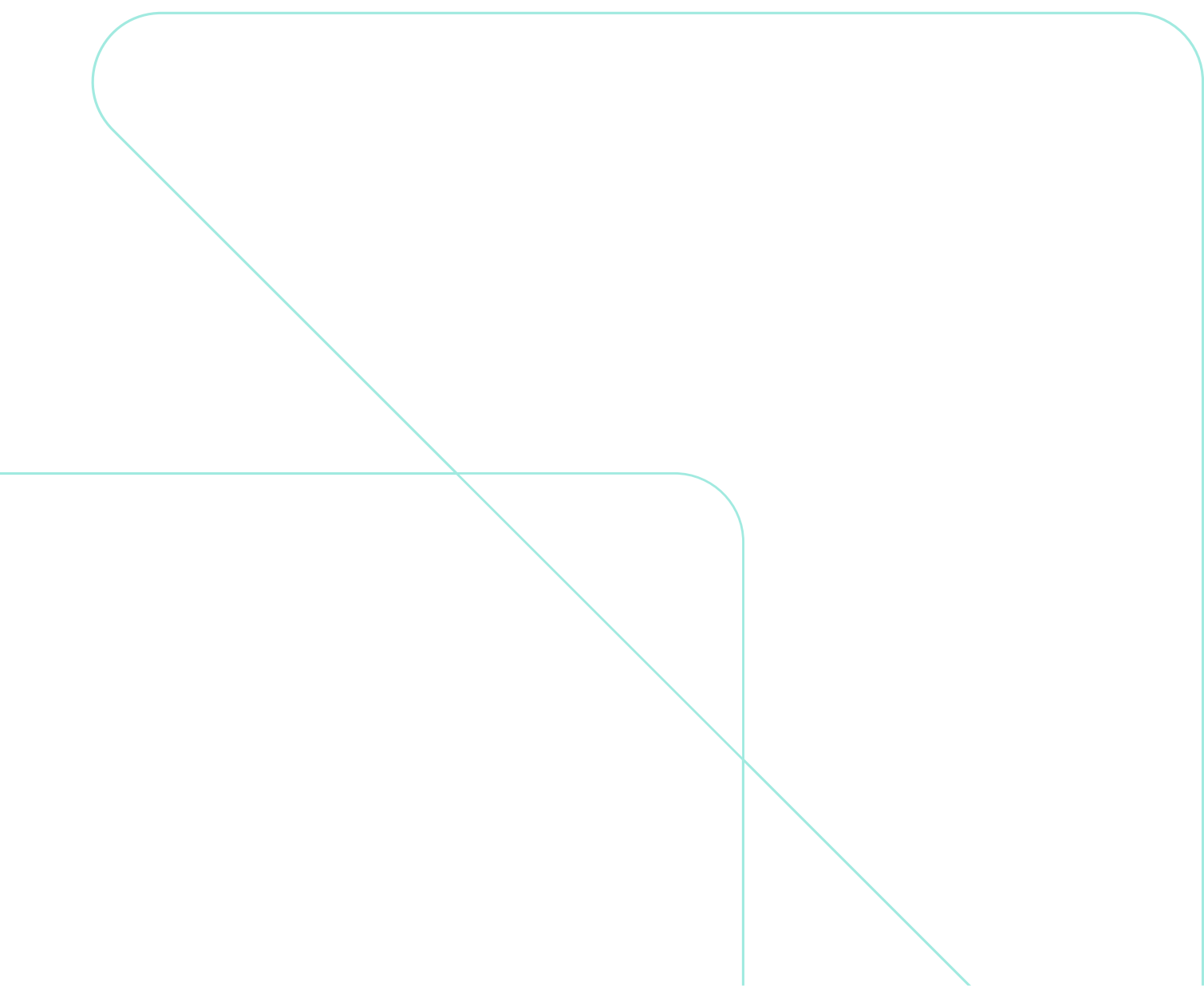


Annual Compliance Report

Maules Creek Coal Mine

March 2025

EPBC 2010/5566



Contents

Declaration of accuracy	3
<hr/>	
1. Introduction	4
1.1 Description of activities	4
1.2 Compliance report overview	4
<hr/>	
2. Compliance assessment	5
2.1 Compliance with the Conditions of Approval	5
<hr/>	
3. Correcting non-compliances	5
<hr/>	
4. New environmental risks	5

Declaration of accuracy

In making this declaration, I am aware that sections 490 and 491 of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 make it an offence in certain circumstances to knowingly provide false or misleading information or documents. The offence is punishable on conviction by imprisonment or a fine, or both. I declare that all the information and documentation supporting this compliance report is true and correct in every particular. I am authorised to bind the approval holder to this declaration and that I have no knowledge of that authorisation being revoked at the time of making this declaration.



Signed:

Full name (please print):

Andrew Wright

Position (please print):

Superintendent – Group Biodiversity

Organisation (please print including ABN/CAN if applicable):

Whitehaven Coal Limited (ABN 68 124 425 396) on behalf of Aston Coal 2 Pty Limited (ABN 14 139 472 567)

Date:

24/03/2025

1. Introduction

The Maules Creek Coal Mine (MCCM) is located on the north-west slopes and plains of New South Wales (NSW), approximately 18 km north-east of Boggabri within the Narrabri Local Government Area (LGA).

Approval for the MCCM was granted under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) in February 2013 (EPBC 2010/5566). EPBC 2010/5566 has undergone seven variations, dated 17 August 2016, 16 March 2017, 7 February 2018, 22 February 2019, 19 March 2020, 24 March 2021, and 21 October 2022.

This Compliance Report has been prepared to address the requirements of EPBC 2010/5566 in accordance with the Annual Compliance Report Guidelines (the Guidelines), published by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Commonwealth DCCEEW) (the Department).

1.1 Description of activities

This compliance report covers the approval and period detailed in Table 1.

Table 1: Project details

Item	Details
EPBC Approval number	2010/5566
Project name	Maules Creek Coal Project
Approval Holder	Aston Coal 2 Pty Limited
ACN or ABN	139 472 567
Approved action	To construct and operate an open cut coal mine 18 km north-east of the township of Boggabri in New South Wales, including associated infrastructure.
Location of the project	Leard Forest Road, 18 km north-east of Boggabri, Gunnedah Coal Basin
Reporting period of the report	1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024.
Date of preparation of the report	24 March 2025

1.2 Compliance report overview

Table 2 provides an overview of the compliance report requirements outlined in EPBC 2010/5566.

