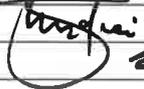


# Annual Review

## Rocglen Coal Mine

Name of operation	Rocglen Coal Mine
Name of operator	Whitehaven Coal Mining Pty Ltd
Development consent/project approval number	PA 10_0015
Name of holder of development consent/project approval	Whitehaven Coal Mining Pty Ltd
Mining lease number	ML 1620, ML 1662
Name of holder of mining lease	Whitehaven Coal Mining Pty Ltd
Water licence number	WAL29461 and WAL 36758
Name of holder of water licence	Whitehaven Coal Mining Pty Ltd
MOP start date	31 March 2019
MOP end date	30 March 2022
Annual review start date	1 <sup>st</sup> January 2020
Annual review end date	31 <sup>st</sup> December 2020
<p>I, Jacques du Toit, certify that this audit report is a true and accurate record of the compliance status of Rocglen Coal Mine for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, and that I am authorised to make this statement on behalf of Whitehaven Coal Mining Pty Ltd.</p> <p>Note. a) The Annual Review is an 'environmental audit' for the purposes of section 122B (2) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. Section 122E provides that a person must not include false or misleading information (or provide information for inclusion in) an audit report produced to the Minister in connection with an environmental audit if the person knows that the information is false or misleading in a material respect. The maximum penalty is, in the case of a corporation, \$1 million and for an individual, \$250,000.</p> <p>b) The Crimes Act 1900 contains other offences relating to false and misleading information: section 192G (Intention to defraud by false or misleading statement—maximum penalty 5 years imprisonment); sections 307A, 307B and 307C (False or misleading applications/information/documents—maximum penalty 2 years imprisonment or \$22,000, or both).</p>	
Name of authorised reporting officer	Jacques du Toit
Title of authorised reporting officer	General Manager - Open Cut Operations
Signature of authorised reporting officer	
Date	26.02.2021.

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## 1. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The compliance status of Rocglen Coal Mine (RCM) as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 is summarised in Table 1a. Table 1b notes non-compliances that occurred during the reporting period, as well as non-compliances from previous reporting periods that still require management action.

**TABLE 1A - STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE**

Were all conditions of the relevant approval(s) complied with?	
PA10_0015	No
EPL 12870 (applicable conditions above)	No
ML 1620	Yes
ML 1662	Yes
WAL 29461	Yes
WAL 36758	Yes

**TABLE 1 - NON-COMPLIANCES**

Relevant Approval	Condition, Schedule and Number	Condition Description (summary)	Compliance Status	Comment	Where Addressed in Annual Review
PA 10_0015	Schedule 2(2)	The proponent shall carry out the project generally in accordance with the: - EA; - Statement of commitments; - The conditions of this approval	NC	Non-compliances with approval detailed below.	Section 11.2
	Schedule 2(8)	Prior to the surrender of Project Approval 06_0198 the conditions of that approval will prevail to the extent of any inconsistency between the two approvals.	NC	Project Approval 06_0198 surrender has been submitted.	Section 11.2
	Schedule 3 (15)	Particulate matter PM10, 24 limit of <50 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	NC	4 daily exceedances were reported	Section 11.2
EPL 12870	Scheduled Activity	Mining Coal >500,000 - 2,000,000 T annual production	NC	No Coal mined due to closure of operations.	Section 11.2

### Compliance status key for Table 1

Risk level	Colour code	Description
<b>High</b>	Non-compliant	Non-compliance with potential for significant environmental consequences, regardless of the likelihood of occurrence
<b>Medium</b>	Non-compliant	Non-compliance with: • potential for serious environmental consequences, but is unlikely to occur; or • potential for moderate environmental consequences, but is likely to occur
<b>Low</b>	Non-compliant	Non-compliance with: • potential for moderate environmental consequences, but is unlikely to occur; or • potential for low environmental consequences, but is likely to occur
<b>Administrative non-compliance</b>	Non-compliant	Only to be applied where the non-compliance does not result in any risk of environmental harm (e.g. submitting a report to government later than required under approval conditions)

## 2. INTRODUCTION

This is the twelfth Annual Review (AR), previously Annual Environmental Management Report, produced for the RCM, and it has been prepared in accordance with Conditions 4 and 5 of Mining Lease (ML1620) (Mining Act 1992), Condition 4 of Mining Lease (ML1662) and Condition 3 Schedule 5 of PA 10\_0015, as modified. This report covers the period between the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 and the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. The AR follows the format required by the NSW Government Annual Review Guideline (October, 2015).

The RCM is located approximately 28km north of Gunnedah (refer Figure 1 ). The RCM is owned by Whitehaven Coal Limited (WCL) and operated by Whitehaven Coal Mining Pty Ltd (WCMPL).

The RCM was initially approved on the 15<sup>th</sup> April 2008 under PA 06\_0198 with a minor modification (PA 06\_0198 MOD1) granted in May 2010 to address highwall stability issues. Whitehaven submitted a Project Application, and accompanying Environmental Assessment, under Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* in March 2010. PA 10\_0015 was issued on the 27<sup>th</sup> September 2011 and allows for additional extraction of up to 5 million tonnes of coal at a maximum recovery rate of 1.5 million tonnes per annum (i.e. increased project life of the operation of coal extraction by up to four years).

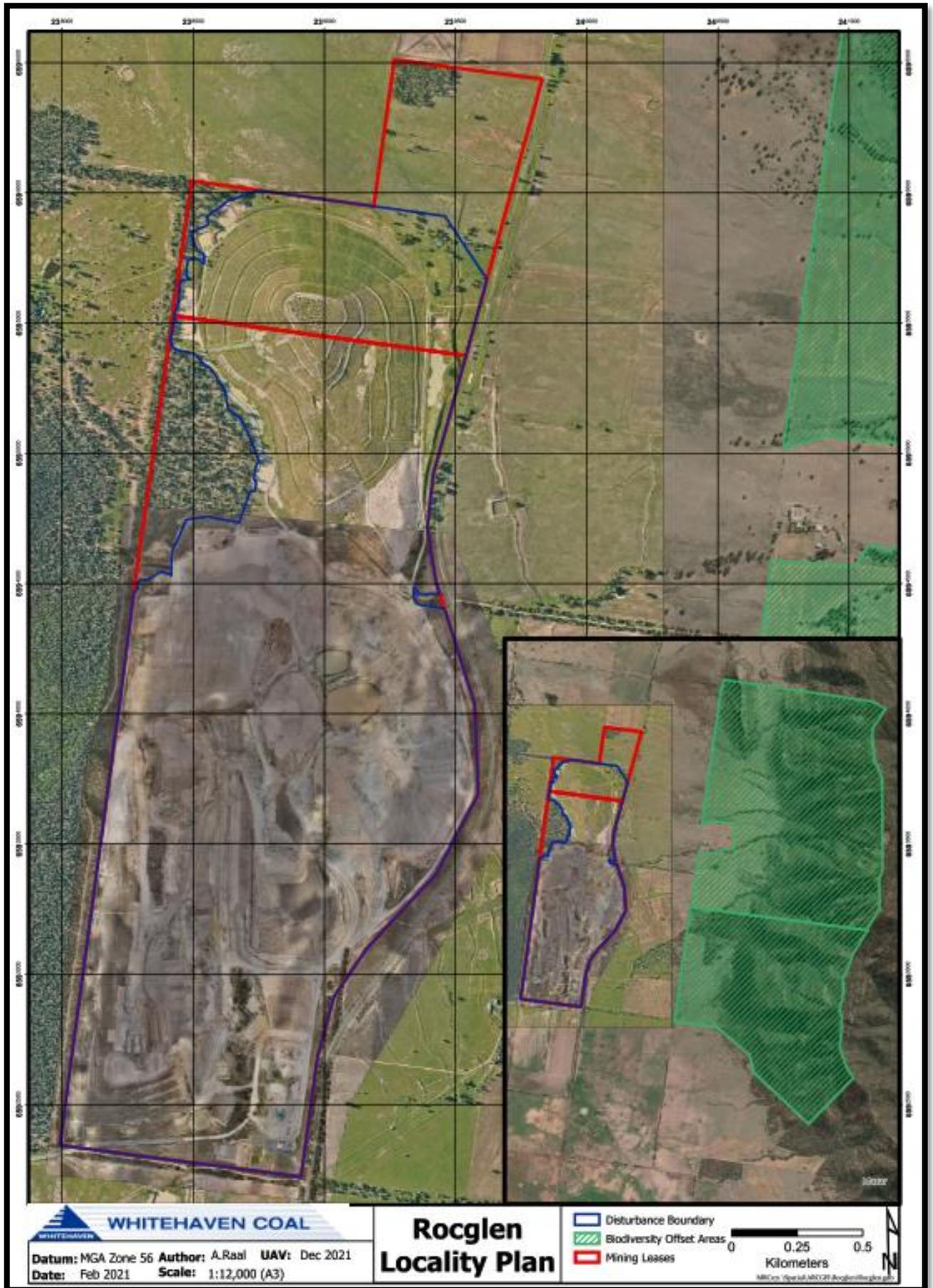
PA 10\_0015 was modified initially in November 2014 to condition cumulative coal haulage from the Tarrawonga/Vickery/Rocglen mines. In August 2015 another modification was made allowing changes to coal reject haulage to the site. During February 2017, PA10\_0015 was modified to permit increased coal haulage during the 2017 calendar year, and then again in October 2018 to allow the continuation of the increased haulage into the 2018 calendar year.

### 2.1 Mine Contacts

The management personnel responsible for operational and environmental performance at the RCM and their relevant contact details are follows:

- Mr Jacques du Toit, Open Cut Operations - oversees Open Cut Operations for the Whitehaven Group.  
Contact: (02) 6741 9325.
- Mr Daryl Robinson, Closed Mines and Rehabilitation Manager - retains statutory responsibility for mining activities at the site. Contact: (02) 6740 7000
- Mr Andrew Raal, Mine Rehabilitation & Closure Officer – oversees day to day environmental and rehabilitation performance across the site. Contact: (02) 6740 7009

Figure 1 Site Locality showing Biobank offset areas



### 3. APPROVALS

#### 3.1 Tenements, Licences and Approvals

Table 2 identifies the approvals in place for the RCM at the end of the reporting period, the issuing/responsible Authority, dates of issue, expiry date and relevant comments.

