



# MAULES CREEK

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Issue:	4
Last Revision Date:	May 2024

## WHC\_PLN\_MCC\_TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN

# MAULES CREEK COAL MINE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN

Edition	Rev.	Comments	Author	Authorised	Date
2	0	Draft for Consultation	Maules Creek Coal Pty Ltd	Brian Cole	May 2014
2	1	Address Stakeholder comments	Maules Creek Coal Pty Ltd	Brian Cole	July 2014
2	2	Address DPE comments	Maules Creek Coal Pty Ltd	Brian Cole	September 2014
2	3	IEA outcomes & Modification PA10_0138 Approval	Maules Creek Coal Pty Ltd	MCCM	September 2016
3	2	EA outcomes Modification 3 Approval	Maules Creek Coal Pty Ltd	MCCM	June 2017 Approved DP&E 7/6/17
		Internal review Modification 5 & 6	Maules Creek Coal Pty Ltd	MCCM	March 2020
4	1	Periodical Review	Maules Creek Coal Pty Ltd	MCCM	May 2021
4	2	Periodical Review Modification 7	Maules Creek Coal Pty Ltd	MCCM	October 2021
4	3	Inclusion of stakeholder comments & Modification 8	Maules Creek Coal Pty Ltd	MCCM	December 2022
4	3	Address DPE Comments	Maules Creek Coal Pty Ltd	MCCM	March 2023 Approved DPE 12/4/23
4	4	Modification 9 & AR 2023	Maules Creek Coal Pty Ltd	MCCM	14/05/2024



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# 1 INTRODUCTION

Maules Creek Coal Pty Ltd (MCC) is required to prepare a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) for the Maules Creek Coal Mine (MCCM) in accordance with Project Approval PA 10\_0138 Condition 64 of Schedule 3. MCCM involves the development and operation of a 21-year open cut coal mining operation and associated infrastructure.

## 1.1 Background

The ownership of MCCM currently lies with the Maules Creek Coal Joint Venture (MCCJV), which is 75 % owned by Aston Coal 2 Pty Limited (a company 100% owned by Whitehaven Coal [WHC]), 15% owned by Itochu Coal Resources Australia Maules Creek Pty Ltd and 10% owned by J-Power Australia. The MCCM is managed by MCC (a wholly owned subsidiary of WHC) on behalf of the MCCJV.

The MCCM is an open-cut coal mine on the north-west slopes and plains of New South Wales (NSW) in the Gunnedah Coal basin. It is located approximately 20 kilometres (km) north-east of Boggabri within the Narrabri Local Government Area (LGA) (Figure 1).

## 1.2 Project Description

MCC submitted a Project Application to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DP&E) (formerly Department of Planning [DoP]) in August 2010 for a new Project Approval under Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) to enable the construction and operation of the Project. The application was supported by an Environmental Assessment (EA). Project Approval PA 10\_0138 was granted on 23 October 2012 by the Planning Assessment Commission under delegation of the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure (DP&I).

A modification application was submitted in April 2013 seeking approval for the construction and operation of a 132 kilovolt (kV) transmission line, a 132 kV Switch Station and minor realignment of the CHPP, and associated facilities. As a result, the Project Approval was modified in July 2013.

A second modification application was lodged in February 2014 to adjust the location of the raw water pipeline and associated pump station. As a result, the Project Approval was modified on 10 March 2014.

A third modification application was approved in 2017 modifying employee transport condition related to bus use.

A fourth modification to PA 10\_0138 was lodged in September 2017 to remove sound power specific conditioning. This modification has been withdrawn.

A fifth modification to PA 10\_0138 was approved on 20 December 2019 to allow for the continued use of the Olivedene pipeline and associated infrastructure to convey water to the MCCM to meet operational water demands.

A sixth modification to PA 10\_0138 was also approved on 20 December 2019 to allow for the use of the Roma and Brighton water supply pipeline and associated infrastructure to convey water to the MCCM to meet operational demands.



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A seventh modification to PA\_10\_0138 was approved on 24 August 2021 to allow for the extension of the Northern Emplacement footprint, and an increase to the maximum height of a section of the Northern Emplacement by 1 meter, incorporating macro and micro relief.

A eight modification to PA\_10\_0138 was approved on 19 January 2022. This allows for the use of mobile coal sizing equipment in the existing ROM coal stockpile area and the open cut pit, mobile rock crushing equipment in the Northern Emplacement Area, and disposal of used heavy vehicle tyres in waste rock emplacement areas.

A ninth modification to PA 10\_0138 was approved on 20 March 2024. This allowed for the construction and use of a 700-metre powerline between the Roma Bore pump and existing 11kV powerline, and changes to the existing biodiversity offset strategy for the mine.

### 1.3 Scope

The TMP has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of PA 10\_0138, as modified. The aim of the plan is to implement the best management practices and management controls outlined in the respective EAs and manage project specific traffic impacts associated with the operational phase of the MCCM. This TMP is a requirement of Condition 64, Schedule 3 of the PA 10\_0138.



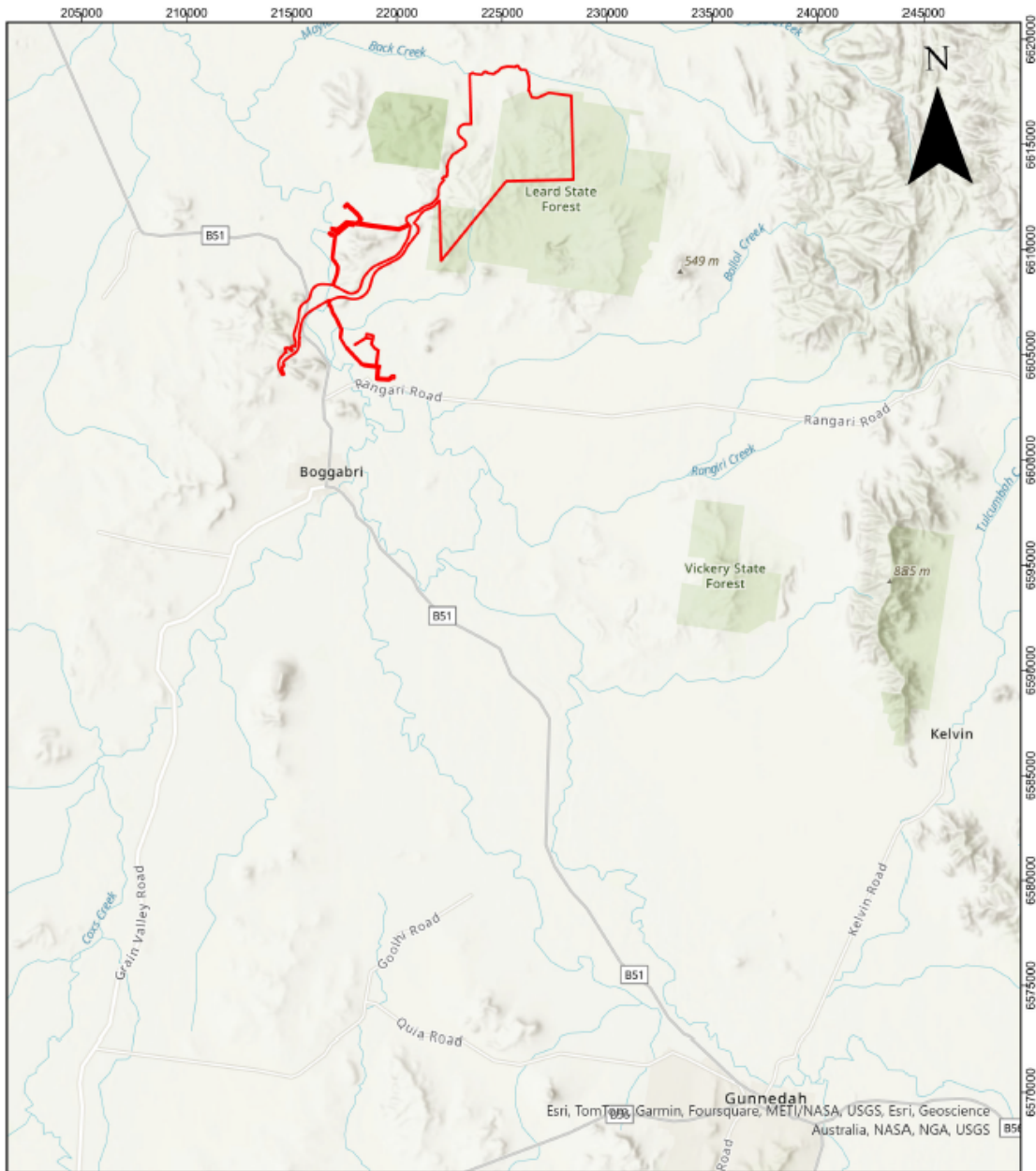
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### MCCM Project Locality Plan