Table 2: Compliance report requirements

Relevant condition	Comment
34. <i>By the end of March of each year after the commencement of the action, the person taking the action must publish a report on their website addressing compliance with the conditions of this approval over the previous 12 months, including implementation of any approved management plans as specified in the conditions. Non-compliance with any of the conditions of this approval must be reported to the department at the same time as the compliance report is published.</i>	This Compliance Report has been prepared for the Reporting Period from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024. Regular reporting documentation for the MCCM, including the Compliance Reports, can be accessed via: https://whitehavencoal.com.au/our-business/our-assets/maules-creek-mine/

2. Compliance assessment

2.1 Compliance with the Conditions of Approval

Details of compliance with the EPBC 2010/5566 approval conditions, including supporting evidence, is provided in Appendix A. Evidence of the implementation of management plans can be made available to the Department upon request.

A summary of the compliance with the EPBC 2010/5566 approval conditions during the Reporting Period is provided in Table 3.

Table 3: Summary of performance during reporting period

Status	Description	Number of Conditions
Compliant	'Compliance' is achieved when all the requirements of a condition have been met, including the implementation of management plans or other measures required by those conditions.	37
Non-compliant	A designation of 'non-compliant' must be given where the requirements of a condition or elements of a condition, including the implementation of management plans and other measures, have not been met.	0
Not applicable	A designation of 'not applicable' must be given where the requirements of a condition or elements of a condition fall outside of the scope of the current reporting period. For example, a condition that applies to an activity that has not yet commenced.	5
Total		42

3. Correcting non-compliances

During the reporting period, there were no instances of non-compliance identified. All activities and operations were conducted in full accordance with the approval EPBC 2010/5566.

4. New environmental risks

No new environment risks were identified during the reporting period.

Appendix A Summary of Compliance

Condition number	Condition	Is the project compliant with this condition?	Comments
Disturbance Areas			
1.	The person taking the action must not clear more than 544 hectares (ha) of the EPBC listed White Box—Yellow Box—Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland critically endangered ecological community within the Maules Creek project area , as identified in Attachment A of these conditions.	Compliant	Less than 544 ha of White Box—Yellow Box— Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland has been cleared up until 31 December 2024.
2.	The person taking the action must not clear more than 1665 ha of habitat for the regent honeyeater (<i>Anthochaera phrygia</i> : formerly <i>Xanthomyza phrygia</i>), swift parrot (<i>Lathamus discolor</i>) or greater long-eared bat (<i>Nyctophilus corbeni</i>), within the Maules Creek project area . The 1665 ha of habitat specified includes the 544 ha of the critically endangered ecological community at condition 1.	Compliant	Less than 1,655 ha of habitat for these three species (i.e. forest and woodland) has been cleared up until 31 December 2024.
3.	The person taking the action must submit a Biodiversity Corridor plan for the approval of the Minister within three months of the date of this approval. The plan must address the following matters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) protection of native vegetation of a total width of 500 metres (m) where the Maules Creek coal lease boundary is adjacent to the Boggabri coal mine lease boundary; b) maintenance in perpetuity of this area as a biodiversity corridor, and c) evidence that the biodiversity corridor will be protected in perpetuity through a legal mechanism that would provide the equivalent protection of a conservation covenant. <p>The approved Biodiversity Corridor must be implemented.</p>	Compliant	<p>The Biodiversity Corridor Plan (BCP) was submitted to the former Department of the Environment (DotE) (now Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water – Commonwealth DCCEEW) in May 2013. The latest version of the BCP was submitted to former Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment (DAWE) (now Commonwealth DCCEEW) in January 2021 and was approved on 23 December 2021.</p> <p>Whitehaven Coal (on behalf of MCCM) has commenced consultation with relevant stakeholders (NSW Forestry Corporation and Idemitsu Boggabri Coal) to establish a legal mechanism to protect the biodiversity corridor in perpetuity by 2053. Throughout the Reporting Period, Whitehaven continued these discussions during meetings with the NSW Forestry Corporation and Idemitsu Boggabri Coal.</p> <p>Evidence of implementation of the Biodiversity Corridor Plan throughout the Reporting Period includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCCM Feral Animal and Weed Monitoring program • fauna and flora monitoring within the biodiversity corridor • Land Disturbance Protocol Forms
4.	The person taking the action is required to submit a Conservation and Biodiversity Bond under condition 55 of the NSW state government project approval dated 23 October 2012 (Application 10_0138). It is noted that this bond may be combined with the rehabilitation security deposit as required under the NSW <i>Mining Act 1992</i> . The person taking the action must submit details of this bond and the rehabilitation security deposit, to the Minister . If the Minister is not satisfied that the bond and the rehabilitation security deposit lodged by the person taking the action is adequate to provide for the implementation of the requirements referred to under conditions 3, 12A, 12B, 25-28 the Minister may require the person taking the action to establish an additional bond or equivalent financial instrument in trust, under conditions approved in writing by the Minister .	Compliant	<p>The latest revised Maules Creek Coal Biodiversity Offset Conservation Bond calculation was submitted to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) on 1 November 2023. DPHI approved the revised Maules Creek Coal Biodiversity Offset Conservation Bond calculation on 20 November 2023. Whitehaven Coal received confirmation from DPHI on 16 January 2024 that the revised Conservation Bond had been successfully lodged and email notification to Commonwealth DCCEEW occurred on 18 March 2024.</p> <p>The latest updated Rehabilitation Cost Estimate calculation for Maules Creek Coal was submitted to NSW Resource Regulator on 29 November 2023. The Resource Regulator approved the revised Rehabilitation Cost Estimate on 31 January 2024 with the Rehabilitation Cost Estimate email notification to Commonwealth DCCEEW occurred on 18 March 2024.</p>
5.	The person taking the action must provide a map to the Minister showing the area of the biodiversity corridor within the Maules Creek coal mine lease boundary within one month of this approval decision and detail the amount (in hectares) of White Box— Yellow Box—Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland critically endangered ecological community and habitat or potential habitat for the regent honeyeater, swift parrot and greater long-eared bat within this area.	Compliant	Map of biodiversity corridor submitted to the former DotE on 8 March 2013.
6.	The person taking the action must submit to the Minister for approval, within three months of the commencement of the action, an approach that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) limits the maximum disturbance (in hectares) specified for each of the years 5, 10, 15 and 21 from the date of this approval of the White Box—Yellow Box— Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland critically endangered ecological community and the habitat or potential habitat for the regent honeyeater, swift parrot and greater long-eared bat; b) incorporates an analysis, undertaken by independent ecological experts approved by the Department, that demonstrates the maximum disturbance limits which will minimise any impacts on relevant matters of national environmental significance; c) demonstrates collaboration with the person taking the action to develop and operate the Boggabri Coal Project (EPBC 2009/5256), in order to minimise progressive project area disturbance limits across both sites. The progressive disturbance limits are to be reflected in the development of the Leard Forest Mining Precinct Biodiversity Strategy. 	Compliant	<p>Approval of suitably qualified independent ecological experts to undertake the revised Disturbance Limit Approach was received from former DAWE on 19 July 2021.</p> <p>The revised Disturbance Limit Approach was submitted on 10 September 2021 and approved by former DAWE on 17 December 2021.</p>
7.	The person taking the action must not clear more than the maximum project area disturbance limits specified for each of the years 5, 10, 15 and 21 as described in condition 6, unless otherwise approved by the Minister .	Compliant	Less than the Year 15/21 disturbance limit approach boundary has been developed up until 31 December 2024.

