



WHITEHAVEN COAL

MAULES CREEK COAL PROJECT FACT SHEET

SURFACE WATER

KEY POINTS

- Highly respected consultants WRM Water & Environment completed the surface water balance and impact assessment for the Maules Creek Coal Project.
- Water demands through the life of the Maules Creek Coal Project can be met through an existing high security licence.
- No mine water will be discharged off site and the Maules Creek Coal Project will have no impact on flood levels along Back Creek for 100 year Average Recurrence Interval events.
- The DP&I Assessment Report explained the *"PAC and the Department are satisfied that other surface water impacts associated with the project can be adequately minimised and managed, subject to the implementation of standard best practice water management practices"*.
- The DP&I Assessment Report explained that the *"PAC and the Department are satisfied that the internal and external water sources available to the project (based on historical data) should satisfy all water demands of the project, and that the project would not have a significant impact on water availability and water sharing in the locality"*.

- WRM Water & Environment are highly respected consultants and completed the surface water assessment for the Maules Creek Coal Project.
- A long term water balance analysis was undertaken for the Maules Creek Coal Project, using industry recognised software, which showed:
 - Water demands throughout the life of the Maules Creek Coal Project can be met through an existing high security water licence that entitles the use of 3,000 units per year;
 - In wet years, it is unlikely that substantial water will be required to be sourced from the Namoi River;
 - In average years, between 1,000 to 1,800 ML may be required from the Namoi River;
 - In drier years, between 2,000 to 2,500 ML may be required from the Namoi River; and
 - The maximum predicted amount of water that may be required from the Namoi River is 2,730 ML.
- Groundwater inflow to the mine and local runoff from mining areas are the priority supplies for the Water Management System.





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- Conservative modelling has indicated that the Maules Creek Coal Project will have no impact on flood levels along Back Creek for 100 year Average Recurrence Interval (ARI) events.
- No mine water will be discharged offsite. If mine water dams are at capacity, water will be stored in the open cut pit.
- Mine planning work will be undertaken prior to the end of 21 years in order to minimise the extent of the final void and to meet the specific objectives specified within the Project Approval conditions.
- Whitehaven has prepared a Water Management Plan (WMP) that includes a site water balance, construction management measures, sediment and erosion control plan, and surface water and groundwater monitoring programs to ensure impacts from the Maules Creek Coal Project are minimised.
- The WMP's primary aims are to:
 - Reduce water usage by ensuring mine water is re-used, where possible;
 - Avoid the contamination of clean water from poorer quality mine water; and
 - Ensure no mine water is discharged from the site.
- A leading practice real time monitoring network (RTMN) is being established to monitor and control water use onsite. The system will be alarmed at various locations to ensure immediate action is taken in the unlikely event water is not being used at maximum efficiency or any water is becoming contaminated.