Maules Creek Coal

Project Approval Boundary



Author: AFriend

Date: Wednesday, 17 April 2024

Spatial Reference Name: GDA2020 MGA Zone 56



Disclaimer: Map for reference only and subject to survey. MCC makes no guarantee of the accuracy of this map and data within. MCC shall have no liability for any decisions made or actions taken based upon this map.

**Figure 1 Regional Location**



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### **1.4 Objectives**

The objectives of the TMP are to:

- ensure that all relevant statutory requirements in relation to traffic are met during the operational phase of the MCCM;
- describe the traffic management requirements associated with the management of:
  - Therribri Road;
  - Mine Access Road; and
  - road safety upgrades to the surrounding road network.
- describe the access routes for traffic generated by the MCCM;
- detail traffic management measures to be implemented;
- provide the status of road upgrade works and a program for remaining works;
- outline a program to monitor and audit MCCM-related traffic and associated impacts;
- outline the roles and responsibilities for traffic management onsite; and
- outline the reporting requirements in relation to traffic.

### **1.5 Historical Development of the Traffic Management Plan**

MCC prepared and submitted the initial TMP (i.e. Edition 1, Revision 2) to the DP&E (formerly DP&I) in March 2013. Edition 2, Revision 1 was prepared to incorporate the use of Goonbri Road as an alternative access route to the MCCM, once it has been upgraded and re-aligned.

Edition 2, Revision 3 was been prepared to incorporate the recommendations of the DP&E Biodiversity and Cultural Heritage Audit and the Independent Environmental Audit (SMEC, 2015), both conducted in 2015. The TMP also provided a description of roadworks that had been completed since the initial TMP was prepared and changes made to management practices.

Edition 3 (Edition 3, Revision 1) was prepared following the approval of the Employee Transport Modification (MCC, 2016) on 13 January 2017. A further revision (Edition 3, Revision 2) was prepared to include temporary heavy vehicle water transport.

Edition (Edition 4, Revision 3) has been prepared following the consultation process following the approval of Modification 7, Landform Modification which was approved in August 2021. This edition addresses comments made by Narrabri Shire Council. Consultation with the relevant agencies began in 2021 following a periodic review and update of the plan.

This Edition (Edition 4, Revision 4) is an administrative revision which has been prepared following the approval of Modification 9. Modification 9 amended the project approval boundaries to include a powerline corridor of 700 meters from the Roma bore.

## **2 STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS**

This revision of the TMP has been prepared to fulfil the requirements of relevant legislation, approval conditions, EA commitments, and relevant standards and guidelines.



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2.1 Project Approval Conditions

This TMP has been prepared in accordance with Condition 64 of Schedule 3 of PA 10\_0138. The various sub-components of the condition are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Scope Items and Reference to Relevant Report Section

PA 10_0138 Conditions	Description	Reference to report section
Schedule 3, Condition 64	The Applicant must prepare and implement a Traffic Management Plan for the project to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. This plan must:	
(a)	Be prepared in consultation with RMS, Council and Gunnedah Council.	Section 2.2
(b)	Propose an appropriate program and schedule of works required under conditions 59 – 61 above, and:	Section 4
(c)	include:	
	• A description of measures for managing workforce fatigue, road safety and school bus interaction.	Section 5
	• A description of measures to minimise dust from unsealed roads that may be used for access to the mine site.	Section 5
	• A code of conduct for drivers of heavy and light vehicles.	Section 5
	• Nominated heavy vehicle access routes for construction and operational stages including details on volumes and nature of heavy, over size and/or over mass vehicles.	Section 3
	• A proposed program for implementing the findings of the road safety audit identified in the EA.	Section 4.2
	• Performance criteria, measures and indicators for shuttle bus utilisation and carpooling in accordance with the commitments in the EA.	Section 6
• A monitoring program to audit vehicle movements against predictions in the EA.	Section 7	

2.2 Ongoing Consultation and Approvals

The original TMP was prepared in consultation with the former Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) now Transport for NSW (TfNSW), Narrabri Shire Council (NSC) and the Gunnedah Shire Council (GSC). Consultation with respect to transport and traffic also occurred during the Employee Transport Modification (MCC, 2016) with the above agencies and councils. Revision 4 of the TMP was prepared in consultation with the TfNSW, NSC and the GSC.

3 ACCESS ROUTES

3.1 External Road Network

The road network in the vicinity of the MCCM, including access routes to the site, is illustrated in Figure 2 and also shows various roads that are restricted to MCCM-related traffic with the exception of travel to local destinations. The access routes for various MCCM-related traffic and restricted roads are discussed in Section 3. A brief description of the key roads in the surrounding network is described in Sections 3.1.1 to 3.1.7.





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### 3.1.1 Kamilaroi Highway

The Kamilaroi Highway (B51) is an undivided rural main road to the west of the MCCM. It provides a regional link between Quirindi and Willow Tree in the south, and Walgett in north-west NSW. The Kamilaroi Highway passes through Gunnedah and Boggabri townships before continuing north-west toward Narrabri..

