

Minutes of the 10th Meeting of the Vickery Project Community Consultative committee

Meeting held: 30th June 2020 – 9:30am – 11am

Venue: Zoom

Present:

- Roberta Ryan (RR) - Independent Chair
- Stella Cimarosti (SC) - Minute taker
- Cr Robert Hooke (RH) - Gunnedah Shire Council
- Andrew Johns (AJ) - Gunnedah Shire Council
- Cr Cathy Redding (CR) - Narrabri Shire Council
- Stewart Todd (ST) - Narrabri Shire Council
- Cr Cameron Staines (CS) - Narrabri Shire Council
- Andrew Garratt (AG) - Whitehaven Coal – GM Community Engagement
- Mark Stevens (MS) - Whitehaven Coal – Executive General Manager
- Rod Fox (RF) - Whitehaven Coal – Project Director - Vickery
- Alex Carynny (AC) - Whitehaven Coal – Environmental Officer
- Mitchell Purvis (MP) - Whitehaven Coal – Study Manager - Vickery
- Tony Dwyer (TD) - Whitehaven Coal – Group Manager Approvals and

Environment

- Huw Morgan (HM) - Whitehaven Coal – Group Manager Water and Property
- James Steele (JS) – Resource Strategies – EIS documentation
- Grant McIlveen (GM) - Community Representative
- Keith Blanch (KB) – Community Representative

Apologies:

- Cr Lloyd Finlay (LF) Narrabri Shire Council
- Colleen Fuller (CF) Gunnedah Shire Council
- Ron Fuller (RF) Community Representative

Item	Description	Action/ Responsibility
1	Welcome to our virtual meeting	
1.1	RR introduced and welcomed attendees.	
2	Introduction – new Whitehaven team	
2.1	<p>MS advised CCC of Whitehaven representatives present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Stevens – Executive General Manager of project delivery for Whitehaven. Mark has replaced Brian who retired at the end of May. Responsible for overseeing all Whitehaven projects. • Rod Fox – Project Director for Vickery. Rod looks after the day to day for the Vickery project. • Andrew Garratt – General Manager of Community Engagement. Based in Gunnedah and manages all community engagement. • Alex Carynny – Environmental Officer. Alex manages the environmental wellbeing of the project. • Mitchell Purvis – Study Manager for Vickery. Responsible for putting all studies together. • Tony Dwyer – Group Manager of Approvals and Environment. Tony is based in Gunnedah. • Huw Morgan – Group Manager for Water and Property. Based in Brisbane at the moment. Moving to Sydney soon. Will be spending a lot of time at Gunnedah meeting landowners to talk about land agreements. Hugh also looks after the water strategy for the project. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> James Steele – Consultant working on the EIS documentation. James has worked on the project for the last two years and is well up to speed on the EIS documentation. <p>MS noted that RF, AG and AC will be the core team involved with the CCC. Other Whitehaven staff members may attend as guests when necessary to talk to relevant items.</p> <p>RR noted that she and AG as the manager of community engagement will work most closely with the CCC regarding these meetings.</p>	
3	Agenda and apologies	
3.1	Apologies were noted and have been recorded in attendees list.	
4	Declarations of interest	
4.1	<p>RR questioned if anyone has any new declarations of interest to make. These can be made at the time of the meeting or sent to RR later via email.</p> <p>RH noted that he is the chair of a committee for an upcoming Innovation and Mining Expo to be held in Gunnedah next year. Whitehaven are a major sponsor of the expo.</p> <p>RR noted this declaration.</p>	
5	Actions and matters arising from our previous meeting	
5.1	Action 4.2 from previous minutes. AC advised the report is currently under review and will be shared when it is finalised.	AC to share report
5.2	Acceptance of minutes from the October 2019 meeting was moved by RH and seconded by KB. The minutes were accepted.	
6	Canyon and Vickery Environmental Report Presentation made by AC attached to minutes. Presentation went through the environmental monitoring that has been carried out since the last CCC for the Canyon and Vickery Coal mines.	
6.1	<p>Questions arising from presentation</p> <p>RR questioned what the winged peppergrass is.</p> <p>TD advised that this is a cryptic endangered plant species.</p> <p>RR noted that the monitoring revealed that the species has not been identified on the site at this stage. TD confirmed it has not been identified since first identified as part of the EIS surveys.</p>	
7	While of Government Report/IPC process and approval conditions Presentation made by MS and RF attached to minutes	
7.1	<p>Project status presented by MS. Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public hearings to be held this week (Thursday and Friday). Once hearings have been completed the IPC will decide the project approval/refusal. If the IPC approve the project it will be passed onto the Federal Government who will do their own assessment of the project. This process usually takes a few months. While the Federal Government assessment is being completed Whitehaven will start developing secondary management plans for the project in areas such as air, traffic management, noise etc. These secondary management plans need to be approved by DPIE. Once this has been completed Whitehaven will apply for an Environmental Protection License (EPL) and a mining lease before construction starts. <p>Questions from presentation: RR asked for rough timing around this process.</p>	