Condition number	Condition	Is the project compliant with this condition?	Comments
8	The person taking the action must publish the analysis required under condition 6.b) on their website.	Compliant	The analysis required under condition 6.b) is published on the Whitehaven website.
Direct Offsets			
9.	<p>The person taking the action must register legally binding conservation covenants over offset areas containing, to the satisfaction of the Minister, no less than:</p> <p>a) 9,334 ha that must be managed to achieve equivalent or better quality habitat for the regent honeyeater, swift parrot and greater long-eared bat; and</p> <p>b) 5,532 ha of the White Box—Yellow Box—Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland critically endangered ecological community, that must be managed to achieve equivalent or better quality.</p> <p>Note: the 5,532 ha of White Box—Yellow Box—Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland critically endangered ecological community may be included within the 9,334 ha of offset areas for the threatened species if it meets the listing criteria for the EPBC-listed critically endangered ecological community as defined in the EPBC listing advice for that community and the requirements of condition 9.</p>	Compliant	<p>The combined (existing and additional) offset areas approved for EPBC 2010/5566 have been protected by a legally binding covenant.</p> <p>Reports demonstrating compliance with Condition 9a & 9b were submitted to Commonwealth DCCEEW on 15 February 2023 and approved on 9 November 2023.</p>
9A.	Revoked	-	Revoked
10.	The person taking the action must verify through independent review the quantity and condition class of White Box—Yellow Box—Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland critically endangered ecological community and the quantity and quality of habitat for the regent honeyeater, swift parrot and greater long-eared bat within all offset areas proposed in the Environmental Assessment , as specified at Attachment B of these conditions, and any additional offsets as required under condition 11. Details of all independently verified offset areas proposed in the Environmental Assessment must be submitted to the Minister for approval by 30 December 2013. The findings of the independent review must be published on the website of the person taking the action and remain published until the expiry of this approval.	Compliant	<p>The Independent Review of offset areas was completed on 27 December 2013 and submitted to the former DotE by 30 December 2013.</p> <p>The findings of the Independent Review are published on the Whitehaven website.</p>
11.	If the independent review finds that the offset areas proposed in the Environmental Assessment do not meet the requirements of condition 9, then additional areas must be included in the offset areas until the independent review finds that the relevant criteria under these conditions are met	Compliant	<p>The Verification Report for additional areas of offset areas was completed on 3 April 2014 and submitted to the former DotE on 4 April 2014.</p> <p>The findings of the Verification Report are published on the Whitehaven website.</p>
Replacements and new offsets			
11A.	<p>For the purpose of condition 9, the offset areas may include additional offset areas to the offset areas which were the subject of independent review under conditions 10 and 11 if:</p> <p>a) the person taking the action submits a report to the Minister for approval, which has been subject to additional independent review, that identifies and verifies the quantity and condition classes of White Box—Yellow Box— Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland critically endangered ecological community and the quantity and quality of habitat for the regent honeyeater, swift parrot and greater long-eared bat within the additional offset areas;</p> <p>b) that report is submitted to the Minister for approval by 30 June 2022, unless otherwise agreed by the Minister in writing; and</p> <p>c) the Minister has approved that report.</p> <p>The person taking the action must publish the report on its website within 30 days of the Minister's approval, unless otherwise agreed by the Minister in writing.</p>	Compliant	<p>An Independent Review of additional offset areas was submitted to Commonwealth DCCEEW on 9 March 2022 and approved on 9 November 2023.</p> <p>Reports demonstrating compliance with the quantity and condition classes of White Box—Yellow Box— Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland critically endangered ecological community and the quantity and quality of habitat for the regent honeyeater, swift parrot and greater long-eared bat within the additional offset areas are published on the Whitehaven website.</p>
12.	Revoked	-	Revoked
Offset Management Plans			
12A.	The person taking the action must submit to the Minister for approval an Offset management plan for all of the offset areas proposed in the Environmental Assessment , specified in Attachment B , within 12 months of this approval. The approved Offset management plan must be implemented for all of the offset areas proposed in the Environmental Assessment, specified in Attachment B, and any offset areas agreed as a result of independent verification process as specified in conditions 10 and 11, unless the Minister agrees to the removal of any specific properties as an offset area under this approval.	Compliant	<p>Former DAWE approved the removal of seven offset properties subject to EPBC Approval 2010/5566 on 28 May 2021.</p> <p>The Maules Creek Coal Mine Offset Management Plan for the existing offset areas was submitted to former DAWE on 5 November 2021 and subsequently approved on 20 December 2021. A revised Maules Creek Coal Mine Biodiversity Management Plan (combined NSW/Commonwealth document including the existing and additional offset areas to supersede the approved Offset Management Plan) was submitted to Commonwealth DCCEEW on 19</p>