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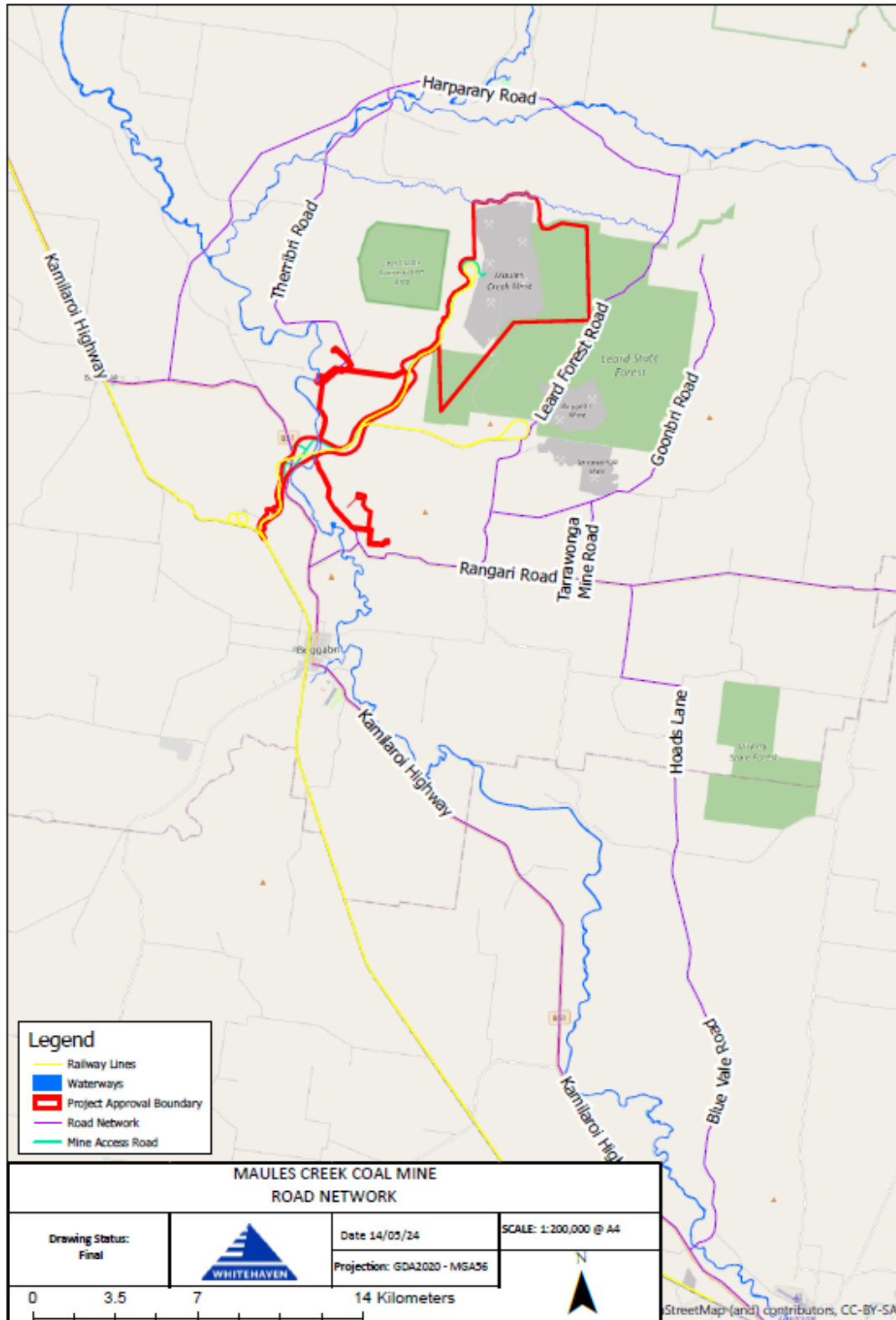


Figure 2 Local Road Network



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**3.1.2 Rangari Road**

Rangari Road (also known as Manilla Road) is an east-west rural undivided two-way road to the south of the MCCM. It provides access between the Kamilaroi Highway and Therribri Road, Leard Forest Road, Barbers Lagoon Road and the Whitehaven – Tarrawonga Mine Access Road (Tarrawonga Mine Access Road). The road generally provides a two-lane, two-way configuration with pavement seal between the Kamilaroi Highway and Barbers Lagoon Road. In accordance with Condition 61 of Schedule 3 of PA 10\_0138, MCC has completed the upgrade and sealing works on the unsealed section of Rangari Road between its intersections with the Tarrawonga Mine Access Road and Barbers Lagoon Road. Rangari Road can be used to transport equipment between the Tarrawonga Mine and the MCCM. In the event that equipment is to be moved between the two location appropriate approvals will be sought from the NSC. Mine traffic between Manilla and MCCM also utilise this road.

WHC has provided funding for various sections of the Rangari road to be sealed, as per condition Schedule 3 Condition 61 of PA10\_0138, additional funds were provided for construction and sealing of roads around the Tarrawonga Mine.),

The NSW Government announced in July 2022 that they will seal and widen Rangari Road from 3.8kms east of the Gunnedah / Tamworth LGA boundary through to the end of the Gunnedah / Narrabri LGA boundary.

**3.1.3 Therribri Road**

Therribri Road is a rural undivided two-lane, two-way road linking Harparary Road in the north to Rangari Road in the south. It lies to the west of the MCCM and to the east of the Namoi River. Therribri Road connects to the MCC Mine Access Road which provides permanent access to the MCCM together with access where required to surrounding monitoring locations, local properties, travel to local destinations and pump site related infrastructure.

Therribri Road has been sealed and upgraded between its intersections with Rangari Road and the MCC Mine Access Road. MCCM provided funds as part of its Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) to NSC for the upgrade of Therribri Road.

Therribri Road is used as part of the heavy vehicle transport route when transferring equipment between the Tarrawonga Mine and the MCCM. All transport of heavy vehicles is undertaken outside of school bus hours to restrict interaction between trucks and the school buses.

**3.1.4 Leard Forest Road**

Leard Forest Road is a rural undivided two-lane, two-way road located directly to the east of the MCCM and was used as the primary access route prior to and during construction of the permanent MCC Mine Access Road.

Boggabri Coal Pty Limited (Boggabri Coal) owns the adjacent Boggabri Coal Mine and has closed the southern section of this road to enable the progression of mining operations. Condition 61 of Schedule 3 of the Boggabri Coal Mine Project Approval (PA 09\_0182) requires the road to be closed in accordance with a Leard Forest Road Closure Strategy (LFRCS). Boggabri Coal has prepared a LFRCS and has constructed an alternative north-south route via an upgrade and realignment of Goonbri Road.



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### 3.1.5 Goonbri Road

Goonbri Road is a rural road that provides a north-south public road around the eastern perimeter the Leard State Forest. As part of PA 09\_0182, Boggabri Coal upgraded and realigned Goonbri Road following the closure the Leard State Forest Road. The realigned Goonbri Road is shown in **Figure 1**.

