

22nd December 2020

Mr Mark Buchan
Senior Inspector Environment
NSW Department Planning, Industry & Environment - Resources Regulator
516 High Street
Maitland NSW 2310

Via e-mail
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Dear Mark,

RE: Maules Creek Coal Mine – Proposed Letter Variation to Mining Operations Plan (MOP) Amendment B.

Maules Creek Coal Mine (MCCM) are writing to the Department of Regional NSW – Resources Regulator (the Regulator) to advise of a minor administrative amendment required to the MCCM Mining Operations Plan (MOP) Amendment B. Maules Creek Coal Mine has identified the need to relocate the current explosives storage compound as part of the approved MOP as per section 2.3.3 *‘during the MOP period the AN storage facility will be relocated to an area closer to the magazine facility.’*

It has been identified that the preferred location for the proposed compound is within a primary domain area currently classified as ‘Overburden Emplacement’. Of this designated overburden emplacement area 7.28 ha would be required for the relocation of the compound (refer **Figure 1**). The reclassification of this area to an ‘Infrastructure’ domain will not affect progressive rehabilitation shown within MOP Amendment B.

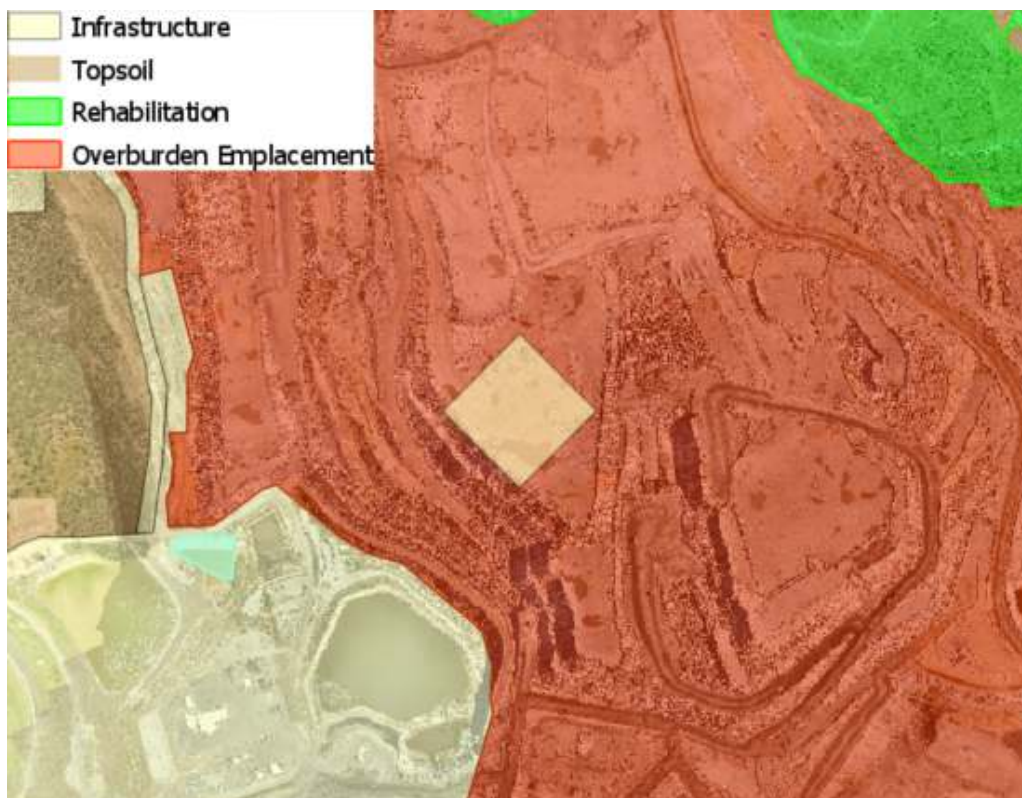


Figure 1 – Area proposed for Explosives Compound

The area proposed for the explosive storage compound is not presently displayed as an 'Infrastructure' domain in the Plan 3B (refer **Figure 2** below) however, as noted above, was described in section 2.3.3 of the MCCM MOP. This minor change would require the 7.28 ha area identified in **Figure 1** to be reclassified from the overburden emplacement domain as currently displayed, to an infrastructure domain as conceptually shown in **Figure 3** and **Figure 4**.

