

Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the Vickery Coal Project Community Consultative Committee

Meeting Held: 11th April 2016

Venue: Boggabri Golf Club

1.0 Present and Apologies

Present: John Turner (JT), Independent Chairman
Cath Collyer (CC), Narrabri Shire Council (NSC) Rep
Brian Cole (BC), Executive General Manager – Project Delivery – WHC
Tony Dwyer (TD), Group Superintendent – Environment (Compliance) – WHC
Tim Muldoon (TM), Group Manager Community Relations and Property - WHC
Rebecca Ryan (RR), Gunnedah Shire Council (GSC) Rep
Keith Blanch (KB), Community Representative
Ron Fuller (RF), Community Representative
Grant McIlveen (GM), Community Representative
Barry Thomson (BT), Community Representative
Tom MacKillop (TMac), Resource Strategies
Josh Peters (JP), Resource Strategies
Lexie Frankham (LF), Group Superintendent – Environment (Operations) – WHC

Apologies: Kirsten Gollogly (KG), GM HSEC – WHC
Jill Johnson (JJ), Group Environment Manager – WHC
Jason Conomos (JC), Rocglen Coal Mine Operations Manager

2.0 Declaration of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests

JT declared that he is paid a fee for his participation as Independent Chairman.

3.0 Previous Minutes

No comments received. The Chairman declared the minutes confirmed.

4.0 Project Update

- 4.1 BC presented the Vickery Extension Project - Update explaining that WHC are completing an EIS for the Extension Project to increase the run of mine output up to 10M Tonnes (10MT) per annum with a 25 year mine life. BC noted that the Extension Project will extend the footprint into Vickery South, include construction of a CHPP, rail spur and rail load out facility and process coal from the Rocglen and Tarrawonga Mines.
- 4.2 GM stated that the western dump was to be a noise barrier and questioned what they would do now. BC confirmed there will still be noise barriers and the

modelling indicates there will be no additional properties within the acquisition zone.

- 4.3 GM questioned whether dirt from Blue Vale would be taken up onto the western dump. BC confirmed it would initially as part of the box cut, but the Blue Vale open cut would ultimately be backfilled.
- 4.4 BC presented the current preferred rail alignment option but noted the prefeasibility status and potential for this to change due to the EA and logistics determining whether the option is feasible or not. There is also an option to bring the rail corridor out to the south west. GM questioned whether there would be more issues with water and flooding going across the floodplain with the south western rail option. BC acknowledged that the area to the west of the proposed mine is a floodplain and there are regulations that instruct structure design. BC indicated that any design would need to meet the relevant criteria.
- 4.5 KB asked whether there would be an overpass or gates where the northern option crossed local roads. BC indicated that design of any crossing would be in accordance with the requirements of the agencies controlling the road. KB asked how many trains there would be per day. BC indicated that there would be approximately four to five outbound trains per day. RF acknowledged it would not be as big of an issue to mine 4MT to 10MT compared with what happens in the Hunter Valley.
- 4.6 CC queried how many extra train paths there would be with the increased capacity for the Extension Project and whether there would be sufficient capacity on the rail Mainline. BC indicated that management of the Mainline falls under the jurisdiction of the ARTC and it is responsible for ensuring that there is sufficient capacity. CC asked whether there was potential for the coal to go north instead of to Newcastle, with a preference for it to go to Newcastle. BC stated that it will all go to Newcastle.
- 4.7 KB asked if the railway line will be fenced so the adjacent land can be grazed. BC confirmed it would be fenced.
- 4.8 BC stated the intention is to complete the EIS around mid-year, June or July. The intention of the update today is to show where the project is up to now. WHC anticipates that it will be back to confer with the CCC in May or June when the results of the EIS studies become available. The intention at this stage is that construction of the Vickery Extension Project would commence around FY19.
- 4.9 GM asked what had happened since the last CCC meeting given that that the project had increased in size. TM indicated that at the time of the last meeting the plans for Vickery were still being formulated and it would have been premature to make any comment at the CCC meeting. JT noted that the last CCC meeting had occurred at short notice as it was overdue.
- 4.10 In relation to the workforce, BC noted that the Extension Project will require a larger workforce in both the construction and operational phases which will mean more local employment consistent with WHC employment policies. KB asked whether workers will be using Braymont Road. BC stated they would use Rangari Road if travelling from Boggabri or if travelling from Gunnedah, then would be using Blue Vale Road. KM noted the need to enforce the use of these roads.
- 4.11 GM asked to have a look at the noise report. BC stated that the reports are still being produced so this will be done at the next meeting.

- 4.12 RF asked how the company can predict what dust there is going to be, saying that the first one or two years may be insignificant but there may be more impact when production peaks. TMac confirmed that they have modelled four different scenarios and will have the commitment to have real time monitoring stations which will work along with the real time weather monitoring to notify operations to move equipment around or stop mining certain areas.
- 4.13 RF queried water requirements. BC explained that water modelling is undertaken to predict water requirements. The CHPP will have a belt press system so consumption of water at the plant is relatively small, with most of the water being used for air quality control. KB acknowledged that miners are just as entitled to use water as the farmers – they own the licenses. CC stated that centralisation of it is the problem – all mines using the water in the one area and drawing on it at the same time. CC questioned how much draw down there will be but acknowledged that the water studies would assess the impact. TMac confirmed the groundwater assessment would consider cumulative impacts associated with the Boggabri Coal Mine and Tarrawonga Coal Mine. JT summarised that the message is to consider the cumulative effects on water.
- 4.14 GM asked what would stop WHC in 12 months time wanting to go into the Pine Hill area. TMac explained that the elevated areas increase the depth of cover to coal and there is only limited coal in the Pine Hill area.
- 4.15 GM asked whether Braymont Road will be closed in the future as it will be close to the pit. TMac confirmed the southern section is proposed to be closed. CC asked if there would be an access from Blue Vale Road onto Braymont Road. TMac confirmed there is not proposed to be a public road once the mine is in operation.

5.0 General Business

- 5.1 RF queried whether WHC had considered buying an overhead belt system instead of running trains across properties. BC noted that the company is looking at a number of options.
- 5.2 RF queried the height of the external overburden dump to which TMac indicated that it would be up to approximately 80m above existing ground level. The depth of the mine will vary from approximately 100m to 250m.

6.0 Next Meeting

Next meeting date and time to be advised as this is dependent on completion of reports.

Meeting closed at 12:30pm.

John Turner - Chair

Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the Vickery Project Community Consultative Committee

Meeting Held: 10:00am 15th June 2016 – 10am – 12.15pm

Venue: Boggabri Golf Club

1.0 Present and Apologies

Present:	John Turner (JT)	Independent Chairman
	Cath Collyer (CC)	Narrabri Shire Council (NSC) Representative
	Brian Cole (BC)	Executive General Manager – Project Delivery – WHC
	Jill Johnson (JJ)	Group Environment Manager – WHC
	Tim Muldoon (TM)	Group Manager Community Relations and Property – WHC
	Ron Fuller (RF)	Community Representative
	Grant McIlveen (GM)	Community Representative
	Barry Thomson (BT)	Community Representative
	Steve O'Donoghue (SO)	NSW Department of Planning & Environment
	Angela Felton (AF)	NSW Department of Planning & Environment
	Tom MacKillop (TMac)	Resource Strategies
	James Steele (JS)	Resource Strategies
	Henry Cunningham (HC)	Resource Strategies
Apologies:	Rebecca Ryan (RR)	Gunnedah Shire Council (GSC) Representative
	Keith Blanch (KB)	Community Representative

2.0 Declaration of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests

JT declared that he is paid a fee for his participation as Independent Chairman.

3.0 Previous Minutes

No comments received. The Chairman declared the minutes confirmed.

