

Minutes of the 12th Meeting of the Vickery – Canyon Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee

Meeting held: Friday 6th August 2021, 12 – 2pm.

Venue: Face to face at WHC Gunnedah Office & via Zoom

Present: Roberta Ryan (RR) - Independent Chair
Sophie Alais (SA) - Minute taker
Steve O'Donoghue (SO) NSW Department of Planning
Cr Rob Hooke (RH) Gunnedah Shire Council
Wade Hudson (WH) Gunnedah Shire Council
Jack Morrissey (JM) Gunnedah Shire Council
Barry Thompson (BT) Community Representative
Ron Fuller (RF) Community Representative
Grant McIlveen (GM) Community Representative
Scott Mitchell (SM) Whitehaven Coal
Andrew Garratt (AG) Whitehaven Coal

Apologies:
Keith Blanch (KB) Community Representative
Cr Cathy Redding (CR) Narrabri Shire Council
Cr Cameron Staines (CS) Narrabri Shire Council
Cr Lloyd Finlay (LF) Narrabri Shire Council
Cr Colleen Fuller (CF) Gunnedah shire Council

Item	Description	Action/ Responsibility
1	Welcome - RR	
1.1	RR welcomes everyone to the meeting.	
2	Agenda and apologies	
2.1	KB, CR, CS, LF and CF are apologies.	
3	Declarations & interest	
3.1	RR asks the group if there are any changes to their pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests. No members report any changes. RR thanks members and asks them to inform her if there are any changes.	
4	Actions and matters arising from previous meeting	
4.1	An action from last meeting's minutes in regard to the dust monitoring. AG suggests to the group that this issue can be parked until an appropriate time e.g., when construction begins.	Discussion of dust monitoring to be considered when project is approved
5	Canyon/Vickery Environmental Report – Scott Mitchell	
5.1	SM presents on the Canyon/Vickery Environmental Report. PowerPoint is attached to these minutes. RR asks for questions. No members have questions.	
6	Project update – Scott Mitchell	
6.1	SM presents the project update (same PowerPoint, attached to the minutes).	
7	EMP update – (Bushfire, Waste, Noise, Air quality, Environmental Management Strategy) – Scott Mitchell	
7.1	SM presents to the CCC about the EMP update (PowerPoint attached to the minutes).	