Condition number	Condition	Is the project compliant with this condition?	Comments
	<p>If, after 31 October 2021, the Minister informs the person taking the action that the submitted Offset management plan is not suitable for approval, the Minister may, after 30 December 2021, approve a version of the Offset management plan revised by the Department.</p> <p>Note: for consistency, the person taking the action may develop a Biodiversity Management plan that includes the requirements set for managing offsets and set out in these conditions, to align with the requirements of the NSW state government Project Approval dated 23 October 2012 (application number 10_0138) and this approval.</p>		<p>June 2024 and a post consultation version on 23 October 2024. Whitehaven is currently preparing a response to feedback received from Commonwealth DCCEEW on 17 February 2025.</p> <p>Documentation of implementation evidence for the Offset Management Plan during the Reporting Period is outlined in the Maules Creek Coal Mine Annual Review Report and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual flora monitoring • Annual fauna monitoring • Winter bird surveys • Routine inspections of tracks, fencing, gates and signage • Annual fuel load and bushfire hazard assessment plus fire management • Habitat management (i.e. annual nest box installation and habitat monitoring) • Ecological thinning management • Weed management (i.e. seasonal assessment and annual control programs) • Pest management (i.e. routine monitoring, monthly sightings and control) • Seed Management (i.e. assessment and collection) • Annual heritage management inspection • Annual erosion inspections of tracks and sites • Annual stock incursion management • Pomaderris queenslandica annual report • Tylophora linearis annual report
12B.	<p>The person taking the action must submit to the Minister for approval an Additional Offset management plan for the additional offset areas within 6 months of their approval under condition 11A. The person taking the action must implement the approved Additional offset management plan.</p> <p>If, after a further 3 months, the Minister informs the person taking the action that the submitted Additional Offset management plan is not suitable for approval, the Minister may, after a further 3 months, approve a version of the Additional Offset management plan revised by the Department.</p> <p>Notes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) for consistency, the person taking the action may develop a Biodiversity Management plan that includes the requirements set for managing offsets and set out in these conditions, to align with the requirements of the NSW state government Project Approval dated 23 October 2012 (application number 10_0138) and this approval. (2) with the agreement of the Minister, the person taking the action may combine the Offset management plan and the Additional Offset management plan. 	Compliant	<p>A draft Offset Management Plan (including the existing and additional offset areas) was submitted to Commonwealth DCCEEW on 8 December 2023 for approval within 6 months of the independent review under Condition 11A.</p> <p>A revised Maules Creek Coal Mine Biodiversity Management Plan (combined NSW/Commonwealth document including the existing and additional offset areas to supersede the approved Offset Management Plan) was submitted to Commonwealth DCCEEW on 19 June 2024 and a post consultation version on 23 October 2024. Whitehaven is currently preparing a response to feedback received from Commonwealth DCCEEW on 17 February 2025.</p> <p>Documentation of implementation evidence for the Offset Management Plan during the Reporting Period is detailed in Condition 12A.</p>
12C.	<p>Each <i>offset management plan</i> must include, but not be limited to, the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) a text description and map which clearly defines the location and boundaries of the offset areas. This must be accompanied by the offset attributes and shapefiles; b) a description of the methodology and results of surveys measuring the baseline ecological conditions in the offset areas. This must be consistent with the State and Transition Model and include but not be limited to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the extent and condition of all vegetation communities, including a description of the structure, floristics and tree age class representation of each community; (ii) the extent and condition class of all areas of the White Box—Yellow Box—Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland critically endangered ecological community; (iii) surveys targeting the regent honeyeater, swift parrot and greater long-eared bat; (iv) the extent and quality of all areas of habitat for the regent honeyeater, swift parrot and greater long-eared bat; (v) the location of all survey sites (including co-ordinates); (vi) photo reference points at survey sites. c) clearly defined ecological management objectives for the offset areas; d) detailed description of all ecological management activities proposed to be undertaken, including maps and/or diagrams showing areas to be managed and the timing of the proposed activities; 	Compliant	<p>The Maules Creek Coal Mine Offset Management Plan was submitted to former DAWE on 5 November 2021 and subsequently approved on 20 December 2021.</p> <p>A revised Maules Creek Coal Mine Biodiversity Management Plan (combined NSW/Commonwealth document including the existing and additional offset areas to supersede the approved Offset Management Plan) was submitted to COMMONWEALTH DCCEEW on 19 June 2024 and a post consultation version on 23 October 2024. Whitehaven is currently preparing a response to feedback received from Commonwealth DCCEEW on 17 February 2025.</p> <p>Documentation of implementation evidence for the Offset Management Plan during the Reporting Period is detailed in Condition 12A.</p>