4.0 Project Update

- 4.1 BC presented PowerPoint slides reviewing the status the Vickery Extension Project and the specialist assessments.
- 4.2 BC discussed the rail spur location. BC noted that the northern option is the preferred option. The western corridor is an alternative option. GM queried the time frame in which a decision on the rail alignment would be made. BC indicated that a decision is expected to be made before submission of the EIS, expected in the back half of the year.
- 4.3 CC raised concerns regarding potential increases in flood levels on Boggabri and surrounding areas as a result of construction of the western rail option on the Namoi flood plain. BC noted that the northern rail alignment does not cross the Namoi River. In any event BC indicated that construction of structures on flood plains is heavily regulated. BC confirmed that the specialists are aware of the restrictions.
- 4.4 CC queried potential mine impacts on flows in the Namoi River. BC indicated that the specialist assessment forecasts no significant impacts to the Namoi River. BC indicated that he expects that the relevant agencies would be assessing the modelling results in some detail.
- 4.5 CC queried the distance from the Namoi River to the Blue Vale open cut and the extent of alluvium around the mining area. BC described the alluvium investigations conducted recently and indicated that the open cut is located clear of the alluvium. BC further indicated that the recent drilling had confirmed that the alluvium has very low permeability and therefore does not provide a drainage path between the pit and the river.
- 4.6 CC queried how Whitehaven would capture and direct runoff from the waste rock emplacements. TMac noted that runoff from waste rock emplacements would be captured in sediment basins while coal-contact water would be captured in mine water dams with no releases proposed. TMac clarified that sediment basins would be designed in accordance with the relevant guidelines and water in sediment basins would be reused or released only in accordance with the Environment Protection Licence.
- 4.7 GM queried how sediment dam releases from spill points would be channelled. TMac commented that sediment dams would only overflow during heavy rainfall events that exceeded the design criteria and in accordance with the EPL. Releases would occur as overland flow. GM queried whether releases from “Turkey’s Nest” to the north of the mining area would occur. TMac noted that “Turkey’s Nest” is for coal-contact water and as such no releases are proposed.
- 4.8 GM queried the number of coal seams in the Blue Vale open cut pit. TM took this query on notice¹.
- 4.9 BC outlined that a Site Verification Certificate has been obtained which confirms that the Vickery South extension area does not contain high quality agricultural land.

¹ Up to 9 coal seams would be mined within the Blue Vale open cut.

- 4.10 BC outlined that noise modelling conducted to date indicated that three properties lie within the acquisition zone. Two of the properties have acquisition agreements in place. BC noted that the third property owner is in discussions with Whitehaven. BC outlined mitigation measures to minimise impacts from noise, dust and blasting.
- 4.11 GM queried the lack of air quality monitoring at the Maunder property and indicated on the slide. TMac noted that locations shown on the diagram are existing gauges for background monitoring and additional monitors would be installed during operations. CC proposed additional air quality monitoring in the town of Boggabri.
- 4.12 SO queried whether the noise specialist assessment accounted for wind and temperature inversions, or just for inversions. TMac confirmed that modelling does account for wind and inversions. SO advised the CCC that the methodology is outlined in the Industrial Noise Policy. CC added that inversions are common in the area.
- 4.13 BC outlined the impacts expected during a 1 in 100 year flood event and indicated that as the northern rail spur crossed ephemeral creeks, it would include sections where culverts were included to minimise flooding impacts on adjacent properties although it was noted that Whitehaven already own much of the land in the vicinity of the rail spur. GM observed that unless properly maintained, culverts are prone to a build up of debris and potential blockage.
- 4.14 BC outlined mitigation measures for visual impacts and impacts from lighting including screening, shrouds and protectors to limit the spill of light. CC noted that overburden dumps would prevent direct views of the open cut pits. CC queried the use of shrouds. TMac explained that light shrouds were used to focus light downwards and thereby limit spill. GM asked whether lights would be moved around during operations. BC confirmed that this would be the case.
- 4.15 CC commented that the visual simulations shown on the slides underestimate the impacts and would prefer the simulations to focus on the mine landform. TMac noted that simulations were prepared consistent with the Vickery Coal Project and show the progression of impacts over time.
- 4.16 SO queried whether there would be more simulations in the EIS than were shown in the presentation. TMac confirmed that this was correct. GM queried whether the VP11 simulation was from the same location as in the approved Vickery Coal Project. TMac confirmed that this was correct. TMac explained that final landforms would include ridges to replicate the natural topography which is now best practice. SO asked whether the western waste emplacement extends further to the north, compared with the Vickery Coal Project. TMac confirmed this was correct.
- 4.17 RF commented that in his view the existing Vickery rehabilitation was an excellent example of mine rehabilitation. CC agreed.
- 4.18 SO queried whether the Canyon final void would be filled as a result of back-filling. TMac confirmed that this would be the case.

- 4.19 BC provided an update on the specialist road transport assessment and indicated that one of the main objectives of the project is to get trucks off the road which would be a significant community benefit. BC described restrictions on the use of Braymont Road by Whitehaven personnel. CC commented that effective control of the use of Braymont Road by Whitehaven would be particularly important during construction.
- 4.20 CC queried the location of the Blue Vale Road diversion and the closure of a section of Hoad Lane. TMac clarified and indicated the Blue Vale Road diversion on a diagram.
- 4.21 GM queried the access to the travelling stock reserve after the closure of a section of Braymont Road. TMac discussed that this is crown land and would remain accessible from the north.
- 4.22 GM asked whether access to Broadwater property for fishing would be possible after the closure of a section of Braymont Road. TMac advised that this area of crown land would remain accessible from the north via Braymont Road.
- 4.23 RF raised the idea of a bus tour to view the Vickery Extension Project area, giving context to diagrams provided by Whitehaven. CC and GM supported this idea. BC will arrange for the CCC members in the future when there is clarity about the rail spur.
- 4.24 BC outlined biodiversity surveys that had been undertaken and potential offsets. CC queried whether BioBanking and the biodiversity credits system had been established yet. SO advised that the fund was not yet established.
- 4.25 RF commented that there were negatives associated with meeting offset requirements by locking away additional land. TM added that Whitehaven already had a significant inventory of land including land for offsets and was trying as far as practical to not increase landholdings.
- 4.26 SO queried the amount of rehabilitation required for biodiversity credits. BC noted that the Whitehaven Biodiversity Offset Strategy as currently developed included rehabilitation of the mining footprint with woodland. In general Whitehaven is proposing to achieve credits using existing Whitehaven owned land as far as practical. TM added that the aim is to maximise use of the mine site for offsets to preserve agricultural land outside the mining area. GM and RF supported this approach.
- 4.27 CC noted that a weed management plan for offset properties would be beneficial and asked whether Whitehaven had been managing weeds. TM noted that the primary controller of weeds is the licensee, but nonetheless Whitehaven had employed a spot sprayer and contracted individuals to help control weeds on its properties.
- 4.28 BC described agricultural and soil surveys, and noted that the mining area did not comprise prime agricultural land.

- 4.29 BC described the socio-economic impacts. GM noted that the community wants employees to be involved and valuable to the community. CC noted that the town of Boggabri wants to see growth. TM explained that the intention is to not have a fly-in fly-out workforce. BC added that Whitehaven has introduced a financial disincentive for staff to stay in accommodation camps, which encourages personnel to live within the community.
- 4.30 CC requested that Whitehaven increase its community involvement through attendance at community events and the monthly business promotions meeting.
- 4.31 TM indicated that Michael Maunder had contacted KB regarding consultation for the Vickery Extension Project and requested an update from Whitehaven.

General Business

- 4.32 BC indicated that the environmental specialist assessments are nearing completion.
- 4.33 GM raised that at the previous meeting it was discussed that the Vickery Mining Lease (ML) did not span to the west of Braymont Road. However, GM stated that an Exploration Licence (EL) does exist to the West of Braymont Road. TMac clarified that there is a Whitehaven EL to the west of Bramyont Road, however there is a gap in the EL along Braymont Road which precluded Whitehaven from applying for a mining lease.
- 4.34 GM reported that two farmers identified Whitehaven personnel entering their land without prior advice. GM requested that prior to accessing private land, please make a phone call.

5.0 Next Meeting

BC stated that he will advise the members of the Community Consultative Committee as to the next meeting date. It is desirable to synchronise the regional CCC meetings, but it will depend on what is practical.

Meeting closed at 12:15pm.