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	<p>RR asks SM if the CCC could see a more granular level of detail on the EMP's that there is a particular interest in. SM advised that within the presentation he has provided a high level overview of the EMP's.</p> <p>AG asks SM which EMPs are near completion and ready to be circulated to the CCC. SM says that the Blast Management and Environmental Management Strategy are approved and will be posted onto the Whitehaven website.</p> <p>GM asks for more detail on the blast monitors and wind direction.</p> <p>SM says there are two points for the purpose of construction and early commencement of mining. Firstly, blast monitoring requires consultation with the property owners. And secondly, in terms of revision and adapting management, results will be fed through the CCC, allowing for feedback. If a monitor exceeds its limits, then there is a duty to inform the landowner.</p> <p>A member suggests that if the CCC can put in a provision that landowner is informed in real time rather than knowing a month later.</p> <p>SM says they are still working through the noise management plan and that real time will be a part of it. Generally, the monitors are positioned in areas representative to the landowners so that it gives forewarning to issues. SM says another condition is that a specialist must inform where the monitors go. The company is required to get an independent specialist approved by the Department to inform and endorse the management plan.</p> <p>RH says that there will be modelling to show where the noise and dust may occur, and that any landowner in the potential zone will be consulted before it proceeded to the next level. Is any landowner able to put up their hand up and ask for noise monitoring?</p> <p>SM says no, not every resident who asks for monitoring would receive it in relation to dust and noise monitoring. With respect to blasting and property, a condition of the PA is that private landholders that are listed within the 3km radius have the ability to have an inspection of their residence. The assessments are done extensively. It is a condition that if a someone like a private landowner who believes they are being impacted by the project above criteria, then they have a right to ask for an investigation. Part of that process requires the landowner and the company to agree on an independent person which the department has to endorse. In that instance there would be monitoring but not every resident.</p> <p>RF asks about the 3km radius.</p> <p>SM says that it is standard in various project approval conditions in relation to property inspections before blasting.</p> <p>RF says it may be standard but the land in the local area is flat, not hilly like in the Hunter Valley. Someone may be impacted from 5km away. If someone is outside the 3km vicinity, can they be provided with a dust monitor?</p> <p>SM says yes, this hypothetical landowner could be given a monitor if they were being impacted and there was not a representative monitor in</p>	<p>SM to advise where the stipulated 3km starts from.</p>
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	<p>the vicinity. Any additional monitoring requested that was above the Departmental requirements would be at the discretion of the project. there was an avenue under the conditions if a landholder felt to be impacted above criteria a process to apply via the company & department for further investigation which then may require monitoring A member asks where the 3km starts from, the pit?</p> <p>SM says he is not sure for blasting and will need to confirm from boundary or pit. AG said we will take on the question on notice.</p> <p>GM asks when the CCC will be able to provide feedback. GM says that last meeting, Steve and Lindsey said the CCC would have a say but that keeps being pushed back.</p> <p>SO says that there are two things. Firstly, some of the emerging plans have specified parties like the EPA for noise and blasts. Then there is a general obligation to inform the CCC and receive feedback.</p> <p>Secondly, SO says that the Blast Management Plan have been approved for the first stage in some locations identified. However, SO says that there are still opportunities to provide feedback because it is a “living document”, it is adaptive. The conditions require review. If the CCC has concerns, the CCC can raise them. For example, for the construction phase, not the main part, there may be additional monitoring. It is an ongoing opportunity. It may be useful for the CCC to be provided with locations, so that the company can get feedback.</p> <p>SO says there is no final version of the Noise Management Plan. The EPA has provided comment, and the plan is getting technical feedback. There was discussion earlier about real time monitoring. The locations chosen are representative – there is real time feedback, so the company can adapt operations and ensure compliance. On top of that, attendant monitoring goes to fix locations on site. Another opportunity to provide feedback, either before the proposal or following approval. There is no end game after approval. There can still be input from the community.</p> <p>RR says that it is difficult to provide feedback when the CCC has been presented with no specific plans. RR suggests that the CCC is briefed in greater detail about the plans regarding dust, noise etc so that the community can provide useful input. RR asks SM what would work so that people can provide input?</p> <p>SM says he does not want to waste people's time by presenting plans that are not finalised/representative of the finished product because it will cause confusion.</p> <p>RR agrees with SM's broader point that presenting plans in great detail is not useful but briefing the CCC on key issues allows for a conversation on community interests. RR says it is important that the company does not work on a minimum basis requirement but rather, it has informed conversations that go beyond the minimal requirements.</p> <p>SO agrees and says it is not necessary to table the whole plan but simply provide a briefing. Such as ‘this what we are doing, this is the monitoring etc’. Does not need to be forensic but shows CCC how everything is being managed.</p>	<p>Whitehaven to brief community on key issues such as dust, noise, and water related issues while there is the capacity to influence the</p>
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	<p>RR asks SM to action presenting on the air quality and greenhouse gas management plans to the CCC at the next meeting.</p> <p>3. GM asks RH says a member of the public asks how it manages any conflicts of interest regarding being a member of this CCC on a Whitehaven project, while also being a member of council.</p> <p>RR says from the CCC's perspective, both councils are invited to have a representative, it is a formal part of the guidelines and does not constitute a conflict.</p> <p>RH says if council discusses business related to Whitehaven, he leaves the chambers. It is a non-pecuniary interest.</p> <p>4. GM asks about last year's 2nd tour of Whitehaven from the IPC hearing. GM asks if anyone from the CCC, local government, or local area was invited?</p> <p>SO says he cannot answer because the IPC is private and he is not privy to those discussions.</p> <p>RR says she will take it as an action to double check her records regarding invitations.</p> <p>AG says he was on the 2nd tour, he was not working at Whitehaven during the 1st tour. AG says he will have to check internally. He says on the tour they drove around the proposed mine site, reviewed previous rehabilitated areas and orientated themselves to the neighbouring properties. AG is not aware if the IPC sought public interest in engaging with them whilst they were in the region.</p> <p>GM says the farming group attempted to get a similar meeting but was rejected on every occasion.</p>	<p>plans to the CCC when available.</p> <p>RR to check personal records regarding 2nd IPC tour.</p>
10	Next meeting - all	
10.1	<p>RR suggests the end of October for a meeting.</p> <p>AG says there is no construction date at this stage. WHC is waiting on a Commonwealth approval and the Federal Court appeals process to be concluded, before consideration could be given to any next steps in the process.</p> <p>SO says the bottom line is that Whitehaven is preparing management plans and the community is interested. SO believes they may know at the end of August.</p> <p>GM says end of October onwards is harvest time, so the end of October would be difficult.</p> <p>RR says to pencil in early October. RR says she will come back with a date.</p> <p>RF says it is very difficult for mines to get approvals these days.</p>	<p>RR to suggest early October date for the next meeting.</p>

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	<p>RR says yes, it is challenging for mines to get approval. RR says she was chosen as the Independent Chair because she knows nothing about mining and has no connections to the region.</p> <p>SO says that the NSW government put out the 'Future of Coal' statement last year. SO says it is a merit based approach and not many green fill mines are getting approval unless it was always a mining area.</p> <p>RR says she will email the NSW Government's 'Future of Coal' statement.</p>	<p>RR to send out the NSW Government's 'Future of Coal' statement to members.</p>
	<p>These minutes have been endorsed by the meeting Chair</p> <p></p> <p>Signed: ROBERTA RYAN</p> <p>Date: 1st September 2021</p>	