### 3.1.6 Blue Vale Road/Hoads Lane

Blue Vale Road/Hoads Lane is part of an alternative route to the Kamilaroi Highway, between the MCCM and Gunnedah. The section of Hoads Lane nominated for MCCM-related traffic, commences at the intersection with the start of the Tarrawonga Haul Road. Hoads Lane continues south for approximately 5 km towards Gunnedah where it transitions to Blue Vale Road at the cross intersection with Braymont and Shannon Harbour Roads. Blue Vale Road then continues south to the Kamilaroi Highway around 5.5 km north of Gunnedah.

### 3.1.7 Whitehaven - Tarrawonga Mine Access Road and Haul Route

The Tarrawonga Mine Access Road is an undivided two-lane two-way sealed road which extends northward from Rangari Road to Tarrawonga Coal Mine. It is a private road with access restricted to mine traffic only.

The Tarrawonga Haul Route extends southward from Rangari Road to the east of Leard Forest Road and provides a private, dedicated haul route for mine traffic from Rangari Road towards its T-intersection with Hoads Lane. Coal trucks from Tarrawonga Coal Mine use the Tarrawonga Haul Route as well as Hoads Lane and Blue Vale Road to access the Kamilaroi Highway to the north of Gunnedah. The Whitehaven Coal Handling and Preparation Plant (CHPP) is located on the southern side of the Kamilaroi Highway near its intersection with Blue Vale Road.

Access to the Tarrawonga Haul Route is also restricted to approved vehicles nominated by MCC. It is also the nominated heavy vehicle access route for the MCCM.

### 3.1.8 Baseline Survey

Baseline data was included within the Traffic and Transport Impact Assessment by Hyder Consulting Pty Ltd (2011) for the Maules Creek Coal Project EA. Traffic volume surveys were also undertaken for the Employee Transport Modification by GTA Consultants during 2015. An overview of vehicle movements included eight survey points that collected data around the local road network. Average weekday volumes indicated that on the average weekday, the morning peak hour at most locations occurred between 5.00am and 7.00am, and the afternoon peak hour between 5.00pm and 6.00pm. The exception to these was Kamilaroi Highway north of Rangari Road, where the busiest hour in the morning occurred from 9.00am to 10.00am, and the busiest hour in the afternoon occurred between 2.00pm and 3.00pm. The survey results demonstrate that the number of vehicle trips generated by the Maules Creek Coal Mine is different on weekdays compared with weekend days. On the average weekday, it generates 395 vehicle trips per day, while on the average weekend days, it generates 133 vehicle trips per day, i.e. approximately one third of the average weekday generation. These volumes include vehicles associated with construction activity which was underway at the time of the surveys, which is not typical of the expected traffic characteristics of the Maules Creek Coal Mine in the longer term. A traffic audit undertaken by Boggabri Coal over a two week period in 2019 indicated an Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) of 447 vehicles accessing MCCM which is consistent with the baseline data.

The EA Traffic Impact Assessment did not predict any significant impacts to the road network associated with the MCCM.

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### 3.2 Mine Access Road

The MCC Mine Access Road is a private undivided two-lane, two-way sealed road which commences northward from Therribri Road to MCCM. The access road runs adjacent to the MCC Rail Spur. A small portion of the MCC Mine Access Road is a shared section which is used as a heavy vehicle haul road for neighbouring site Boggabri Coal Mine.

Boggabri Coal and MCC have an agreement to utilise the turn-offs directly from the Kamilaroi Highway both north and south bound to access the existing MCC Mine Access Road. In accordance with Boggabri Coal Mine's Condition 59, Schedule 3 of Project Approval 09\_0182, the intersections were constructed to the requirements of TfNSW.

This intersection is the permanent operational access and acts in reducing vehicle turning movements at the intersection of Kamilaroi Highway and Rangari Road. As discussed in the Modification 3 EA (MCC, 2016), MCC had an optional agreement to use this intersection (shared access road) to the Boggabri Coal Mine, once constructed and commissioned. This agreement has been implemented with MCC traffic now accessing the mine via these intersections.

Mine related traffic (under 42.5 t Gross Vehicle Mass) may also access MCCM via the Rangari Road/Iron bridge intersection however the majority of traffic will access via the shared access road. Consequently, together with other vehicles that may travel between neighbouring mining operations, or local properties, Therribri Road will continue to service mine related traffic, however, on a significantly reduced basis.

A Security point is present at the MCC Mine Access Road.

#### 3.2.1 Temporary and Emergency Access Routes

In the event that the main mine access route via the Kamilaroi Highway is blocked access will be via Rangari Road and the Iron Bridge.

Under exceptional circumstances such as flooding or emergencies where access via the shared access road, Rangari Road or Therribri Road is not available to MCCM and after all other reasonable endeavours have been undertaken, emergency site access will be made available for non-mining equipment via the surrounding restricted road network. Notification will be provided to the Department and respective Gunnedah and Narrabri Councils prior to utilising the Temporary and Emergency Access Routes and the anticipated period of time.

### 3.3 Heavy Vehicle Access Routes

Heavy vehicle routes have been nominated, these will be via the following routes which consist of:

1. Kamilaroi Highway (either northbound or southbound); then
- 2a. The shared access road then onto the MCC Mine Access Road; or
- 2b. Blue Vale Road - Hoads Lane (north bound) to Whitehaven – Tarrawonga Haul Route; then
3. Tarrawonga Haul Route (north-west bound) to Rangari Road; then
4. Rangari Road (west bound) to Therribri Road and east onto the MCC Mine Access Road.

The required permits approved by the relevant council (i.e. NSC and/or GSC) will be sought for oversize transport prior to the traffic movement on the local roads.



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References to the Kamilaroi Highway as the part of the Heavy Vehicle Route do not include the section of the Kamilaroi Highway that forms the main street of Gunnedah.

The nominated heavy vehicle route through Gunnedah is via a bypass along Boundary Road, Bloomfield Street and Warrumbungle Street, this bypass is signposted locally at the either end of the route and is not available to oversized vehicles during school day hours of 8.30 am - 9.30 am and 2.30 pm - 4.00 pm.

Heavy vehicle access is also available and occurs via existing turn-offs from the Kamilaroi Highway onto the Idemitsu owned access road for which MCCM traffic have negotiated agreement to utilise. This route crosses Therribri Road to proceed to the private MCC Mine Access Road.

Heavy vehicles include single unit trucks and buses with two to four axles and articulated vehicles such as semi-trailers, rigid trucks with trailers and B Doubles. Modification 3 Employee Transport Modification indicated that on average 93 heavy vehicles will access the mine site on a daily basis.

Temporary heavy vehicle water transport may occur from available water source locations including nearby locations such as MCC-owned and the privately-owned properties. MCC currently has in place a pipeline to transport water, however in the case that the pipeline is none serviceable MCC will engage with the NSC to utilise the road for trucking of water.