John Turner - Chair

Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the Vickery Project Community Consultative committee

Meeting held: 16th November 2016 – 11.30am-1.30pm

Venue: Whitehaven Office, Conadilly Street, Gunnedah

Present:

Roberta Ryan (RR)	Independent Chair
Sandra Spate (SS)	Minute taker
Colleen Fuller (CF)	Gunnedah Shire Council (GSC)
Lloyd Finlay (LF)	Narrabri Shire Council (NSC)
Brian Cole (BC)	Executive General Manager, Project Delivery, WHC
Tim Muldoon (TM)	Group Manager Community Relations and Property, WHC
Ron Fuller (RF)	Community Representative
Grant McIlveen (GM)	Community Representative
Jill Johnson (JJ)	Group Manager, Environment, WHC
Tom MacKillop (TMac)	Resource Strategies

Apologies:

Keith Blanch (KB)	Community Representative
Barry Thomson (BT)	Community Representative
Ron Campbell (RC)	Alternate NSC Representative

Item	Description	Action/ Responsibility
1	Introductions and Introductions	
1.1	<p>BC welcomed attendees and introduced Roberta Ryan as the new Chair of the committee after the resignation of John Turner.</p> <p>RR thanked the CCC for the opportunity to work with them. Her role is as an independent Chair as required by Conditions of Approval for the project. She outlined her history of work in community consultation and with similar committees. She is currently a Professor at UTS and the director of the Institute for Public Policy and Governance and Centre for Local Government.</p> <p>RR reported new guidelines for the operation of Community Consultative Committees have been finalised. Independent note takers are appointed by the Chair as are CCC members. The Chair reports annually to the Secretary of the Department of Planning on the operation of the committee and Whitehaven's engagement with the community. One criteria for her appointment as Chair was that she has no background in mining.</p> <p>The link to the new guidelines for Community Consultative Committees is http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/CommunityConsultativeCommittees</p>	
1.2	Attendees introduced themselves.	
2	CCC Protocols	
2.1	<p>RR noted that as part of CCC protocols members are asked to sign a Code of Conduct agreement. The focus is on operating the committee effectively. A key point is that members are asked not to talk about who said what outside the meetings. This will enable people to talk freely at meetings. Minutes will reflect what happened at meetings. People can talk about the conversation that occurred but not on what individuals said. If anyone has queries they should talk to RR.</p> <p>Copies of the Code of Conduct were distributed at the meeting.</p>	
2.2	<p>CF asked how this would affect her ability to report back to Council on discussion at the CCC.</p> <p>RR replied she is able to report back on issues and discussion but not</p>	

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	what individuals said. The minutes will be a documentary record to take back to Council.	
2.3	<p>JJ asked what timeframe CF needed to report to Council. CF replied it was a month. JJ noted there is a requirement on Whitehaven to make the minutes public within a month.</p> <p>RR reported after the minutes go back to her they are sent to the committee to ensure they are an accurate record. Attendees come back to the Chair with comments if minutes aren't accurate. RR will sign off on them within a month to make them public. They are then formally endorsed at the following meeting. She suggested minutes would be reformatted to capture actions and who is responsible for them.</p> <p>TMac noted questions sometimes need to be taken on notice and followed up.</p>	
3	Declaration of pecuniary or other interests	
3.1	RR noted a new requirement for members to sign a declaration of any pecuniary interests or non-pecuniary interests they have with Whitehaven.	
4	Acceptance of previous minutes and matters arising	
4.1	Acceptance of minutes from the June 2016 meeting was moved by RF and seconded by GM. The minutes were accepted.	
4.2	Regarding a request for additional air quality monitoring in Boggabri once operations begin, BC said that one aspect of the EIS, when finalised, will be potential air quality impacts of the project. To date there is nothing to indicate discernible impacts on the town of Boggabri. People will be able to make submissions on the EIS regarding environmental impacts including air quality monitoring which could include the Boggabri township. There is already an extensive network of air quality monitoring stations in the area nearby the Boggabri region implemented by Whitehaven and Boggabri Coal. BC suggests revisiting the issue after the EIS is finalised.	
4.3	Regarding the request for a bus tour to view the extension, this is on the agenda for the following meeting.	Bus tour of the site – to be done by the CCC when practical.
4.4	<p>Regarding the discussion around Whitehaven increasing its involvement in the local community and businesses TM noted perceptions of high visibility during construction which then dissipates while an operational workforce is being built. Whitehaven has become involved with Chambers of Commerce and Councils. They are developing regular newsletters and updates with company information and specific site information.</p> <p>GM noted the Boggabri Butchery is doing it tough. Civeo doesn't buy meat through them. He asked how much influence Whitehaven has with Civeo. He is surprised that there is not more local focus with the amount of money Whitehaven pushes through the camp.</p> <p>BC thought they bought locally to some extent.</p> <p>TM suggested Whitehaven doesn't have much influence over Civeo. They are a paying customer. BC and TM are happy to talk to Civeo.</p>	
4.5	Regarding Michael Maunder's request for an update TM noted this has been done.	
4.6	GM reported concerns from a small group formed around Boggabri about suggestions at the last two meetings of a second option for the train line. GM referred to a document in his possession which was a copy of the Reasons for Decision issued by the Federal Department of the Environment in relation to the referral of the project under the EPBC Act. In that document it indicates that in the original referral Whitehaven included two rail spur options and subsequently withdrew one. GM was seeking an explanation. BC indicated that the document is correct but	

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	<p>given the considerable period of time since the referral was submitted and the Reasons for Decision being issued, the document no longer reflects the scope of the project in relation to the rail spur and hasn't for some time as reflected in Whitehaven's feedback to the previous two CCC meetings. It is correct that the northern option was the preferred option for the rail spur but post the considerations by the Federal Department of the Environment, more detailed rail studies identified some issues with the northern option which led Whitehaven to consider the western rail options. When the position on the rail option is clear the project will be referred back to the Department of the Environment which will assess the rail spur against Matters of National Environmental Significance under the EPBC Act..</p>	
4.7	<p>RF asked whether Vickery has done costing on the options. BC replied the topography on the northern route is less of an issue than the floodplain on the western route. RF asked how far Vickery is from Tarrawonga. BC said it is around 20km to the common spur. The western route potentially adds length but the issue is with ongoing costs. With the northern route Whitehaven doesn't own the rail line in its own right . It is partly owned by a joint venture company. There are a number of participants to deal with which introduces complexities including potentially contributing to the cost of the asset. There are also potential capacity issues around the line catering for additional tonnage.</p>	
5	Canyon Environmental Monitoring Update	
5.1	<p>JJ presented the Canyon Environmental Monitoring Update (attached to the minutes). Copies were distributed to the meeting. Copies were distributed to the meeting. JJ reported Canyon is adjacent to Vickery and Vickery will encompass part of the Canyon site. It ceased to operate in mid-2009 but there is still a requirement under conditions of consent for Canyon to have maintain a CCC and that function is covered under the Vickery CCC. Monitoring reports will be presented at Vickery CCC meetings. An annual review of monitoring results from July 2015 to June 2016 is available on Whitehaven's website. Submission of the Independent Environmental Audit to Department of Planning resulted in a warning letter for audits not being undertaken from 2009 to 2012. A verbal agreement with the Department indicated this was not necessary. As the mine is no longer operating Whitehaven is seeking a Modification to Conditions of Consent to remove redundant requirements. The link to the summary of the report is contained below. https://www.whitehavencoal.com.au/environment/canyon_mine_environmental_management.cfm</p> <p>There were no complaints for the reporting period.</p>	
6.0	Vickery Environmental Monitory Update	
6.1	<p>This was distributed to the meeting. Whitehaven continues to undertake baseline monitoring at Vickery. There have been no complaints received for the Vickery Coal Project.</p>	
7.0	Vickery Extension Project – EIS Update	
7.1	<p>BC delivered the presentation on the project update including options for rail routes (Attached to minutes). Maps showed existing approval and proposed phases for the extension project. The two pits are the main pit and the Blue Vale Pit (formerly Rio Tinto). BC noted Vickery has high quality coal but with a lot of overburden. Most assessments have been finalised and are being peer reviewed. Recent focus has been on rail options.</p>	
7.2	<p>LF asked about the route for the northern rail option .</p>	


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	<p>BC replied it crosses Hoad Lane, Rangari Road and Goonbri Road and connects to the common section which then splits. The other options include the south west option and the western option. Whitehaven owns some of the land the rail corridor sits on with some complexities around other privately owned land. In the case of the western option most of this is owned by one company. The south west option is over the floodplain which is heavily regulated. The northern route crosses creeks. Whitehaven is currently talking with regulators and landowners. They will then finalise and submit the EIS.</p>	
7.3	<p>GM asked if BC could present photos to the meeting of floods in the area of the south west option. The Namoi catchment is the second biggest feeding into the Murray Darling basin. When water breaks out of the Gunnedah it goes down Deadmans Gully and follows the railway. He is concerned at the amount of water passing down the flood plain. The area is flat and it will impact a lot of people if the two proposed lines to the west hold up or divert water.</p> <p>BC can provide photos and modelling. GM is correct the area can be covered in water but it is not deep. OEH and Planning have strict floodplain management plans which prescribe permitted activity. Discussions to date indicate it can be done within the limits of Floodplain Management Plan. The northern option runs over creeks and the rail spur would be designed to allow water in creeks to pass in significant storm events. In the case of surface water from the mine site sedimentation dams will capture water from the overburden.</p>	
7.4	<p>RF asked whether the rehabilitation area from the old site would be reworked. Will the overburden be taken away and the area mined further down?</p> <p>BC replied the Bluevale void still has coal that can be mined readily and Whitehaven intends to do that.</p>	
7.5	<p>RF asked for clarification on concerns raised previously by the former representative Narrabri Council about the proposal's impacts on water levels.</p> <p>BC replied people seeing excavation close to the river expect issues. But the site is a geological island and all modelling indicates negligible impact on the Namoi or on surrounding groundwater. The surrounding area is generally alluvium with water is extracted for farming. But the geology here insulates the area from impacts.</p>	
7.6	<p>GM asked whether the EIS would include two options for the rail spur. BC expects only one option will be included. The Department of Planning prefers one to be included. Work is going into the detail of which one to include.</p> <p>GM raised concerns that if one western option is approved a second option could be looked at later to complete a rail loop.</p> <p>BC said this would be too expensive. There will be a rail loop at the loading plant on site.</p> <p>JJ said there would be no reason for the loop.</p> <p>GM suggested the advantage would be in not having to wait for the train from Boggabri.</p> <p>BC said this may be an advantage but as spurs are expensive it wouldn't be contemplated. A stand-alone line to the west would avoid congestion north of Boggabri. On floodplain issues, the Floodplain Management Plan which is out for discussion will apply to the proposal. Whitehaven considers the western options can be designed within the floodplain requirements. Discussions with OEH has taken place and more are scheduled.</p> <p>GM asked for flood photos and maps for other two options. He expected they would be available at this meeting.</p> <p>RF asked whether a decision is expected by the next meeting. BC hopes</p>	<p>BC to provide flood photos and maps for the two western rail options at the next meeting.</p>