Vickery – Canyon Coal Mine

Community Consultative Committee Meeting

August 2021



WHITEHAVEN COAL

Canyon Coal Mine

Environmental Monitoring

- Biodiversity
- Air quality
- Groundwater
- Surface water



WHITEHAVEN COAL

Biodiversity Management

Activities completed as per Rehabilitation Management Plan

- FY21 - 2nd quarter - Pest animal monitoring indicates foxes and pigs were low to medium abundance. The control program resulted in 5 1080 baits being taken.
- FY21 - 3rd quarter - Pest animal monitoring indicates foxes and pigs were low to medium abundance. The control program resulted in 28 1080 baits being taken.
- FY21 - 4th quarter - Pest animal monitoring indicates foxes and pigs were scarce abundance. The control program resulted in 21 baits being taken.

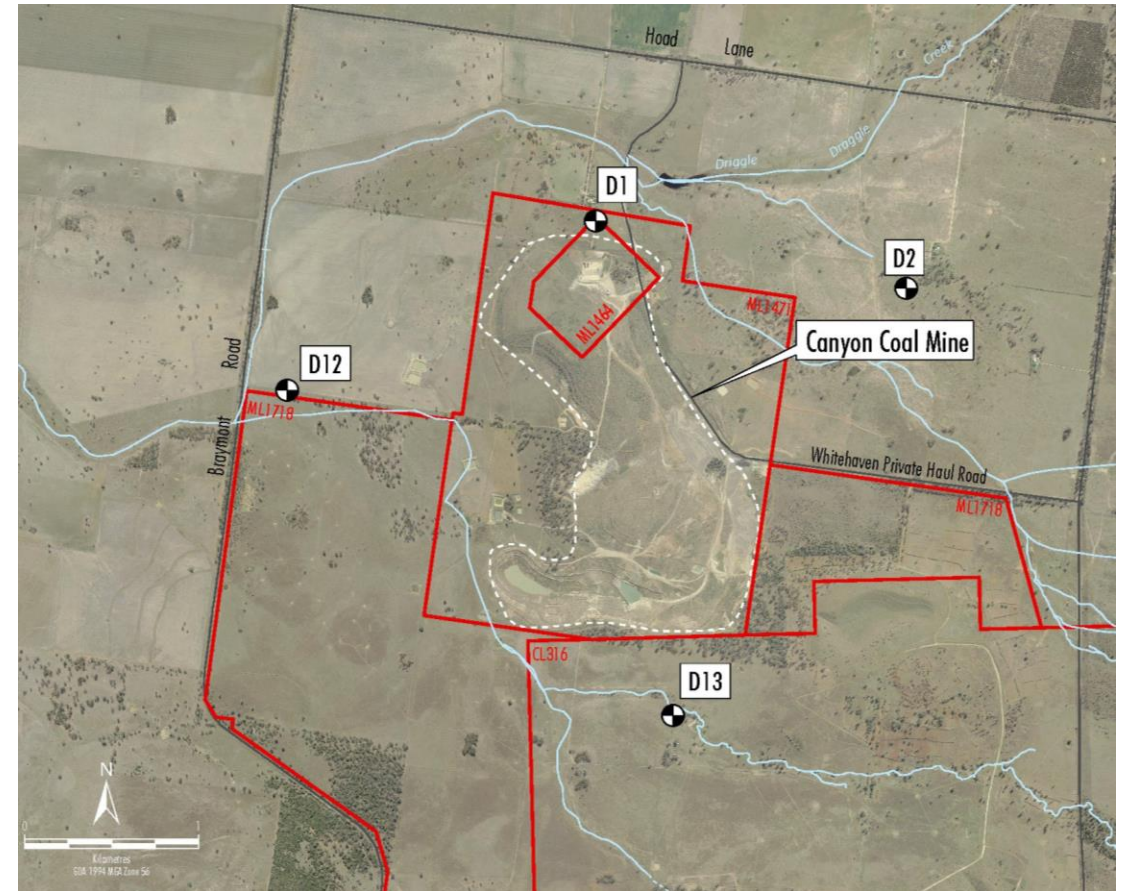


Air Quality

Depositional Dust Monitoring - Project Approval and Air Quality Management Plan

Depositional Dust (12-month insoluble matter results in g/m2/month)		
Site	Annual Average	Guideline
D1	1.6	Annual average to be below 4
D2	1.2	
D12	3.0	
D13	2.3	

