



**SUNNYSIDE COAL PROJECT
ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

Document Owner:	Operations Supt
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WHC_PLN_SUN_KOALA MANAGEMENT PLAN

KOALA MANAGEMENT PLAN



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ACRONYMS USED THROUGHOUT THIS DOCUMENT

- KMP - Koala Management Plan
- NMPL - Namoi Mining Pty Ltd
- PA - Project Approval



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1 INTRODUCTION

This Koala Management Plan (KMP) has been prepared in accordance with Statement of Commitment 18.2 of Project Approval (PA) 06_0308 for the Sunnyside Coal Project (Sunnyside), and is an update to the draft Koala Management Plan presented in the 2008 Environmental Assessment. Sunnyside is operated by Namoi Mining Pty Ltd (NMPL), a subsidiary company of Whitehaven Coal Limited. Mining operations at Sunnyside were suspended in late November 2012 and recommenced in late 2017. This document considers the area of land corresponding to the project site boundary for Sunnyside, referred to as the “mine site” as well as other relevant areas outside the mine site.

As illustrated in Figure 1, Sunnyside is located approximately 15km west of Gunnedah. The project layout is shown in Figure 2.

The need for this KMP was triggered by the identification of the woodland on the property as core Koala habitat as defined by the *State Environment Planning Policy 44 – Koala Habitat Protection*.



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LEGEND

- National Park
- Nature Reserve
- State Conservation Area
- Aboriginal Area
- NSW State Forest
- Local Government Area Boundary
- Mining Lease Boundary
- Mine Site
- Mine Project

Source: Geoscience Australia (2006), NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet, Office of Environment and Heritage (2011) and Minerals NSW (2012)

WHITEHAVEN COAL
SUNNYSIDE COAL MINE
 Regional Location

Figure 1 - Regional Location



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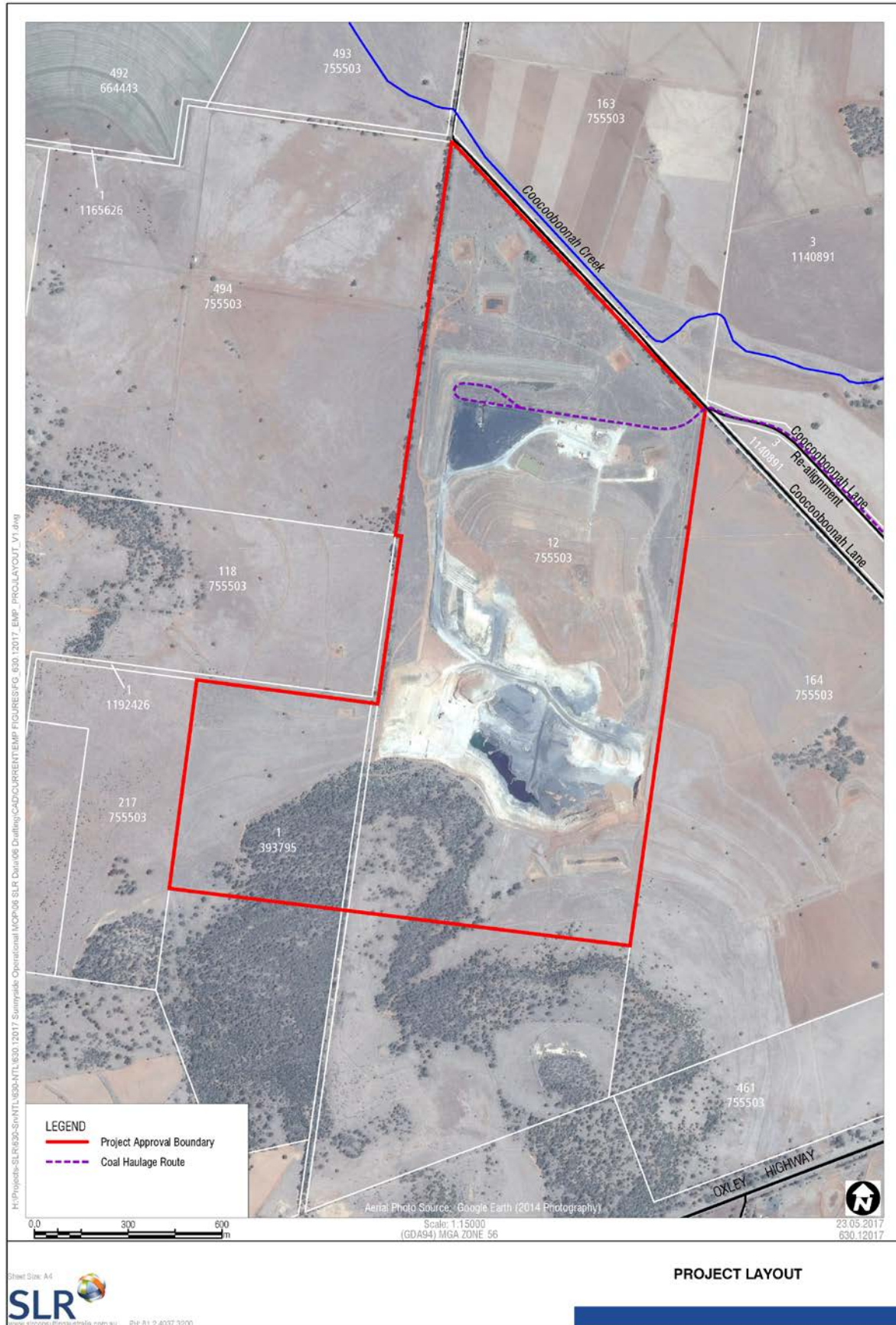