**TABLE 1 - TENEMENTS, LICENCES AND APPROVALS**

Responsible Authority	Type of Lease, Licence, Approval	Date of Issue	Expiry	Comments
Department of Planning and Environment (DP&E)	Project Approval PA10_0015	27 <sup>th</sup> September 2011	31 <sup>st</sup> December 2022	-
Environment Protection Authority (EPA)	Environment Protection Licence 12870 (EPL12870)	31 <sup>st</sup> July 2008	N/A Anniversary Date: 31 <sup>st</sup> July	Application for licence relinquishment in next reporting year
Department of Environment – Division of Resources and Geoscience (DRG)	ML1620	10 <sup>th</sup> June 2008	10 <sup>th</sup> June 2029	-
Department of Environment – Division of Resources and Geoscience (DRG)	ML1662	9 <sup>th</sup> January 2012	9 <sup>th</sup> January 2033	-
Division of Resources and Geoscience (DRG)	Mining Operations Plan (MOP)	31 March 2019	31 March 2022	-
Department of Primary Industries – Water (DPI Water)	WAL 29461	25 <sup>th</sup> October 2012	In perpetuity	-
Department of Primary Industries – Water (DPI Water)	WAL 36758	4 <sup>th</sup> September 2014	In perpetuity	-

## 4. OPERATIONS SUMMARY

### 4.1 Mining Operations

TABLE 2 - PRODUCTION SUMMARY

Material	Approved Limit	Previous Reporting Period (actual)	This Reporting Period (actual)	Next Reporting Period (forecast)
Waste Rock/Overburden	N/A	2,283,080 bcm	1598760 bcm	500000
ROM Coal/Ore	1,500,000 t	470,119 t	0	0
Reject Material <sup>1</sup>	700,000 t	313,089 t	0	0
Saleable Product	N/A	388,989 t	0	0

<sup>1</sup>RCM does not separately record course and fine reject volumes.

### 4.2 Other Operations

#### 4.2.1 Hours of Operations

RCM hours of operation during the reporting period were within Project Approval limits, which permit mining 24 hours per day Monday to Saturday, with the exclusion of public holidays. Blasting is restricted to 9:00am – 5:00pm Monday to Saturday. As of the first of July 2019 the shifts at Rocglen were minimised in line with the transition from coal production to rehabilitation. Currently the mine operates one shift, a 9.5 hour day shift on weekdays (7am – 4:30pm). Other ancillary tasks and maintenance activities may have extended hours.

#### 4.2.2 Coal Haulage

For the reporting period there were no haulage movements for ROM coal or receipt of Coal rejects.

#### 4.2.3 Exploration

No exploration drilling was undertaken on the Mining Lease (ML1620, ML 1622) during the reporting period, and none planned for the next 12 months.

### 4.3 Next Reporting Period

Production has now ceased for the RCM, with no coal production in the next reporting period. Any vegetation clearing activities in mining areas over the next reporting period will be conducted in accordance with the approved MOP and associated Management Plans.

## 5. ACTIONS REQUIRED FROM PREVIOUS ANNUAL REVIEW

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Resources Regulator Department of primary industry (DPIE-RR) issued no request for any changes.

## 6. ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

The following sub-sections document the implementation and effectiveness of the various control strategies adopted by RCM, together with monitoring data for the reporting period. Life of mine monitoring data is included as appendices to this AR, where relevant, to allow for discussion on longer-term trends.

### 6.1 Air Quality

#### 6.1.1 Criteria

The air quality criteria applicable to RCM are specified in PA 10\_0015 and summarised below.

**TABLE 3 - AIR QUALITY CRITERIA**

Air Quality Type	Criteria
Acceptable Mean Annual Increase in Deposited Dust	2 g/m <sup>2</sup> /month
Mean Annual Dust Deposition (all sources)	4 g/m <sup>2</sup> /month
Mean Annual Total Suspended Particulate (TSP) Matter (all sources) Concentration	90 µg/m <sup>3</sup>
Mean Annual PM <sub>10</sub> Particulate Level	30 µg/m <sup>3</sup>
24hr Average PM <sub>10</sub> Particulate Level	50 µg/m <sup>3</sup>



## 6.1.2 Environmental Management Measures

Monitoring of Deposited Dust is undertaken on a monthly basis, whilst PM<sub>10</sub> levels are monitored every 6 days. Table 6.1.2a and Figure 3 below present a summary of the Deposited Dust monitoring data.

TABLE 6.1.2A - DEPOSITED DUST RESULTS

Site	EPL I.D. No.	Property Name	Annual Mean Total Insoluble Solids (g/m <sup>2</sup> /month)	Annual Mean Ash %	Long Term Insoluble Solids Average
BD3		Belah	1.5	0.9	1.8
BD4	4	Surrey	3.4	1.8	1.4
BD5		Stratford	1.8	1.0	1.4
BD6	6	Roseberry	1.8	1.1	1.2
BD7		Roseglass	2.2	1.2	1.6
BD8		Yarrowonga	1.8	1.0	2.2
BD2-A		Penryn	4.9	3.1	3.5

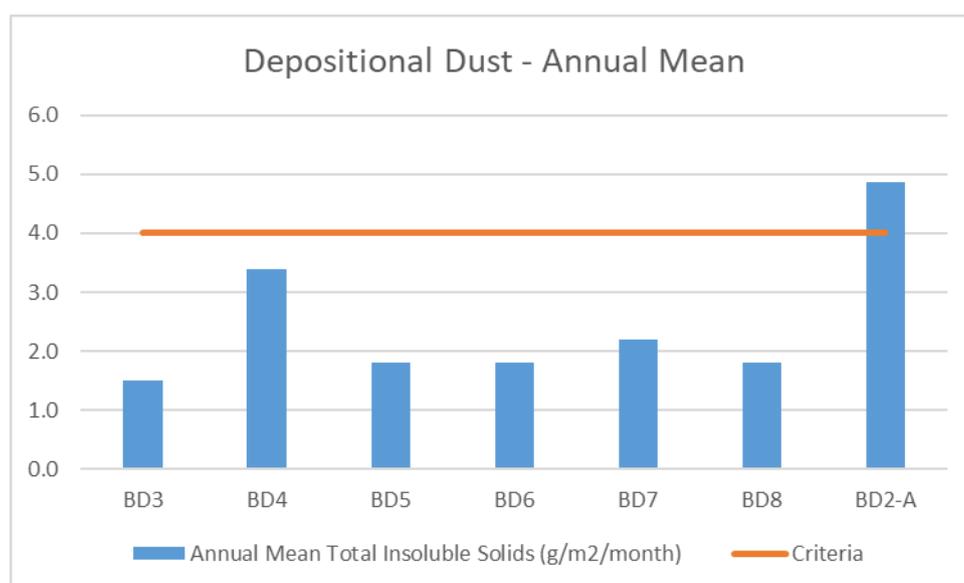


Figure 3 - Annual average depositional dust

A review of the above, shows that the annual average limit for deposited dust was below the set criteria at all sites except BD2-A (Penryn). High dust insoluble solid readings of readings of 30 and 14.6 g/m<sup>2</sup>/month were recorded in January and February 2020 respectively. The high reading were due to regional dust storms and bushfires as well as large number of sheep in the paddock with the monitor. January had an ash content of 26.4%.

RCM has two High Volume Air Samplers (HVAS) (PM<sub>10</sub>), one located to the north of the mine on the project related property 'Costa Vale', and the other, a licenced monitor (EPL ID - 10) to the south-east of the mine on 'Roseberry' (a privately owned property under private agreement).

Figures 4 and 5 display the PM10 24hr results for 'Costa Vale' and 'Roseberry' respectively. The 'Costa Vale' HVAS recorded nine exceedances of the 24 hour criteria throughout the calendar year, while the 'Roseberry' TEOM exceeded the 24 hour criteria four times. Exceedances of the daily limit were communicated to DPIE and were deemed to be have been caused by regional dust storms and bushfire smoke.

Two datasets, one including all results and one excluding extraordinary event days for the purposes of compliance as per DPIE's previous advice.

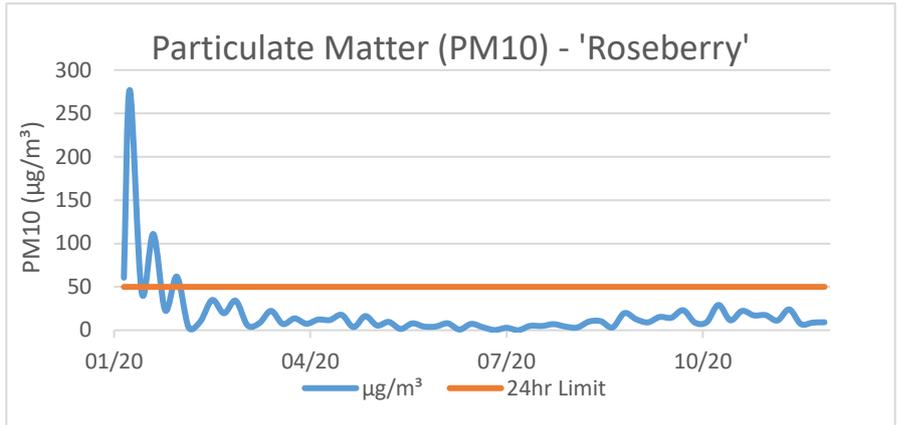
The dates identified by the North West Slopes Regional reports as being extraordinary event days and therefore excluded from the data set were 1, 4, 5, 9, 11, 20, 21, 23, 25 of January and 3, 19 February and 20<sup>th</sup> October, as well as extraordinary events from 2019 that impact the annual rolling average.

**TABLE 6.1.2B - PM10 SUMMARY DATA**

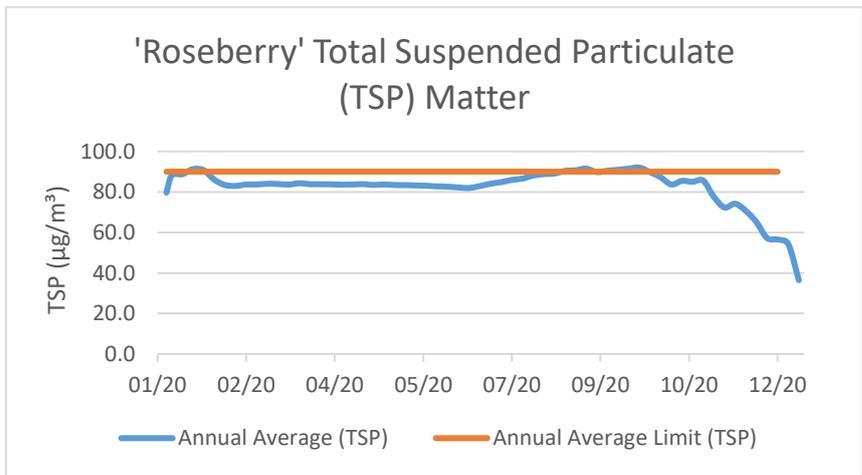
<b>PM10 Summary</b>				
<b>Sites</b>	<b>Costa Vale- Full data set</b>	<b>Costa Vale -excluding extraordinary events</b>	<b>Roseberry- Full data set</b>	<b>Roseberry- excluding extraordinary events</b>
No. of readings	61	58	61	57
No. days above criteria	9	6	4	0
Maximum	808	232	277	44.4
Minimum	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Average	43.8	23.7	19.3	11.7

**Roseberry** results from March 2020 were within guideline limits baring one event in October. With the extraordinary events removed, the site was compliant to guidelines. Note the twelve month moving average for particulate matter PM10 was influenced up to February 2020 by high dust and smoke impact from November and December 2019 (Figures 4-9).