The routes for these trucking activities would be:

- Miscellaneous sources – Kamilaroi Highway to the Mine Access Road
- Therribri Road to the MCC Mine Access Road.
- Warners Road to the MCC Mine Access Road.
- Rangari Road to Therribri Road then to the MCC Mine Access Road. None of the above transport routes create conflict with sensitive road users in vicinity of MCCM (refer Section 5.6).

### 3.4 Access Restrictions

In order to control and minimise any impact on the road network surrounding the MCCM, MCC has specific access routes as described in Section 3.3. As stated in Item 29 of the Statement of Commitments (Appendix 5 of the Project Approval [PA 10\_0138]):

*Reasonable endeavours will be made to ensure that Project related traffic does not utilise the following public roads unless they are travelling to a specific destination along that route (such as residence, monitoring location, near neighbour etc.): Harparary Road from Leard Forest Road to the Kamilaroi Highway; Leard Forest Road between Northern Loop Road and Harparary Road; Therribri Road between the Mine Access Road and Harparary Road and the entire length of Browns Lane.*

MCC has installed signage on the surrounding road network to enforce the access routes identified under this TMP. Access is also required to be maintained to MCCM related infrastructure and equipment, properties or travel to other required destinations as necessary including security related purposes. In addition, MCC periodically audits traffic movements on an annual basis of these restricted access routes to monitor any use by MCC vehicles. Restriction of access to these roads would continue, except under exceptional circumstances such as flooding, emergencies, temporary water transport or equivalent. Notification will be provided to the Department and respective Gunnedah and Narrabri Councils prior to utilising the temporary and emergency access routes and the anticipated period of time.



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3.5 Access Route Management Measures

The following management measures will be used to implement the proposed access routes:

- **Education/induction:** All personnel accessing the site will be advised of the requirement to adhere to the nominated access routes. Reinforcement will also occur through toolbox talks. All heavy vehicle operators will be required to follow the Code of Conduct detailed in Section 5;
- **Signage:** Signs posted to reinforce the nominated and restricted access routes. This includes currently installed signage regarding prohibited access for MCCM access.
- **Audits:** MCC conducts audits to check for non-compliance with regard to access prohibitions. These audits coordinated by the Environmental Officer involve positioning a nominated person on Therribri Road at the entrance to the MCC Mine Access Road to monitor vehicles entering the MCCM from the restricted access route. These audits will occur on an annual basis over a two-day period. MCC will review each occurrence identified during monitoring to determine whether the vehicles are associated with the MCCM. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken at MCC’s discretion. This action may involve written warnings through to removal of the driver from the MCCM.
- **Consultation:** MCC will consult with the applicable council either NSC and/or GSC in conjunction with the NHVR, the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator and other local authorities to obtain the necessary permits prior to the movement of oversized/over mass loads on public roads.

4 ROAD UPGRADES

The following road improvements have been carried out as part of the MCCM VPA and also where required in cooperation with the Boggabri and Tarrawonga Coal Mines:

- Upgrade to the section of Rangari Road between Tarrawonga Mine Access Road and Barbers Lagoon Road (other than the section covered in the Tarrawonga VPA) to provide a sealed roadway between these two points.
- Construction of the Kamilaroi Highway Rail overpass as a joint venture involving MCC and Boggabri Coal. Prior to the construction of this overpass a Works authorisation deed was entered into with TfNSW in accordance Statement of Commitment 32. of PA10-0138.
- Upgrade to the section of Therribri Road between Rangari Road and MCC Mine Access Road to provide a sealed roadway between these two points.

The status of these works is provided in the subsection below.

4.1 Program and Schedule of Works Summary

The status of works required by Conditions 59 – 62 of Schedule 3 of PA 10\_0138 is shown in Table 2.



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**Table 2 Status and Works Program for Road Upgrades and Maintenance**

PA 10_0138 Conditions	Description	Status
Condition 59, Schedule 3	<p>The <a href="#">Applicant must</a> construct, operate and maintain the rail bridge over the Kamilaroi Highway for the shared section of the Boggabri rail spur line to the satisfaction of RMS, and <a href="#">must</a> make all necessary contributions to the costs associated with construction, maintenance and decommissioning of this bridge to the satisfaction of the <a href="#">Planning Secretary</a>.</p> <p><i>Note: all costs should be shared on an equitable basis with the proponent of the Boggabri Coal Project.</i></p>	Construction COMPLETE.
Statement of Commitments	<p>Prior to the construction of the rail spur overpass within the easement of the Kamilaroi Highway, Maules Creek Coal will consult with all relevant regulatory authorities and will develop a Construction Management Plan for the works (including traffic control and management) in consultation with the RTA.</p>	Construction COMPLETE.
Condition 60, Schedule 3	<p>The <a href="#">Applicant must</a> meet RMS's requirements for road intersection upgrades for all State roads used by the project, including upgrading the intersection of Manilla Road and the Kamilaroi Highway to provide a channelised right turn in accordance with Austroads guidelines.</p> <p><i>Note: Any upgrades should be undertaken on an equitable basis with the <a href="#">applicant</a> of the Boggabri Coal Project.</i></p>	<p>Since the Project Approval was granted, Boggabri Coal Mine gained approval for a separate intersection directly off the Kamilaroi highway to access their site. Maules Creek Coal Mine has an agreement to use the intersection to the Boggabri Coal Mine. This is used as a permanent operational access and the intersection of Kamilaroi Highway and Rangari Road is no longer used as the primary access. MCC previously commissioned a review of the operation and capacity of the intersection of Kamilaroi Highway and Rangari Road. This review was undertaken by Constructive Solutions in October 2015, and was provided to the Department of Planning and Environment in November 2015. This review found: 1) The capacity of the right turn movement [from Kamilaroi Highway to Rangari Road] exceeded the current demand for turning vehicles (2015); ' 2) The usage would reduce by approximately half once Boggabri Coal utilise the existing access arrangements directly from the Kamilaroi Highway; ' 3) Maules Creek traffic may also transfer [to] the Kamilaroi Highway Access in the future (further reducing use of the intersection); and ' 4) Major future road works, e.g. replacement of the Iron Bridge and upgrade on Rangari Rd are being considered.</p> <p>The then RMS provided a submission to Modification 3 which outlined the above, there was no objection lodged in relation upgrade not proceeding.</p>
Condition 61, Schedule 3	<p>The <a href="#">Applicant must</a> upgrade and seal the unsealed section of Manilla Road between its intersections with the Tarrawonga Coal mine access road and Barbers Lagoon Road, to the satisfaction of RMS.</p>	Upgrade COMPLETE.
Condition 62, Schedule 3	<p>The <a href="#">Applicant must</a> ensure that there is no substantial access of heavy vehicles for construction activity to the site prior to the upgrade referred to in condition 61 above, to the satisfaction of the <a href="#">Planning Secretary</a>. However, the <a href="#">Planning Secretary</a> may approve heavy</p>	Upgrade COMPLETE.