Condition number	Condition	Is the project compliant with this condition?	Comments
e)	<p>details of ongoing ecological monitoring programs, performance criteria, targets and provisions for adaptive management, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) a set of measurable ecological indicators for detecting changes to the White Box—Yellow Box—Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland critically endangered ecological community, including those that may be ascribed to ongoing water stress; (ii) a monitoring plan to assess the success of the management activities measured against the baseline condition. The monitoring must be statistically robust and able to quantify change in the extent and condition of the White Box—Yellow Box—Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland critically endangered ecological community and habitat for the regent honeyeater, swift parrot and greater long-eared bat. This should include the use of control sites and periodic ecological surveys to be undertaken by a qualified ecologist; (iii) a list of performance criteria based on the ecological management objectives for the White Box—Yellow Box—Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland critically endangered ecological community and habitat for the regent honeyeater, swift parrot and greater long-eared bat; (iv) measures to exclude weeds from all offset areas for the period covered by this approval; (v) a description of the potential risks to successful management against the performance criteria, and a description of the contingency measures that would be implemented to mitigate against these risks; (vi) a process by which to report to the department the progress of management activities undertaken in the offset areas and the outcome of those activities, including identifying any need for improved management and activities to undertake such improvement. 		
f)	<p>details of all parties responsible for management, monitoring and implementing the management activities, including their position or status as a separate contractor;</p>		
g)	<p>details of the funding requirements for the ongoing management activities, including an estimate of the costs of the activities and details of the parties responsible for funding the activities.</p>		
12D	<p>Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the department, the baseline surveys for threatened species must be conducted in accordance with the department's Survey Guidelines for Australia's Threatened Birds and the Survey Guidelines for Australia's Threatened Bats. Subsequent monitoring must be carried out annually at the same time of year as the baseline surveys, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the department.</p>	Compliant	<p>The Maules Creek Coal Mine Offset Management Plan was submitted to former DAWE on 5 November 2021 and subsequently approved on 20 December 2021. A revised Maules Creek Coal Mine Biodiversity Management Plan (combined NSW/Commonwealth document including the existing and additional offset areas to supersede the approved Offset Management Plan) was submitted to Commonwealth DCCEEW on 19 June 2024 and a post consultation version on 23 October 2024. Whitehaven is currently preparing a response to feedback received from Commonwealth DCCEEW on 17 February 2025.</p> <p>Baseline surveys were conducted in accordance with the Department guidelines.</p> <p>Subsequent monitoring has been conducted at the same time of year as the baseline surveys.</p>
Mechanisms to protect offset areas			
13.	<p>The mechanism/s for registering a legally binding covenant must provide protection for the offset areas proposed in the Environmental Assessment as specified at Attachment B of these conditions, in perpetuity and be registered by 30 June 2021, unless the Minister agrees in writing to removal of any specific properties.</p> <p>Evidence of compliance with condition 13 must be provided to the Department within 30 days of registering a legally binding covenant.</p> <p>The person taking the action must report on progress meeting these requirements in each annual compliance report required under condition 34 and as otherwise requested by the Department.</p>	Compliant	<p>Former DAWE approved the removal of seven offset properties subject to EPBC Approval 2010/5566 on 28 May 2021. The NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust registered Conservation Agreements between 14 March 2020 and 2 June 2021 and between 26 February 2024 and 19 March 2024 on the land titles of the existing and additional offset areas secured in perpetuity under Part 5 Division 3 of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016. Former DAWE was provided evidence of compliance on 4 June 2021 and 21 March 2024 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teston North/Teston South/Tralee, and Roseglass and Bimbooria, which were registered on title on 1 April 2020, correspondence dated 4 April 2020. • Kelso/Velyama/Louenville, which were registered on title on 1 April 2020, correspondence dated 7 April 2020. • Wollandilly, which was registered on title on 13 July 2020, correspondence dated 12 August 2020. • Onavale, which was registered on title on 16 July 2020, correspondence dated 12 August 2021. • Mt Lindsey, which was registered on title on 29 April 2021, correspondence dated 11 May 2021. • Wirradale and Wongala South, which were registered on title on 2 June 2021, correspondence dated 4 June 2021. • Thornfield, which was registered on title on 1 June 2021, correspondence dated 20 March 2024. • Neranghi North, which was registered on title on 26 February 2024, correspondence dated 20 March 2024. • Coonoor, which was registered on title on 29 February 2024, correspondence dated 20 March 2024. • Triangle, which was registered on title on 6 March 2024, correspondence dated 20 March 2024. • Long Gully, which was registered on title on 19 March 2024, correspondence dated 20 March 2024.

Condition number	Condition	Is the project compliant with this condition?	Comments
13A.	<p>For any approved replacement and new offset area, the person taking the action must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) implement an approved offset management plan (as per condition 12B); b) submit an application to establish legally binding covenants that provide protection for the offsets areas in perpetuity within 60 business days of securing the Minister's approval of the report prepared pursuant to condition 11A of these approval conditions; and c) by 31 March 2024, register the legally binding covenants that provide protection for the offset areas in perpetuity. <p>The approval holder must report on progress meeting these requirements in each annual compliance report required under condition 34 and as otherwise requested by the Department.</p>	Compliant	<p>It is noted that the Thornfield Offset Conservation Agreement was registered on 1 June 2021, but was not officially included as part of the MCCM offset package until Modification of the State consent was determined in March 2024, with notification provided to the Commonwealth Department on 20 March 2024.</p> <p>The NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust registered Conservation Agreements on 1 June 2021 and between 26 February 2024 and 19 March 2024 on the land titles of the additional offset areas (Coonoor, Neranghi North, Triangle, Long Gully and Thornfield) secured in perpetuity under Part 5 Division 3 of the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>. Commonwealth DCCEEW was provided evidence of compliance on 21 March 2024 as detailed in Condition 13.</p> <p>A draft Offset Management Plan (including the existing and additional offset areas) was submitted to DCCEW on 8 December 2023 for approval within 6 months of the independent review under Condition 11A. A revised Maules Creek Coal Mine Biodiversity Management Plan (combined NSW/Commonwealth document including the existing and additional offset areas to supersede the approved Offset Management Plan) was submitted to Commonwealth DCCEEW on 19 June 2024 and a post consultation version on 23 October 2024. Whitehaven is currently preparing a response to feedback received from Commonwealth DCCEEW on 17 February 2025.</p> <p>Documentation of implementation evidence for the Offset Management Plan during the Reporting Period is detailed in Condition 12A.</p>
Mining activity affecting offsets areas			
14.	<p>If the person taking the action proposes to undertake any mining activity within or beneath areas secured in accordance with conditions 9, 13 and 13A, then approval to undertake that action must be obtained in writing from the Minister before undertaking any mining activity within or beneath such areas. In seeking the Minister's approval, the person undertaking the action must provide a detailed assessment of the area where the mining activity is proposed to take place and an assessment of all associated adverse impacts on matters of national environmental significance. If the Minister agrees to the action within the offset areas, the area identified for the action must be excised from the offset area and alternative offsets secured by the person taking the action at a ratio of at least 20:1 in relation to the impact on matters of national environmental significance.</p> <p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) For the avoidance of any doubt, condition 14 does not apply to an offset area proposed in the Environmental Assessment, as specified at Attachment B of these conditions, if the Minister has agreed in writing to the removal of the property as an offset area pursuant to condition 13 of this approval. (2) In accordance with the EPBC Act, if the proposed mining activity is not part of the approved action, the proposed mining activity cannot be approved as part of this EPBC Act approval. 	Not applicable	No offset areas proposed for any mining activity.
Indirect Offsets			
15.	<p>To compensate for the loss of the White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland critically endangered ecological community and habitat for the regent honeyeater, swift parrot and greater long-eared bat the person taking the action must submit to the Minister for approval, within 2 years of the date of this approval, a project plan to invest \$1 million for research that will identify effective methodologies for achieving rehabilitation and restoration of functioning White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland endangered critically ecological community on mining sites. The research must be undertaken by a third party and be available to industry and governments generally. The approved project plan must be implemented.</p>	Compliant	<p>The original Box-Gum Woodland Rehabilitation Research Project Plan Version 2 (December 2016) was approved by former Department of Environment and Energy on the 6 January 2017, with a revised Box Gum Woodland Rehabilitation Research Project Plan Version 3 (April 2019) approved by former DAWE on 10 May 2019.</p> <p>Documentation of implementation evidence for the Box-Gum Woodland Rehabilitation Research Project Plan during the Reporting Period is outlined in the Maules Creek Coal Mine Annual Review Report that Whitehaven has commenced revision of the Box Gum Woodland Rehabilitation Research Project Plan to fully utilise the previous allocation for Adaptive Management towards a Final Report by a Consultant as well as to align the Box Gum Woodland Rehabilitation Research work with the revision of the Maules Creek Coal Mine Site Rehabilitation Plan.</p>
16.	<p>To compensate for the loss of the habitat for the regent honeyeater, swift parrot and greater long-eared bat the person taking the action must provide \$1.5 million over the life of the approval (comprising \$500,000 for each of the regent honeyeater, swift parrot and greater long-eared bat), to deliver activities that implement priority recovery actions for the regent honeyeater, swift parrot and greater long-eared bat. A detailed project plan governing the timing of the \$1.5 million funding for the activities and outcomes must be developed. The project plan must be submitted to the Minister for approval by 30 April 2017, or otherwise agreed in writing by the</p>	Compliant	<p>The original Threatened Species Project Plan Version 2.2 (May 2017) was approved by former Department of Environment and Energy on the 2 June 2017, with a revised Threatened Species Project Plan (Version 2.4 June 2020) was approved by former DAWE on the 6 November 2020.</p>

