

# **Environmental Assessment**



## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**





## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1	INTRODUCTION			1-1 2.7		MINING OPERATIONS 2-19			
	1.1	1.1.1	T OVERVIEW Purpose of this Report	1-1 1-1		2.7.1 2.7.2 2.7.3	Open Cut Extent Indicative Mine Schedule Vegetation Clearing and	2-19 2-20	
		1.1.2 1.1.3 1.1.4	Background Project Summary Site Location and Tenure	1-1 1-3 1-5		2.7.4	Soil Stripping Overburden/Interburden Drill, Blast and Removal by	2-20	
		1.1.5	Interaction with other Mining Operations in the Vicinity of	4.5		2.7.5	Excavator Coal Mining and ROM Coal	2-20	
		1.1.6	the Site Proponent	1-5 1-5		2.7.6	Handling On-site Production of	2-22	
	1.2		DR-GENERAL'S NMENTAL ASSESSMENT EMENTS	1-5		2.7.7	Domestic Coal On-site Production of Gravel Materials	2-22	
	1.3	PROJEC	T CONSULTANTS	1-9		2.7.8	Mine Fleet	2-22	
	1.4	DOCUME	ENT STRUCTURE	1-9	2.8		Final Void SSING, PRODUCT LOADING ANSPORT	2-23	
2	PROJE	CT DESC	RIPTION	2-1		2.8.1	Whitehaven CHPP	2-23	
	2.1		G TARRAWONGA COAL PERATIONS	2-1		2.8.2	Boggabri Coal Mine Infrastructure Facilities	2-23	
		2.1.1 2.1.2	Mining Operations Off-site Sized ROM Coal	2-1		2.8.3	Access to Suitable Rail Capacity	2-23	
		2.1.2	Transport Coal Processing and Product	2-3		2.8.4	Domestic Coal and Gravel Materials Transport	2-23	
		2.1.3	Rail Loading at the		2.9	WASTE   MANAGE	ROCK AND COAL REJECT EMENT	2-24	
		2.1.4	Whitehaven CHPP On-site Production of	2-3		2.9.1 2.9.2	Waste Rock Coal Rejects	2-24 2-26	
		2.1.5	Domestic Coal Mine Waste Rock and Coars		2.10	-	MANAGEMENT	2-26	
		2.1.6	Reject Management Water Management	2-3		2.10.1	Existing Water Management System	2-26	
		2.1.7	Infrastructure Other Infrastructure and	2-4		2.10.2	Project Water Management System	2-27	
		2.1.8	Service Facilities Environmental Monitoring	2-4		2.10.3	Permanent Goonbri Creek Alignment and Associated		
	2.2		and Management ONGA COAL MINE	2-4			Flood Bund and Low Permeability Barrier	2-30	
	2.3		'ALS HISTORY ESOURCE, GEOLOGICAL	2-5		2.10.4 2.10.5	Water Consumption Simulated Performance of	2-34	
		FEATUR! ACTIVITI	ES AND EXPLORATION ES	2-5			Project Water Management System	2-35	
	2.4		T GENERAL		2.11	INFRAST SERVICE	FRUCTURE AND S	2-35	
	2.5	ARRANG	EMENT ING OPERATIONS OF	2-9		2.11.1	Mine Facilities Area	2-35	
	2.5	POTENT	IAL RELEVANCE TO CTIONS WITH THE			2.11.2	Access Roads and Internal Roads	2-35	
		PROJEC		2-15		2.11.3	Electricity Supply and Distribution	2-35	
		2.5.1	Boggabri Coal Mine	2-15		2.11.4	Potable Water	2-35	
		2.5.2	Whitehaven CHPP	2-16		2.11.5	Communications	2-35	
	2.6		Other Mining Operations T DEVELOPMENT	2-16	2.12 2.13		MANAGEMENT EMENT OF DANGEROUS	2-35	
		ACTIVITI 2.6.1	Relocation of the Mine	2-16		GOODS		2-36	
		2.6.2	Facilities Area Services Corridor to Boggabri Coal Mine	2-16	2.14	WORKFO	ORCE	2-36	
		2.6.3	Infrastructure Facilities Realignments of Goonbri	2-16					
		2.6.4	Road and New Intersections Permanent Goonbri Creek Alignment and Associated Flood Bund and Low	2-19					
			Permeability Barrier	2-19					