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	<p>this is the case.</p> <p>BC acknowledged in the event of a large flood land between the river and the mainline rail line would be under water. The question is how deep it would be and in general the water depth is not great because it spreads out so far. The 1984 flood is prescribed as a design flood.</p> <p>RF noted the Boggabri line doesn't go under in floods.</p> <p>GM is critical because embankments built by farmers before flood plain management continue to give people grief. Whitehaven has to get it right. There are a lot of levee banks and we don't want more.</p> <p>BC can't foresee OEH signing off on something that would cause impacts. The flood consultant, WRM, is conversant with the area.</p> <p>Modelling will need to demonstrate compliance with the flood plain management principles.</p>	
7.7	<p>RR summarised the process as Whitehaven will look at feasibility of options, then make a call on the preferred option and assess impacts. BC said this will be encapsulated in the EIS. Thinking about the next meeting it is anticipated an option will be decided and assessed. The aim is for the EIS to be finished by March or slightly later.</p>	
7.8	<p>BC reported noise, blasting and air quality have been the focus of assessments to date. Work since last meeting has been peer reviewing models. With surrounding landholders there will be real time monitoring and operations will stop if levels are exceeded.</p>	
7.9	<p>RF asked whether it would be an advantage to undertake vegetation works before new vegetation laws come in. BC said these won't apply. Approval will set out clear zones with controls over what can be cleared and times of year for clearing.</p>	
7.10	<p>GM asked for progress on the stock route issue. TMac replied the rail route needs to be kept in mind, but there will be a commitment in the EIS and a route bedded down before it goes to Lands. It is yet to be determined whether there will be a formal or informal easement.</p>	
7.11	<p>GM asked whether viaducts or culverts would be used with rail options. BC replied potentially both depending on the location. In some cases existing embankments could be used. The line would be generally above flood levels and would be a minimum height over the highway. The design would grade down from there but a lot would be elevated.</p>	
8	General Business	
8.1	<p>GM asked whether there is a conflict of interests with the new Mayor of Gunnedah having ties to Whitehaven.</p> <p>CF replied interests will always be declared and the Mayor steps down in matters that may involve a conflict of interest. CF said residents could obtain information about councillors' interests from the website.</p> <p>RR confirmed that the Mayor would have to declare and step aside from any issues to do with a declared interest. There is local government legislation around this and it will be watched carefully.</p> <p>TM noted decision making around Whitehaven sits with State Government. Council's role is as a submission writer which is given serious consideration as the local government authority.</p>	
8.2	<p>RF asked how much the coal yield would be. BC expects it to be a nominal 10 million tons per year for 22 or 23 years.</p>	
8.3	<p>GM asked how coal would be brought from Rocglen and Tarrawonga. BC replied it depends on timing. If Rocglen is operating it would come down the haul road to the site.</p>	
8.4	<p>LF asked whether the EIS would go to Council for input when a decision is made about the rail spur.</p> <p>BC said Whitehaven has updated Council and expects to brief Council when the EIS is ready to submit.</p>	
8.5	<p>GM suggested people are hearing varying stories about the direction of the rail line and suggested a lot of people who will be impacted haven't</p>	

Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the Vickery Project Community Consultative committee

	<p>been consulted. BC replied they will endeavour to talk to affected people but are currently dedicating time to getting clarity about the location of a rail corridor.. JJ understands people want to be consulted from the beginning but this means there is uncertainty as the Company considers options. There has to be a balance around when to consult. TM appreciates people feel uncertainty and Whitehaven wants to give people the opportunity to be involved before the EIS but Whitehaven doesn't have certainty yet themselves. RF noted a lot of misinformation around mining the black soil plain which is not an issue for the Vickery Extension Project.. GM prefers the northern option. GM said that in 2012 they were told the Blue Vale pit would never go ahead and now it is proposed to be mined. BC said that the Government was making/putting pressure on Whitehaven to mine the whole resource in the Vickery Mine. BC said that Whitehaven people may have or may not have made such comments but it would have been in good faith and based on knowledge held at the time. GM asked whether there is a timeframe for talking to the wider community and neighbours. Up to 8 haven't been spoken to. There is fear of the unknown. Coalworks had 7 or 8 options, Whitehaven 3. RR suggested discussions with the community should proceed as quickly as possible once the option is decided.</p>	
9	Date and agenda for next meeting	
9.1	<p>Potential agenda items include briefing on the EIS and a possible site visit. RF suggested holding off on the site visit till the following meeting if rail options haven't been decided to allow the rail route to be included in the site visit.</p>	BC to liaise with RR on including a site visit at the next meeting or the following one.
9.2	<p>CF requests meetings not be Wednesdays as these clash with Gunnedah Council meetings and not on the same days as Tarrawonga meetings. Narrabri Council meetings are Tuesdays. Thursdays were suggested as potential meeting days. JJ notes four weeks' notice is required.</p>	
<p>These minutes have been endorsed by the meeting Chair The chair has been paid by Whitehaven to chair this meeting.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-end;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  Signed: </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> Date: </div> </div>		

Canyon Coal Mine

An administrative project approval modification was approved in 2015 to extend the consent until 7 September 2022 in order to allow for continued closure and rehabilitation of the mine and associated activities.

Following the modification, a number of management plans were revised and approved, including the Aboriginal and Cultural Heritage Management Plan, the Air Quality Monitoring Plan, the Water Management Plan, and the Environmental Management Strategy. These revisions included changes in monitoring requirements to reflect the status of the Canyon site, and are summarised below.

- The current monitoring requirements require surface water monitoring in the lower void, and groundwater monitoring at five locations, on a 6 monthly frequency.
- Deposited dust monitoring has also been revised to four monitoring locations, one in each quadrant.

Environmental Monitoring Results

The following monitoring results reflect the previous annual review reporting period for the Canyon Coal Mine, from 1 July 2015 until 30 June 2016.

Air Quality

Monitoring of deposited dust is undertaken on a monthly basis, with results presented below in Table 1.

Table 1 Deposited Dust Monitoring Data

Site	Property Name	Annual Mean Total Insoluble Solids (g/m2/month)	Annual Mean Ash (g/m2/month)
D1	Whitehaven	1.9	0.8
D2	Merton	1.4	0.6
D5*	Wilga	0.8	0.3
D7*	Wilga	2.0	0.8
D8*	Gundawarra	2.6	1.6
D10*	Merton	2.2	0.6
D11 *	Merton	1.6	0.8
D12	Whitehaven	6.0	5.7
D13b	Womboola	1.1	0.9
D15*	Merton	3.1	1.0
D16*	Merton	2.2	1.1

*Sites no longer monitored; monitoring ceased in April 2016. Averages for the period calculated for these sites over the 9 months of monitoring.

NOTE: Remaining 4 sites averages calculated over the full 12 months of the reporting period.

A review of Table 5 shows that the annual average limit for deposited dust was exceeded at one location, D12, during the reporting period. D12 is located on Whitehaven owned land, outside of the Mining Lease. D12 received very low results for each month in the reporting period, except for December 2015 and January 2016, which resulted in the exceedance for this site. The dominant wind directions during these months were from the east, northeast and north indicating the potential for impact from site, however no rehabilitation work, earth works, or maintenance works were undertaken on the former mine site during either month. This location has been retained in the latest Air Quality Management Plan for continued monitoring.