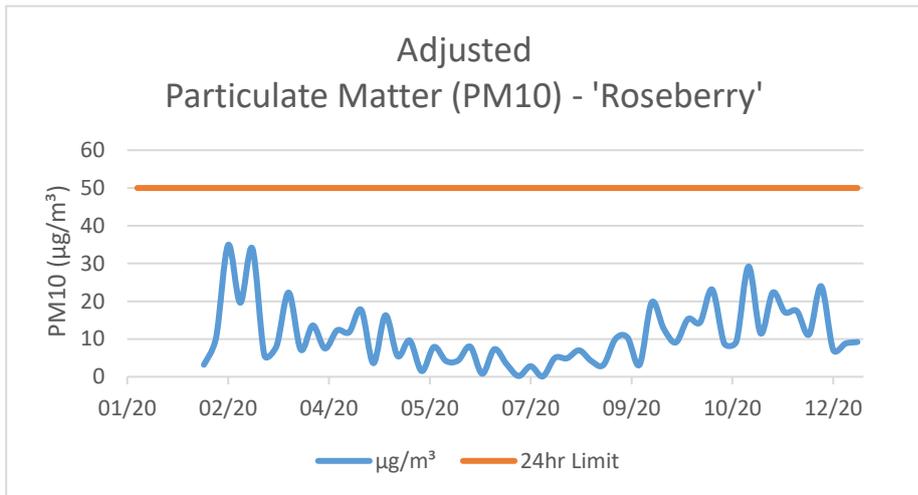
Costa vale results were impacted by extraordinary events the drought and large number of livestock kept in the paddock where the HVAS monitor is located. Particulate matter (PM10) outside of the January and February regions dust storms and bushfires and two elevated reading in March 2020 were below guideline levels (Figures 10- 15).



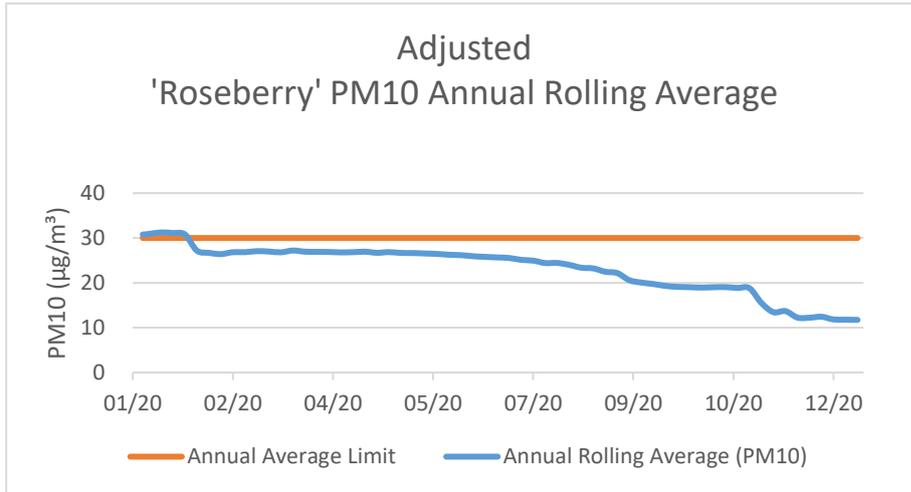
**Figure 4- 'Roseberry' Particulate Matter (PM10)**



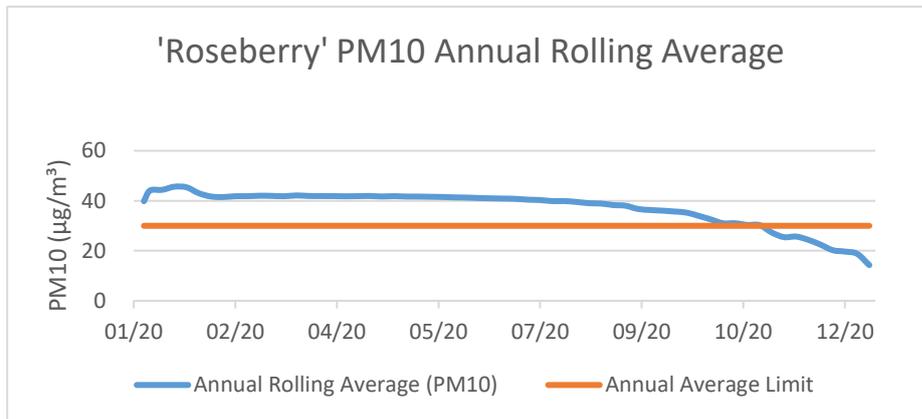
**Figure 5 – 'Roseberry' PM10 12 month moving average**



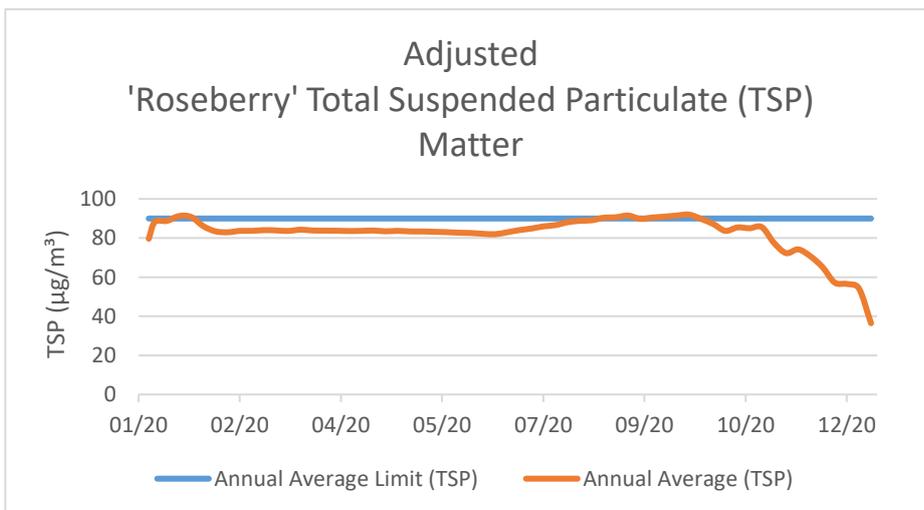
**Figure 6 – 'Roseberry' Total Suspended Particulate Matter**



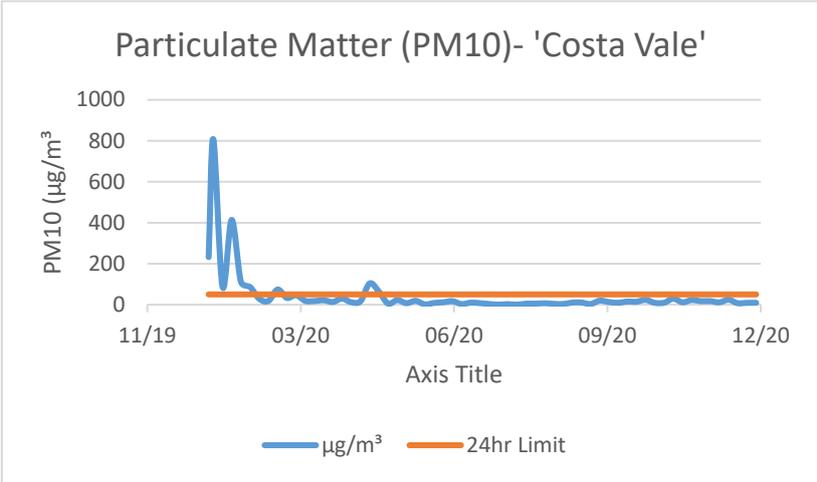
**Figure 7- 'Roseberry' Particulate Matter (PM10) - Adjusted**



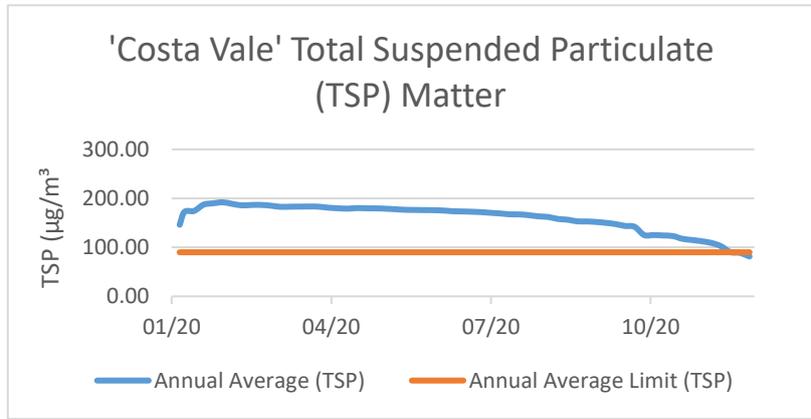
**Figure 8 – 'Roseberry' PM10 12 month moving average - Adjusted**



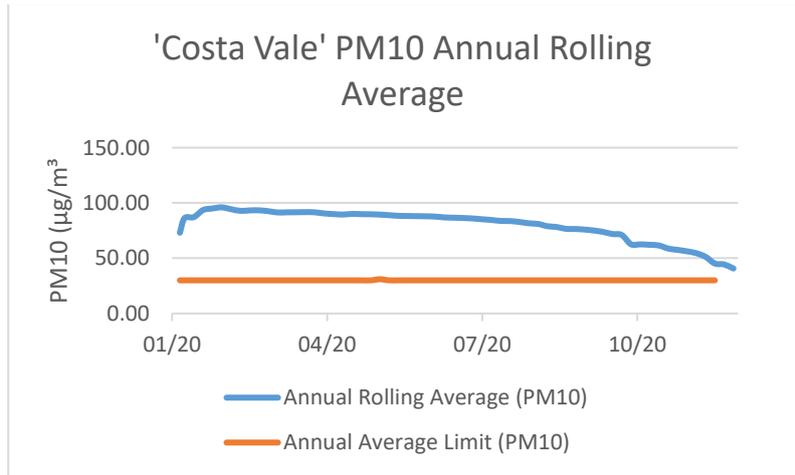
**Figure 9 – 'Roseberry' Total Suspended Particulate Matter - Adjusted**



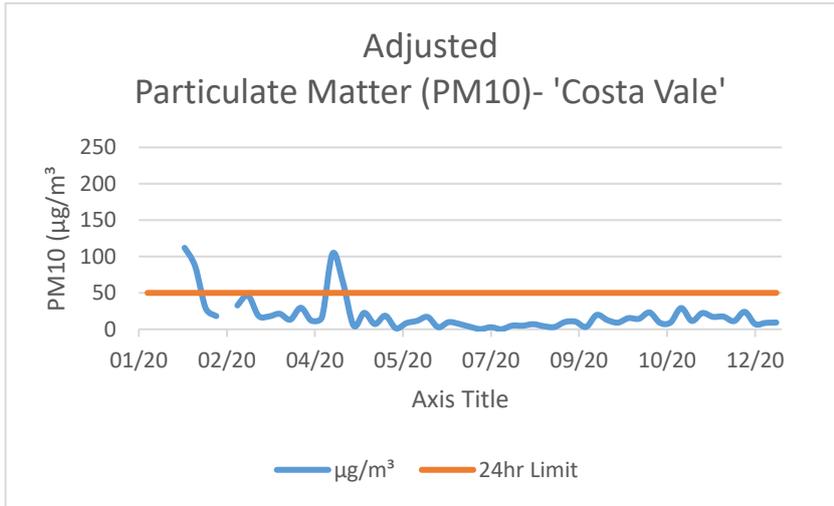
**Figure 10- 'Costa Vale' Particulate Matter (PM10) - Adjusted**