Figure 2 - Project Layout



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2 HABITATS ON THE MINE SITE

Most of the fauna habitat existing on the Project Site is exotic grassland, the original woodland vegetation having been previously cleared. Rock outcrops and stands of woodland occur on the southern part of the property, while a strip of remnant woodland occurs along Coochoonah Lane.

The hills and plains woodland areas are known Koala habitat, based on the occurrence of Koalas in these areas during the study and the information gained from the property owner that Koalas have always been in this area. All stands of woodland across the property and on the adjoining road reserves of Coochoonah Lane and the Oxley Highway, are considered to be part of the Koala habitat.

3 MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

The following management actions are based on the three key requirements for a Koala population, namely (i) availability of suitable feed trees, (ii) existence of treed movement corridors and (iii) protection from key threatening processes.

3.1 Habitat Protection

The remnant woodland in the following areas will be protected from degrading activities such as clearing, grazing, storing and dumping materials and vehicle incursion not related to management:

- Woodland corridor along Coochoonah Lane;
- Treed corridor along the inside of the western boundary of the site; and
- Major areas of woodland in the south of the site and beyond within the "Sunnyside" property.

3.2 Improving and Expanding Habitat

The woodland areas will be enhanced through the planting of local tree species to improve their value as Koala habitat as well as their functioning as movement corridors for the Koala and other native fauna. NMPL will protect 112ha of existing Koala habitat, improve corridors by enrichment planting on the western boundary of the site (9.8ha) and new plantings on the eastern boundary (9.0ha). The corridors will have a minimum width of 40m. The locations of the woodland and the proposed tree plantings are shown on Figure 3.

The planting programs will utilise local tree species, obtained from a local seed source. The following species would be priority species. Those with an asterisk (*) are Koala feed tree species.

- Kurrajong *Brachychiton populneus*
- Motherumbah *Acacia cheeli*
- Poplar Box *Eucalyptus populnea**



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- Red Ash *Alphitonia excelsa*
- Tumble-down Red Gum *Eucalyptus dealbata*
- White Box *Eucalyptus albens**
- White Cypress *Callitris glaucophylla*
- Wilga *Geijera parviflora*.
- Yellow Box *Eucalyptus melliodora**

NMPL will ensure there is >15% Koala feed trees in the planting mix (in line with SEPP 44 and Circular B35 definitions for Koala habitat). The health and survival of trees will be monitored and any dead trees replaced.

3.3 Minimising Likelihood of Roadkill

The measures proposed to minimise road kill of Koalas in the area are set out below:

- The site specific induction will include advice of Koalas on and around the site;
- Koala awareness signs will be installed and maintained at 500 metre intervals along the realigned Coochoonah Lane and at the site entrance;
- Speed limit of 40km/h on all roads within the site;
- A sign at the mine office will explain the importance of the area for Koalas and identify the key restrictions to protect the species, including road speed limits and the prohibition of felling trees beyond the approved area of disturbance.
- Information relating to actions required for injured Koalas will be available at the site office.

3.4 Fencing and Restricted Access

A Koala fence, which deters entry but allows exit if required, has been erected around the southern edge of the mine.

Koala habitat areas will be fenced to exclude livestock, with fencing types that do not prevent dispersal and movement of Koalas nor constitute a hazard to their wellbeing.

Access to these areas will only be permitted for personnel working on the revegetation program, or as otherwise approved by the Operations Superintendent (for aspects such as routine inspections, survey and water management).



