and potential environmental harm, in accordance with the protocol for industry notification of pollution incidents under Part 5.7 of the PoEO Act.


WHC will notify the Secretary and any other relevant agencies immediately after the authorised person becomes aware of the incident which causes or threatens to cause material harm to the environment. Within seven days (or other specified or approved time period) of the date of confirmation of the incident, WHC will provide the Secretary and any other relevant agencies with a report on the incident and any subsequent information that may be requested. WHC will notify the Secretary and any other relevant agencies within seven days of becoming aware of

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a non-compliance in accordance with Condition E8, Schedule 2 of SSD-7480. E8 notes that a non-compliance which has been notified as an incident does not need to also be notified as a non-compliance.

A review of compliance with all conditions in SSD-7480 and all other applicable approvals and licences will be included within each Annual Review (Section 8.1).

Additionally, in accordance with Condition E10, Schedule 2 of SSD-7480, an IEA (Section 8.3) will be conducted by a suitably qualified, experienced and independent team of experts whose appointment has been endorsed by the Secretary to assess whether WHC is complying with the requirements in SSD-7480, and any other relevant approval and tenement conditions.

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10 REFERENCES

Environmental Guidelines: Use and Disposal of Biosolids Products (EPA, 1997).

New South Wales Department of Environment and Conservation (2003) *Environmental Guidelines - Use of Effluent by Irrigation*.


Waste Classification Guidelines (EPA, 2014).

Whitehaven Coal Limited (WHC) (2018) *Vickery Extension Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)*.

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Appendix A Consultation Log

Date	Consultee	Comment
26/11/20	EPA	Administrative items, detail on hazardous waste, tyre and drill waste disposal, effluent and waste hierarchy.
26/10/20	GSC	No comment.
26/10/20	NSC	No comment.
19/02/2021	GSC	Consultation regarding waste disposal.

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Document History

Edition	Rev.	Comments	Date
1	0	Initial draft following consultation as first submitted	18/12/20
1	1	Revised draft following consultation	June & July 2021