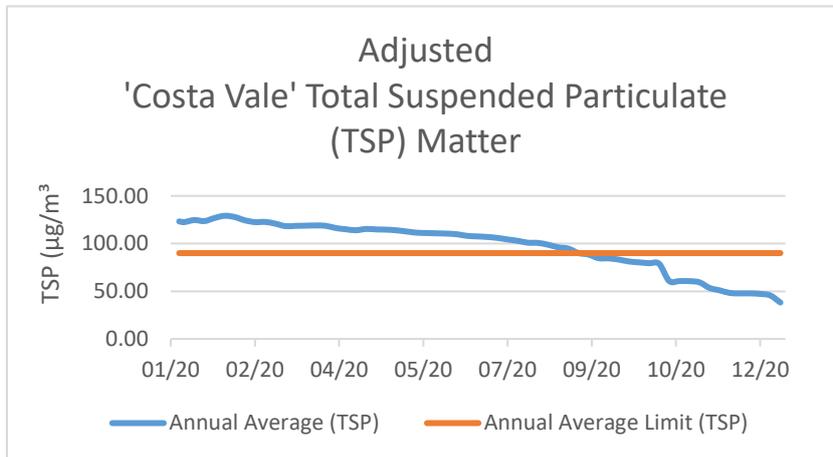
**Figure 11 – 'Costa Vale' PM10 12 month moving average - Adjusted**



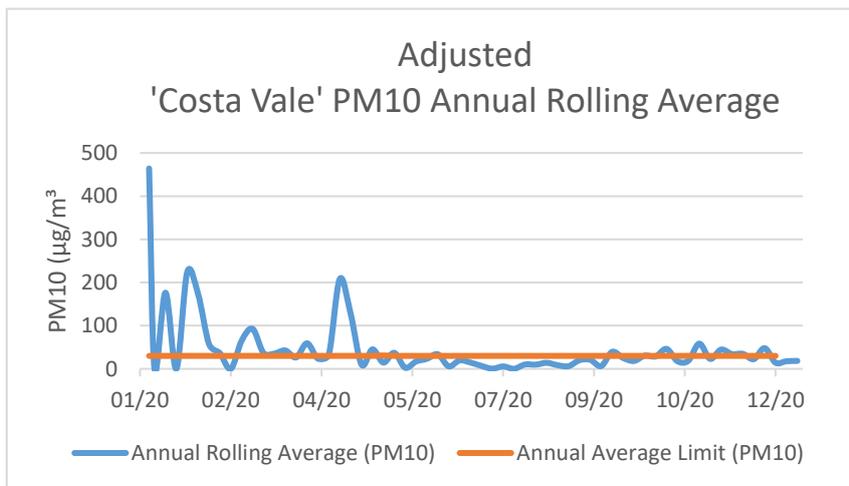
**Figure 12 –'Costa Vale' Total Suspended Particulate Matter - Adjusted**



**Figure 13- 'Costa Vale' Particulate Matter (PM10) - Adjusted**



**Figure 14 – 'Costa Vale' PM10 12 month moving average - Adjusted**



**Figure 15 –'Costa Vale' Total Suspended Particulate Matter - Adjusted**

### 6.1.3 Long Term Trends

Dispersion modelling undertaken for the Rocglen Extension Project Environmental Assessment (EA) (PAEHolmes, 2011) predicted that depositional dust would comply with assessment criteria at all nearby residential properties except 'Yarrowonga' (for the proposed mine extension alone). Results from this reporting period, along with those in past years, are generally consistent with the prediction.

Modelling predicted only one exceedance a year at 'Roseberry' and 'Glenroc', and it was noted cumulative 24-hour impacts were unlikely to arise (PAEHolmes, 2011). The EA noted that in conditions of significant high winds and dust storms, the proportional contribution of mining activities to the total PM10 concentration would be low (PAEHolmes, 2011). The elevated results of this period displays the actual effects of these regional events on dust levels. As the mine site has now ceased production and earthworks are limited to day shift only with reduced equipment on site local contribution from mining has decreased. Bulk haulage of material for rehabilitation will conclude by end 2021.

### 6.1.4 Key Environmental Performance/Management Issues

The early part of the reporting period included dry conditions and bushfires continuing into March 2021. This caused regional air quality issues which affected air quality monitoring resulting in several exceedances of criteria. As described in Section 5.1.2 *measurements taken on days of extraordinary events can be excluded and therefore not considered in annual averaging calculations*. Monitoring results were mostly within criteria when extraordinary events were removed, however Costa Vale had ongoing exceedances of criteria which is considered to be a result of the ongoing dry conditions at the time and placement of a large flock of sheep in the paddock where the dust monitor is situated.

### 6.1.5 Proposed Improvements to Environmental Management

None proposed for the next reporting period as dust monitors have been working correctly and site activity will be decreasing, with large areas rehabilitated and seeded which would further reduce potential dust generation.

## 6.2 Onsite Biodiversity

### 6.2.1 Introduction

A detailed annual ecological assessment of rehabilitated areas and analogue sites was undertaken by Aspect Ecology Pty Ltd in October 2020. Monitoring was undertaken using the Whitehaven Annual Rehabilitation Monitoring Methodology (WARMM—Aspect Ecology 2020a).

Monitoring comprised:

- Repeat monitoring of three newly established 'best-on-offer' (OEH 2019) local analogue sites established in Vickery State Forest, situated in the target vegetation community of Narrow-leaved Ironbark - cypress pine - White Box shrubby open forest (Plant Community Type ID 592 in the BioNet Vegetation Classification System).
- Establishment of three pasture reference sites, two of which were co-located with the reference plots that used historical methodologies, and a third established as a pasture analogue for hillsides
- Thirteen repeat rehabilitation sites, first surveyed in 2019, comprising:

- Nine Woodland Domain Sites, capturing all extant years seeded (2013–16). Two of these sites were formerly within the Pasture Domain and assessed using the Pasture Methodology.
- Four Pasture Domain sites capturing all years seeded 2014–16.
- Twenty-five categorical Rehabilitation Point Assessments across the rehabilitation, aimed at further improving rehabilitation data spatial coverage. The RPA methodology (Aspect Ecology 2020a) was modified to incorporate an assessment of tree seedling survival.

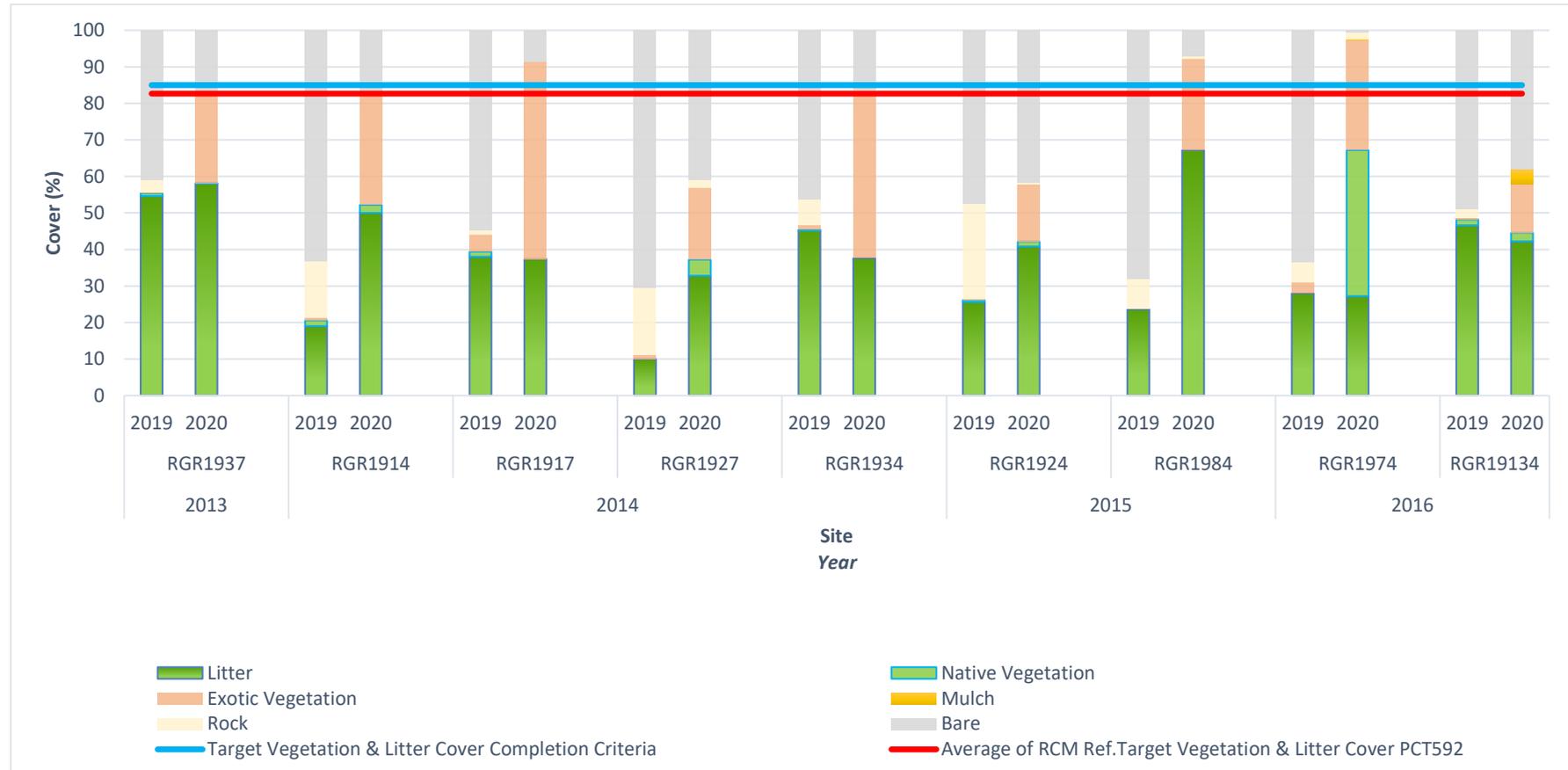
## 6.2.2 Woodland Domain

### **Groundcover**

Native vegetation, leaf litter and mulch are collectively termed “vegetative surface cover” (CMOP tbl 18 & 26). The completion criteria state that vegetative surface cover is to be greater than 85% (CMOP tbl 18). As exotic vegetation is at odds with the Woodland Domain objective, only the combined contribution of litter and native vegetation was assessed as contributing to the cover target. This minimum target is very close to the average across the 2020 analogue site average of 82.6% ( $\pm 2.9\%$ — **Figure 16**).

Among rehabilitation sites assessed in 2020, vegetative surface cover (excluding living exotic vegetation) ranged between 37.6% ( $\pm 4.1\%$ ) at the 2014 site RGR1934, and 67.2% ( $\pm 6.4\%$ ) at the 2015 site RGR1984 (**Figure 16**). This latter site also saw the greatest year-to-year increase (43.6%). All other sites saw increases in vegetative surface cover also, apart from the 2014 sites RGR1917 which remained similar to 2019, and RGR1934 which decreased by 8.8%. All values were below the minimum completion criteria value of 85%.