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	<p>MS noted that the Federal Government approval would ideally be given before the end of 2020. The management plans will probably take around 6-8 months to be prepared before they can be submitted to DPIE. DPIE can take a while to review and approve these plans depending on how busy they are. So we could be looking at 9-12 months for the secondary plans to be prepared and approved. RR questioned if this meant that ideally construction should be underway by 2021. MS agreed that would be the ideal timeframe without any delays.</p> <p>ST questioned if the final investment decision (FID) fit into the timeline? MS advised this would run concurrently with the rest of the approvals. Once all the state and federal approvals have been provided Whitehaven can submit the necessary financial paperwork to the board. ST questioned what the indicative timeframe was. MS noted the aim is to get FID by the end of 2021. Construction would start after FID.</p>	
7.2	<p>Whole of government report presented by MS and RF. Key points:</p> <p>MS noted that the whole of government report was released in May and is available online. The department believed the projects benefits outweighed its impacts. RR questioned if the link could be provided. AG advised he would provide this. RR clarified that the department has recommended approval to the IPC however, the IPC are the decision makers. So the project is yet to be approved. MS agreed this was correct.</p> <p>RF talked about conditions placed on the Vickery extension project and went through three key areas which are summarised in the presentation.</p> <p>Key points:</p> <p>Noise –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Whitehaven are required to operate under these conditions and will need to reach out to landowners to do some assessments. - To explain the numbers on the slides: 35 (dBA)a – can be compared to a quiet room 40 (dBA – can be compared to a fridge 60 (dBA – can be compared to a normal conversation. <p>Blasting –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Blasting can occur only between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday. - Whitehaven are required to notify neighbours prior to carrying out blasting. <p>MS noted that the presentation highlights just three areas of interest but there are a number of other conditions that the project has to operate under. We will send a copy of the conditions.</p> <p>Questions from presentation: RH asked if the conditions around the blasting covers both sound and also vibrations through the ground. RF advised the conditions cover both of these areas.</p>	<p>AG to provide link to report and copy of conditions. Done 1/7/20 by email</p> <p>RF to share noise conditions for train operation. Done 1/7/20 by email.</p> <p>RR/AG to follow up regarding mobile dust monitoring.</p>

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	<p>CS noted that a few meetings ago the potential to purchase mobile noise monitoring equipment was raised. The idea was to have an independent body assess noise complaints at the source of the complaint.</p> <p>RR noted that she recalled this discussion. It was around independent dust monitoring through the EPA or a relevant organisation broader than Whitehaven.</p> <p>CS agreed that was the discussion.</p> <p>RR noted that this would be taken on notice and discussed with Whitehaven to see where Brian landed with his investigation of this request.</p> <p>TD noted that there is a fixed network of monitors that will be run by the EPA. They aren't mobile monitors, but they are fixed in specific positions and monitor conditions 24/7. They aren't reactive like this suggestion.</p>	
8	General business	
8.1	<p>GM asked for an update from Whitehaven on the trial of the autonomous trucks at Maules Creek and questioned if they would be brought into the Vickery mine.</p> <p>MS noted that the trucks are up and running at Maules Creek however there is still a lot of work to be done here and there are no current plans for Vickery.</p>	
8.2	<p>RH asked about a workforce plan. If the project goes ahead there will be a large number of employees coming into the area. Where will the workforce come from? This will likely create some pressure in terms of accommodation in the area. Its important Whitehaven work with Council on this.</p> <p>MS advised that they are anticipating a construction workforce of about 500 people. Whitehaven will look to employ local contractors however there may be some staff brought into the Boggabri camp. We will work with council around this once approvals are granted. We will work with them on a workforce plan.</p> <p>RH noted this was great to hear.</p> <p>AJ noted that Gunnedah Shire Council has a Community Workforce Plan that he would encourage Whitehaven to comment on.</p> <p>CS questioned if there is a commitment or a policy around local employment.</p> <p>MS advised there isn't a written polity in place however, employing locally is one of Whitehaven's priorities.</p> <p>RH added that it would also be good for Whitehaven to consider local training and apprentices. The area has a TAFE that needs support.</p> <p>AG noted that he has been in touch with local education providers to work with them around local training.</p> <p>GM asked if AG was aware of the training that previously happened with local schools in the area.</p> <p>AG advised he was aware of the previous program with Gunnedah TAFE. There were about 120 students put through this program and it was very successful. Whitehaven are looking at a similar model for this project.</p> <p>GM noted that it would be great to see something like this happen again.</p> <p>TD advised that the draft conditions for the project include the requirement for a social impact management plan which is to be developed with council and this CCC. The purpose of the condition is to develop positive social impacts.</p>	
10	Future CCC's/membership/frequency	
10.1	<p>AG noted that he wanted some clarity around the membership and who is the key contact from each area.</p>	

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	<p>Narrabri Shire Council – Cameron Staines (key contact) Lloyd Findlay (alternative contact). ST noted that council review committee membership annually in late September/early October. Council will advise if there are any changes.</p> <p>Gunnedah Shire Council – Rob Hooke (key contact) Colleen Fuller (alternative contact). Ron Fuller is the community representative. RH noted that council review their committee membership every second year. The review is coming up and we will advise any changes.</p>	
10.2	<p>RR noted that this committee has been established by Whitehaven in advance of their requirements. The requirement to hold CCC meetings kicks in post approval. It is common for these committees to be set up prior for views to be included in the conditions. Once/if approval occurs, we will review the membership of this committee.</p> <p>RR raised the timing of the next meeting. When the committee formally starts it must have a minimum of four meetings per year but at the moment there are no requirements.</p> <p>AG noted that perhaps the next meeting could be in September if that works for the group.</p> <p>Group agreed zoom meetings were a good platform for meetings.</p>	
10.3	<p>GM asked if perhaps this committee could join the existing joint CCC with the other Whitehaven mines in the area. AG advised that this needs to be taken on notice for consideration. GM noted that it would be good to understand what's happening at the other mines. CS seconded GM's suggestion. RR questioned if the joint meetings happen once a year. CS advised they happen every six months. It's a collaborative committee across all Whitehaven mines. RR advised this would be taken on notice.</p>	<p>AG/RR to consider if this CCC could join the existing joint CCC with the other Whitehaven mines in the area on occasion.</p>
10.4	<p>RR closed the meeting and thanked Brian for this engagement in the group to date and wished him best wished in retirement.</p>	
	<p>These minutes have been endorsed by the meeting Chair</p> <p>Signed: Roberta Ryan Date: 8th August 2020</p>	