Water Management

There were no wet weather discharges during the period. Surface water monitoring in the lower void has seen a return to normal oil and grease levels, following two high readings in late 2015, while the long term water results are continuing to show a slight upward trend in pH and EC readings.

Groundwater monitoring has shown water quality results and standing water levels have remained relatively consistent throughout the monitoring period, with the exception of two monitoring locations, GW11 and GW8. GW11 (on mine owned land) results indicate an increasing conductivity trend, along with a slight calcium concentration increase, while all other monitored parameters remain consistent. GW8 continues to show large fluctuations in standing water level, as it has for the previous 3 years. GW8 is located on mine owned land which is currently leased. It is expected that the drawn down is being caused by farm use, with a solar pump installed on the bore, and therefore unrelated to the mine.

Independent Environmental Audit

The most recent independent audit of Canyon Coal Mine was undertaken by Environmental Resource Management Australia Pty Ltd (ERM) in early 2016, with the site component completed on the 23rd of March. A summary of the audit findings from ERM is included below and a copy of the audit report is available on the Whitehaven website.

Summary of Audit Findings

Non conformances	Administrative Non - conformances	Observations	Not Verifiable
<i>Statutory Instruments</i>			
18 – low risk	10	9	4
2 – medium risk (3 duplicates)			
<i>Implementation of Plans</i>			
12 – low risk	2	6	3
(2 duplicates)		(1 duplicate)	
32	12	15	7

An action table addressing the above was developed by Whitehaven, and work remains ongoing to address all non-compliances for the site.

Complaints

There were no complaints received for the Canyon site during the reporting period.

Vickery Coal Project

Environmental Monitoring

There are no requirements to undertake environmental monitoring until operations commence at the Vickery site, however Whitehaven Coal continues to collect surface water, groundwater, meteorological, and air quality baseline data.

Complaints

No complaints have yet been received for the Vickery Coal Project.

Whitehaven Coal Limited

VICKERY EXTENSION PROJECT – CCC MEETING
16 NOVEMBER 2016



WHITEHAVEN COAL

Agenda

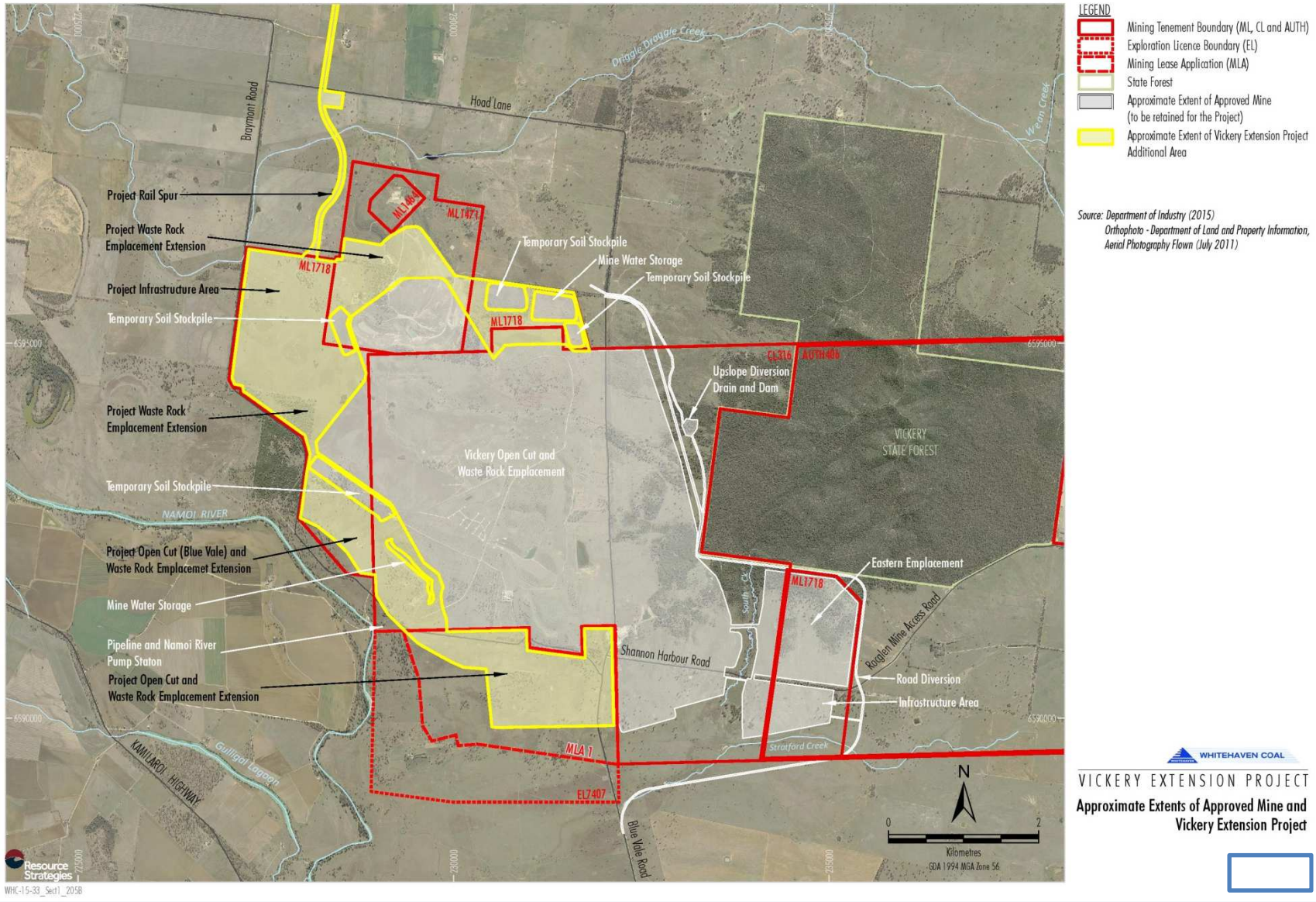


Topic
Vickery Extension Project
Vickery Extension Project - Update
Flooding
Noise, Air Quality and Blasting

Vickery Extension Project



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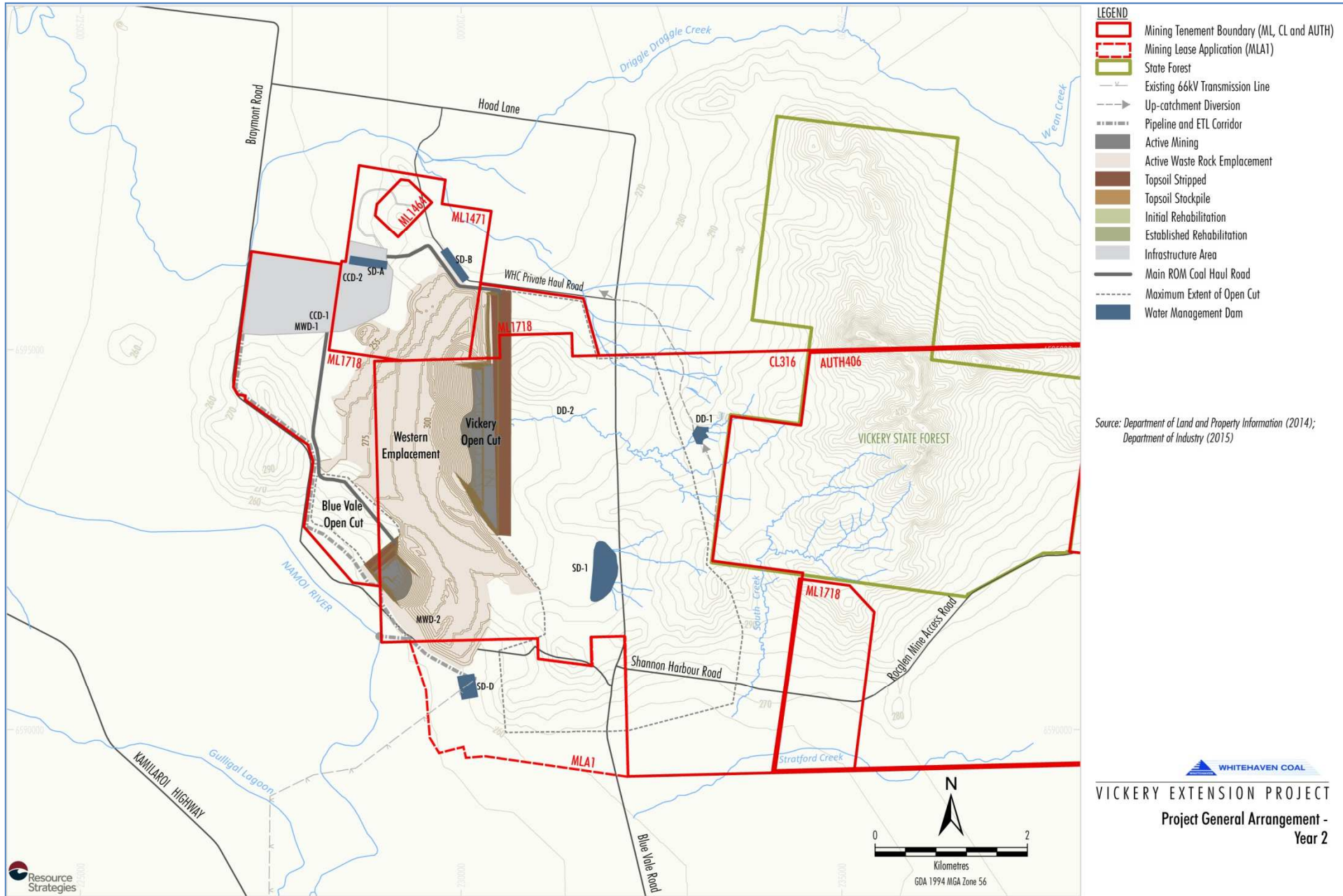
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Vickery Extension Project – Year 2