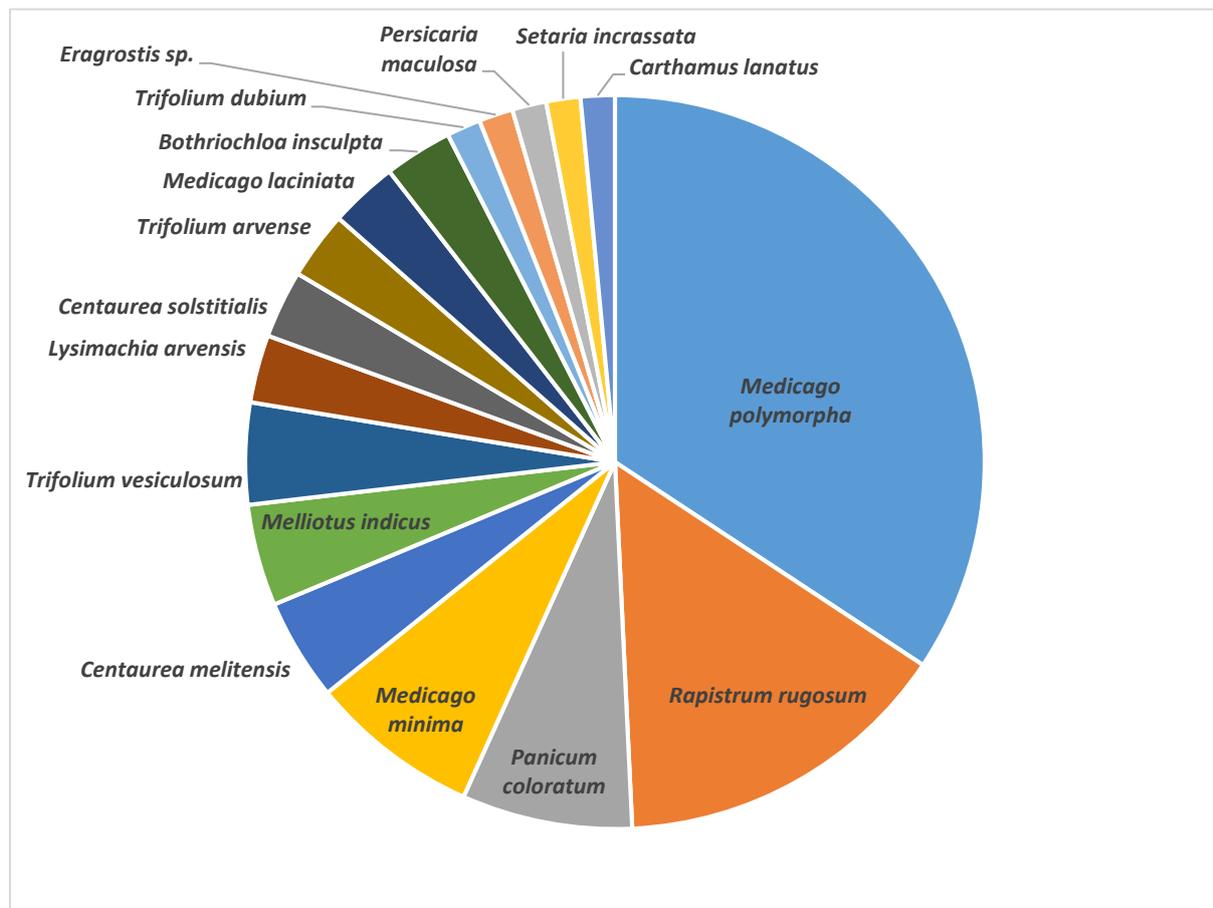
Whitehaven Coal Mining Pty Limited Rocglen Coal Mine Annual Review



**Figure 16 Average Percentage Cover of Groundcover Components within each Woodland Domain Rehabilitation Year at Rocglen Coal Mine, comparing the 2019 and 2020 Monitoring Seasons.**

**Species Composition and Relative Abundance**

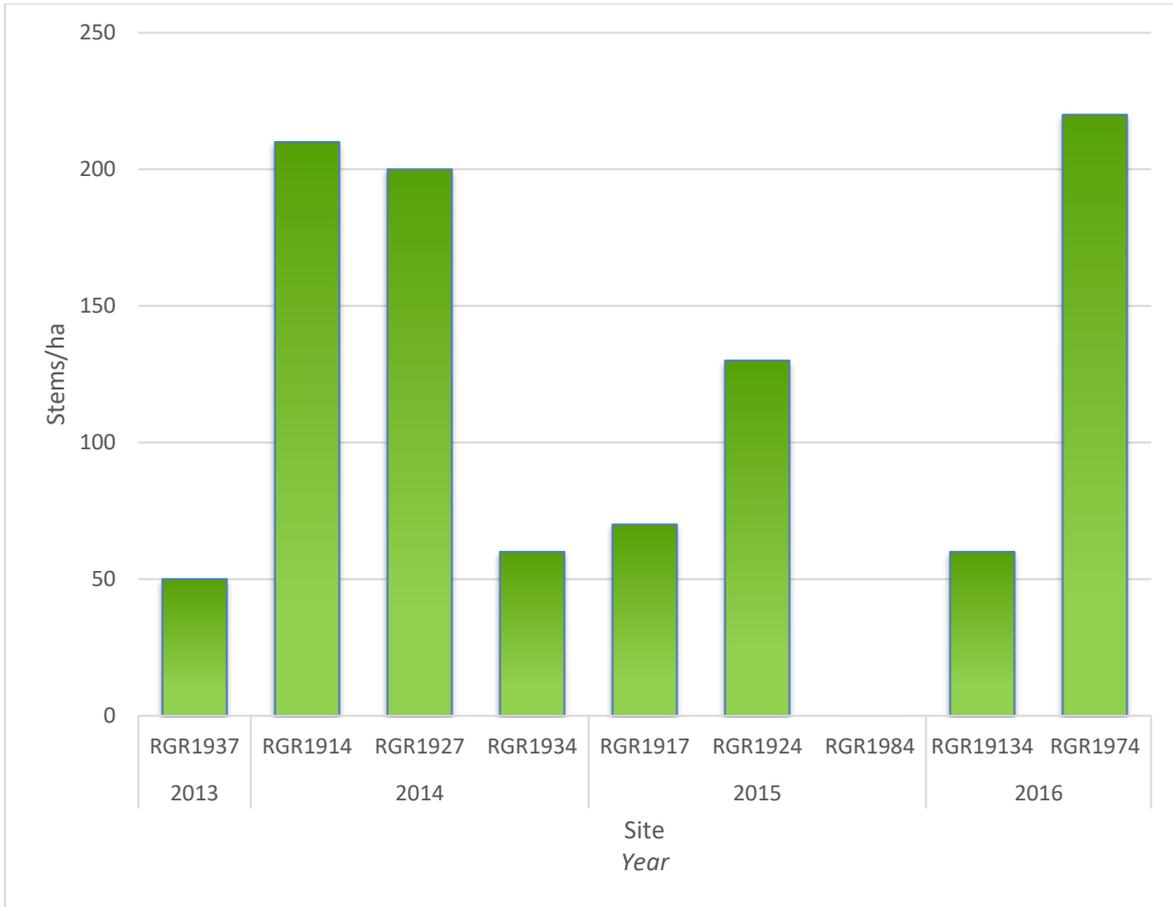
All species with a cover of  $\geq 5\%$  were exotic species, comprised of pasture legumes, weeds and perennial grasses (**Figure 11**). The most abundant group in terms of cover was the medics (*Medicago* spp.), with *Medicago polymorpha* comprising approximately a third of all plant cover. By far most abundant weed was turnip weed (*Rapistrum rugosum*), and thistles were also common. The exotic Coolah Grass (*Panicum coloratum* var. *makarikariense*) was the most abundant grass (**Figure 11**). Chenopods were the most common native species group, but never covered more than 2% at any particular site (*data not shown*).



**Figure 11** Relative cover across all Woodland Domain Sites of Species comprising  $\geq 5\%$  cover within a site.

**< 2m tall Tree density**

Less than two-metre-tall tree density comprised entirely of seedlings, almost all of which were planted in 2020, with a few individuals from previous planting campaigns. All sites bar one were observed to have seedlings present. Three sites (two from 2014 and one from 2016) had seedling densities  $\geq 200$  stems/ha (**Figure 12**). One site from 2015 rehabilitation has a density of 130 stems/ha while the remainder had lower densities in the range of 50–70 stems/ha. Due to an extensive planting campaign, all densities observed were substantially higher than those recorded in 2019, when just two sites had 10 stems/ha and the remainder of sites had no seedlings. **Figure 13** presents these 2019 monitoring season results for the purpose of comparison.



**Figure 12** Density of tree seedlings within rehabilitation sites at Rocglen Coal Mine in 2020, grouped by year seeded. Note that sites RGR1937 and RGR19134 were converted from Pasture to Woodland Domain in 2020.



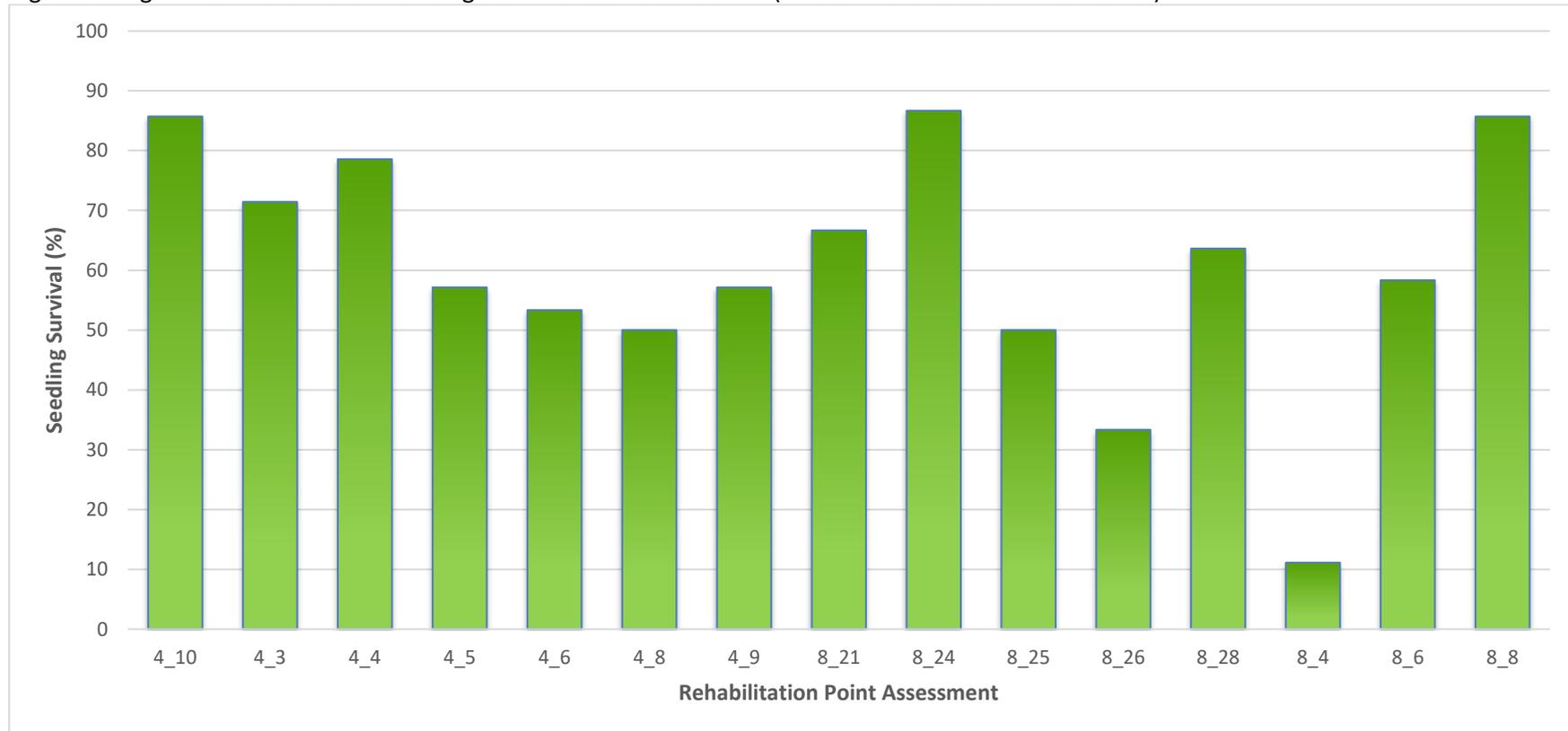
**Figure 13** Density of tree seedlings within rehabilitation sites at Rocglen Coal Mine in 2019, grouped by year seeded. Note that site RGR1964 was within rehabilitation that was de-habilitated in 2020.

