

# MAULES CREEK COAL PROJECT FACT SHEET

# COMMUNITY

## KEY POINTS

- A comprehensive Social Impact Assessment (SIA) was undertaken by Hansen Bailey to identify the Maules Creek Coal Project's future social impacts on the Narrabri and Gunnedah Local Government Areas (LGAs) - including the cumulative impacts from existing and possible future mining operations.
  - The SIA predicted a population increase (employees and family) of approximately 930 persons in a short period of time.
  - The use of the Narrabri and Boggabri MAC villages reduces the strain on the community's accommodation resources and community services and facilities at the outset. The Narrabri village is fully constructed and the Boggabri village is scheduled for completion in August 2013.
  - The SIA concluded that local infrastructure, services and facilities will have the capacity to accommodate the Maules Creek Coal Project in the first instance, and controlled integration of the workforce into the local housing market will provide an opportunity for local housing and community services and facilities to develop.
  - Whitehaven have a Voluntary Planning Agreement with Narrabri Shire Council which includes voluntary funds to assist with the development of local infrastructure in Boggabri and Maules Creek.
  - DP&I noted in their Assessment Report that they believed Whitehaven's "offer for contributions to NSC would adequately compensate for the demand generated by the Maules Creek Coal Project on community infrastructure and services."
  - DP&I's Assessment Report concluded "The Department is satisfied that there is a demonstrable need for the project, that it would not significantly impact on other land uses in the region including strategic agricultural land, that the demands on local infrastructure and services can be adequately addressed, and that the project would result in a considerable net benefit to the region and to NSW."
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- The SIA also considered stakeholder issues that were raised during the Environmental Assessment (EA) stakeholder consultation program.
  - The SIA found that the local area has a relatively small pool of skilled labour and as such, the Maules Creek Coal Project has the potential to place some strain on the skilled labour force in the region.
  - Such a permanent population increase would generate demand for approximately 370 dwellings.
  - Population in the local area is also likely to increase as a result of the indirect employment opportunities created by the Maules Creek Coal Project.
  - Current dwellings available for purchase / rent would not be able to accommodate this worst case predicted population increase. However, there is adequate land that has been zoned for residential housing available in the region, which could be progressively developed. Whitehaven is committed to providing incentives for it's non-local employees to move to the region and build new houses into the long term.
  - The SIA predicted that local infrastructure, services and facilities have the capacity to accommodate the Maules Creek Coal Project. Education and health services, which were identified as key issues by local stakeholders, were shown to have the capacity to meet the demand of the additional population.



WHITEHAVEN COAL

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- Due to the location of potential future projects, cumulative social impacts are likely to arise and place strain on the housing and accommodation markets.
- However, the expanding mining industry will also support the continued growth of services and infrastructure in the region and provide opportunities for training of local individuals in mining operations and construction works – though this may compete with other skilled industries in the area.
- Whitehaven in conjunction with Narrabri Shire Council will continue to implement a range of strategies to help mitigate the potential socio-economic impacts of the Maules Creek Coal Project and is committed to working with the community to maximise the benefits from the Maules Creek Coal Project. Such measures include:
  - Contributing to the design of the Boggabri MAC workers' accommodation village to accommodate modern recreation facilities such as a function room / gymnasium and making such facilities open to the public;
  - Contributing to infrastructure development at Narrabri Airport; and
  - Utilising local suppliers.
- Whitehaven will encourage the re-location of employees to the local area and the integration of workers into the community as housing, community services and facilities progressively develop.
- Whitehaven intends to encourage the non-local workforce required for the Project to develop new housing in the local area through a range of targeted financial incentives. This should increase the local housing stock and reduce the potential impact of the increased population on house and rental prices.



Maules Creek Coal Sponsored Apprentices 2011

- Whitehaven intends, over the medium to long term, to assist in increasing the skilled labour force within the region through targeted training opportunities, apprenticeships, scholarships and direct investment into local schools and TAFE colleges.
- Whitehaven has recently introduced both a scholarship and an apprenticeship program and these programs will grow with the Maules Creek Coal Project.
- Whitehaven will continue to consult extensively with Narrabri Shire Council in relation to the provisions of the agreed Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) to ensure the potential social effects of the Maules Creek Coal Project are mitigated and to ensure the local communities benefit from the Maules Creek Coal Project.