**Minutes of the 10th Meeting of the
Vickery Project Community Consultative committee**

Vickery – Canyon Coal Mine

Community Consultative Committee Meeting

30 June 2020

Gunnedah, NSW

Introduction



WHITEHAVEN COAL

Vickery

Team Members

Whitehaven – Core Team

- Mark Stevens – Executive General Manager Project Delivery
- Rod Fox – Project Director Vickery Extension Project
- Andrew Garratt – General Manager Community Engagement
- Alex Carynny – Environmental Officer

Guests

- Mitchell Purvis – Study Manager
- Tony Dwyer – Group Manager Approvals and Environment
- Huw Morgan – Group Manager - Water and Property
- James Steele – Environmental Consultant

Canyon Coal Mine



WHITEHAVEN COAL

Agenda

Environmental Monitoring – as per
Project Approval and Management
Plans

- Biodiversity
- Air quality
- Groundwater
- Surface water



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Biodiversity Management

Activities completed as per Rehabilitation Management Plan

- FY20 2nd Quarter - Monitoring found feral pig abundance scarce and fox abundance low. The control program implemented resulted in 0 feral pigs being trapped and 0 foxes baited;
- FY20 3rd Quarter - Monitoring found feral pig abundance scarce and fox abundance low. The control program implemented resulted in 0 feral pigs being trapped and 0 foxes baited;
- FY20 4th Quarter - Monitoring found feral pig abundance higher and fox abundance higher. The control program implemented resulted in 14 feral pigs (so far) being trapped and 22 foxes baited.

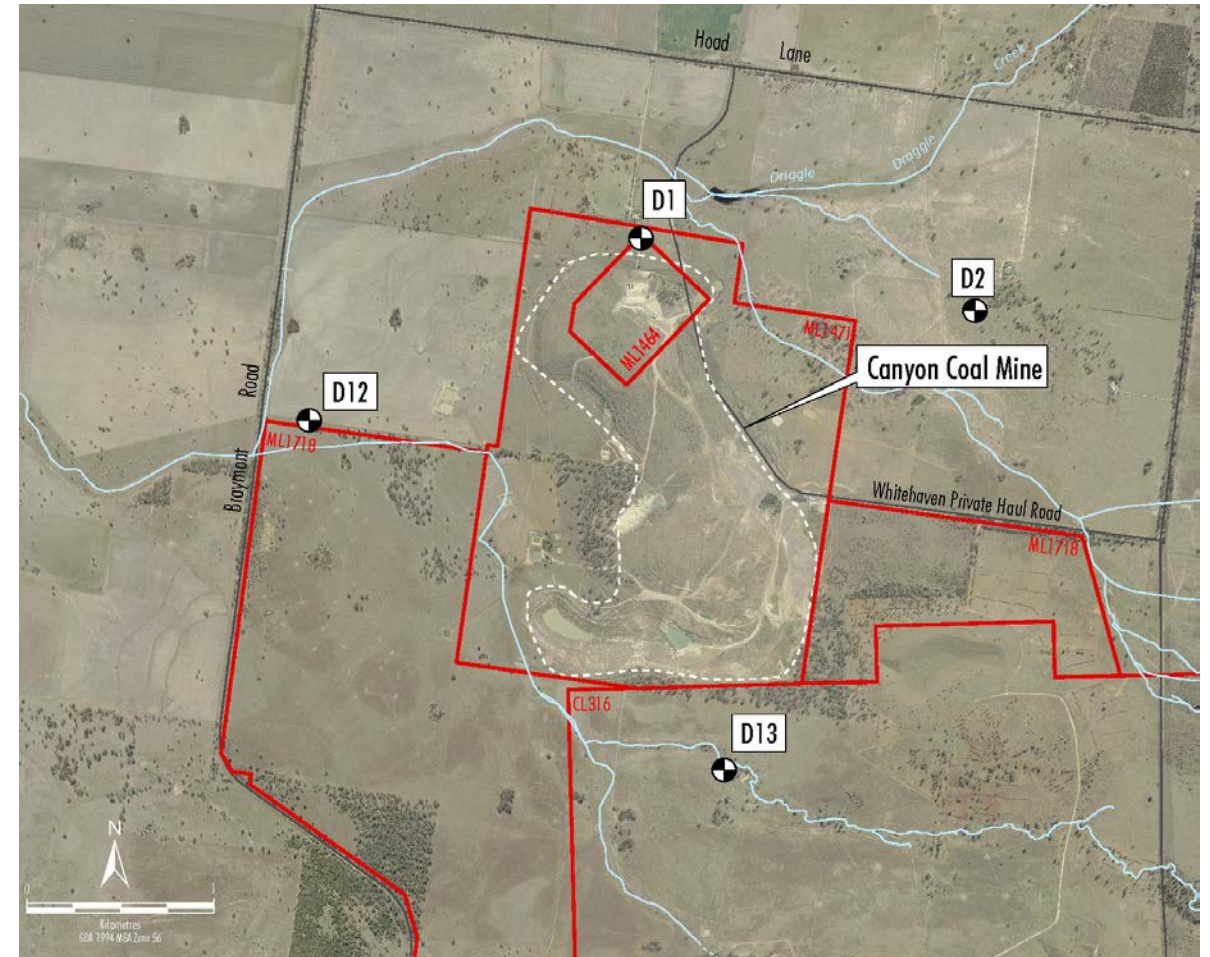


Air Quality

Depositional Dust monitoring as per Project Approval and Air Quality Management Plan