Forty-two percent (42%) of Rehabilitation Point Assessment (RPAs— Aspect Ecology 2020a) within the Woodland Domain at RCM were assessed as having no tree seedlings in the vicinity. When present, seedlings were most frequently classified as “occasional” (21% of RPAs). The maximum rating of “abundant” was recorded at 11% of RPAs (**Table 6.2.4a**).

**TABLE 6.2.4a CATEGORICAL ABUNDANCE OF SEEDLINGS AS A PERCENTAGE OF 2020 RPA SITES IN THE ROCGLLEN WOODLAND DOMAIN**

Abundance	Percentage of RPAs
1 - absent	42%
2 - rare	5%
3 - occasional	21%
4 - frequent	16%
5 - common	5%
6 - abundant	11%

The RPA methodology (Aspect Ecology 2020a) was modified to incorporate an assessment of tree seedling survival. This methodology was applied to areas of the conservation domain planted with seedlings in 2020. Seedling survival was estimated to be at or above 50% for all 2020 plantings, with the highest being at 87% and the overall average survival estimated at 61% (Error! Reference source not found.).



**Figure 20 Seedling Survival Estimates based on RPAs within the Woodland Domain at Rocglen Mine**

### **Retreatment requirements**

The RPA methodology (Aspect Ecology 2020a) indicated that 42% of the areas represented by RPA sites did not require any treatment at this stage (**Table 6.2.2b**). For close to a half the locations, supplementary plantings of tree seedlings is recommended. Slightly over 10% of areas were deemed to be failing and therefore ploughing and reseeding is warranted.

**TABLE 6.2.2B RETREATMENT REQUIREMENTS WITHIN THE WOODLAND DOMAIN AT ROCGLLEN, AS ASSESED USING THE RPA METHODOLOGY**

Treatment	Percentage of Sites
None	42%
Plough and reseed	11%
Tubestock seedlings	47%

### 6.2.3 Fauna

Few fauna habitat features were noted, and the lack of maturing trees resulted in very low vertical complexity. Animals sighted included Eastern Grey Kangaroos and Wallaroos. Sites showed traces (prints, scats) of feral such as fox, hare and occasionally pig.

### 6.2.4 Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- 2020 tree seedling plantings be monitored for health and regularly watered as necessary;
- carry out additional seedling planting where there has been high seedling mortality, or in sections of the Woodland Domain yet to receive successful replanting
- take steps improve native groundcover diversity, using species recorded in the analogue sites, once the necessary techniques are determined.

## **6.3 Biodiversity Offset Area (BOA) Management**

The approved WHC Biobank Biodiversity Offset Management Plan (BOMP, 2013) outlines the Biodiversity Offset Strategy requiring 1,524ha of native woodland to be maintained and improved on the Yarrari and Belah properties (collective known as Biobank BOA) with subsequent biobanking credits retired relating to the Rocglen Coal Mine, Canyon Coal Mine and Tarrawonga Coal Mines.

### 6.3.1 Offset Security Management

The WHC Biobank BOA was secured under a NSW Biobanking Agreement (now converted to Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016). The BOMP outlines the intention to transfer the property to the National Parks Estate as an addition to the Boonalla Aboriginal Area (formerly Kelvin State Forest) after Year 10 (~2023).

### 6.3.2 Infrastructure Management

All Biobank BOA fences, gates and signage were maintained to continue restricting unauthorised access and prevent inadvertent livestock grazing. During the reporting period, maintenance to flood damaged fences was

undertaken. There was no waste or infrastructure removal on the Biobank BOAs during this reporting period. All identified items will be removed prior to transfer to National Park Estate.

### 6.3.3 Seed Management

Routine seed assessments completed for the Biobank BOA identified a turnaround in climatic conditions across the region due to the above average rainfall in 2020. The routine seed assessments aim to identify on a seasonal basis the life cycle stage and development of native plants to identify what, where, when and how to target appropriate resources to collect seed for future revegetation programs. A total of 2 species were collected resulting in 9 grams of local provident seed to the Biobank BOA. As part of the WHC group wide revegetation planning; the onsite collected seed was supplemented with commercially sourced local and regional provident seed by reputable seed collectors. A local revegetation provider was engaged to propagate the seed to produce Box Gum and non-EEC/CEEC Woodland overstorey species seedlings required for the 2020 revegetation program completed as well as planning for the 2021 revegetation program for the Biobank BOA.

### 6.3.4 Revegetation Management

The revegetation schedule within Biobanking Agreement 43 requires enhancement planting to occur between Year 7 (2020) and 10. During the reporting period, revegetation ground preparation utilised tractors and excavators to auger holes (to a depth >0.3m) to relieve compaction, improve permeability and infiltration to increase sub-surface soil moisture for planting during May 2020. WHC coordinated an enhancement (overstorey) revegetation program in September 2020 across the Biobank BOA covering 93ha planted with 1,759 hiko seedlings of *Eucalyptus albens*, *Eucalyptus blakelyi*, *Eucalyptus melliodora* and *Angophora floribunda*. Combined with good seasonal conditions, routine tree watering and maintenance activities post planting have been successful to ensure that over 90% survival has been achieved for the Biobank BOA which is commensurate with the target Woodland vegetation structure.

### 6.3.5 Heritage Management

During the reporting period, heritage site and fencing inspections were completed for the 32 known Aboriginal cultural heritage sites within the Biobank BOA. Each site is maintained with protective fencing around the heritage site perimeter and signage to mitigate access and disturbance.

### 6.3.6 Habitat Management

During the reporting period, no specific habitat management works were undertaken.

### 6.3.7 Weed Management

WHC coordinated routine formal weed monitoring/inspections undertaken across Biobank BOA in February, May, September and November 2020. The priority weeds identified included legacy noxious weeds inherited from previous owners management regimes such as African/Consul Lovegrass, Tiger Pear and Common Prickly Pear as well as a range of broadleaf weeds within revegetation areas. The weed monitoring/inspections ensure that timely and prioritised weed control is undertaken on a seasonal basis with the spatial information directly

given to spraying contractors to identify what, where, when and how to target appropriate resources across the Biobank BOA for weed control.

During the reporting period, WHC implemented a weed control program across the Biobank BOA including 662.75ha treated between March and November 2020 targeting primarily Turnip, African/Consul Lovegrass, Buffel Grass and Broadleaf weed species as required. Only appropriately qualified and experienced weed contractors (AQF3 accreditation or higher for use of herbicide) were engaged to undertake weed control works for WHC.

### 6.3.8 Feral Animals Management

WHC coordinated routine formal feral animal monitoring across Biobank BOA in February, May, September and November 2020. The adoption of a “monitor, measure and manage” approach to feral animal management will allow WHC to implement adaptive management in response to changes being measured through monitoring in feral animal abundance specific to the different geographical regions of the Biobank BOA. Feral animal monitoring utilises the relevant methodologies for specific feral animals generally in accordance with the NSW DPI *Monitoring Techniques for Vertebrate Pests* so that a range of methods can be used such as transects/spotlighting and cameras traps where practicable and relevant to specific offset areas/properties. Monitoring demonstrated that certain animals like Eastern Grey Kangaroos can be high, Feral Pigs and Hares can be medium in abundance seasonally with all other feral animal species recorded as scarce to low abundance levels across 2020. The feral animal monitoring ensures that timely and prioritised feral animal control is undertaken on a seasonal basis identifying what, where, when and how to target appropriate resources across the Biobank BOA for feral animal management.

During the reporting period, WHC implemented a comprehensive feral animal control program across the Biobank BOA with routine 1080 baiting and pig trapping programs undertaken in March (8 Foxes and 2 Pigs removed from 50 baits presented and 33 Feral Pigs trapped), June (2 Foxes removed from 125 baits presented and 8 Feral Pigs trapped), September (8 Foxes removed from 125 baits presented and 2 Feral Pigs trapped) and December 2020 (12 Foxes and 1 Feral Pig removed from 125 baits presented and 5 Feral Pigs trapped). A total of 425 baits were presented across the Biobank BOA with 8% taken by feral animals. Night time open range shooting programs were implemented in conjunction with the other routine control programs resulting in an additional 5 Hares and a 2 Feral Pigs were controlled in 2020. No goats were harvested from the Biobank BOA during 2020. Only appropriately qualified and experienced feral animal contractors (appropriate feral animal management qualifications, NSW firearms licence and pesticide accreditation where relevant) were engaged to undertake feral animal control works for WHC.

### 6.3.9 Soil & Erosion Management

Annual inspections were undertaken including unsealed tracks and associated drainage structures across the Biobank BOA to review appropriate erosion and sediment control measures required in accordance with the Blue Book (Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction Volume 1 (Landcom 2004)). Due to the above average rainfall during the reporting period; additional targeted maintenance was identified for four sites within Biobank BOA to mitigate further erosion and sediment issues. The remaining sites and tracks/drainage structures can continue to be maintained during routine WHC Biodiversity fire break track maintenance program.

### 6.3.10 Grazing Management

Biobank BOA was destocked in 2016 and continued to be destocked with no strategic grazing occurring during the reporting period. There were one instance of stock incursion during the reporting period; with the stock quickly retrieved and fence repaired to maintain to a stock proof condition.

### 6.3.11 Bushfire Management

The Biobanking Agreement 43 prohibits the use of fire within the Biobank BOA until Year 40 with no fire recorded on the Biobank Offset in 2020. Annual fuel load monitoring was undertaken in December 2020 as part of planning and assessment of bushfire exclusion strategy for the Biobank BOA in 2021. During the reporting period, the average overall fuel load measured was 6t/ha to 17t/ha (moderate) and grassland fuel load was 2.8 t/ha (moderate). Other fire management implemented by WHC during the reporting period included spatial data collection for 33.1km of fire break tracks with maintenance carried out as required a zero fuel barrier standard across the Biobank BOA. WHC maintains regular communications throughout the reporting period with the Liverpool Range Zone RFS team around planning of other WHC BOA site ecological burn programs as well as providing WHC emergency contacts. WHC maintains a specialist firefighting contractor for an on call engagement during the fire season to respond in the event of a bushfire on WHC BOAs and non-mining lands.