Condition number	Condition	Is the project compliant with this condition?	Comments
	Minister. The project plan should demonstrate consultation with relevant species experts and be consistent with approved National Recovery Plans where they are available, and as agreed with the relevant Recovery Planning Teams. The approved project plan must be implemented.		Documentation of implementation evidence for the Threatened Species Project Plan during the Reporting Period is outlined in the Maules Creek Coal Mine Annual Review Report that the \$1.5M funding has been fully utilised and expended: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to manage Swift Parrot mainland winter monitoring program, implementing new survey protocols to evaluate habitat use and movement patterns across south-east Australia. for targeted surveys of Regent Honeyeater; nest-protection measures and Noisy Miner management plus the coordination of range-wide volunteer surveys, newsletter and maintenance of sightings database and coordination and fieldwork for captive release program. for critical habitat mapping and genetic testing across its entire range for the Corbens (formerly South-eastern) Long-eared Bat.
17.	Revoked	-	Revoked
18.	Revoked	-	Revoked
19.	Revoked	-	Revoked
Surface and groundwater management plans			
20.	The person taking the action must provide to the Minister for approval, the <i>surface and groundwater management plans</i> as identified in condition 40 of the NSW state government Project Approval dated 23 October 2012 (application number 10_0138). The <i>surface and groundwater management plans</i> must be approved by the Minister prior to commencement of construction .	Compliant	The Water Management Plan was submitted to former DotE in 2013. A letter approving the Water Management Plan was received from the Minister in July 2013. The letter also states that Conditions 20, 21 and 22 have been met. Surface Water Management Plan and Groundwater Management Plan are provided in Appendix B and C, respectively, of the Water Management Plan, in accordance with condition 40 of the NSW Project Approval. Documentation of implementation evidence for the Surface Water Management Plan and Groundwater Management Plan is available through water quality monitoring and reporting, available in Section 7 of the Maules Creek Coal Mine Annual Review Report.
21.	The <i>surface and groundwater management plans</i> must be consistent with the National Water Quality Management Strategy .	Compliant	Refer to Condition 20.
22.	The person taking the action must, prior to commencement of construction , in collaboration with the proponent to develop and operate the Boggabri Extension (EPBC 2009/5256) and any other approved mines within 20 kilometres (km) of the project area , provide written advice to the Minister demonstrating how the NSW government approved <i>surface and groundwater management plans</i> (condition 20), addresses the cumulative impact of groundwater drawdown as a result of mining and how this may impact on the consequent health of the remnant native vegetation in the Leard State Forest, the Leard State Conservation Area and surrounding areas. In particular the advice must address the following matters: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> maximum amount of allowable drawdown in the alluvial aquifer drawdown in hard rock trigger levels pertaining to drawdown in the alluvial aquifer when corrective actions will be required to be undertaken identify the depth of root zone of the native vegetation monitoring to assess the ongoing quality and quantity of both surface and groundwater to identify impacts on the native vegetation. 	Compliant	Refer to Condition 20.
23	The person taking the action must within 6 months of the date of this approval, or such other timeframe specified by the Minister , provide to the Minister a report on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> any updated modelling of surface and groundwater impacts that has been undertaken in preparing the surface and groundwater management plans how the surface and groundwater management plans addressed groundwater and surface water impacts on matters of national environmental significance. 	Compliant	Submitted to the former DotE in February 2014 in accordance with revised timeframe. Further a final Groundwater Modelling Report was submitted to former NSW DPE on 13 December 2021 and provided to former DAWE on 7 March 2022.
Leard Forest Mining Precinct Regional Biodiversity Strategy			
24.	The person taking the action must implement the regional biodiversity strategy as required under condition 41 of the NSW state government project approval dated 23 October 2012 (application number 10_0138). The required scoping report for the development of the strategy must be submitted to the Minister for approval on or before 31 July 2013. The approved strategy must be implemented.	Compliant	The Regional Biodiversity Strategy has been prepared and implemented in the following stages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stage 1 – Scoping Report (finalised in July 2015). Stage 2 – Strategy Document (finalised in September 2017). Stage 3 – Strategy Review (yet to be completed).