3			ON AND COMMUNITY	0.4	4.8		HOUSE GAS EMISSIONS	4-61
	3.1	ATIVES FNVIR	ONMENTAL ASSESSMENT	3-1		4.8.1	Quantitative Assessment of Potential Scope 1, 2 and 3	
	0.1		JLTATION	3-1			Greenhouse Gas	
				-			Emissions	4-61
		3.1.1 3.1.2	Objectives State Government	3-1		4.8.2	Australian Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Targets	
		3.1.3	Agencies Local Government	3-1			and Proposed Carbon Pricing Mechanism	4-64
		3.1.4	Agencies Federal Government	3-6		4.8.3	Project Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Measures,	
		3.1.5	Agencies Infrastructure Owners/	3-7			Management and Monitoring	4-65
			Service Providers	3-7	4.0		Monitoring	
		3.1.6	Public Consultation	3-7	4.9	FLORA		4-65
	3.2	COMMI	UNITY INITIATIVES AND			4.9.1	Existing Environment	4-66
	0.2		/EMENT	3-10		4.9.2 4.9.3	Potential Impacts Mitigation Measures,	4-69
		3.2.1	Community Consultative	3-10			Management and	
		3.2.2	Committee Website and Complaints	3-10		404	Monitoring	4-71
		3.2.2	Hotline	3-10		4.9.4	Offset Strategy	4-73
		3.2.3	Community Programmes	0 10	4.10	FAUNA 4.10.1	Existing Environment	4-78 4-78
			and Sponsorships/ Scholarships	3-10		4.10.2	Potential Impacts	4-85
		3.2.4	Media	3-10 3-11		4.10.3	Mitigation Measures,	
		3.2.5	Public Reporting	3-11			Management and	
		3.2.6	Suppliers	3-11			Monitoring	4-87
		0.2.0	<b>C</b> app	•		4.10.4	Offset Strategy	4-90
4	FNVII	RONMEN	TAL ASSESSMENT	4-1	4.11	ROAD TI	RANSPORT	4-90
•						4.11.1	Existing Environment	4-90
	4.1		ONMENTAL RISK			4.11.2	Potential Impacts	4-96
		ASSES	SMENT	4-1		4.11.3	Mitigation Measures,	
	4.2	CLIMA	ΓΕ	4-1			Management and Monitoring	4-98
		4.2.1	Existing Environment	4-1	4.40	\/IOLIAI	•	
		4.2.2	Monitoring	4-5	4.12		CHARACTER	4-98
	4.3	LAND F	RESOURCES AND			4.12.1	Existing Environment	4-99
		AGRIC	ULTURAL PRODUCTION	4-5		4.12.2 4.12.3	Potential Impacts Mitigation Measures,	4-99
		4.3.1	Existing Environment	4-5		4.12.3	Management and	
		4.3.2	Potential Impacts	4-9			Monitoring	4-107
		4.3.3	Mitigation Measures,		4.13	ABORIG	INAL HERITAGE	4-108
			Management and Monitoring	4-11		4.13.1	Existing Environment	4-108
	4.4	CDOLIN	GROUNDWATER			4.13.2	Potential Impacts	4-112
	4.4			4-13		4.13.3	Mitigation Measures,	
		4.4.1	Existing Environment	4-13			Management and	
		4.4.2 4.4.3	Potential Impacts Mitigation Measures,	4-19			Monitoring	4-112
		4.4.5	Management and		4.14	NON-AB	ORIGINAL HERITAGE	4-114
			Monitoring	4-22		4.14.1	Existing Environment	4-114
	4.5	SURFA	CE WATER	4-24		4.14.2	Potential Impacts	4-115
	4.0	4.5.1	Existing Environment	4-24		4.14.3	Mitigation Measures,	
		4.5.2	Potential Impacts	4-33			Management and	
		4.5.3	Mitigation Measures,	4 00			Monitoring	4-115
			Management and		4.15	REGION	AL ECONOMY	4-115
			Monitoring	4-37		4.15.1	Existing Environment	4-115
	4.6	NOISE	AND BLASTING	4-39		4.15.2	Potential Impacts	4-116
		4.6.1	Existing Environment	4-39		4.15.3	Mitigation Measures,	
		4.6.2	Potential Impacts	4-43			Management and	1 117
		4.6.3	Mitigation Measures,		4.40	EMBL OV	Monitoring	4-117
			Management and		4.16		MENT, POPULATION AND	1 117
			Monitoring	4-50			NITY INFRASTRUCTURE	4-117
	4.7	AIR QU	IALITY	4-51		4.16.1	Existing Environment	4-117
		4.7.1	Existing Environment	4-51		4.16.2 4.16.3	Potential Impacts Mitigation Measures,	4-117
		4.7.2	Potential Impacts	4-56		4.10.3	Management and	
		4.7.3	Mitigation Measures,					4-120
			Management and					20
			Monitoring	4-61				