### 6.3.12 Monitoring Program

During the reporting period, the ecological monitoring program of the Biobank BOA included winter bird surveys that were undertaken in August 2020 and annual spring flora monitoring of 34 sites undertaken during October 2020. During the winter bird surveys, no threatened species were recorded. Native plant species richness (NPS) increased from 10 sites last year to 20 out of 34 meeting or exceeding the completion criteria (80% native species richness benchmark for relevant biometric vegetation communities). Native overstorey cover (NOS) increased from 6 sites last year to 7 out of the 34 sites meeting or exceeding the completion criteria (minimum overstorey cover benchmark for relevant biometric vegetation communities). Native midstorey cover (NMS) was consistent with the previous year with 27 out of the 34 sites meeting or exceeding the completion criteria (minimum midstorey cover benchmark for relevant biometric vegetation communities). Native ground cover grass (NGCG) increased from 1 site last year to 15 out of the 34 sites meeting or exceeding the completion criteria (minimum groundcover benchmark for relevant biometric vegetation communities).

## 6.4 Blasting

### 6.4.1 Criteria

Blasting criteria for RCM are noted in PA10\_0015 and included in Table 6.4.1 below.

**TABLE 6.1.1 - BLASTING CRITERIA**

Location	Airblast Overpressure (dB(Lin Peak))	Ground Vibration (mm/s)	Allowable Exceedance
Residence on privately-owned land	115	5	5% of the total number of blasts over a period of 12 months
	120	10	0%

Note: criteria do not apply if the Proponent has a written agreement with the relevant landowner to exceed the criteria, and the Proponent has advised the Department in writing of the terms of this agreement.

### 6.4.2 Key Environmental Performance/Management Issues

No blasting was undertaken during the reporting period.

### 6.4.3 Proposed Improvements to Environmental Management

No improvements are proposed within the next reporting period.

## 6.5 Operational Noise

### 6.5.1 Criteria

The operational noise criteria specified in PA10\_0015 and EPL 12870 are as follows:

**TABLE 6.5.1A - ATTENDED NOISE MONITORING CRITERIA**

Location	Day	Evening	Night	
	L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15min)	L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15min)	L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15min)	L <sub>Aeq</sub> (1min)
All privately-owned land	35	35	35	45

The cumulative road noise criteria specified in PA10\_0015 (RCM) and PA11\_0047 (Tarrawonga) are below:

**TABLE 6.5.1B - CUMULATIVE ROAD NOISE CRITERIA**

Location	Day L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15hour)	Evening L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15hour)	Night L <sub>Aeq</sub> (9hour)
All privately-owned residences	60	60	55

## 6.5.2 Environmental Management Measures

Control of noise generation and propagation at the mine is by a combination of general source and propagation path methods including:

- Where operationally feasible, scheduling activities to minimise operation of equipment in exposed locations when winds are blowing towards residences and elevated locations when temperature inversions are present;
- Equipment removal or replacement;
- Changing operation procedures;
- Restricting hours of operation;
- Enclosure of fixed items of plant, e.g. generators;
- On-going site road maintenance using the mine-based grader; and
- Regular equipment maintenance.

RCM utilises a mobile real-time noise monitor which is used to actively monitor noise at surrounding properties which are likely to receive the greatest impact from operations. The unit monitors operational noise levels in comparison with compliance levels and when noise levels approach criteria, an alarm system is triggered to operational personnel. Operations and environmental personnel are able to log on to a web-based platform where real-time noise and weather data are viewable. The web-based platform also has the capability to live stream from the monitor, to identify specific sources of noise which can be used to confirm if the source is mining related.

## 6.5.3 Key Environmental Performance/Management Issues

In accordance with Schedule 3, Condition 3(c) of PA10\_0015, RCM is required to regularly assess real-time noise levels and meteorological forecasting data to ensure compliance with operational noise criteria.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020 RCM noise management plan update to remove the requirement to undertake attended noise monitoring was approved.

Site attended noise monitoring and biannual road noise monitoring was undertaken for the first three quarters of 2020. No exceedances of the relevant attended noise criteria were recorded at either 'Surrey' or 'Retreat' for all four monitoring rounds during the calendar year.

## 6.5.4 Long Term Trends

The RCM Extension Project Environmental Assessment (EA) – Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment conducted by Spectrum Acoustics (2010), shows historical traffic noise measurements to vary from 3-9 dB below the 60dB(A) criteria – no significant change in levels were predicted to be observed at 'Brooklyn' following the extension. During 2019 monitoring, readings were often inaudible at the monitoring locations, supporting those predictions in the EA. Previous years of monitoring have also shown compliance with the criteria.

## 6.5.5 Proposed Improvements to Environmental Management

There are no proposed improvements to environmental noise management in the upcoming reporting period. Current mine working hours are day time only with reduced equipment on site.

## **6.6 Aboriginal Heritage Management**

### **6.6.1 Environmental Management Measures**

In 2010, RPS archaeologists conducted an assessment and field survey of the potential impact of the Rocglen Extension on Aboriginal heritage. The archaeological field survey, which covered the area proposed to be disturbed by the expansion of the Northern Emplacement Area, was undertaken with members of four local Aboriginal Stakeholder groups. In summary, three stone artefact sites were located comprising of one isolated find (IF1) and two artefact scatters (AS1 and AS2). To date, the measures in place to protect Aboriginal Cultural Heritage are considered satisfactory, with all measures identified in the EA and consent criteria in place.

### **6.6.2 Consultation**

No further stripping or clearing was undertaken during the reporting period outside areas previously assessed by the RCM Registered Aboriginal Parties or during the EA assessments, and as such no consultation has been undertaken.

### **6.6.3 Key Environmental Performance/Management Issues**

No key environmental performance/management issues were identified during the reporting period.

### **6.6.4 Proposed Improvements to Environmental Management**

No improvements are proposed to be undertaken during the upcoming reporting period.

## **6.7 Bushfire Management**

### **6.7.1 Environmental Management Measures**

The mine maintains firebreaks around both its landholding and the mine area and maintains firefighting equipment as well as earthmoving equipment, a water truck and fire truck, which would be used to control fires. RCM personnel also liaise with the local (Nandewar) Rural Fire Service (RFS) and Regional Fire Control, as required. On request from the RFS due to drought conditions and lack of water availability, the mine has nominated a dam on site that can be used as a water source during emergencies. Whitehaven Coal have engaged a firefighting contract company LRM Fire and Rescue on a retainer bases to assist in case of any fire breakout.

### **6.7.2 Key Environmental Performance/Management Issues**

No key environmental performance/management issues were identified during the reporting period, with no fires occurring on site or on project-related mine owned land.

### **6.7.3 Proposed Improvements to Environmental Management**

No improvements are proposed within the next reporting period.

## 6.8 Environmental Performance Summary

An environmental performance summary for RCM is presented in Table 6.8 below.

**TABLE 6.8 - ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE SUMMARY**

Aspect	Approval Criteria/EIS Prediction	Performance During the Reporting Period	Trend/Key Management Implications	Implemented/Proposed Management Actions
Air Quality	Refer to Section 6.1	Numerous exceedances of the PM10 daily limit, and exceedance of the annual average PM10 limit at both HVAS sampling sites.	Nil	Onsite dust management will follow the Air Quality Management Plan, and will be aided given the state of the mine, with reduced shifts and no coal production.
Biodiversity	Refer to Section 6.2	Biobank BOA continues to maintain compliance with BOMP while restoration works are ongoing.	Nil	Nil
Blasting	Refer to Section 6.4	Approval criteria met.	Nil	No further blasting on site
Noise	Refer to Section 6.5	Approval criteria met.	Nil	Nil
Heritage	Refer to Section 6.6	Approval criteria met.	Nil	Nil
Bushfire Management	Refer to Section 6.7	No bushfires on site or in biobank site during reporting period.	Nil	Nil
Rehabilitation	Refer to Section 8.2	Ongoing.	Nil	Rehabilitation undertaken as per Closure MOP.
Water	Refer to Section 7	One wet weather discharge and 5 controlled releases.	Nil	Nil

## 7. WATER MANAGEMENT

### 7.1 Surface Water Management

The mine lies within the catchment of the Namoi River, and in close proximity to Driggle Draggles Creek. The design of sediment detention basins on site aims to limit the opportunity of discharge of runoff from mine-

disturbed areas, until such time as the licenced discharge criteria are met. All sediment basins, storage dams and associated banks and drains have been designed and constructed in accordance with the *Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction Vol 2E Mines and Quarries* (DECC, 2008) in conjunction with the references to Volume 1 (Landcom, 2004).

#### 7.1.1 Surface Water Monitoring Results

In addition to any monitoring required during discharge events, RCM has a requirement to undertake surface water monitoring on a quarterly basis. Whilst there are no criteria or concentration limits specified for the quarterly surface water samples, the results do provide an indication as to the quality of waters onsite. The assessment of sediment load, electrical conductivity, pH, oil and grease, and other monitoring parameters during these quarterly water monitoring rounds also provides an indication of the ability of those storages to meet water quality criteria should a wet weather discharge occur, and if additional treatment methods would be warranted to minimise potential for a non-compliant discharge. The quarterly surface water testing includes the Void Water Dam (Void), three additional out-of-pit surface water storages (SD3, SB19 & Dam B), and one offsite, upstream dam (SD7).

Results throughout the reporting period were generally consistent for each individual site. Quarterly sampling in March 2020 found SD3, DamB, SD7 and SB19 dry due to drought.

#### 7.1.2 Long Term Trends

The surface water assessment carried out by GSS Environmental for the Extension EA predicted that there would be minimal impact on flow regimes downstream of the Project due to the RCM, which has proven to be generally correct over the long term operations of the site.

Soil and water assessments for the site suggested that Total Suspended Solids (TSS) was likely to be the key water quality parameter requiring management during the life of the Project to ensure the water quality in downstream watercourses is not impacted. TSS levels remained relatively consistent across all monitoring sites through 2020.

#### 7.1.3 Discharges

There are two Licenced Discharge Points (LDPs) nominated in the current EPL 12870, LDP11 to the south of the site, and LDP12 to the north of the site.

There was one uncontrolled discharge from Dam SD3 through licenced discharge point LDP11. On the 9<sup>th</sup> of February 2020 after 167.1mm of rainfall for the four days leading up to the discharge event. Water parameters were within criteria levels.

There were 5 controlled discharges to the south (LDP11) from SD3 on that occurred on the 7<sup>th</sup> May, 24<sup>th</sup> July 11<sup>th</sup> August, 8<sup>th</sup> September, 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Discharges were undertaken after the dam sediment load was reduced by flocculating the dam, and water quality samples taken to confirm all criteria were within EPA approval limits.

There were no discharges to the north from Dam B (LDP12).