Depositional Dust (12-month insoluble matter results in g/m2/month)		
Site	Annual Average	Guideline
D1	1.7	Annual average to be below 4
D2	3.5	
D12	3.7	
D13	3.5	

Compliant with Project Approval and Air Quality Management Plan



Groundwater

Monitoring as per Project Approval and Water Management Plan

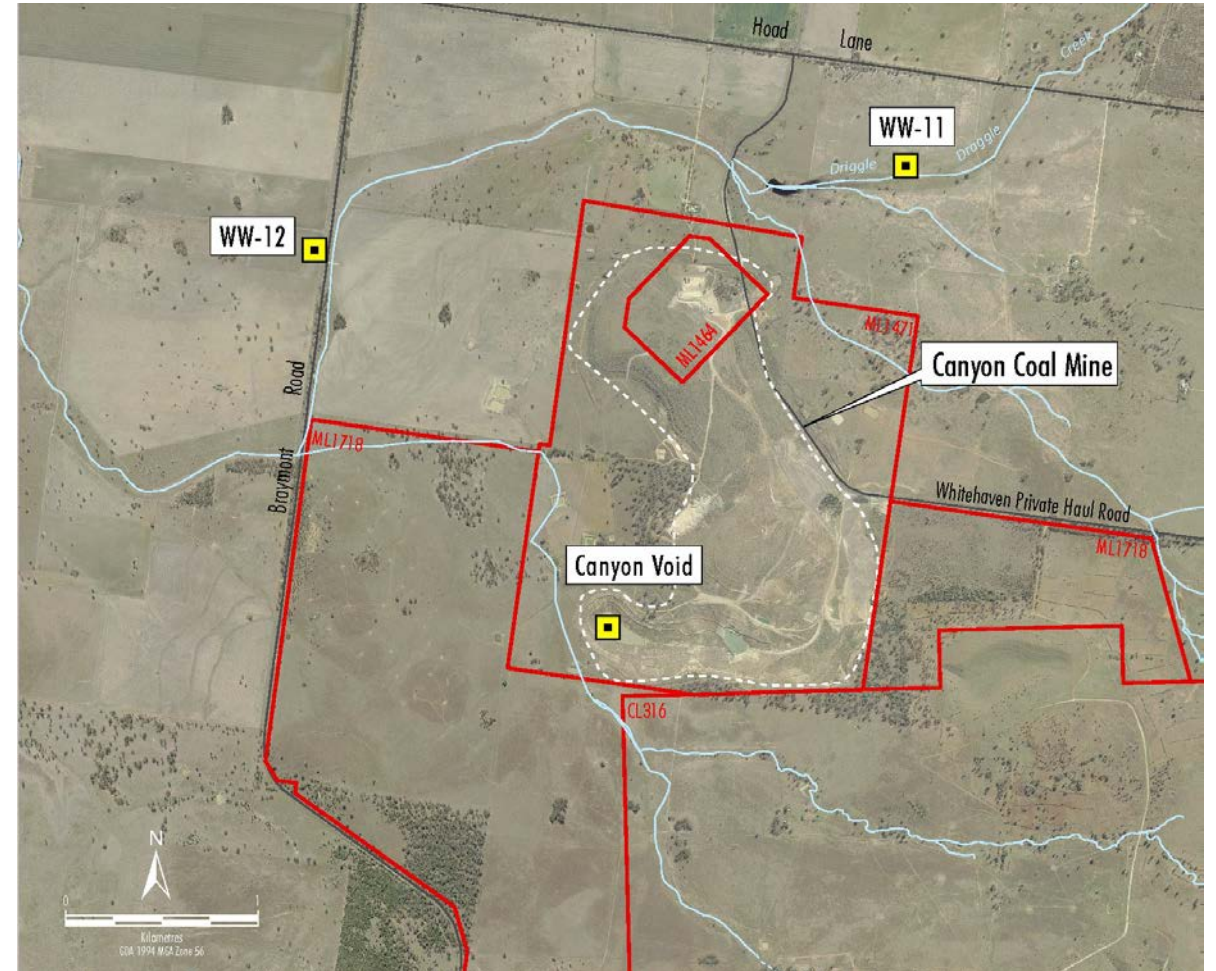
- All sites have their standing water level assessed every 6 months. Levels are consistent at all locations since last CCC Meeting.
- Sites GW-11 and P-3 have water quality assessed every six months to review temporal trends. The results remain steady since the last CCC Meeting.



Surface Water

Monitoring as per Project Approval and Water Management Plan

- A number of rainfall events since the last CCC Meeting. No monitoring undertaken as no discharge occurred.
- Canyon Void water levels and quality are monitored on a 6 monthly basis. Water level and quality is generally consistent since the last CCC Meeting. pH slight increase, EC decrease, TSS consistent, grease and oil consistent.
- Water extraction has ceased from the Canyon void for use at Tarrawonga Mine.
- A review of the Water Management Plan was undertaken and submitted to the DPI&E in October 2019 for approval.