	4.17	HAZARD	AND RISK	4-121			6.2.5	Section 94 and Section 94A	١
		4.17.1	Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment	4-121		6.3	_	Contributions  NMENT PROTECTION	6-3
		4.17.2	Hazard Prevention and Mitigation Measures	4-121				DDIVERSITY RVATION ACT, 1999	6-3
			Willigation Wiededies	7 121		6.4		APPLICABLE LEGISLATION	
5		BILITATIO		5-1			6.4.1 6.4.2	NSW Legislation Commonwealth Legislation	6-4 6-16
	5.1	MONITO	G REHABILITATION RING AND MANAGEMENT RAWONGA COAL MINE	5-1		6.5	ENVIROI INSTRUM	NMENTAL PLANNING	6-19
	5.2		LITATION AT VONGA AND OTHER				6.5.1	State Environmental Planning Policies Local Environmental Plans	6-19 6-20
	5.3	REHABIL	AVEN COAL MINES LITATION AND MINE	5-1		6.6		GIC PLANNING	6-31
		CLOSUR PROJEC	RE GOALS FOR THE	5-1			6.6.1	Namoi Catchment Action Plan	6-32
	5.4		LITATION OF THE	5-7			6.6.2	Namoi Catchment Management Authority	0-32
		5.4.1	Northern Emplacement	3-7				Extractive Industries Policy	6-33
		E 4 0	and Open Cut Infill Area Southern Emplacement	5-7			6.6.3	Namoi Shire Growth Management Strategy	6-34
		5.4.2 5.4.3	Open Cut Final Void	5-8 5-11		6.7		T APPROVAL PROVISIONS	
		5.4.4	Permanent Goonbri Creek Alignment	5-12			MINIMIS	E PREVENTION, ATION AND MANAGEMENT	
		5.4.5	Goonbri Creek Enhancement Area	5-12		0.0		EVANT IMPACTS	6-35
		5.4.6	Water Management			6.8		PPROVAL MONITORING, CEMENT AND REVIEW	
		5.4.7	Infrastructure Mine Facilities Area	5-14 5-14			PROCEE	URES	6-35
	5.5		AL REHABILITATION CES AND MEASURES	5-14		6.9	PROJEC 6.9.1	T JUSTIFICATION  Consideration of Project	6-36
		5.5.1	Vegetation Clearing	0 14				Alternatives	6-36
		5.5.2	Measures Soil Stripping Areas and	5-14			6.9.2	Consideration of Climate Change Projections for	6-41
		5.5.3	Handling Measures Selection of Native Plant	5-14			6.9.3	Australia and NSW Ecologically Sustainable	0-41
		5.5.4	Species for Revegetation Establishment of	5-15				Development Considerations	6-43
		5.5.5	Agricultural Land Erosion and Sediment	5-16			6.9.4	Consideration of the Project Against the Objects of the	
	- 0	DELLABO	Control Works	5-16			6.9.5	EP&A Act Summary Consideration of	6-48
	5.6		LITATION AND ETATION MONITORING	5-16				the Potential Impacts and Benefits of the Proposal	6-49
	5.7		LITATION MANAGEMENT	5-18	0004	CTATE	NACNIT OF		0004
		PLAN		3-10	5001				SOC-1
6		IING FRA	MEWORK AND PROJECT	6-1		5001.	ENVIR MANA	OSED PROJECT ONMENTAL GEMENT, MONITORING	
	6.1	_	G APPROVALS AND TORY CONTROLS	6-1		SOC1.	2 SPECI	FIC ENVIRONMENTAL	SOC-1
	6.2		NMENTAL PLANNING AND MENT ACT, 1979	6-1			СОММ	ITMENTS S	SOC-1
		6.2.1	Application of Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and	e	8	REFER	RENCES		8-1
		6.2.2	Assessment Act, 1979 Application of Other Provisions of the	6-1	9	ABBRE GLOSS		S, ACRONYMS AND	9-1
			Environmental Planning and	d		9.1	ABBREV	IATIONS AND ACRONYMS	9-1
		6.2.3	Assessment Act, 1979 Other Approvals and	6-2		9.2	GLOSSA	RY	9-5
		6.2.4	Legislation that do not Apply to Approved Projects Other Approvals and	y 6-2					
			Legislation that must be Applied Consistently to						
			Approved Projects	6-3					