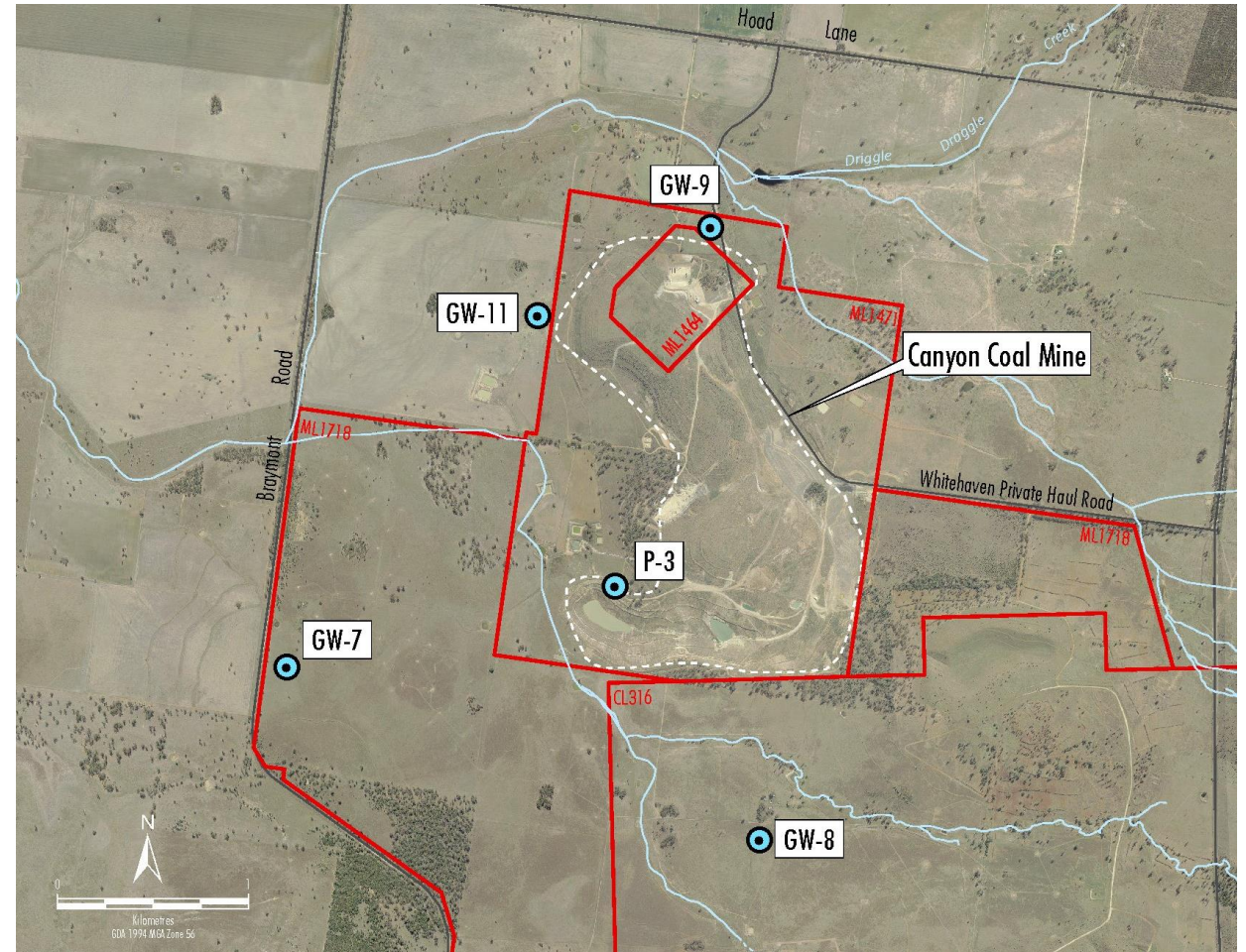
Compliant with Project Approval and Air Quality Management Plan.