Complaints

No complaints received

<https://whitehavencoal.com.au/our-business/our-assets/canyon-mine/>

Canyon Mine



About Canyon Mine



Approvals



Community



Environmental
Management



Timeline



Vickery Coal Mine



WHITEHAVEN COAL

Agenda

Environmental Monitoring – as per Project Approval

- Biodiversity
- Air quality
- Groundwater
- Surface water



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Biodiversity Management

Biodiversity activities completed as required by EPBC Decision 2012/6263



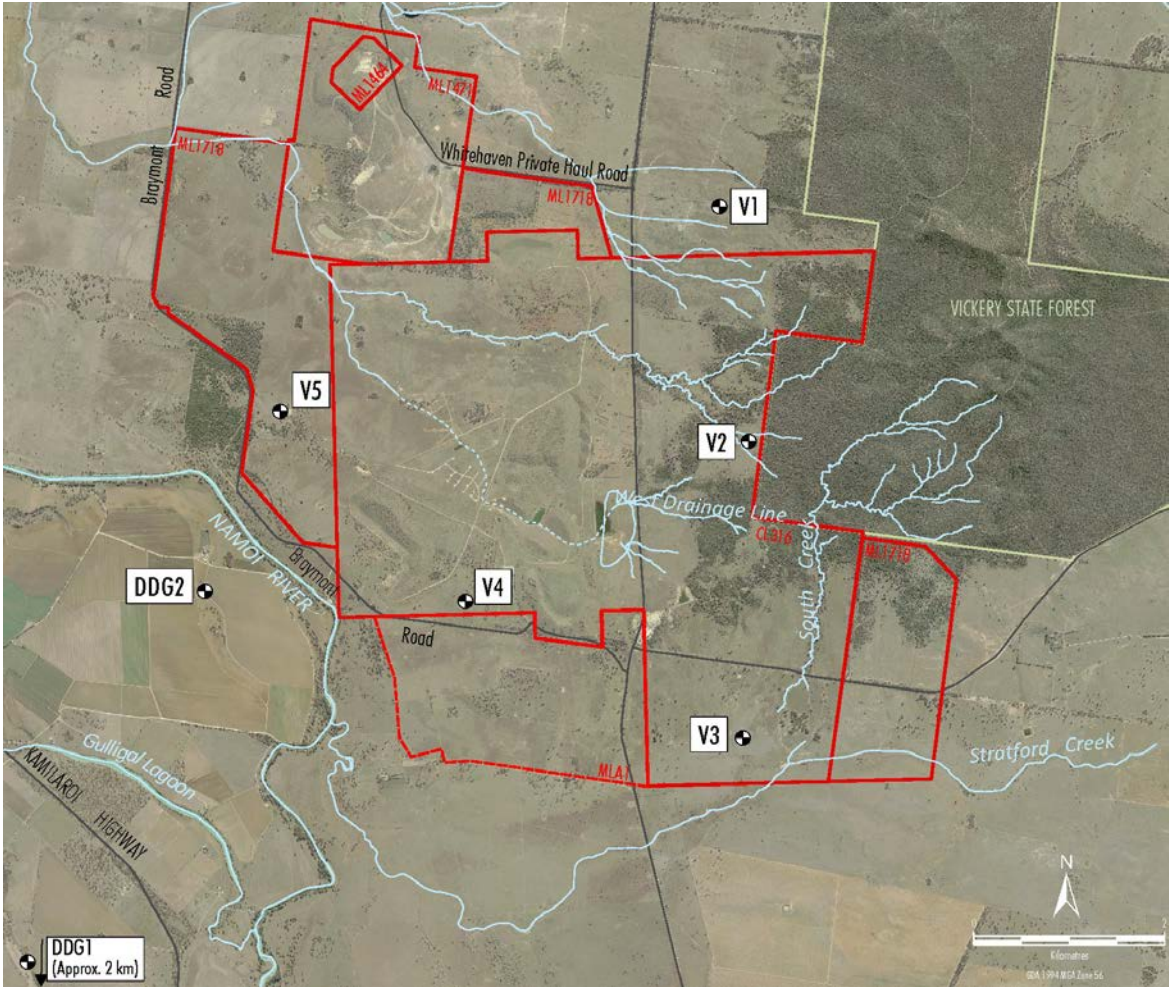
- The Winged Peppercress Threatened Species Project Plan is undergoing a revision to include management strategies. This will be reissued to NSW DPI&E and Commonwealth Department of Environment and Energy.
- Monthly inspections since October 2019 did not identify any Winged Peppercress plants.
- Quarterly Monitoring undertaken in November, December 2019 and March 2020 did not identify any Winged Peppercress plants.