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	vehicle access to the site prior to or during this upgrade, subject to the <a href="#">Applicant</a> demonstrating that dust impacts can be minimised in accordance with an approved Traffic Management Plan.	
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### 4.2 Mitigation and Management Measures in Response to the Road Safety Audit

A road safety audit of the relevant roads surrounding the MCCM was carried out within the Traffic and Transport Impact Assessment prepared during the 2013 EA (Hyder Consulting, 2011). A number of review findings have previously been addressed including:

- Heavy vehicles exceeding 42.5 t are diverted via the MCC/Tarrawonga Haul Route (Section 3.3).
- Upgrade of Therribri Road between Rangari Road and the MCC Mine Access Road completed via provision of funds by MCC to NSC as part of its VPA (Section 3.1.3).
- Leard Forest Road, East Link Road, Northern Link Road and Goonbri Road were used as interim access routes prior to the operation use of the MCC Mine Access Road. These roads are now restricted for MCC related traffic as described in Section 3.4.

## 5 REGULAR AUDITS WILL CONTINUE TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH ROAD USAGE RESTRICTIONS.MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR LIGHT AND HEAVY VEHICLES

This section outlines the guiding principles that MCC and its contractors will use to control and minimise impacts.

### 5.1 Code of Conduct for Drivers

All drivers of light and/or heavy vehicles that have been engaged by MCC must adhere to the following *Code of Conduct for Drivers*:

- obey all the laws and regulations that apply to vehicles on public and private roads;
- operate in full compliance with this TMP;
- respect the rights of others, including drivers and pedestrians, to use and share the road space;
- maintain a safe following distance between vehicles;
- ensure that the vehicle is clean and in good mechanical condition to reduce environmental impacts;
- avoid travelling in convoys where possible unless under approved escorts;
- follow the designated access routes for the MCCM;
- abide by all NSW and interstate road rules and vehicle regulations;
- ensure high level of courtesy; and
- turn off flashing/rotating beacons when on public roads.



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MCC will carry out necessary measures to inform transport contractors including contractual arrangements for transportation of goods to the MCCM and via various information forums that may include driver inductions, training and toolbox talks.

### 5.2 Road Safety

Guiding principles that will be used to manage safety risks are described in the following sub-sections.

#### 5.2.1 Driver Education

Driver education regarding the traffic access arrangements and advising of them of any updates to the TMP and associated routes will assist to improve both driver and general community safety. Driver education will be delivered via a number of methods including inductions, toolbox talks, and safety briefings.

#### 5.2.2 Vehicle Loads

Heavy vehicle movements will adhere to the gazetted and signposted load limits for each route used. Where loads in excess of the known load limits of structures are required to be transported, careful trip planning will be undertaken to ensure that these sensitive structures/constrained routes are avoided. Restricted Access Vehicle (RAV) maps (RMS, 2020) will be used by the contractor/driver to inform transport/delivery routes.

Where loads above the load limits are required, the loads will be broken down to bring them within allowable limits. Alternatively, higher mass limits will be considered where applicable through national heavy vehicle schemes.

All loads will be secured to vehicles in accordance with NTC's *Load Restraint Guide* (NTC, 2018) and TfNSW's *Heavy Vehicle Driver Handbook* (TfNSW, 2022).

#### 5.2.3 Vehicle Dimensions

All consigned or dispatched MCCM-related heavy vehicles will fall within the maximum dimensions and axle spacing as specified in the NTC's *Load Restraint Guide* (NTC, 20018) and TfNSW's *Heavy Vehicle Driver Handbook* (TfNSW, 2022).

In the case of B-doubles, which can be up to 25 m in length and 4.6 m in height, TfNSW's RAV maps (TfNSW, 2021) outline approved B-double routes for travel across NSW.

Where over-dimensioned loads/vehicles are required, the loads will be broken down to bring them within the acceptable dimensions. If vehicle dimensions exceed these limits, then an application will be submitted to TfNSW in accordance with the *Route Assessment Guide for Restricted Access Vehicles* (RMS, 2012).

Failing the above, if over-dimensioned loads are unavoidable, a risk assessment will be carried out of the intended haul route. Potential impacts will be identified and either addressed via mitigation measures (e.g. physical improvements to the road to overcome the issue), or by management measures (e.g. scheduling trips, route selection). The relevant Council will also be notified regarding the classification type and mass of vehicles that will be required to access Shire roads to ensure the appropriate approvals are in place.

Permits will be obtained from the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator or TfNSW for all over dimension and over mass loads/vehicles prior to any movement.



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A risk assessment and Traffic Control Plan (TCP) will be prepared to describe the method(s) of controlling traffic adjacent to or around the over-dimensioned vehicle. This would include details of pilot and trailing vehicles or police escort (if required) as well as vehicle mounted traffic control signs.

The TCP will be developed in consultation with TfNSW in the case of State Roads, and with the relevant local Councils, in the case of local and regional roads. A road occupancy application will also be submitted to the applicable authority, TfNSW or the NSC. The TCP will include details of the haulage route, as well as proposed rest locations. The TCP will also be developed in consultation with the NSW Police in cases where over-dimensioned loads require police escort to meet TfNSW requirements.

### 5.2.4 Managing Driver Fatigue

Fatigue is a potential issue for employees finishing their shift and subsequently driving home via the public road network. This is in-part managed by the availability of the free bus service, however there are occasions where self-driving is required. Where driving is required, car-pooling is encouraged by capping the availability of on-site car parking to approximately 200 designated spaces.

Additional fatigue management aspects on the road network include:

- requirement to stop at the MCCM security hut on the access road, which provides an opportunity for interaction with security staff to assess levels of alertness;
- WHC's Fitness for Work policy, which includes measures to ensure that employees are physically, mentally and emotionally capable to perform their duties safely; and
- WHC's fatigue management policy, which includes consideration of travel time when calculating "hours worked" for the purposes of the policy.

The transport contractors engaged for delivery of site equipment and materials will be required to have a driver fatigue management procedure issued as part of the driver induction process for all employees. This procedure shall be developed in accordance with NTC's *Guidelines for Managing Heavy Vehicle Driver Fatigue* (NTC, 2007) and address requirements in the Chain of Responsibility Legislation and Workplace Health and Safety Legislation.

Drivers on long haul consignments will be encouraged to plan their trips to make use of safe stopping locations for resting. Furthermore, the many towns and villages along each route also provide amenities and accommodation facilities.

Education is also provided to employees via inductions regarding fatigue management. Employee work hours are also monitored and an MCCM Fatigue Assessment Form and Fatigue Management Policy assists guidance and management of driver and employee fatigue.

### 5.3 Amenity

Further to Section 5.1, truck drivers associated with the MCCM are required to act responsibly when travelling through built up areas such as towns and villages. With respect to the need for drivers to "ensure a high level of courtesy", truck drivers travelling through built up areas will:

- minimise the use of fog lights and high beam;
- minimise the use of compression braking;



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- use designated truck parking areas and keep the area safe and clean; and
- respect the local area amenity function and potential risks to vulnerable road users (pedestrians and cyclists) where applicable.