Groundwater

Monitoring as per Project Approval and Water Management Plan

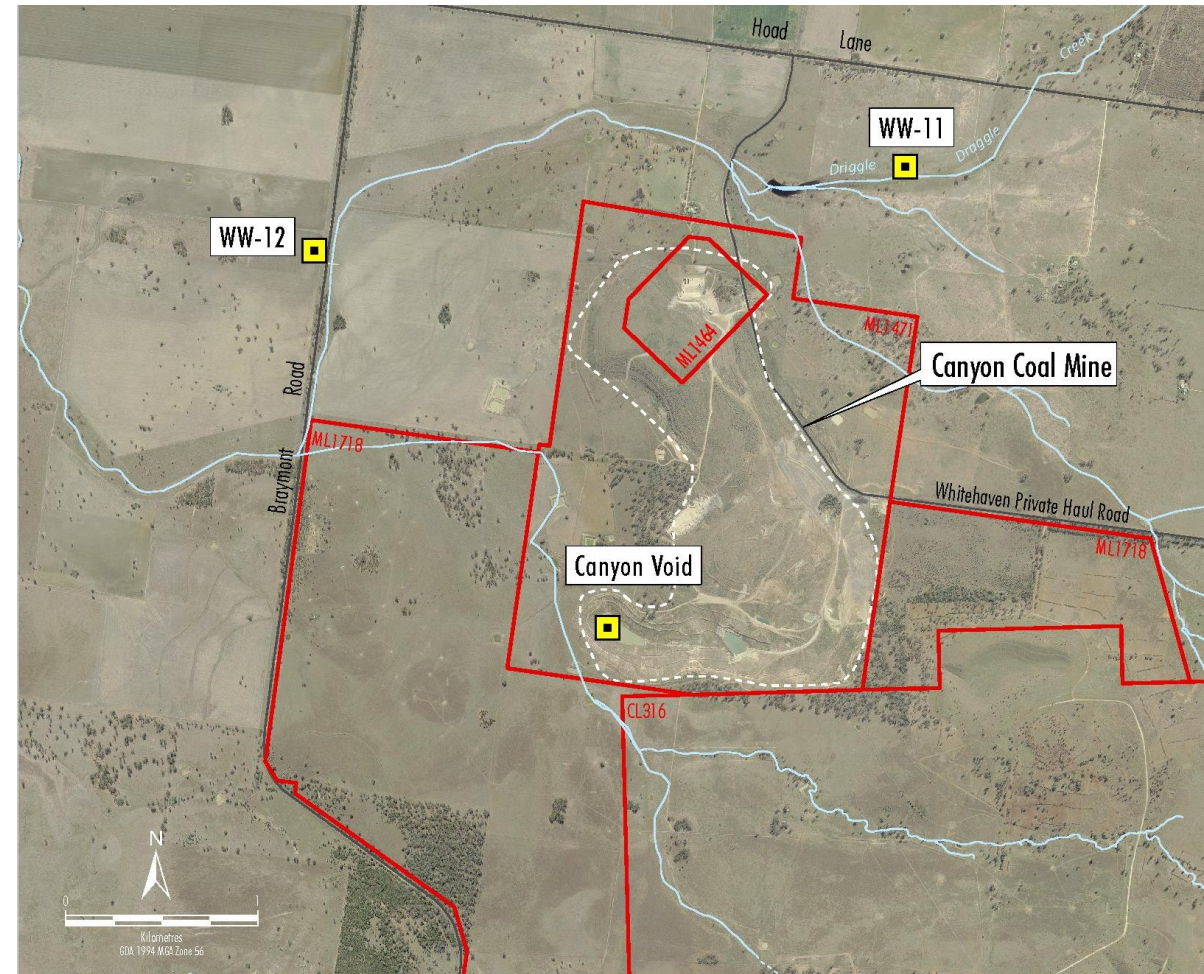
- All sites standing water level monitored every 6 months. Levels are consistent at all locations since the last CCC meeting.
- Sites GW-11 and P-3 have water quality assessed every six months to review temporal trends. The results remain steady since the last CCC Meeting.



Surface Water

Monitoring as per Project Approval and Water Management Plan

- On average, the site received 78.2 mm of rain each month since the last CCC meeting. No monitoring was 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, EC, Oil & grease results consistent, and TSS decreased.



Complaints

No complaints received

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

Contact us via email or our community hotline for more information, to provide feedback or to lodge a complaint.



1800 WHAVEN (1800 942 836)

Vickery Coal Mine

Vickery Extension Approval Status
Vickery Design status

Environmental Monitoring

- Biodiversity
- Air quality
- Groundwater
- Surface water



WHITEHAVEN COAL

VEP - Approval Status

Primary Approvals

- NSW – Vickery Extension Project Development Consent granted by IPC on 12 August 2020
- Commonwealth – EPBC Act Approval pending approval. Timing for determination extended to August 2021.
- Mining Lease Application to be finalised 2021

Secondary Approvals

- Majority of Environmental Management Plans (EMP's) for early works submitted to DPIE
- EMP's progressing during Q3-4 2021. Environmental Management Strategy and Blast Management Plan approved.
- EPL variation Q3-4 2021

VEP – Design Status

Whitehaven and specialist design engineers are progressing detailed design aspects of the Vickery Extension Project, including:

- Mine planning
- Coal Handling & Preparation Plant
- On-Site and Off-Site Infrastructure
 - Mine Infrastructure Area
 - Water Management System
 - Power supply
 - Rail