Condition number	Condition	Is the project compliant with this condition?	Comments
Mine site rehabilitation			
25.	<p>To mitigate the impacts to the White Box-Yellow Box –Blakely’s Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland critically endangered ecological community and the habitat of the regent honeyeater, swift parrot and greater long-eared bat, the person taking the action must, within 12 months of the commencement of construction, submit to the Minister for approval a <i>mine site rehabilitation plan</i> for the progressive rehabilitation and revegetation of no less than 1665 ha of native forest and woodland (less the portion included in the biodiversity corridor identified in condition 3) in the project area including 544 ha using species consistent with a White Box—Yellow Box—Blakely’s Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland critically endangered ecological community. This approved <i>mine site rehabilitation plan</i> must be implemented.</p>	Compliant	<p>The Regional Biodiversity Strategy would be reviewed and amended in the Stage 3 – Strategy Review.</p> <p>Documentation of implementation evidence for Stage 2 of the Regional Biodiversity Strategy is outlined in the Maules Creek Coal Mine Annual Review Report during the reporting period as detailed in Condition 12A.</p> <p>The Mine Site Rehabilitation Plan (MSRP) was submitted to former DoE in December 2014, with comments received in July 2015. A revised MSRP was submitted to former DoE on 9 December 2015, with the former DoEE (now Commonwealth DCCEEW) approving the MSRP on 10 November 2016.</p> <p>Rehabilitation activities at the Maules Creek Coal Mine are undertaken in accordance with the MSRP and the NSW Rehabilitation Management Plan (July 2022).</p> <p>Documentation of implementation evidence for rehabilitation activities completed during the Reporting Period are reported in Section 8 of the Maules Creek Coal Mine Annual Review Report and the Maules Creek Coal Mine Forward Program available on the Whitehaven website.</p>
26.	<p>The person taking the action must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) rehabilitate the site to be consistent with the proposed rehabilitation strategy as provided in the Environmental Assessment and, as required under the NSW State Government approval dated 23 October 2012 (Application 10_0138); and b) not replace topsoil and sub soil layers at a depth less than the minimum depths determined through pre-stripping soil surveys as described in condition 27(c). <p>Note: the NSW state government Project Approval dated 23 October 2012 (application number 10_0138) conditions require pre-stripping soil surveys and inventories to inform the availability, rehandling, stockpiling and management of soils, and maximising the salvaging of soil to be used, in the rehabilitation of the site.</p>	Compliant	<p>The Rehabilitation Strategy for the Maules Creek Coal Mine is described in Section 7.16 of the EA. The State and Commonwealth approvals both specify that the rehabilitation of the Maules Creek Coal Mine must be consistent with the Rehabilitation Strategy (i.e. Condition 71 of Schedule 3 of PA 10_0138 and Condition 26 of EPBC 2010/5566).</p> <p>The Rehabilitation Management Plan (July 2022) summarises the key elements of the Rehabilitation Strategy as well as providing a description of activities and mine landforms.</p> <p>Rehabilitation activities at the Maules Creek Coal Mine are undertaken in accordance with the MSRP and the NSW Rehabilitation Management Plan (July 2022).</p> <p>Documentation of implementation evidence for rehabilitation activities completed during the Reporting Period are reported in Section 8 of the Maules Creek Coal Mine Annual Review Report and the Maules Creek Coal Mine Forward Program available on the Whitehaven website including details on topsoil and subsoil surveys that have been completed and the status of rehabilitation undertaken as at 31 December 2024 was in accordance with the Rehabilitation Strategy.</p>
27.	<p>The <i>mine site rehabilitation plan</i> must include, at a minimum, the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) targets and performance indicators to achieve effective restoration of potential habitat for the regent honeyeater, swift parrot and greater long-eared bat and White Box—Yellow Box—Blakely’s Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland critically endangered ecological community, including weed management; b) details of the vegetation communities to be rehabilitated and the timing of progressive rehabilitation (commencing as soon as practicable following disturbance); c) detailed soil depth surveys and analysis to inform the effective placement and restoration of soils underlying the proposed rehabilitation sites; including mapping of soils across the disturbance sites and soil sampling at no less than one sample point per 20 ha of each soil type identified. Sampling must identify; type, depth, water holding capacity, structure and physio-chemical properties of each of the soil and subsoil layers; d) processes and methodologies for the removal, storage and re-layering of the topsoil and sub soil layers underlying the disturbed sites being prepared for rehabilitation. These processes and methodologies must ensure the replacement of topsoil and sub soil layers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (vii) meet the minimum depth requirements determined from sampling outcomes as identified in condition 27(c); and (viii) replicate other existing soil parameters including, but not limited to, soil type, water holding capacity, structure and physiochemical properties. e) a process to report annually to the department the rehabilitation management actions undertaken and the outcome of those actions, and the mechanisms to be used to identify the need for improved management; f) a description of the potential risks to successful management and rehabilitation on the project site, including weed invasion, and a description of the contingency measures that would be implemented to mitigate these risks; g) details of long-term management and protection of the mine site, including details of the commitment of funds to achieve this. 	Compliant	<p>Maules Creek Coal Mine Annual Review Report discusses environmental performance, environmental management, and any non-compliance issues. This includes identifying trends in monitoring results, comparisons to Project Environmental Assessment predictions and statutory requirements, and a description of measures that will be implemented over the following year as part of the Maules Creek Coal Mine Forward Program to demonstrate compliance with the NSW Rehabilitation Management Plan (July 2022) and the MSRP. A revised MSRP is currently being prepared to align with the NSW Rehabilitation Management Plan (July 2022) and the revised Box Gum Woodland Rehabilitation Research Project Plan.</p>