### 5.4 Noise

MCC will implement best management practice to minimise the construction, operational, low frequency, road and rail traffic noise generated by the site in accordance with Schedule 3 Condition 15 of PA10\_0138. Noise will be managed in accordance with the MCC Noise Management.

### 5.5 Dust Control

Condition 64 c) of Schedule 3 of PA\_0138 states that measures must be implemented to minimise dust from unsealed roads that may be used for access to the site. All unrestricted routes for MCC related traffic have been sealed or upgraded in accordance with PA 10\_0138, as modified (which serves to reduce potential dust emissions). A number of restricted roads in the MCC road network remain unsealed, however use of these routes by MCC-related traffic is limited (Section 3.4). MCC-related traffic that travels on unsealed roads will be in accordance with the code of conduct for drivers (Section 5.1) and speed limits in place. Utilisation of unsealed roads via temporary access routes that may be enacted under exceptional circumstances, such as emergencies, will be assessed for dust generation and water cart made available for suppression.

### 5.6 Shuttle Bus System

A shuttle bus system to transport workers to and from the site will continue to be used.

A bus service is provided from Gunnedah, Narrabri, Boggabri, Manilla and Tamworth localities. The transport routes will be in accordance with access routes described in Section 3. The bus service will not incur any direct costs/fares to the workers.

MCC will conduct monitoring of the workforce and the travel arrangements to ensure that utilisation of the busses to site is consistent with the EA commitments (Sections 6 and 7).

Various points of collection for shuttle-bus users are allocated which may vary from time to time. The Narrabri service typically has two dedicated collection points including Baan Baa and Narrabri Civeo camp. The services to Gunnedah and Boggabri have dedicated collection points including the Kamilaroi Highway, Boggabri Civeo camp and selected locations in Gunnedah near parks and adjoining the highway.

The service from Manilla will have a dedicated collection point on the Tamworth Road. The Tamworth service will pick up at the Gipp Street Car Park, on Marius Street Tamworth, and the Attunga coach stop on the Manilla Road at Attunga. All dedicated pick-up points have been chosen at central points off the road with adequate parking to reduce parking congestion for residents. These bus stops have been identified in conjunction with the Tamworth Regional Council. This bus service initially involves the movement of 1 small bus equating to 4 movements per shift and will reduce the number of traffic movements (compared to individual private vehicles), improve potential employee management of fatigue. The buses GVM will be less than 42.5 tonnes, as a result they are able to access the MCCM via the Kamilaroi Highway and Rangari Road.

### 5.7 Conflicts with Sensitive Road Users

MCC is aware that there are a number of school bus services operating in the vicinity of the MCCM.



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MCC will endeavour to minimise interaction with bus routes and times and continue consultation. GTA Consultants (2016) includes consideration of interactions of MCC traffic with school bus services. GTA noted that whilst school buses use roads coincident with MCC employees (predominantly the Kamilaroi Highway), shift change times are typically timed to avoid the main operating times for the school buses. Morning bus services generally operating later than the times at which the majority of MCC employees would be travelling on the road network via shuttle bus. Afternoon school buses typically operate earlier than the times at which the majority of MCC workers would be travelling via shuttle bus. Bus use service will be assessed against performance criteria outlined in Table 3.

School bus services operating in the area surrounding the MCCM are described below.

- **Hopes Bus Service Pty Ltd (Ph: 02-6742-0457):** This company operates the Willala Bus Service which commences in Gunnedah heads north west along the Kamilaroi Highway to Boggabri, then to the Willala Hall, and then returns to Gunnedah, via the Boggabri Township. The morning service commences at 6.10 am and ends at 9.01 am. The afternoon service commences at 2.55 pm and ends at 5.48 pm. The service starts and ends in Gunnedah.
- **G.J & S.J Haire Warragrah Bus Service (Ph: 02-6743-4495):** This company operates three school bus services, two Boggabri Primary Services dropping off at Sacred Heart Primary School and Boggabri State Primary School and a Boggabri to Gunnedah High School Service. The Boggabri to Gunnedah High School Service starts in Boggabri at 7.40 am and ends in Gunnedah at 8.35 am. The return trip starts in Gunnedah at 3.15 pm and ends at Boggabri at 4.15 pm. One Primary School service starts in Boggabri at 7.15 am and ends in Boggabri at 9.02 am with the afternoon service starting in Boggabri at 2.50 pm and ends in Boggabri at 4.48 pm. This service predominately operates within the township of Boggabri, however does service residences on the Kamilaroi Highway out to Baan Baa during this time. The second Primary School Service operates in Boggabri starting at 7.17am and ends at 9.03am with the afternoon service starting at 2.30pm and finishing at 3.16pm.
- **Keating's Tours (Ph: 02-6742-4667):** This company operates a school bus service from Gunnedah and travels along Blue Vale Road, onto the unsealed section of Hoads Lane and return to Gunnedah. The service operates from 7.15 am to 8.30 am and again in the evening from 3.30 pm to 4.30 pm.
- **Forest Coach Lines (Ph: 02-9450-2277):** This company operates two bus services in the surrounding area describes as follows:
  1. *The Mountain View to Narrabri School Bus Service* (locally known as the *Wallah Road Bus Services*) runs from Narrabri down to Harparary Road, Maules Creek Road, Browns Lane, Old Gunnedah Road and then back to Narrabri. This service operates out of Narrabri from 7.05 am to 9.10 am and in the afternoon from 3.10 pm to 5.15 pm, the route runs predominantly along roads that are restricted from use by MCCM-related traffic; and
  2. *The Davis Nursery to Narrabri School Bus Service* runs from Narrabri town to Leard Forest Road, Black Mountain Creek Road, Old Gunnedah Road and back to Narrabri. This service operates out of Narrabri from 6.40 am to 9.20 am and in the afternoon from 3.15 pm to 6.00 pm, the route runs predominantly along the roads that are restricted from use by MCCM-related traffic.
- **M. Stephenson (Ph: 0457-045-461):** This company operates a school bus service from West Manilla and travels along Ranagri Road, then onto Pillerine Lane back along Corella Road before returning to Manilla. The service operates from 7.15 am to 8.30 am and again in the evening from 3.30 pm to 4.30 pm.
- **GB & SL Howlett (Ph: 0409-673-983):** This company operates the Rushes Road service travelling along the Rushes Creek Road to the Bedford Access Road, onto Sherwood Road back to Manilla,



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before traveling up the Tamworth Road to the Somerton turnoff and back to Manilla. The service operates from 7.15 am to 8.30 am and again in the evening from 3.30 pm to 4.30 pm.

Also, it should be noted that these routes and pick up points are subject to change from year to year due to the changes in school enrolment and hence places of residence of the students. As such, MCC will continue to consult with these bus service providers on a regular basis to stay abreast of the service routes and bus stop locations.