#### 7.1.4 Supplementary Water Sources

No supplementary water was sourced.

## 7.2 Groundwater Management

### 7.2.1 Environmental Performance/Management

The mine's performance with respect to groundwater performance/management, the prevention of pollution, and the assessment of impacts on groundwater availability to other surrounding users, has been assessed through groundwater level and chemistry monitoring undertaken at a series of bores with the Project Area and adjacent properties.

### 7.2.2 Groundwater Monitoring

Groundwater sampling and analysis was undertaken by ALS Acriil Pty Ltd during the reporting period at the Groundwater Monitoring Points identified in Figure 2. Surface Water Level (SWL), Electrical Conductivity (EC) and pH are recorded on a quarterly basis, with representative metals and ions analysed six monthly in accordance with the approved Water Management Plan.

In March 2020 there were three bores that were not accessible due to high rainfall and land owner not wanting person on their property.

### 7.2.3 Groundwater Levels

As reported last monitoring period, MP7 and MP8 adjacent to the pit void dropped around 2m during the reporting period.

Northern dump with WB-5 increasing by 1.88m, and WB3 increasing by 0.51m

Water level trends in all other bores have had a slight rise due to increased rainfall.

### 7.2.4 Groundwater Quality

Analysis of samples taken during the reporting period has shown that groundwater quality has remained generally consistent with historical data at all locations monitored. Water quality has been compared to the Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality (2000) (ANZECC) guidelines for stock watering (cattle).

### 7.2.5 Long Term Trends

The hydrogeological assessment undertaken by Douglas Partners for the Extension EA concluded that drawdown on the surrounding groundwater system as a result of the expanded mining operation would be limited during the operation of the mine. This is due to faulting in the vicinity of the mine and generally low permeability of the Maules Creek Formation Strata, with hydraulic connectivity within the alluvium at the north and south of the site considered to be limited.

The hydrogeological assessment predicted that groundwater levels would be drawn down by approximately 30 metres in close proximity to the pit and that this drawdown would be "mostly limited to within the fault block which surrounds the mine." The drawdown seen at bores MP-7 and MP-8 is consistent with this prediction, though a drop of 30m has not yet been observed.

The mine void was backfilled in December 2020 above groundwater inflow level. Groundwater levels in close proximity to the void are expected to start rising as the backfilled material would be permeable.

## 7.2.6 Groundwater Management

At the end of the reporting period there was 98.8ML held in the in-pit dams. Water is from rainfall capture as pumping from the void ceased in February 2020 after April 2020 rainfall.

Contamination of groundwater is controlled by the management of chemical, oil and grease spills and storage, with:

- Vehicle maintenance carried out in designated areas;
- Any spills being cleaned up, with contaminated soil placed in the designated bioremediation areas; and
- Fuels, oil and grease being stored within a bunded area, constructed in accordance with EPA requirements.

As discussed previously, groundwater from surrounding bores is monitored on a regular basis to detect and assess any changes in groundwater quality or level that may be attributable to the mine.

## 7.3 Water Take

The water taken by the operation is summarised in Table 7.3, and shows compliance with the licence entitlements. Groundwater take from the void seepage ceased in February 2020.

Site water usage for 2020 for dust suppression was 52ML.

**TABLE 7.3 – WATER TAKE**

Water Licence Number	Water Sharing Plan, Source and Management Zone (as applicable)	Entitlement	Passive take/inflows	Active Pumping	TOTAL
WAL29461	Gunnedah-Oxley Basin Mdb Groundwater Source	120 units	0	0	0
WAL36758	Gunnedah-Oxley Basin Mdb Groundwater Source	700 units	5ML	0	5ML

## 8. REHABILITATION

### 8.1 Rehabilitation Performance during the Reporting Period

#### 8.1.1 Status of Mining and Rehabilitation

The status of mining and rehabilitation at the completion of the reporting period is presented in Table 8.1.1 and Figure 21.

**TABLE 8.1.1 REHABILITATION STATUS**

Mine Area Type	Previous Reporting Period (Actual)	This Reporting Period (Actual)	Next Reporting Period (Forecast)
	2019 (ha)	2020 (ha)	2021 (ha)
A. Total Mine Footprint	374.9	374.9	374.9
B. Total Active Disturbance	218.73	159.3	129.2
C. Land Being Prepared for Rehabilitation	53.23	34	20.1
D. Land Under Active Rehabilitation	102.94	166.9	222.7
E. Completed Rehabilitation	0	0	0

\* Refer to Annual Review Guideline (pg. 11) for description of mine area types

### 8.1.2 Post Rehabilitation Land Uses

The disturbed area within the Project Site will be restored to either woodland or pasture.

### 8.1.3 Rehabilitation Monitoring

Detailed annual ecological rehabilitation monitoring was undertaken by Aspect Ecology, with summary of results documented in section 6.2.

### 8.1.4 Renovation or Removal of Buildings

Bitumen was removed along the road from site access road at the Blue Vale entrance. No other infrastructure was removed.

### 8.1.5 Other Rehabilitation Undertaken

Infill planting was undertaken on the northern dump in two campaigns.

- April 2020: 520 trees (200 yellow box, 80 Blakely's Red Gum, 80 poplar box, 80 narrow leaf iron bark, 80 silver iron bark)
- July 2020: 7,200 trees northern dump, corejute mesh, large tree guards on tree mounds, 8m staggered spacing (250 per ha).

Soil sampling of the northern dump and all topsoil and subsoil stockpiles was undertaken and qualities with ameliorant requirements were determined.

### 8.1.6 Departmental Sign-off of Rehabilitated Areas

Departmental sign-off has not been requested for any rehabilitated areas.

### 8.1.7 Variations in Activities against MOP (RMP)

Operations and activities were undertaken in accordance with the approved modification of the Closure MOP.

### 8.1.8 Trials, Research Projects and Initiatives

Methodology for planting tube stock was reviewed, improvements made included establishment of tree mounds along contour using savannah plough, corejute mesh placed at each Hiko seedling as well as large tree guard.

No watering was undertaken.

### 8.1.9 Key Issues to Achieving Successful Rehabilitation

There are four key issues in achieving successful rehabilitation, including:

- Poor vegetation establishment and growth due to poor soils/lack of nutrient;
- Weed and feral animal infestation;
- Excessive erosion and sedimentation resulting in land stability and vegetation growth issues; and
- Harsh weather conditions limiting growth, i.e. extended periods of drought.

In cases where performance is sub-optimal, additional management measures will be implemented (e.g. replanting/seeding, repairing landform and water management features, additional soil amelioration, feral animal and weed control etc.). Advice may also be sought from the Whitehaven Biodiversity specialist and/or contractor companies, to determine the best course of action.

### **8.1 Actions for Next Reporting Period**

- Ongoing bulk earthworks to progress to final landform.
- Infill planting of the Northern Dump with Hiko seedlings
- 120ha of land planted to ecosystem establishment
- Test pitting to determine depth of carbonaceous material below final landform within the pit, and the northern and western overburden dumps.



Figure21 Annual review plan

## 9. COMMUNITY

### 9.1 Community Consultation

In accordance with Schedule 5 Condition 5 of PA 10\_0015, a Community Consultative Committee (CCC) continues to be operated for RCM. The committee comprises representatives of Gunnedah Shire Council, RCM and the community.

Since its inception, the CCC has met on a regular basis. Meetings at present, are generally held every 6 months, although availability of members can result in postponement. During the reporting period, in consultation with the independent chairperson meetings were postponed to February 2021 due to Covid19 restrictions. As the mine has gone into closure meeting frequencies will be up for review by the committee.

### 9.2 Community Complaints

RCM has a designated complaints line advertised on the Whitehaven Coal Website. In the event of a complaint, details pertaining to the complainant, complaint, and action taken are recorded. A complaints register is maintained on Whitehaven's website.

No complaints were received during the reporting period. A summary of the complaint is provided below.

TABLE 9.2 - COMPLAINTS HISTORY

Topic	Calendar Year					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Air Quality	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blasting	-	3	1	-	-	-
Noise	-	-	-	-	-	-
Water Quality	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	1	-	-

### 9.3 Community Engagement and Contributions

Community contributions are managed in accordance with the Whitehaven Coal Donations and Sponsorship Policy. Whitehaven Coal donated \$361,398 to local Gunnedah and Regional groups during the reporting period. Groups which received contributions included, but were not limited to the following;

#### Gunnedah

Black N Blue Gym  
Curlewis Public School  
Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Society  
Forest Coach Lines Pty Ltd  
Gunnedah Chamber of Commerce  
Gunnedah Eisteddfod Society Inc  
Gunnedah High School  
Gunnedah Ministers Fraternal  
Gunnedah PCYC

#### Regional

NSW Rural Fire Service  
Australian Red Cross  
Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service  
NSW Minerals Council  
Gomeroi Elders Group  
Australian Olympic Committee  
Hunter Business Chamber  
IEA Coal Advisory Board  
Whitehaven Health Haven Challenge

Gunnedah Public School  
 Gunnedah Show Society  
 Gunnedah South Public School  
 Gunnedah Water Tower Museum  
 Gunny Munny  
 Legacy  
 Role Models and Leaders Australia Ltd  
 Rotary Mental Health  
 St Marys College  
 Two Rivers Arts Council

Janice Knox artwork  
 Westpac Helicopter Service

## 10. INDEPENDENT AUDIT

The most recent Independent Environmental Audit (IEA) occurred during early 2019, with submission of the final report and response to Audit Recommendations submitted to the Department in June 2019. Non-compliances identified by the IEA were risk ranked by the auditor in accordance with the compliance status key for Table 1b. RCM subsequently developed an Audit Action Plan for these non-compliances. The Audit Action Plan is available on the Whitehaven Coal website, there are no outstanding audit actions.

## 11. INCIDENTS AND NON-COMPLIANCES DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

### 11.1 Reportable Incidents

Exceedances of the High Volume Air Sampling daily PM10 limit were communicated to the Department on numerous occasions throughout the reporting period.

### 11.2 Non-compliances.

Approval(s)	Schedule/Condition	Non-compliance	Action(s)
PA10_0015	Schedule 2(2)	Project not carried out generally in accordance with the EA and conditions of the Project Approval. See non-compliances below.	Refer to non-compliances below.
	Schedule 2(8)	Surrender of PA 06_0198 not yet finalised.	. Surrender request has been submitted to DPIE portal

### 11.3 Regulatory Actions

RCM received a Section 240 Notice from the Department of Planning and Environment Resource Regulator on the 18<sup>th</sup> April 2019. This notice required the submission of a Final Rocglen Coal Mine Rehabilitation Report by 29<sup>th</sup> November 2019, and detailed a number of required inclusions. Full response to all actions was submitted to the Resource Regulator on 18 December 2020.

## 12. ACTIVITIES TO BE COMPLETED IN THE NEXT REPORTING PERIOD

The following measures will be continued, or implemented, in the next reporting period:

- Undertake rehabilitation activities in accordance with the MOP timing;
- The continuation of environmental monitoring and management, as per the relevant approvals and environmental management plans;
- Planting of 75ha of disturbed area to ecosystem establishment.
- Review and revise (where required) various environmental management plans, as per PA 10\_0015; and
- Continue community liaison and engagement with local stakeholders, as required.