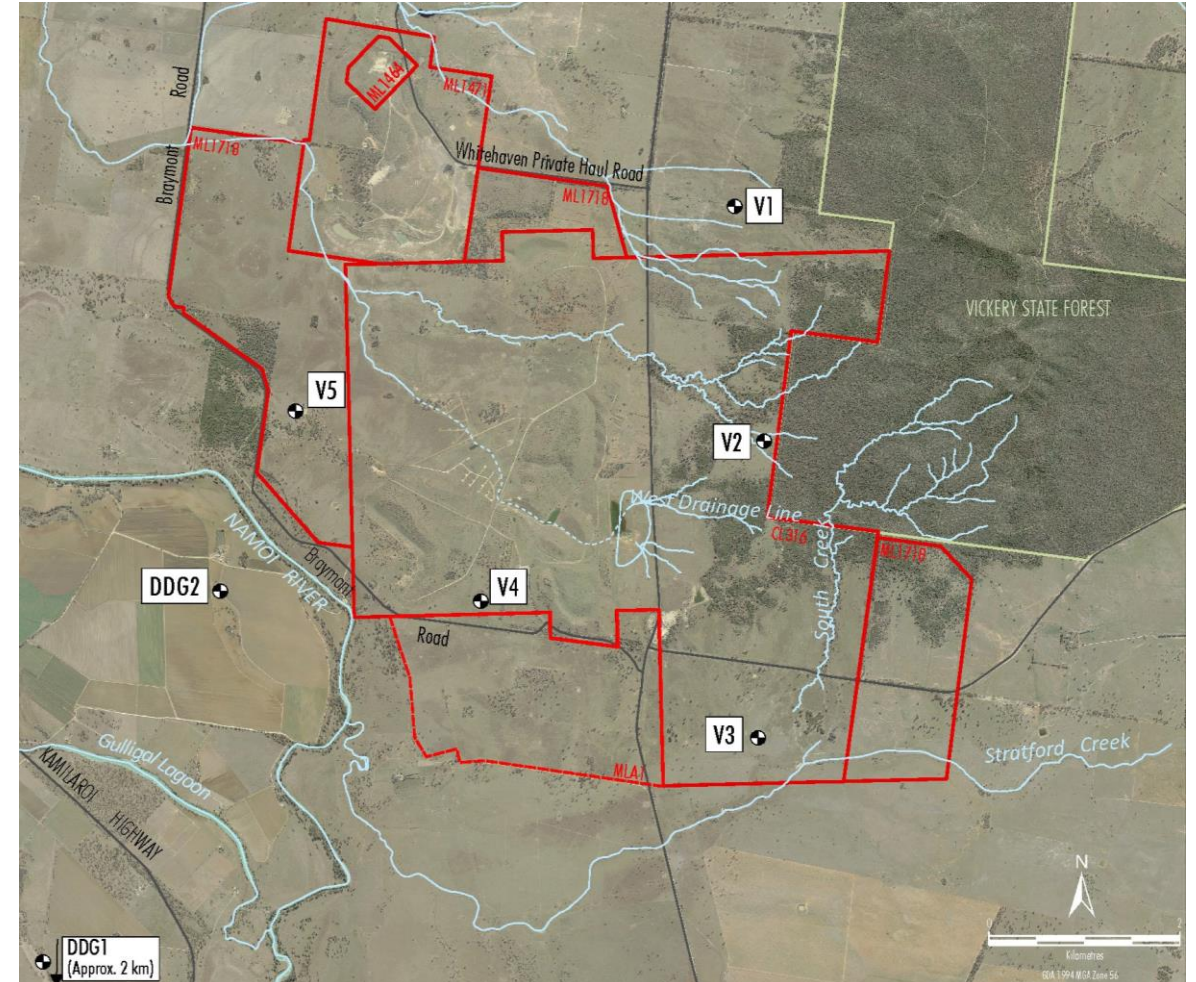
Air Quality

Depositional Dust monitoring as per Project Approval

Depositional Dust (12-month insoluble matter results in g/m2/month)		
Site	Annual Average	Guideline
DG1	5.5	Annual average to be below 4
DG2	2.0	
V1	3.1	
V2	0.7	
V3	2.2	
V4	1.0	
V5	1.7	