6 PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Table 3 provides performance criteria which will be used to evaluate ongoing monitoring of shuttle bus use.

Table 3 Performance Criteria

Aspect	Performance Criteria & Indicator	Monitoring Frequency
Shuttle Bus Use	70% (averaged over a seven-day week) of the operations, maintenance and CHPP wages employees will utilise the bussing service. Indicators include the number of shuttle buses in operation remains generally consistent and operations, maintenance and CHPP wages personnel travelling via car is generally consistent with predictions within the Modification EA*	Quarterly

Source: MCC (2016). Note: Wages employees includes all personnel working at the Maules Creek Mine and who are either employed on the Maules Creek Coal Pty Ltd Greenfields Enterprise Agreement or are employees who are employed through labour hire companies and working under the direction of a MCCM Pty Ltd supervisor.

7 MONITORING, AUDITING, REPORTING AND REVIEW

MCC will carry out a number of practices to monitor traffic movements associated with the MCCM. These include:

- **Traffic volume surveys:** Traffic surveys will be carried out quarterly to monitor bus use and car-pooling against the criteria in Section 6. These surveys will allow MCC specific traffic to be recorded and will differentiate between vehicle types (e.g. light and heavy vehicle).

Records are logged of traffic entering and exiting MCCM security point. Details taken include vehicle type, number of passengers and time of entry and exit. These records are kept for monitoring purposes. Results of these surveys are reported within the Annual Review, which will be made publicly available on the website.

All traffic entering MCC is recorded as described above. Data relating to car access will be reviewed on a quarterly basis and reviewed to ensure they are generally in accordance with predictions within the EA.

- **Monitoring of Coal Transport:** In accordance with PA 10\_0138 Schedule 3 Condition 65, MCC will implement a coal transport monitoring program. These results will be made publicly available on the website on an annual basis. The monitoring program will record the amount of coal transported from the site (on a monthly basis).
- **Regular education and auditing:** As stated in Section 3.5, MCC will educate and inform transport contractors and staff regarding the traffic access arrangements.
- **Auditing of Road Usage:** In accordance with the commitments in the EA MCC will conduct bi-annual road usage audits. These audits will target road usage compliance, speed limits, load limits and give



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way requirements. Any vehicles found not to be complying with road usage rules will be counselled by their supervisor and educated in accordance with the traffic access arrangements.

**Community feedback:** Various methods are available for community members to contact MCCM including a free-call community contact line, website request and via email, as well as through community consultation activities including the Community Consultative Committee for the MCCM. Monitoring results relevant to this TMP, including the monitoring, auditing and community feedback will be reported within the Annual Review which are publicly available on the website. Monitoring against performance criteria to determine non-compliances and exceedances will be reported within the Annual Review. Any incident that has caused, or threatens to cause, material harm to the environment will be reported in accordance with Schedule 5, condition 8 of PA 10\_0138. The identification of any unpredicted impacts or consequences will result in contingency options triggered which will include additional surveys, consultation with relevant regulatory agencies and re-education and review of management measures outlined in section 5.

This TMP has been prepared based on the information available at the time. The document is dynamic and will be reviewed on a regular basis as required under the Project Approval which also will enable implementation of any potential improvement measures from the previous review period

## 8 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

In addition to the specific responsibilities for dust management, general roles and responsibilities for the implementation of the TMP are presented in **Table 4**.

**Table 4 Roles and Responsibilities**

Role	Responsibilities
General Manager – Maules Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide resources required and support to implement these procedures.</li> </ul>
Environment Superintendent – Maules Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Authorise the TMP and any future amendments.</li> <li>Ensure training relevant to the TMP is implemented.</li> <li>Ensure the nominated access routes and restricted routes are enforced.</li> <li>Act as the MCC representative for required regulatory approval of the plans and discussion of environmental matters between statutory authorities, private industry, contractors, community groups and the wider community.</li> <li>Act as the MCC representative to establish and engage in consultation with bus service providers to maintain "common courtesies" to minimise potential conflicts with MCCM-related traffic.</li> </ul>
Environment Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess the implementation of this TMP.</li> <li>Maintain a high level of understanding of the TMP.</li> <li>Ensure induction training relevant to the TMP is implemented for all personnel accessing the site and include advice on the correct access routes and Code of Conduct for all drivers.</li> <li>Ensure the TMP is implemented in daily operations of the site particularly compliance with the <i>Heavy and Light Vehicle Drivers Code of Conduct</i>.</li> <li>Ensure appropriate signposted advice is provided to positively and negatively reinforce the nominated access routes.</li> <li>Audit to check for non-compliance with regard to access prohibitions and drivers code of conduct. Implement any disciplinary action as may be permitted if necessary under the respective labour and contractual agreements.</li> <li>Review this TMP if any significant changes to mine plans or operations occur.</li> <li>Arrange quarterly monitoring to determine bus use</li> <li>Promptly notify the Environment Superintendent of any identified issues.</li> </ul>



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Role	Responsibilities
Manager Mining	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maintain accountability for the overall environmental performance, including the procedures and outcomes of this TMP.</li><li>• Ensure inspections are undertaken in accordance with the TMP.</li><li>• Ensure vehicle loads and dimensions are within the maximum dimensions and axle spacing.</li><li>• Implement any disciplinary action as allowed under the respective labour and contractual agreements.</li><li>• Check that personnel and contractors are appropriately trained and understand their obligations and the specific requirements of this TMP.</li></ul>
All personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adhere to the requirements of this TMP.</li><li>• Comply with the nominated access routes, prohibited routes and drivers Code of Conduct.</li><li>• Use the shuttle bus services to ensure approximately 70% usage.</li></ul>





## 9 REFERENCES

Constructive Solutions (2015) *Intersection Capacity Review Kamilaroi Highway & Rangari Road Intersection*.

GTA Consultants (2016) *Maules Creek Coal Mine Employee Transport Modification Road Transport Assessment*.

Hyder Consulting (2011) *Maules Creek Coal MCCM – Traffic and Transport Impact Assessment*.

Maules Creek Coal Pty Ltd (2016) *Maules Creek Coal Mine Employee Transport Modification Environmental Assessment*.

National Transport Commission (2020) *Load Restraint Guide*.

Website: <https://www.ntc.gov.au/sites/default/files/assets/files/Load-Restraint-Guide-2018.pdf>

National Transport Commission (2007) *Guidelines for Managing Heavy Vehicle Driver Fatigue*. August 2007.

Roads and Maritime Services NSW (2012) *Route Assessment Guide for Restricted Access Vehicles*.

Road and Maritime Services NSW (2020) *Restricted Access Vehicle (RAV) maps*.

Website: <https://roads-waterways.transport.nsw.gov.au/business-industry/heavy-vehicles/maps/restricted-access-vehicles-map/index.html>

Transport for NSW (2022) *Heavy Vehicle Driver Handbook*.

SMEC (2015) *2015 Independent Environmental Audit Maules Creek Coal Pty Limited*.