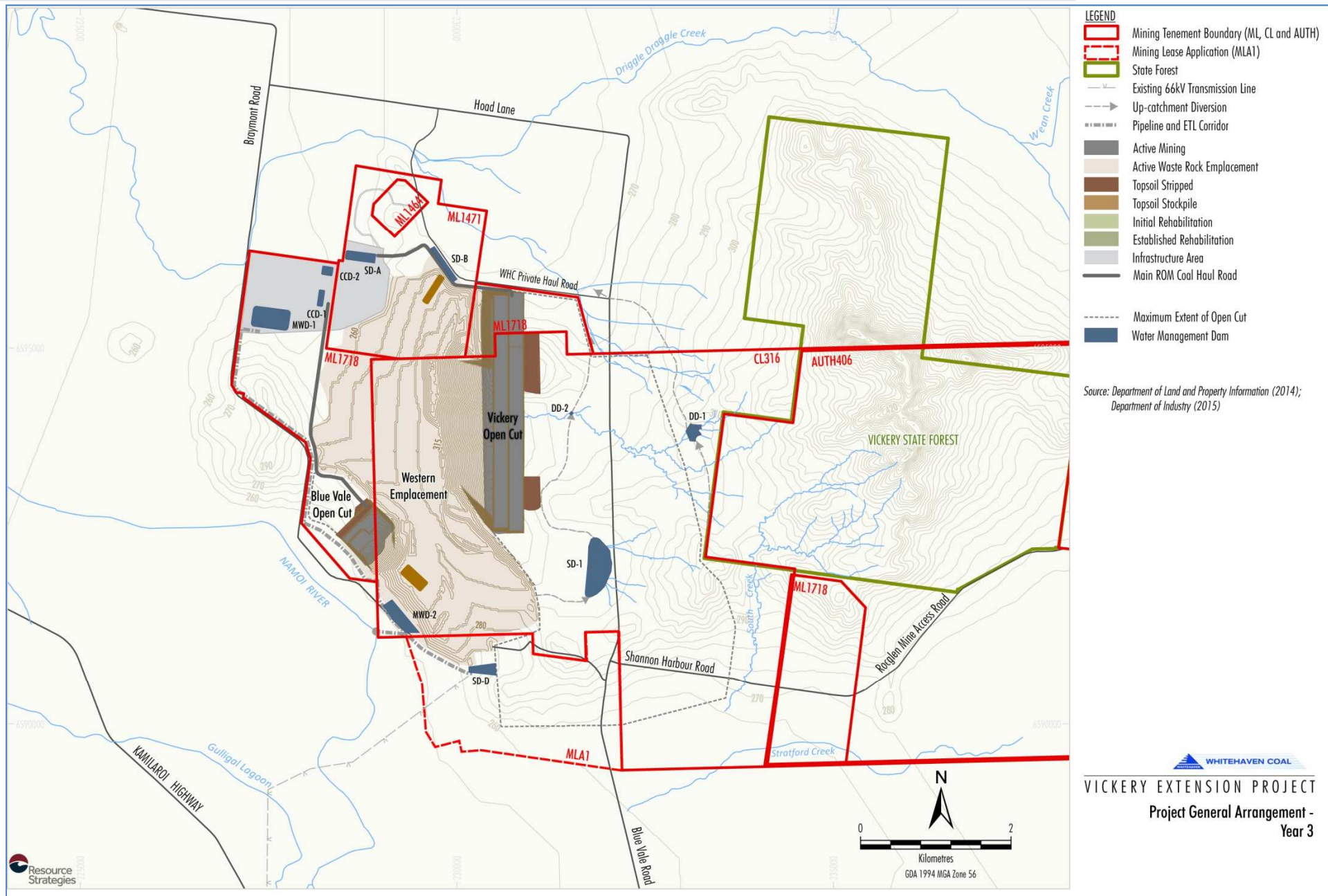
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Vickery Extension Project – Year 3



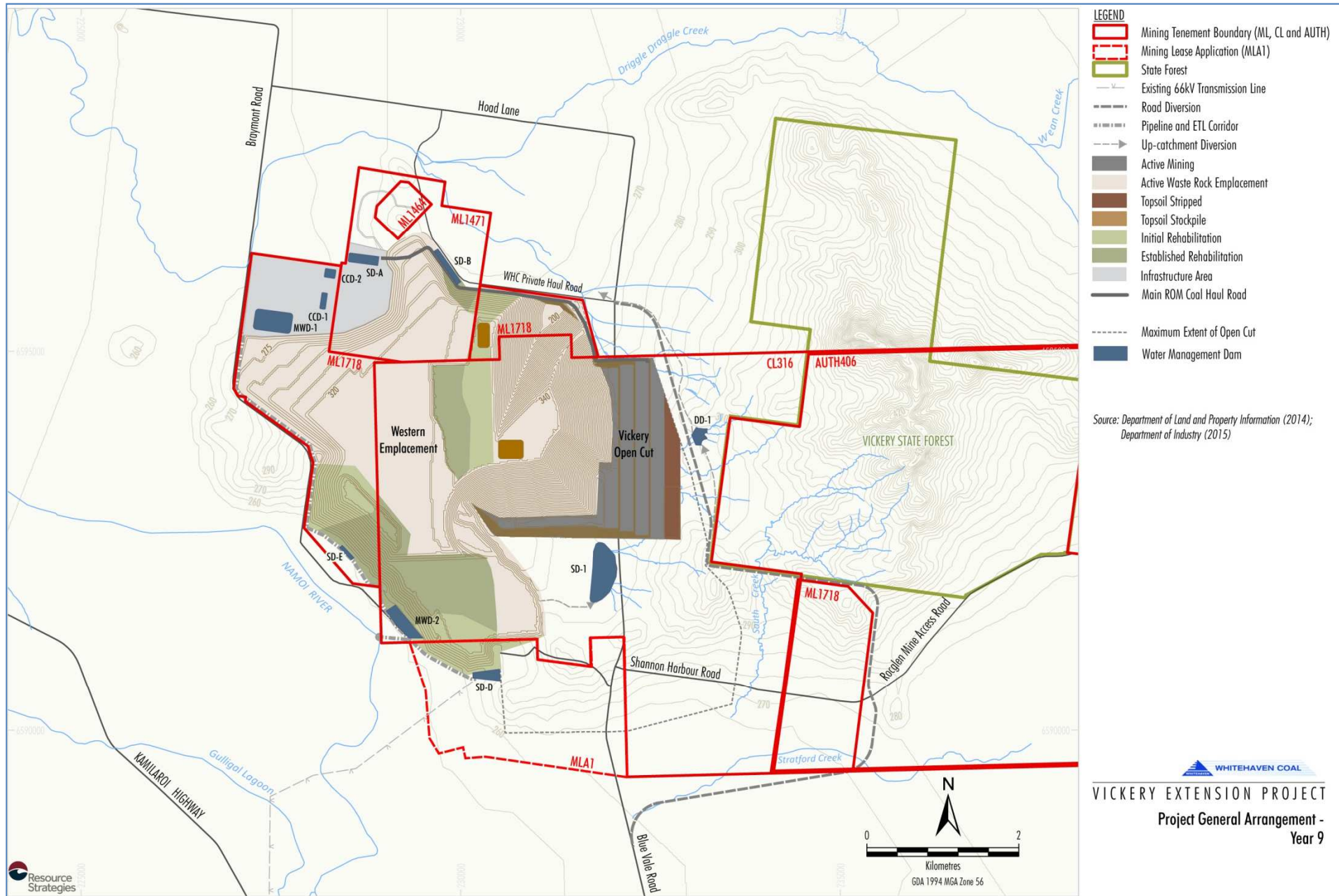
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Vickery Extension Project – Year 9