The proposed area will be situated approximately 10 meters below the final approved height (RL430) of the overburden emplacement, together with the footprint of the proposed compound and associated access road not impacting the progressive rehabilitation during the MOP term. The new location will provide a number of operational benefits including improved proximity for product delivery, greater efficiency for loading, greater distance from the site boundary for explosives security, and support continued mining and overburden emplacement on the eastern side of the lease area.

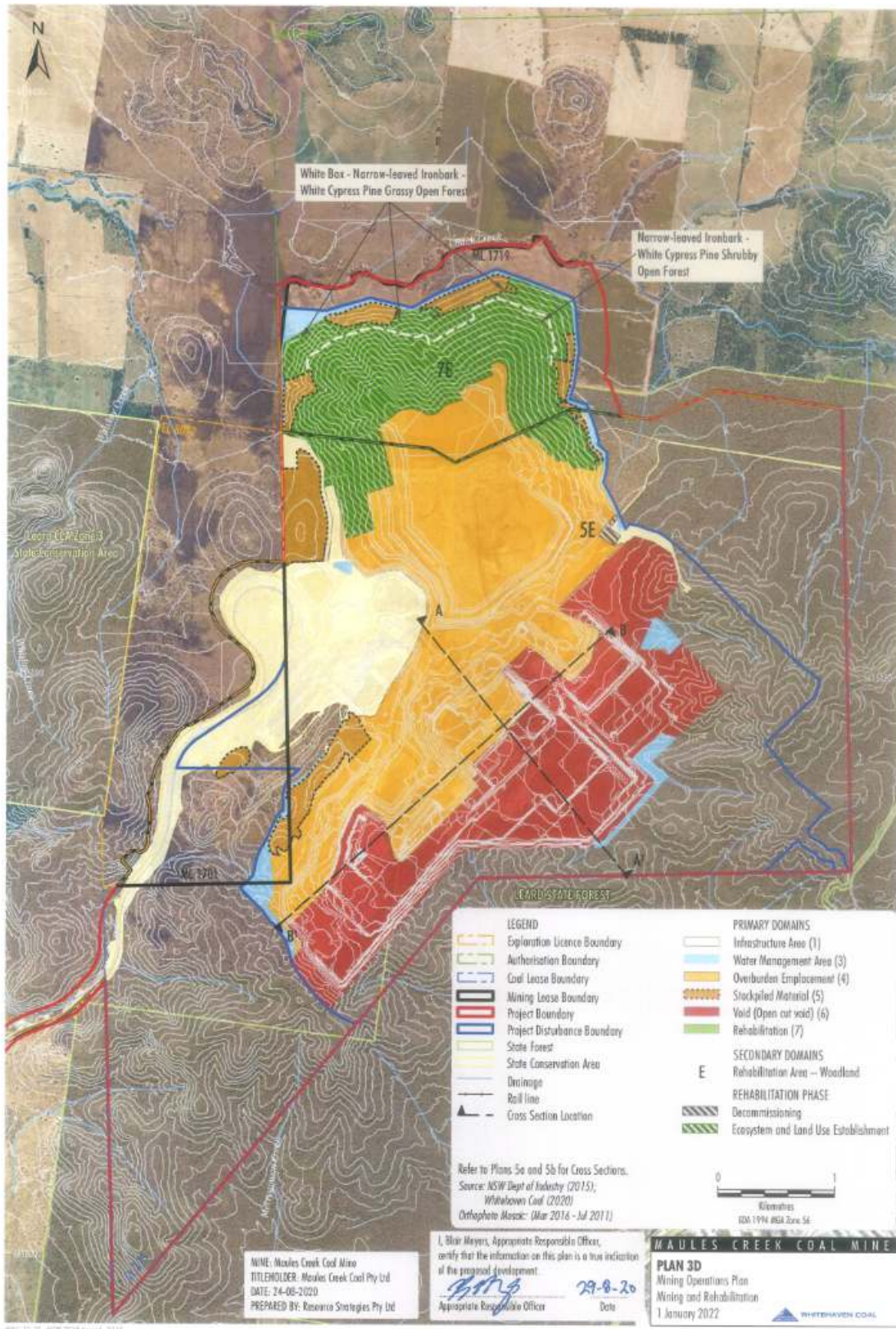


Figure 2 – Plan 3D MCC MOP Amendment B Showing Overburden Emplacement Area (Orange Shading)