#### **LIST OF TABLES**

#### Table 1-1 **Project Summary** Table 1-2 Director-General's Environmental Assessment Requirements - Reference Summary Table 2-1 Summary of the Tarrawonga Coal Mine **Environmental Management and** Monitoring Regime Table 2-2 Indicative Mine Schedule Table 2-3 Project Water Supply System Performance Table 2-4 Project Mine Water Containment System Performance Table 4-1 Key Potential Environmental Issues Table 4-2 Relevant Long-term Meteorological Information Table 4-3 Summary of Agricultural Lands at the Project Site, Buffer Area and Biodiversity Offset Area Table 4-4 Predicted Change in Total Alluvial Aquifer Storage Volumes Estimated Project Groundwater Licensing Table 4-5 Requirements Table 4-6 Local Sub-Catchment Area Summary Table 4-7 Summary of Regional Average Water **Quality Data** Table 4-8 Summary of Local Average Water Quality Table 4-9 Tarrawonga Coal Mine - Summary Ranges of Contained Water Quality Table 4-10 Progressive and Maximum Changes to Contributing Catchment of Local Creeks and the Namoi River Table 4-11 Relative Scale of Various Noise Sources Table 4-12 INP Project-specific Intrusive and Amenity Assessment Criteria (dBA) Table 4-13 Project-specific Noise Assessment Methodology Table 4-14 Summary of Potential Operational Noise Exceedances at Private Receivers under Adverse Meteorological Conditions Table 4-15 Relevant Criteria for Road Traffic Noise -Residences Table 4-16 Werris Creek Mungindi Railway Noise Assessment Trigger Levels Existing Tarrawonga Coal Mine Air Quality Table 4-17 Mitigation and Management Measures **OEH Criteria for Particulate Matter** Table 4-18 Concentrations Table 4-19 OEH Criteria for Dust (Insoluble Solids) Deposition Table 4-20 Annual average PM<sub>10</sub> Concentrations $(\mu g/m^3)$ Annual Average Dust Deposition Table 4-21 (Insoluble Solids) Levels (g/m²/month) Table 4-22 Summary of Potential Project Greenhouse Gas Emissions Table 4-23 Clearing of Native Vegetation Required by

#### **LIST OF TABLES (Continued)**

Table 4-24	Native Vegetation Communities – Project and Biodiversity Offset Areas
Table 4-25	Box-Gum Woodland EEC/CEEC at the Project and the Biodiversity Offset
Table 4-26	Proposed Biodiversity Offset Completion Criteria
Table 4-27	Reconciliation of the Proposed Offset Strategy against OEH Offset Principles
Table 4-28	Broad Fauna Habitat Types Proposed to be Cleared for the Project
Table 4-29	Existing Average Weekday Traffic Volumes
Table 4-30	Existing Tarrawonga Coal Mine and Predicted Project Traffic Volumes (Vehicles/Day)
Table 4-31	Predicted 2013, 2016 and 2029 Cumulative Traffic Volumes
Table 4-32	Visual Impact Matrix
Table 4-33	Locations of Visual Simulations
Table 4-34	Summary of Visual Assessment
Table 4-35	Summary of the Project Aboriginal Heritage Consultation/Survey Program
Table 4-36	Archaeological Significance of Relevant Aboriginal Heritage Sites
Table 4-37	Contributions to Employment, Gross Regional Product and Output by Industry Sector – Regional and NSW Economies (2005 to 2006)
Table 4-38	Direct Incremental Non-Local Workforce Requirements – 2021
Table 5-1	Rehabilitation and Mine Closure Goals for the Project
Table 5-2	Preliminary Project Soil Balance
Table 5-3	Proposed Key Rehabilitation Completion Criteria
Table 6-1	Principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development
Table SOC	<ul> <li>Summary of Project Management, Monitoring and Reporting</li> </ul>



