


# Annual Review

## Vickery Coal Project

<b>Name of operation</b>	Vickery Coal Project
<b>Name of operator</b>	Whitehaven Coal Mining Ltd
<b>Development consent/project approval number</b>	SSD-5000
<b>Name of holder of development consent/project approval</b>	Whitehaven Coal Mining Ltd
<b>Mining lease number</b>	ML 1471, CL 316
<b>Name of holder of mining lease</b>	Whitehaven Coal Mining Ltd (ML 1471), Whitehaven Coal Mining Pty Ltd (CL 316)
<b>Water licence number</b>	Not applicable <sup>1</sup>
<b>Name of holder of water licence</b>	Whitehaven Coal Mining Ltd
<b>MOP start date</b>	Not applicable
<b>MOP end date</b>	Not applicable
<b>Annual review start date</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> January 2018
<b>Annual review end date</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> December 2018
<p><b>I, Jamie Frankcombe, certify that this audit report is a true and accurate record of the compliance status of Vickery Coal Project for the period January 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 until December 31<sup>st</sup> 2017, and that I am authorised to make this statement on behalf of Whitehaven Coal Mining Pty Ltd.</b></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>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).</i></p>	
<b>Name of authorised reporting officer</b>	Jamie Frankcombe
<b>Title of authorised reporting officer</b>	Chief Operating Officer
<b>Signature of authorised reporting officer</b>	
<b>Date</b>	26/02/2019
<p><sup>1</sup> Vickery Coal Project Environmental Assessment referenced a number of water licences for the Project however development, and hence utilisation of licences, is yet to commence.</p>	

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# 1. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The compliance status of the Vickery Coal Project as at the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018, is summarised in Table 1.

**Table 1 - Statement of Compliance**

Were all conditions of the relevant approval(s) complied with? <sup>1</sup>	
Development Consent SSD-5000	Yes
EPBC 2012/6263	Yes
Coal Lease 316	Yes
ML 1471	Yes
Authorisation 406	Yes

<sup>1</sup>Vickery Coal Project Environmental Assessment referenced a number of water licences for the Project, however development, and hence utilisation of licences, is yet to commence.

## 2. INTRODUCTION

This is the fourth Annual Review (AR) produced for the Vickery Coal Project (VCP), and has been prepared in accordance with Schedule 5, Condition 4 of Development Consent SSD-5000. The AR follows the format required by the NSW Government Annual Review Guideline (October, 2015).

The VCP is located approximately 15 kilometres south-east of Boggabri and approximately 25km north of Gunnedah in New South Wales (Refer to Figure 1). Mining operations at the previous Vickery Coal Mine ceased in 1998 when approval from the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) was granted to suspend operations and complete rehabilitation works on-site. Rehabilitation activities at the open cut and waste emplacement areas are now complete and the site is currently in closure. Whitehaven acquired 100 percent (%) of the Coal Lease (CL) 316 and Authorisation (AUTH) 406 from Rio Tinto Limited in January 2010.

The current VCP (SSD 5000), to which this AR related, was granted on the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2014. Operations are yet to commence under SSD 5000.