Air Quality

Depositional Dust monitoring as per Project Approval

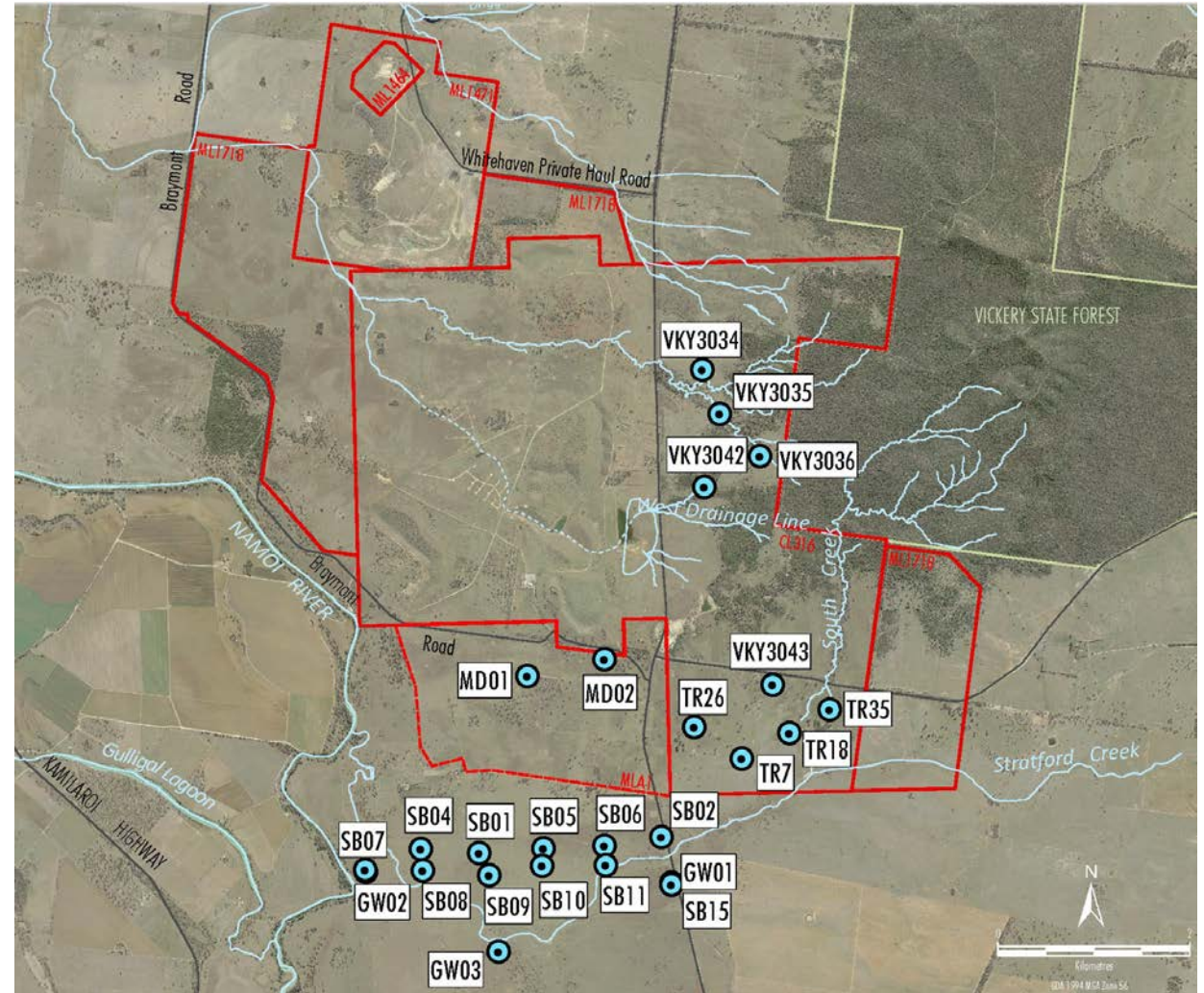
Depositional Dust (12-month insoluble matter results in g/m2/month)		
Site	Annual Average	Guideline
DG1	3.9	Annual average to be below 4
DG2	2.0	
V1	1.9	
V2	1.4	
V3	2.8	
V4	1.8	
V5	1.7	