Condition number	Condition	Is the project compliant with this condition?	Comments
28.	The <i>mine site rehabilitation plan</i> must be subject to an independent review by a qualified ecologist prior to being submitted to the Minister for approval. The findings of the independent review must be published on the proponent's website.	Compliant	An independent review was completed for the MSRP in July 2016 and is provided in Appendix A of the MSRP. The MSRP including the independent review was approved by the DoEE (now Commonwealth DCCEEW) on 10 November 2016 and is published on the Whitehaven website.
Final Landform			
29.	Note: for consistency, the person taking the action may develop a single mine site rehabilitation plan to align with the requirements, including timing of reporting, of the NSW State Government approval dated 23 October 2012 (Application 10_0138) and this approval. The Offset Management Plan and the Rehabilitation management Plan need to be aligned so as to achieve the biodiversity objectives of condition 29 for the rehabilitated mine-site. The person taking the action must undertake rehabilitation to ensure the final landform provides the optimum opportunity for the successful restoration of native forest and woodland including the critically endangered White Box—Yellow Box—Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland critically endangered ecological community	Compliant	MCCM will continue to progressively shape available overburden dumps when the final landform elevation is reached. Rehabilitation activities for the Northern Overburden Emplacement Area include shaping, topsoiling and seeding of native grasses in preparation for planting of tube stock seedlings. Rehabilitation activities completed during the Reporting Period are described in Section 8 of the Annual Review and the MCCM Forward Program, available on the Whitehaven website including the status of rehabilitation undertaken as at 31 December 2024 was in accordance with the Rehabilitation Strategy.
30.	The person taking the action must undertake rehabilitation to ensure the final void and landform minimises the extent of any resulting pit lake, avoids salt scalding and ensures that drained waters do not adversely affect the downstream environment and avoids any impacts on matters of national environmental significance . Note: the State approval conditions for project 10_0138 require the preparation and implementation of an updated Final Void and Mine Closure Plan that considers interactions with the adjoining mines, including interaction between final voids, opportunities for integrated mine planning with adjoining mines to minimise environmental impacts, all reasonable and feasible landform options for the final void (including filling) and predicted hydrochemistry and hydrogeology (including long-term groundwater recovery and void groundwater quality).	Not applicable	A draft Final Void and Mine Closure Plan was prepared in consideration of Condition 30 and was submitted to the NSW Resources Regulator in December 2020. A final version of the Final Void and Mine Closure Plan will be prepared and submitted by end December 2026 as per the relevant State approval condition.
Survey Data			
31.	All survey data collected for the project must be recorded so as to conform to data standards notified from time to time by the department. When requested by the department, the proponent must provide to the department all species and ecological survey data and related survey information from ecological surveys undertaken for matters of national environmental significance. This survey data must be provided within 30 business days of request, or in a timeframe agreed to by the department in writing. The department may use the survey data for other purposes.	Compliant	Records are maintained in accordance with Condition 31.
32.	In the event that any additional matters of national environmental significance are recorded within the project area and a significant impact on the matter/s is likely, the department must be notified in writing within 14 days of the matter/s being recorded. In accordance with condition 37, the Minister may request that the person taking the action revise any relevant plans to ensure better protection of the relevant matter/s.	Compliant	MCCM notified the former DotE on 16 April 2014 that it had found occurrences of <i>Tylophora linearis</i> on the project site. In accordance with Condition 37, the Minister requested the Offset Management Plan be revised to reflect compensatory measures to address impacts to this species. On 23 August 2021, the Maules Creek <i>Tylophora linearis</i> Offset Package (Hunter Eco, 2021) was submitted to the former DAWE. The former DAWE approved this plan on 28 September 2021. The Offset Management Plan describes the relevant measures for <i>Tylophora linearis</i> in accordance with the approved Maules Creek <i>Tylophora linearis</i> Offset Package (Hunter Eco, 2021) and was submitted to former DAWE on 5 November 2021 and subsequently approved on 20 December 2021. No additional Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) were identified during the Reporting Period.
Reporting and auditing			
33.	Within 14 days after the commencement of construction, the person taking the action must advise the department in writing of the actual date of commencement of construction .	Compliant	The former DotE was advised on 24 December 2013 that construction commenced on 23 December 2013.
34.	By the end of March of each year after the commencement of the action, the person taking the action must publish a report on their website addressing compliance with the conditions of this approval over the previous 12 months, including implementation of any	Compliant	This Compliance Report has been prepared for the Reporting Period from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024. Regular reporting documentation for the MCCM, including the Compliance Reports, can be accessed on the Whitehaven website.

Condition number	Condition	Is the project compliant with this condition?	Comments
	approved management plans as specified in the conditions. Non-compliance with any of the conditions of this approval must be reported to the department at the same time as the compliance report is published.		
35.	Upon the direction of the Minister , the person taking the action must ensure that an independent audit of compliance with the conditions of approval is conducted and a report submitted to the Minister . The independent auditor must be approved by the Minister prior to the commencement of the audit. Audit criteria must be agreed to by the Minister and the audit report must address the criteria to the satisfaction of the Minister .	Not applicable	No audit has been requested.
36.	If the person taking the action wishes to carry out any activity otherwise than in accordance with the approved plans, as specified in the conditions, the person taking the action must submit to the department for the Minister's written approval a revised version of that plan. The varied activity shall not commence until the Minister has approved the revised plan in writing. The Minister will not approve a revised plan, unless the revised plan would result in an equivalent or improved environmental outcome. If the Minister approves the revised plan that plan must be implemented in place of the plan originally approved.	Not applicable	All actions have been carried out in accordance with approved Plans. Any revised Plans submitted to Commonwealth DCCEEW have not commenced until the revised Plan has been approved in writing.
37.	If the Minister believes that it is necessary or convenient for the better protection of listed threatened species and communities or listed migratory species to do so, the Minister may request that the person taking the action make specified revisions to the approved management plan specified in the conditions and submit the revised plan for the Minister's written approval. The person taking the action must comply with any such request. The revised approved plan must be implemented. Unless the Minister has approved the revised plan then the person taking the action must continue to implement the originally approved plan, as specified in the conditions.	Compliant	The Offset Management Plan was revised based on a request by the Minister to reflect compensatory measures to address impacts to <i>Tylophora linearis</i> . On 23 August 2021, the Maules Creek Tylophora linearis Offset Package (Hunter Eco, 2021) was submitted to the former DAWE. The former DAWE approved this plan on 28 September 2021. The Offset Management Plan describes the relevant measures for <i>Tylophora linearis</i> in accordance with the approved <i>Maules Creek Tylophora linearis Offset Package (Hunter Eco, 2021)</i> and was submitted to former DAWE on 5 November 2021 and subsequently approved on 20 December 2021.
38.	If, at any time after 5 years from the date of this approval, the person taking the action has not substantially commenced the action , then the person taking the action must not substantially commence the action without the written agreement of the Minister .	Not applicable	Extraction of coal for the purpose of commercial production commenced in August 2014.
Publication of plans			
39.	The person taking the action must maintain accurate records substantiating all activities and outcomes associated with or relevant to the above conditions of approval, including measures taken to implement the management plans required by this approval, and make them available upon request to the department . Such records may be subject to audit by the department or an independent auditor in accordance with section 458 of the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> or used to verify compliance with the conditions of approval. Summaries of audits will be posted on the department's website. The results of audits may also be publicised through the general media.	Compliant	Records are maintained of all activities in accordance with the approved management plans but have not been requested by Commonwealth DCCEEW and have not been subject to an audit.
40.	Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister , the person taking the action must publish all approved management plans referred to in these conditions of approval on their website. Each management plan must be published on the website within 1 month of being approved and remain published until the expiry of the approval.	Compliant	Approved management plans have been published and will continue to be published on the Whitehaven website.