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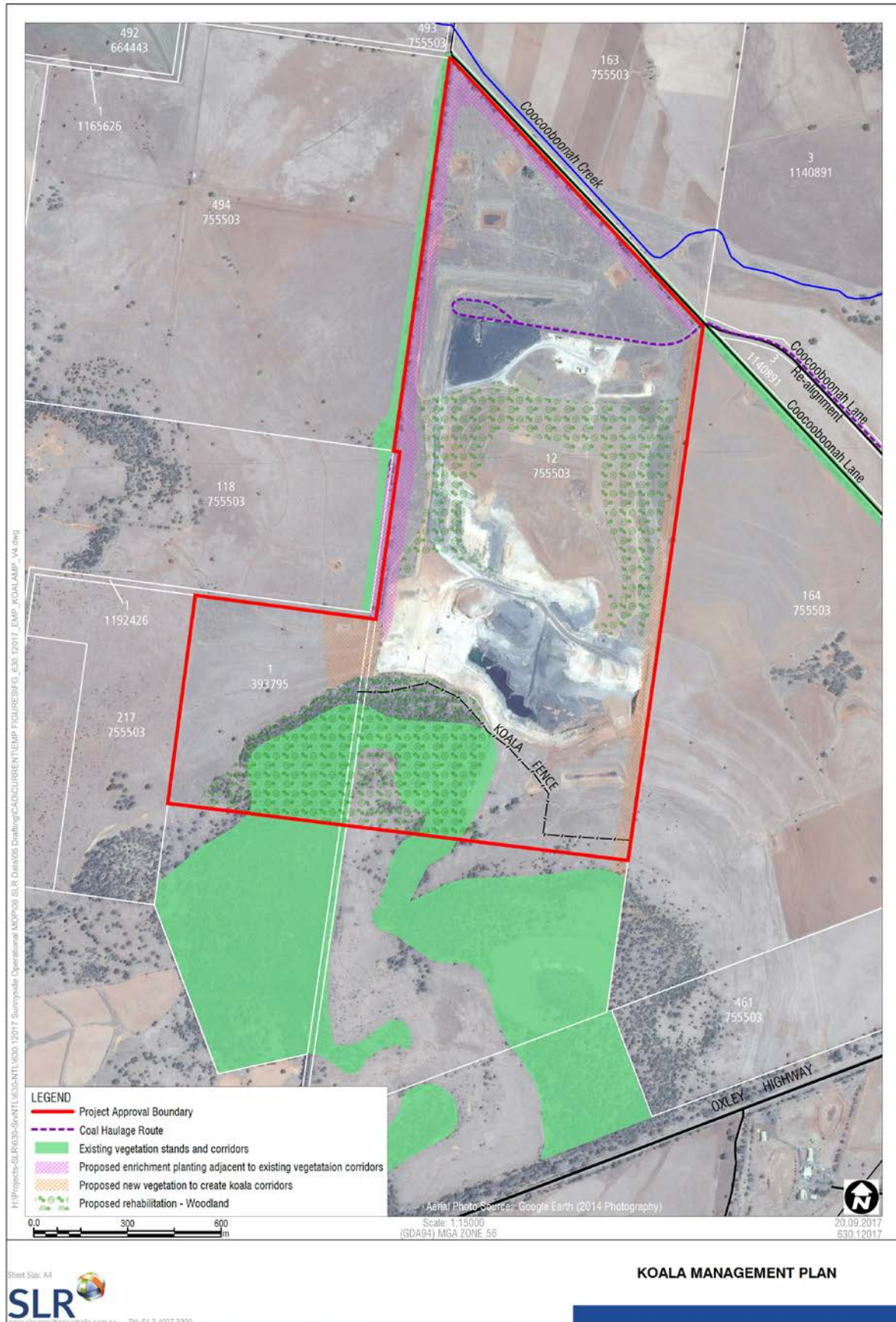


Figure 3 - Existing and Proposed Woodland and Corridors



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4 MONITORING AND REPORTING

A sightings register will be maintained onsite. The following matters will be reported in the Annual Review:

- Number and location of Koalas found killed on the site or nearby;
- Number and location of Koalas observed on the property or along the coal transport route;
- The areas planted with woodland during the previous 12 months;
- Information on the success of the planted areas and any maintenance activities carried out in those areas; and
- Confirmation that the measures undertaken to protect Koalas in the area have been adequately maintained (i.e. signs in good condition, staff induction carried out, speed limits adhered to).

5 DOCUMENT REVIEW

This document will be reviewed in accordance with the requirements of Condition 5(5A) of PA 06_0308.