Compliant with Project Approval



Groundwater

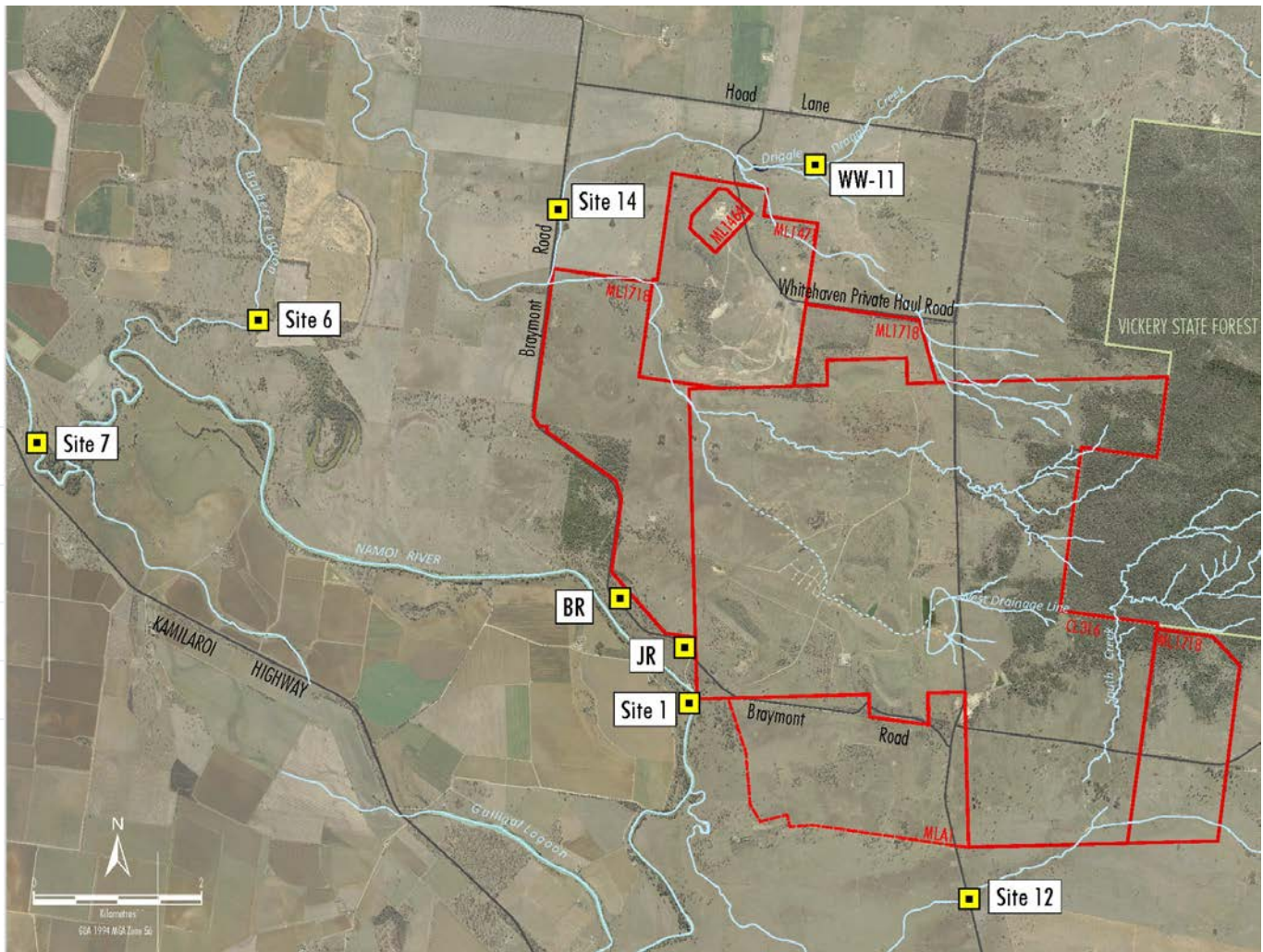
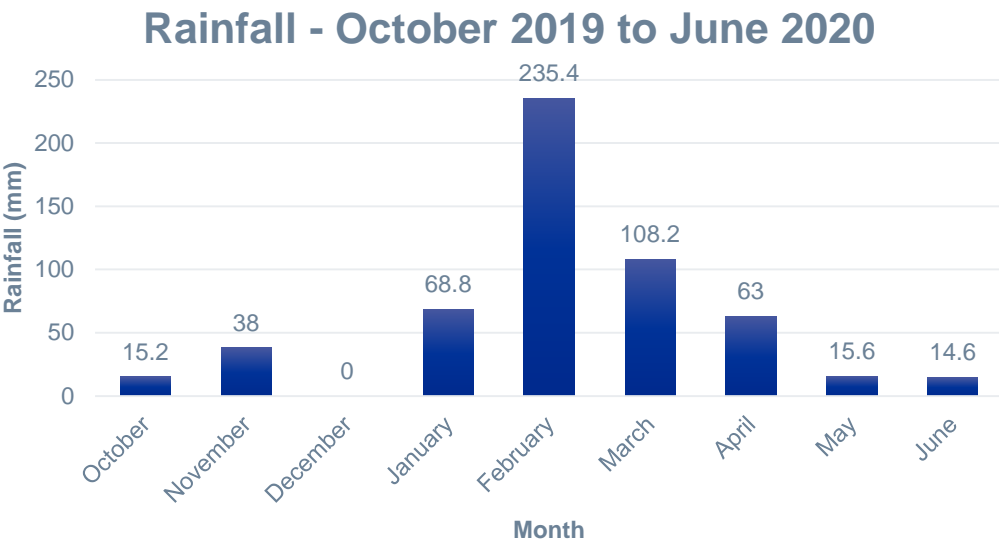
Groundwater levels at 25 standpipe locations were last recorded in March 2020. Results showed a varied changes in water levels, the general average trend since the last CCC Meeting is an increase of 20 cm.



Surface Water

Surface water flow was generated since the last CCC Meeting through a number of rain events.

Water sampling undertaken.



Complaints

No complaints received


<https://whitehavencoal.com.au/our-business/our-assets/vickery-extension-project/>

Vickery Extension Project

The Vickery Extension Project is in the final stages of the NSW Government's rigorous approval process. The Independent Planning Commission NSW will shortly decide whether to approve the Project and is seeking public feedback. Have your say by clicking the button below.

HAVE YOUR SAY

FIND OUT MORE



About the project	Jobs	Environment
Location	Assessment process	Documentation
Community	Timeline	Contact