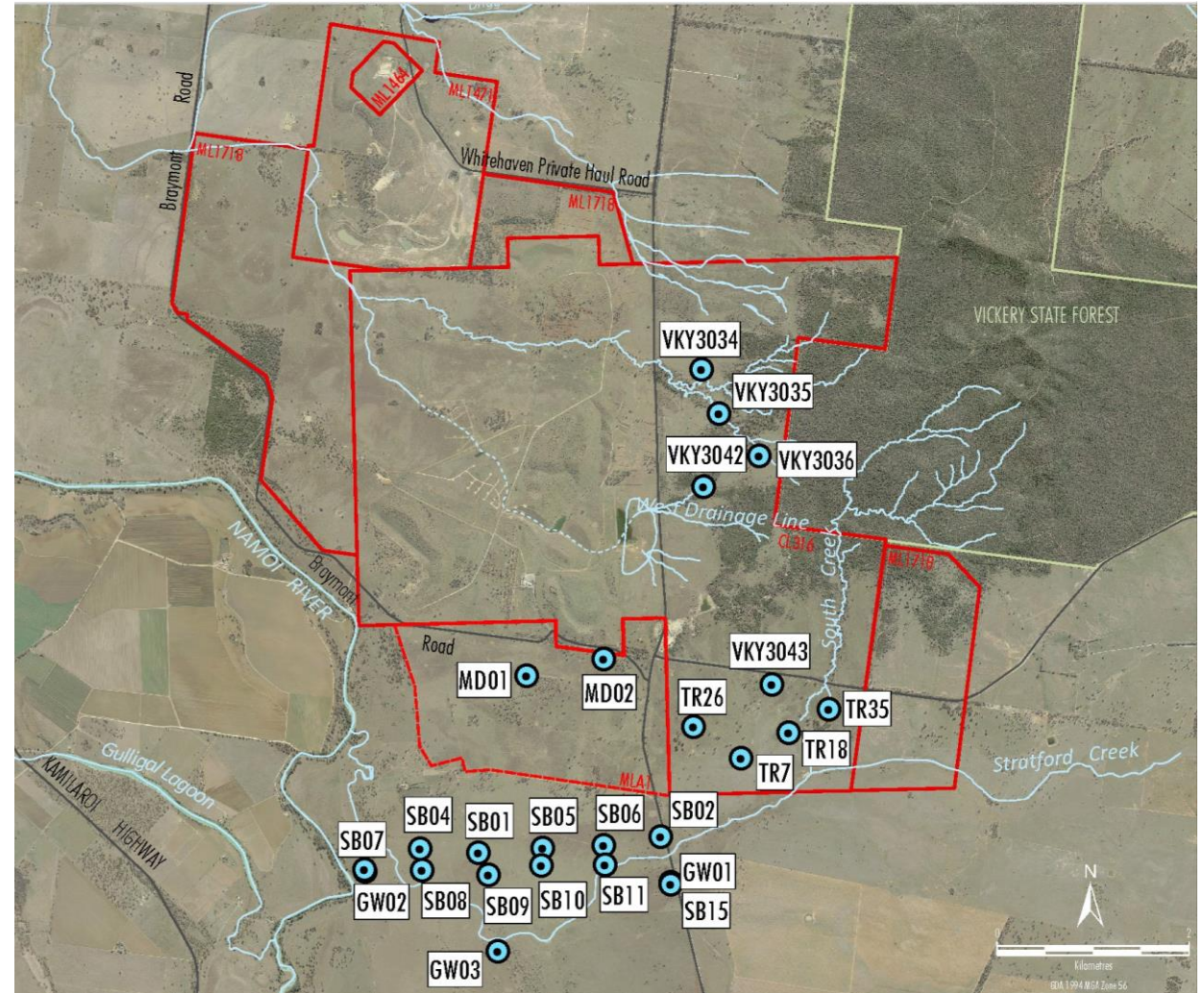
Dust emissions are not a result of the development.

- DG1 results affected by slashing and cropping a around the gauge.
- Located on Whitehaven owned property.