the Project



#### **LIST OF PLATES** LIST OF FIGURES (Continued) Plate 5-1 Canyon Coal Mine - Prior to Reshaping Figure 4-3 Local Groundwater Monitoring Locations Plate 5-2 Canyon Coal Mine - Following Reshaping Transient Electromagnetic (TEM) Survey Figure 4-4 Plate 5-3 Canyon Coal Mine - Cover Crop Results Establishment Figure 4-5 Extent of Upper Namoi Alluvium Plate 5-4 Canyon Coal Mine - Cover Crop Figure 4-6 Local Surface Water Monitoring Locations, Establishment Licensed Discharge Points and Land Plate 5-5 Canyon Coal Mine - Rehabilitation Under Ownership Maintenance Figure 4-7 Streamflow Characteristics - Namoi River Plate 5-6 Canvon Coal Mine - Rehabilitation Under and Goonbri Creek (Inferred) Maintenance Plates Illustrating the Ephemeral Nature of Figure 4-8 Plate 5-7 Tarrawonga Coal Mine - Northern Goonbri Creek Emplacement Reshaping and Fauna Relevant Noise, Blasting and Air Quality Figure 4-9 Habitat Placement Monitoring Sites Plate 5-8 Tarrawonga Coal Mine - Northern Figure 4-10 Project Year 2 Night-time Operational **Emplacement Cover Crop Establishment** Noise Contours Plate 5-9 Tarrawonga Coal Mine - Northern Project Year 16 Night-time Operational Figure 4-11 **Emplacement Reshaping and Cover Crop** Noise Contours Establishment Figure 4-12 24-hour PM<sub>10</sub> Air Quality Contours -Plate 5-10 Tarrawonga Coal Mine - Northern Year 2 **Emplacement Tube Stock Establishment** Figure 4-13 24-hour PM<sub>10</sub> Air Quality Contours -Year 16 Vegetation Communities of the Project Figure 4-14 **LIST OF FIGURES** Area and Surrounds Figure 4-15 Regional Location of the Biodiversity Figure 1-1 Regional Location Offset Figure 1-2a Land Ownership Figure 4-16 Vegetation Communities Within the Figure 1-2b Relevant Land Ownership List **Biodiversity Offset** Figure 2-1 **Project General Arrangement** Figure 4-17 Broad Fauna Habitat Types Within the Project Area Figure 2-2 **Existing Environmental Monitoring** Locations Figure 4-18 Threatened Fauna Species Recorded in the Project Area and Surrounds Figure 2-3 Indicative Stratigraphy of the Project Area Figure 4-19 Broad Fauna Habitat Types Within the Figure 2-4 Project General Arrangement - Year 2 **Biodiversity Offset** Figure 2-5 Project General Arrangement - Year 4 Figure 4-20 Threatened Fauna Species Recorded in Figure 2-6 Project General Arrangement - Year 6 the Biodiversity Offset and Surrounds Figure 2-7 Project General Arrangement - Year 12 Figure 4-21 Local Road Network and Traffic Survey Figure 2-8 Project General Arrangement - Year 16 Locations Figure 2-9 Materials Handling Schematic for the Figure 4-22 Visual Simulation Locations and Land Tarrawonga Coal Mine and the Project Ownership Figure 2-10 Services Corridor to Boggabri Coal Mine Figure 4-23 Existing View and Visual Simulations -Infrastructure Facilities Bellevue Figure 2-11 Open Cut Extent - Conceptual Figure 4-24 Existing View and Visual Simulations -Cross-sections Coomalgah Integrated Waste Rock Emplacement Figure 2-12 Figure 4-25 Existing View and Visual Simulations -Design - Conceptual Cross-section Ambardo Figure 2-13 Project (and Existing) Water Management Figure 4-26 Existing View and Visual Simulations -Schematic Goonbri Road Figure 2-14 Conceptual Design of the Low Relevant Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Figure 4-27 Permeability Barrier and Permanent Flood Heritage Sites Bund Figure 5-1 Project General Arrangement -Figure 2-15 Low Permeability Barrier Construction Post-Mining Schematic Figure 5-2 Conceptual Final Landform Rehabilitation Figure 2-16 Permanent Goonbri Creek Alignment and Figure 5-3 Cross-section of the Rehabilitated Project Associated Flood Bund Mine Landform Regional Meteorological and Surface Figure 4-1 Figure SOC-1 Project Environmental Monitoring Network Water Monitoring Sites Figure SOC-2 Location of the Project Biodiversity Offset Figure 4-2 Project Agricultural Suitability Mapping





#### LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 Director-General's Environmental Assessment Requirements

Attachment 2 Project Application Area and Real Property Descriptions

Attachment 3 Potential Interactions between the Project and Other Major Projects

Attachment 4 Peer Review Letters

Attachment 5 Community Information

#### **LIST OF APPENDICES**

Appendix A **Groundwater Assessment** Appendix B Surface Water Assessment Appendix C Noise and Blasting Assessment Appendix D Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Assessment Appendix E Fauna Assessment (incorporating aquatic fauna) Appendix F Flora Assessment Appendix G Controlling Provisions of the EPBC Act Relevant to the Tarrawonga Coal Project **Environmental Assessment** Appendix H Road Transport Assessment Appendix I Agricultural Resources and Productivity Assessment Appendix J Visual Assessment Appendix K Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Appendix L Non-Aboriginal Heritage Assessment Appendix M Socio-Economic Assessment Appendix N Geochemistry Assessment Appendix O **Environmental Risk Assessment** Appendix P Preliminary Hazard Analysis Appendix Q Land Contamination Assessment Appendix R Concept Design for Low Permeability Barrier and Permanent Goonbri Creek Alignment