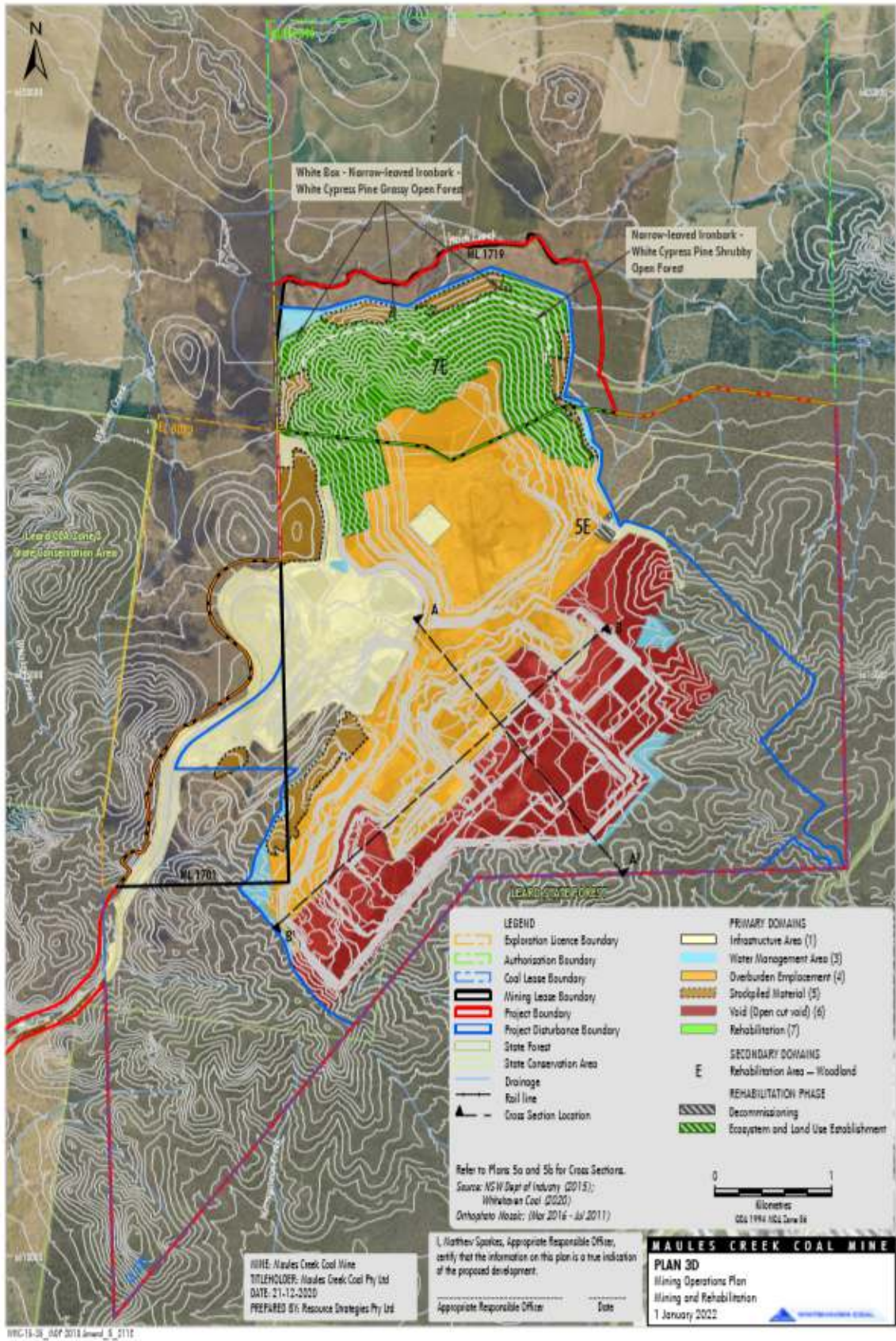


Figure 3 – Plan showing proposed amendment to MOP domains Plan 3D

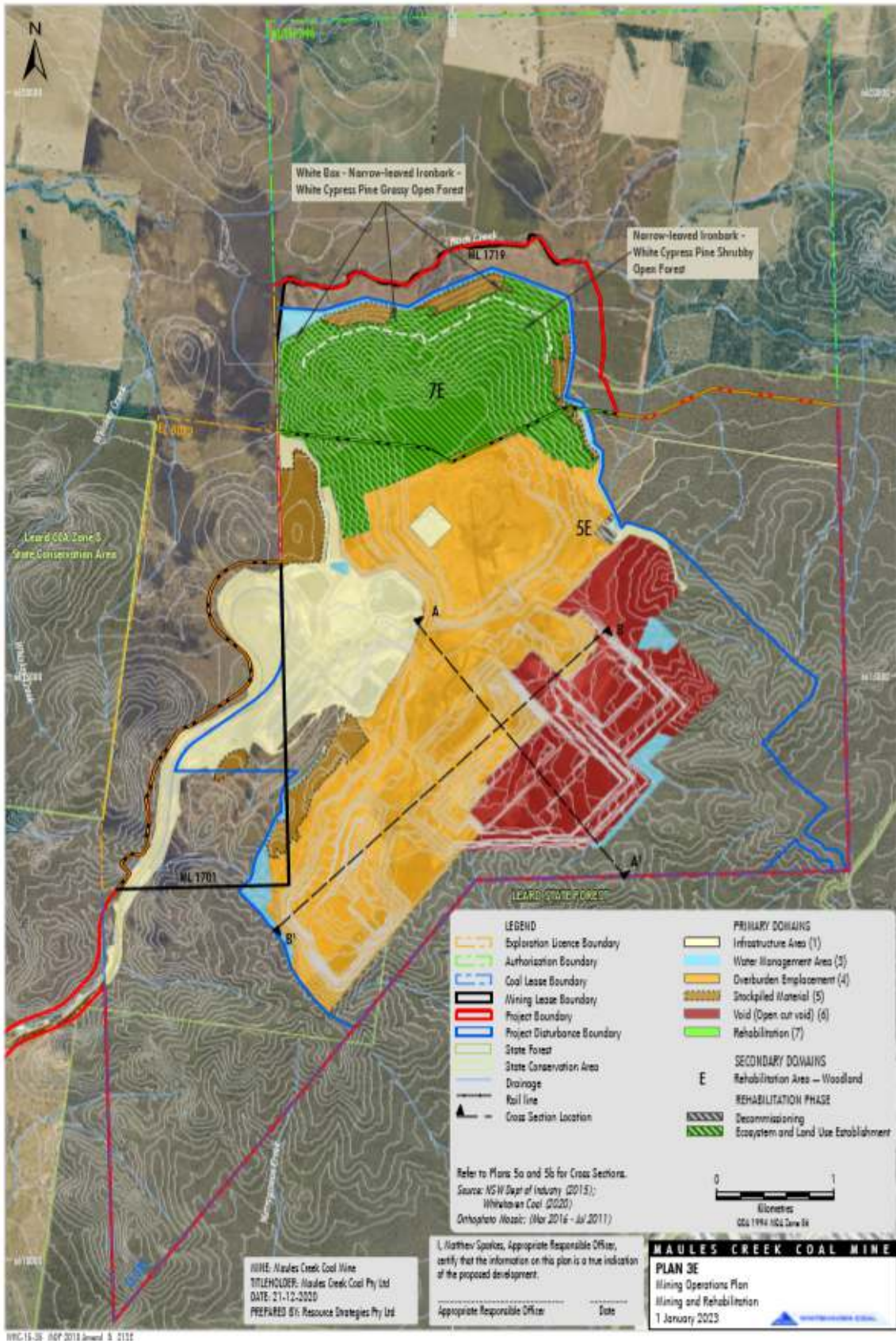


Figure 4 – Plan showing proposed amendment to MOP domains Plan 3E

MCCM is seeking the Department's approval for a letter amendment that will be appended to the MCC MOP allowing for a reclassification of a small part of the indicated overburden emplacement area to an infrastructure domain. The minor variation is not anticipated to require any change to the current Rehabilitation Security Calculation (RCE).

Your earliest consideration of this amendment request would be appreciated.

Please contact the undersigned should you have any queries.

Yours sincerely



Matthew Sparkes
Operations Manager