Vickery Extension Project

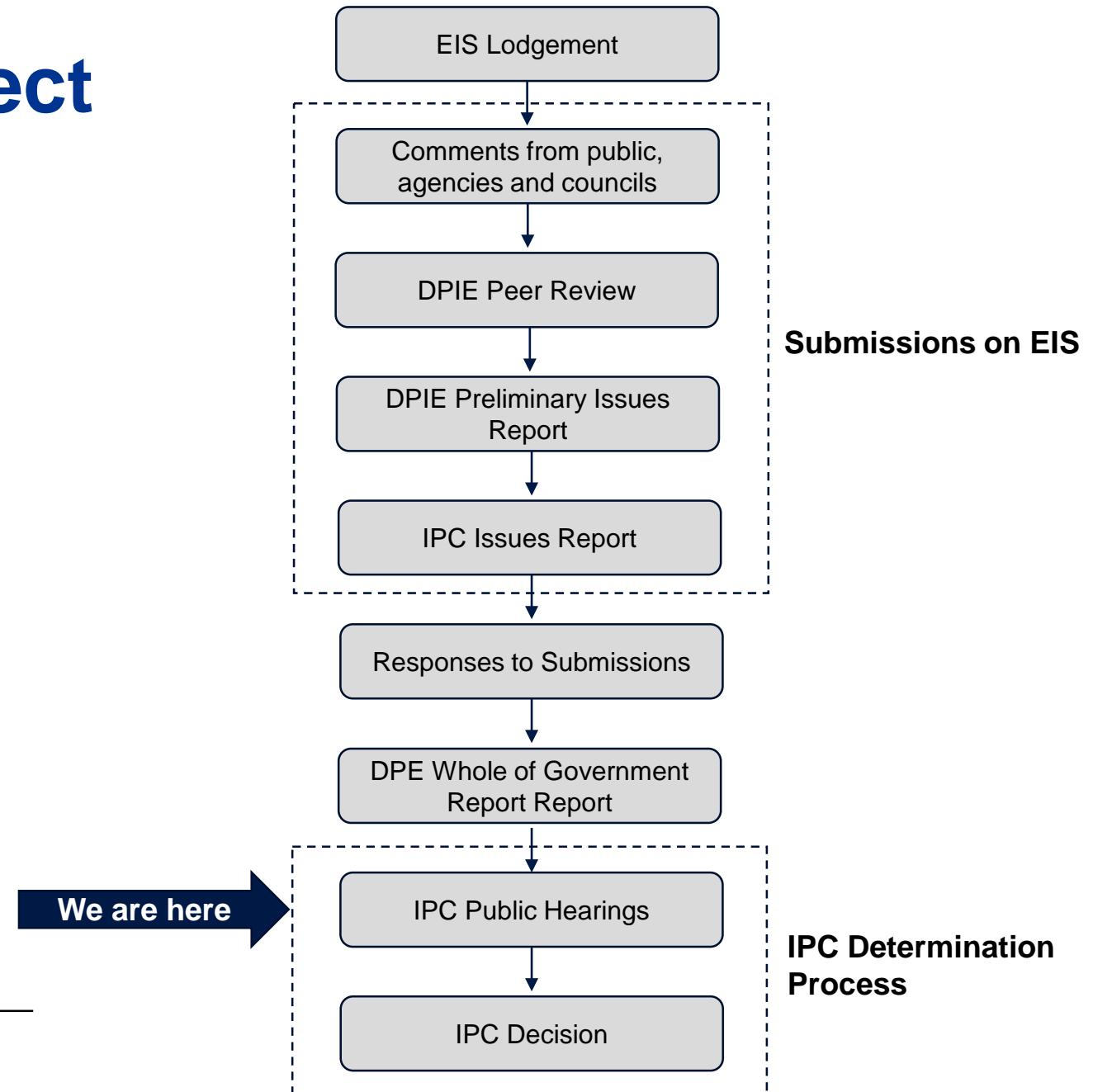


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Vickery Extension Project

NSW – Assessment Process Update

- Whole of Government Report – released May 2020
- IPC Panel – reformed May 2020
- Public Hearings – 2/3 July 2020
- Decision on the Project – Expected August 2020




Vickery Extension Project

Whole of Government Report

- DPIE's assessment of the Project concludes it is in the public interest and can be approved subject to conditions.


"On balance, the Department believes that the project's benefits outweigh its residual costs, and that is in the public interest and is approvable, subject to stringent conditions"

- DPIE has recommended conditions of approval
- Examples of these conditions for noise, blasting and air quality and provided on the following slides
- Whitehaven accepts the recommended conditions of approval



Vickery Extension Project

State Significant Development Assessment SSD 7480
May 2020



NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Development Consent

Section 4.36 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

The Independent Planning Commission of NSW (the Commission), as the declared consent authority under clause 8A of the State Environmental Planning Policy (State and Regional Development) 2011 and section 4.5(a) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, approves the development application referred to in Schedule 1, subject to the conditions in Schedule 2.

These conditions are required to:

- prevent, minimise, or offset adverse environmental impacts;
- set standards and performance measures for acceptable environmental performance;
- require regular monitoring and reporting; and
- provide for the ongoing environmental management of the development.

[Name of Commissioner] Member of the Commission	[Name of Commissioner] Member of the Commission	[Name of Commissioner] Member of the Commission
Sydney	2020	

SCHEDULE 1

Application Number:	SSD 7480
Applicant:	Vickery Coal Pty Ltd
Consent Authority:	Independent Planning Commission of NSW
Site:	The land defined in Appendix 1
Development:	Vickery Extension Project

NSW Government
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Vickery Extension Project

Recommended conditions of approval – noise limits and monitoring

- The Project will be required to operate in accordance with operational noise criteria
- These are generally 35 dBA ($L_{Aeq15-minute}$) during the evening and night and 40 dBA ($L_{Aeq15-minute}$) during the daytime
- The noise limits allow 1-2 dB above 35 dBA at specific locations
- ‘Sleep disturbance’ noise limits have set at 52 dBA (L_{AFmax}) (for instantaneous or maximum noise levels)
- Attended (i.e. hand-held) monitoring must be conducted at least monthly to confirm compliance with criteria
- In addition, real-time (i.e. continuous) monitoring must be conducted to identify if elevated noise levels are occurring and inform appropriate management



Vickery Extension Project

Recommended conditions of approval – blast limits and monitoring

- The Project will be required to operate in accordance with blast limits
- These are set to protect amenity and building damage
- Blast monitoring must be undertaken to confirm compliance with the blast limits



Vickery Extension Project

Recommended conditions of approval – air quality limits and monitoring

- The Project will be required to operate in accordance with air quality limits for PM₁₀, PM_{2.5} and TSP
- These are set to protect human health and amenity
- Dust monitoring must be undertaken to confirm compliance with the air quality limits
- In addition, real-time (i.e. continuous) monitoring must be conducted to identify if elevated dust levels are occurring and inform appropriate management



General business

Questions

Future CCCs



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Thank you

www.whitehavencoal.com.au



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