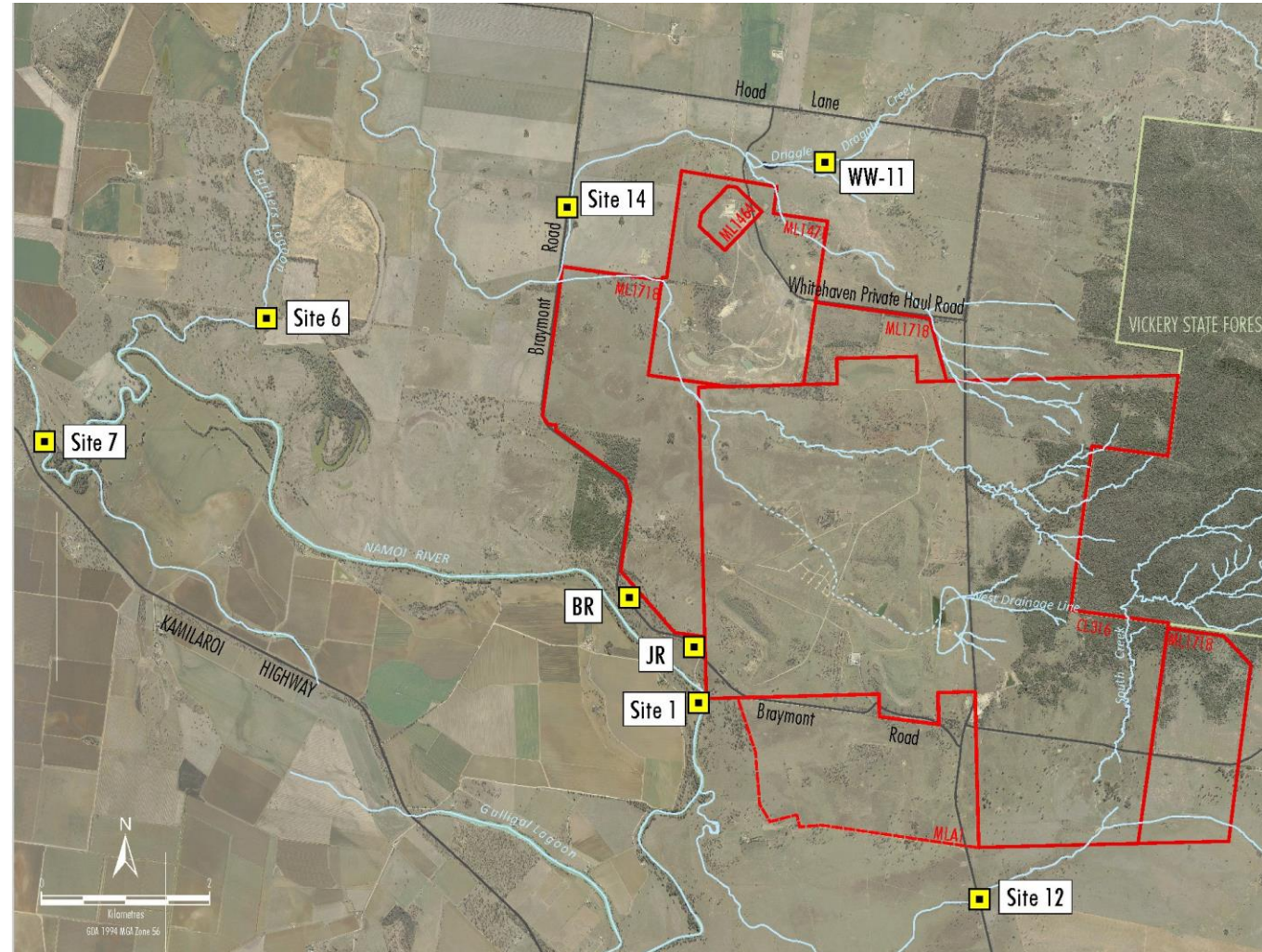
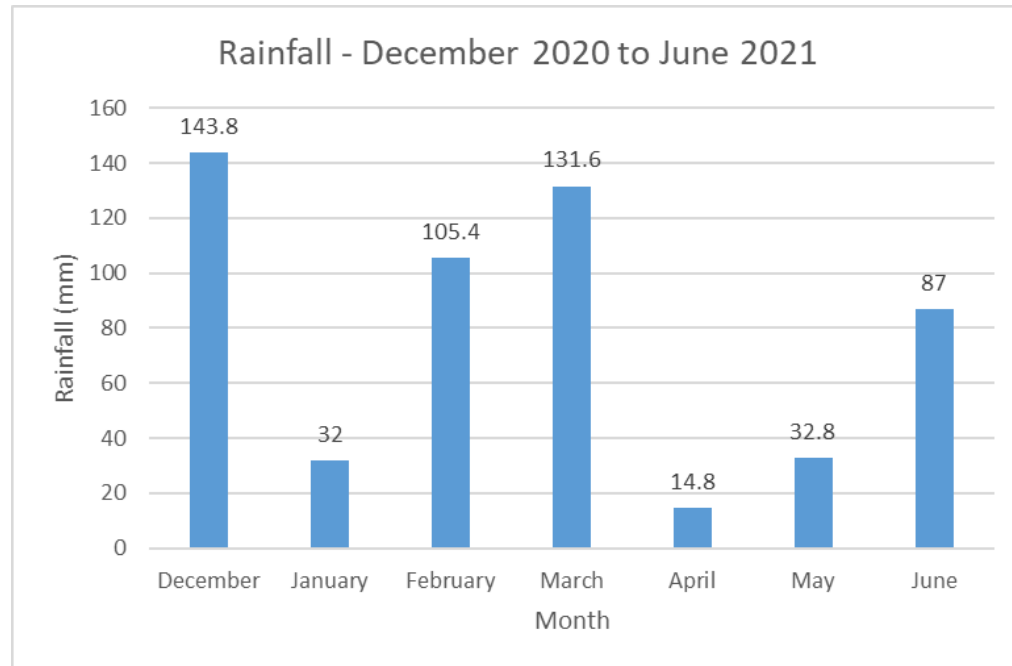
Groundwater

- Groundwater levels at 25 standpipe locations were last recorded in April 2021.
- Results showed generally consistent levels since the last CCC Meeting.



Surface Water

- Surface water flow occurred since the last CCC meeting through a number of rain events.
- Water sampling undertaken in the Namoi River.



Complaints

No complaints received


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

Contacts

Vickery Extension Project

Contact us via email or our community hotline for more information, to provide feedback or to lodge a complaint.

 1800 WHAVEN (1800 942 836)

 VICKERYFEEDBACK@WHITEHAVENCOAL.COM.AU

ALL CONTACTS →

Thank you

www.whitehavencoal.com.au



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