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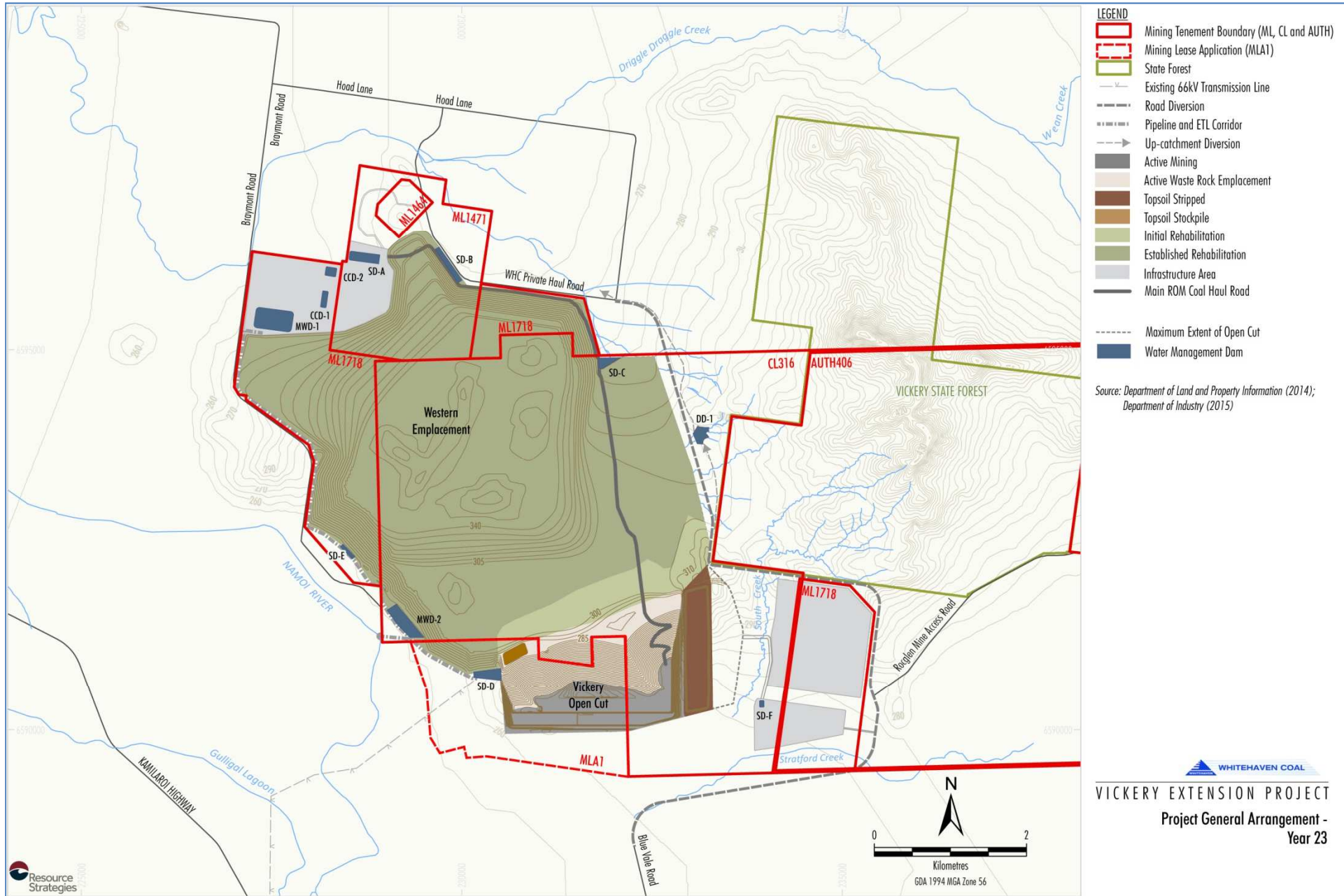
Source: Department of Land and Property Information (2014);
Department of Industry (2015)



Vickery Extension Project – Year 23



WHITEHAVEN COAL



Vickery Extension Project Update



- EIS currently being prepared.
- Anticipated EIS lodgement in H1 2017.

Specialist Assessments	
Groundwater Assessment	Road Transport Assessment
Surface Water Assessment	Socio-economic Assessment
Flooding Assessment	Historic Heritage Assessment
Noise and Blasting Assessment	Visual Assessment
Air Quality and GHG Assessment	Geochemistry Assessment
Biodiversity Assessment	Environmental Risk Assessment
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment	Preliminary Hazard Analysis
Agricultural Impact Statement	Land Contamination Assessment

Flooding – Floodplain Management Plan

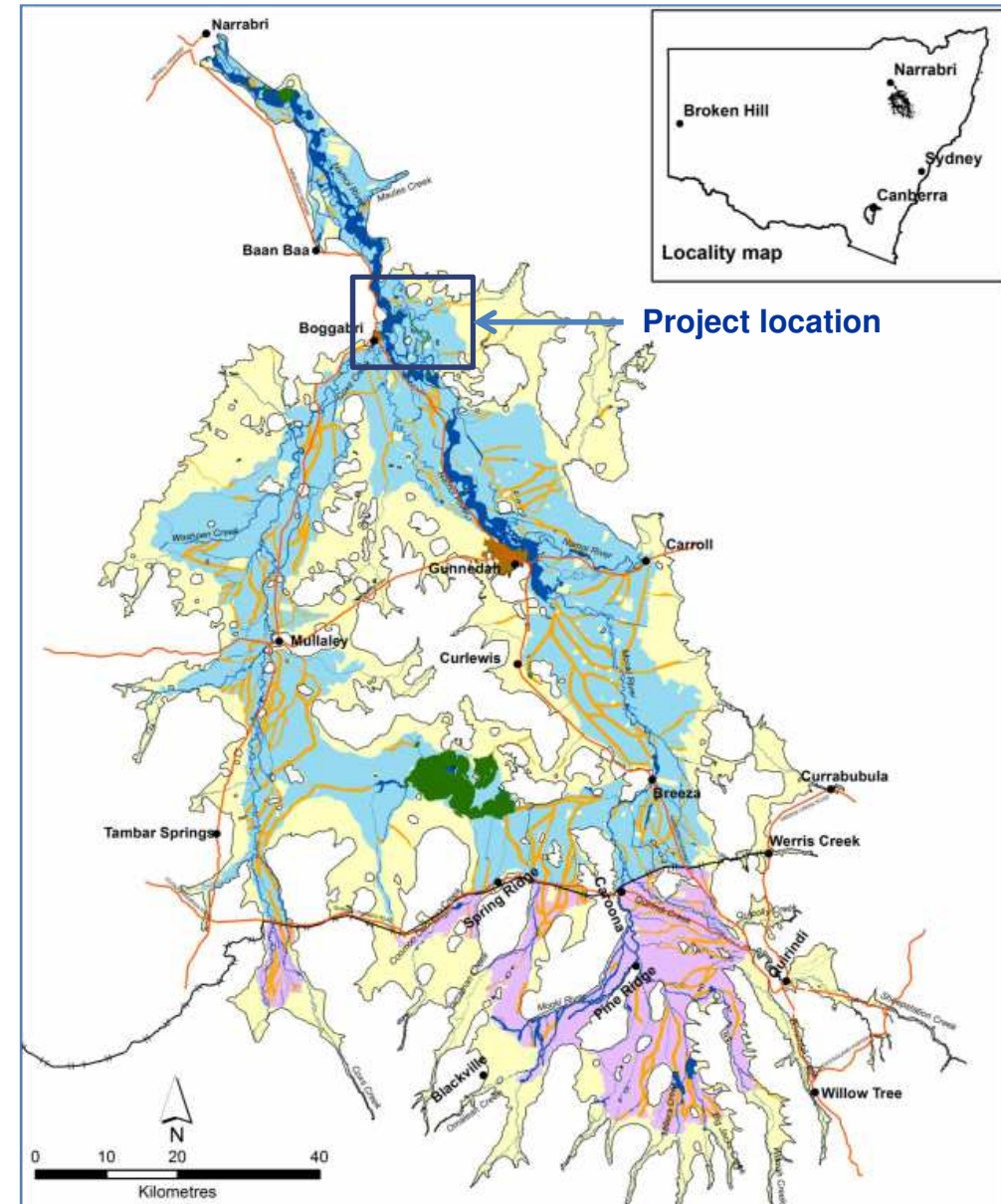


Department of
Primary Industries
Water

Draft Floodplain Management Plan for the Upper Namoi Valley Floodplain 2016:

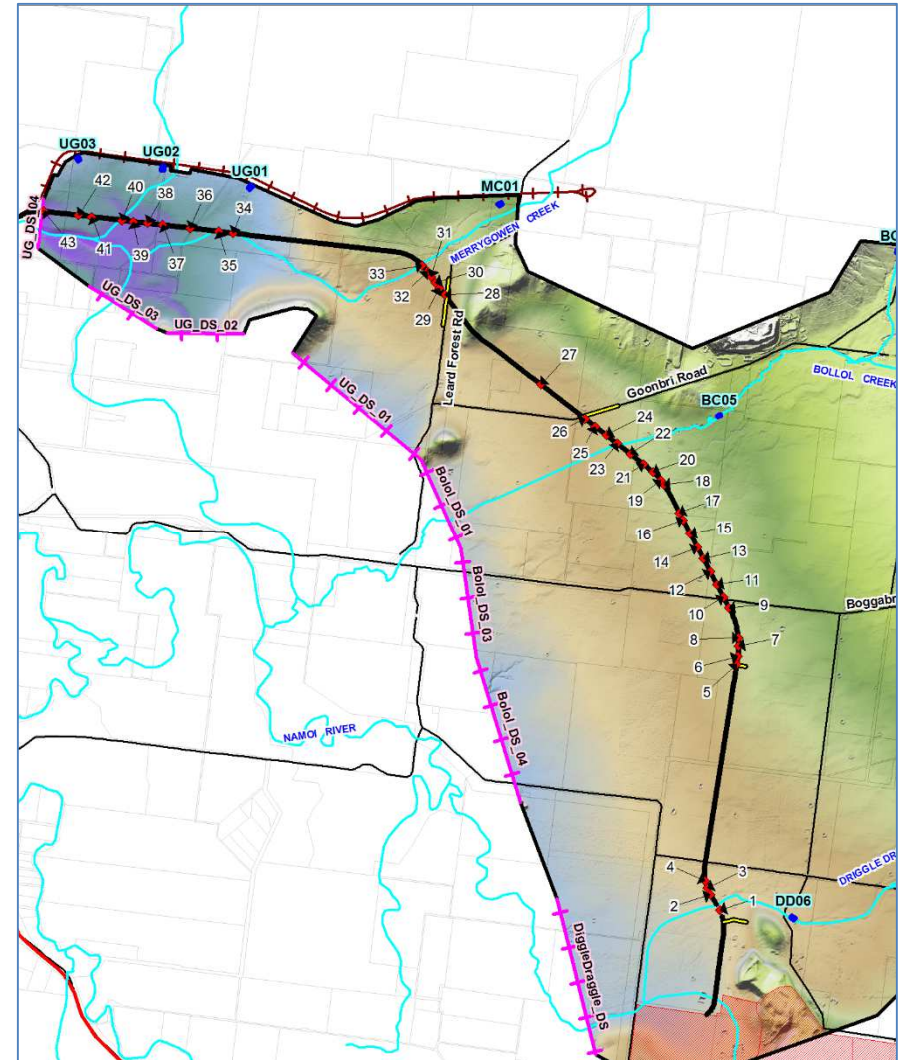
Management Zones

- Carroll to Boggabri Floodplain Management Plan currently in force.
- Draft *Floodplain Management Plan for the Upper Namoi Floodplain* under development:
 - Prescribes criteria for development within floodplain for various management zones.
 - Mine site and rail design to be in consideration of the Floodplain Management criteria.



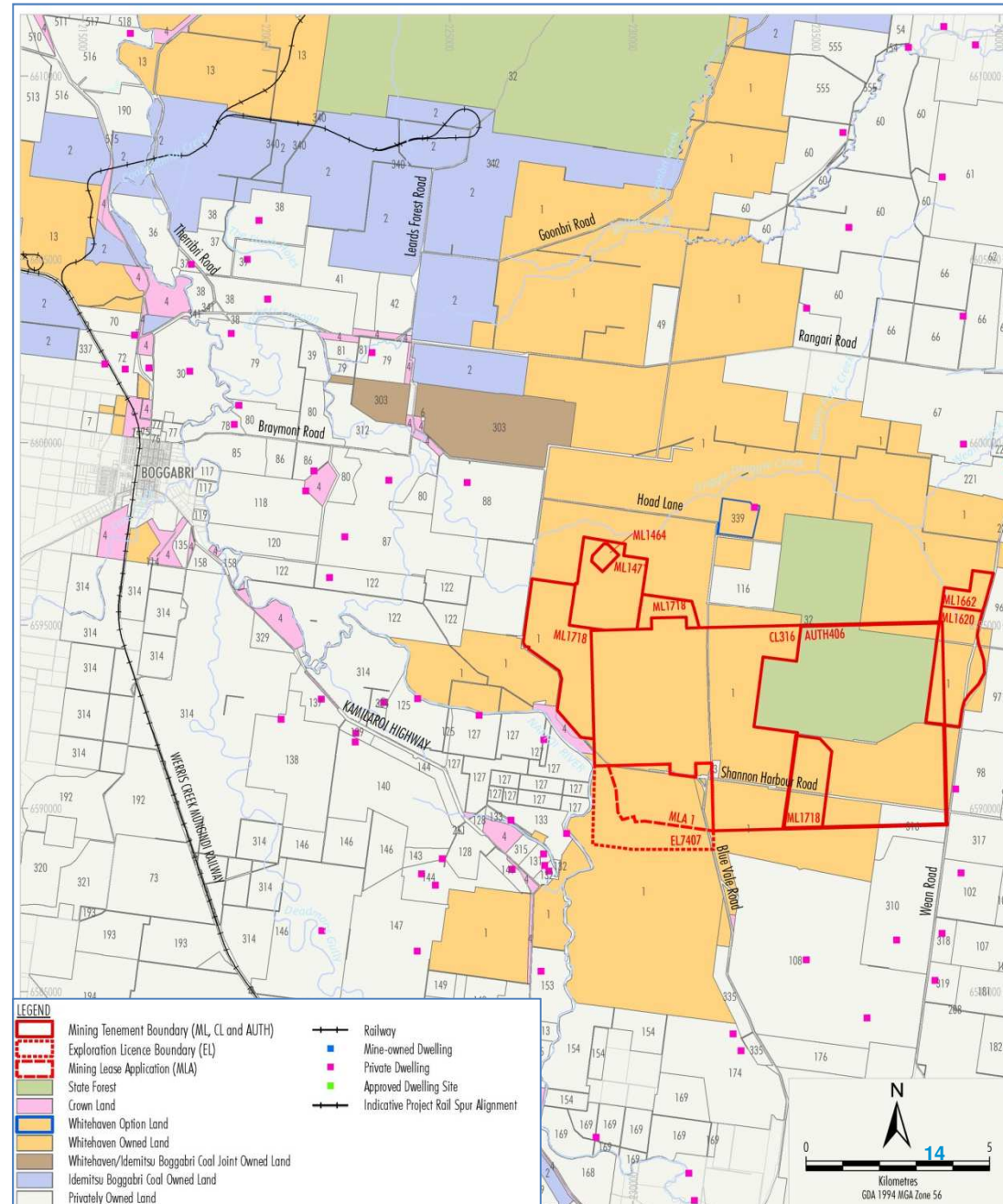
Flooding – Project Rail Spur

- Flood modelling for northern rail spur conducted.
- Flows in ephemeral creeks to be accommodated with culverts with negligible change to flood flows on adjacent private land.
- Northern rail spur is located outside the extent of Namoi River flooding.
- The design of the rail spur (whichever progresses) will be in accordance with the Floodplain Management Plan criteria.
- Negligible change in flow parameters on adjacent private properties.



Noise, Blasting and Air Quality

- Air quality and noise models developed based on the proposed operations, surrounding topography and existing meteorology.
- Blasting calculations based on blast size and distance to receivers.
- No additional residences in the noise acquisition zone.
- Additional modelling conducted to refine predicted impacts.
- No exceedance of dust impact assessment criteria predicted due to Project-only dust emissions.



Noise, Blasting and Air Quality

- Mitigation measures:
 - Meteorological conditions identified to divert Blue Vale operations to the Vickery open cut during adverse conditions.
 - Noise attenuated fleet and selective use of quieter equipment in exposed locations.
 - Dust controls (e.g. haul road watering).
 - Real time noise and air quality monitoring and meteorological forecasting system to manage noise and dust emissions.
 - Vibration monitoring.

DRAFT



Thankyou for your attendance