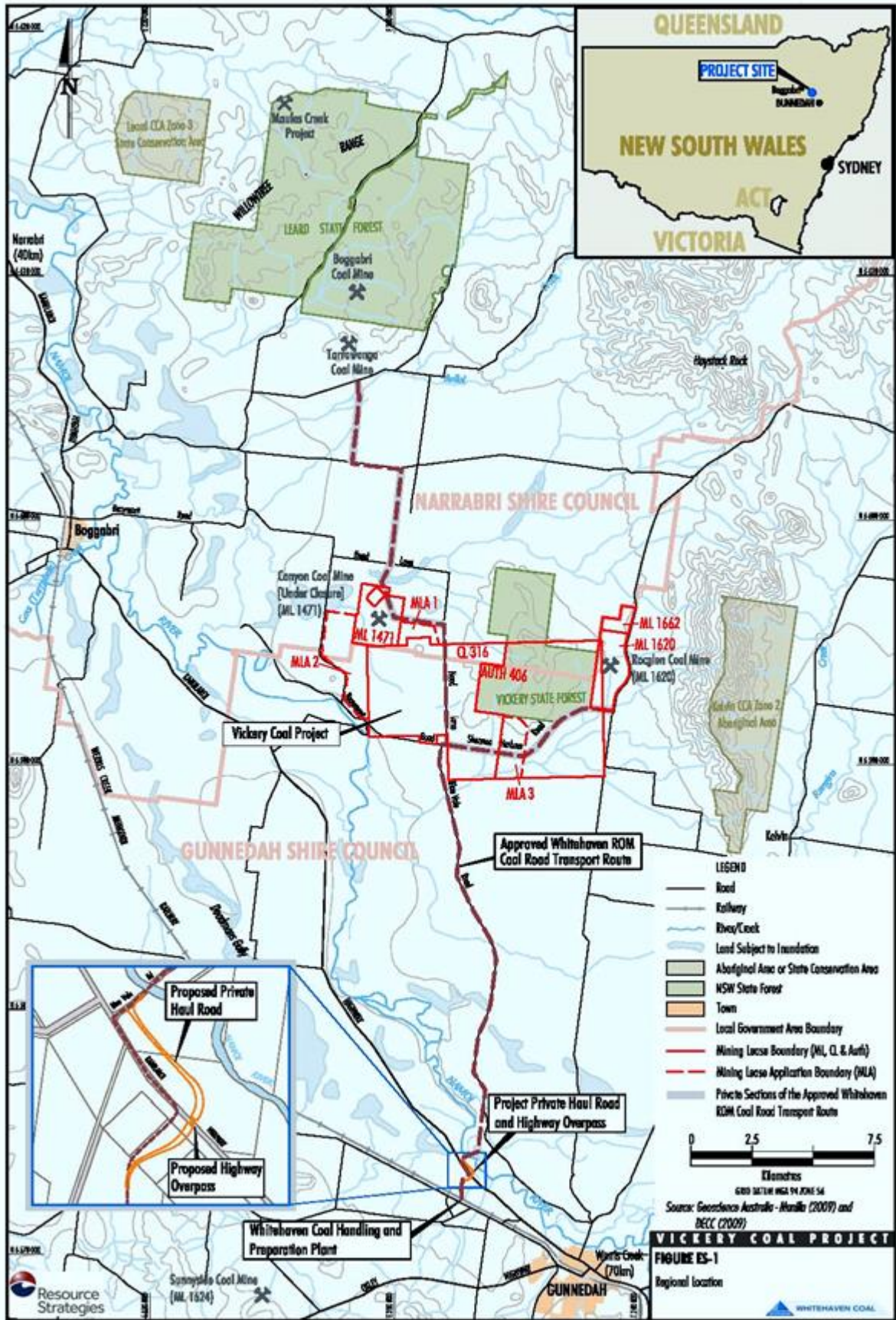


Figure 1 - Locality Plan

## 2.1 Mine Contacts

The management personnel responsible for the VCP, and their relevant contact details, are as follows:

- Mr Jacques du Toit, General Manager, Open Cut Operations – oversees Open Cut Operations for the Whitehaven Group. Contact: (02) 6741 9309
- Mr Andrew Raal, Environmental Officer – oversees day to day environmental and rehabilitation performance across the site. Contact 0436 685 548

## 3. APPROVALS

### 3.1 Tenements, Licences and Approvals

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

*Table 2 - Tenements, Licences and Approvals*

Issuing/Responsible Authority	Type of Lease, Licence, Approval	Date of Issue	Expiry	Comments
Department of Planning and Environment (DP&E)	Development Consent SSD-5000	18 <sup>th</sup> September 2014	31 <sup>st</sup> December 2044	
Department of the Environment	EPBC 2012/6263	17 <sup>th</sup> May 2012		
Division of Resources and Geoscience	Authorisation 406	29 <sup>th</sup> November 1988	18 <sup>th</sup> November 2019	
Division of Resources and Geoscience	Mining Lease 1471 (ML1471)	7 <sup>th</sup> September 2000	7 <sup>th</sup> September 2021	
Division of Resources and Geoscience	Coal Lease 316 (CL 316)	5 <sup>th</sup> June 1988	15 <sup>th</sup> June 2033	Renewal took effect on 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2012. Variation of Condition 5 effective from 20 <sup>th</sup> June 2018.
Water NSW	WAL 2577	22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2010	Continuing	
Water NSW	WAL 2578	22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2010	Continuing	
Water NSW	WAL 13051	22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2010	Continuing	
Water NSW	WAL 13052	22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2010	Continuing	
Water NSW	WAL 12714	7 <sup>th</sup> May 2010	Continuing	
Water NSW	WAL 2683	10 <sup>th</sup> March 2014	Continuing	
Water NSW	WAL 12622	16 <sup>th</sup> May 2013	Continuing	
Water NSW	WAL 12625	5 <sup>th</sup> April 2012	Continuing	
Water NSW	WAL 2682	10 <sup>th</sup> March 2014	Continuing	
Water NSW	WAL 12681	10 <sup>th</sup> March 2014	Continuing	
Water NSW	WAL 36576	22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2014	Continuing	



## 4. OPERATIONS SUMMARY

### 4.1 Mining Operations

No mining operations have commenced for the VCP (refer to Table 3).

*Table 3 - Production Summary*

Material	Approved Limit	Previous Reporting Period (actual)	This Reporting Period (actual)	Next Reporting Period (forecast)
Waste Rock/Overburden	1,269 Mbcm <sup>1</sup>	0	0	0
ROM Coal/Ore	4.5 Mtpa <sup>2</sup>	0	0	0
Coarse Reject	N/A	0	0	0
Fine Reject (Tailings)	N/A	0	0	0
Saleable Product	N/A	0	0	0

<sup>1</sup>Environmental Impact Statement – Life of Mine

<sup>2</sup> Development Consent SSD-5000

### 4.2 Next Reporting Period

Operations forecast for the next reporting period are expected to be limited to environmental monitoring.

## 5. ACTIONS REQUIRED FROM PREVIOUS ANNUAL REVIEW

There were no actions required from DP&E in relation to the 2017 Annual Review.

## 6. ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

### 6.1 Air Quality

#### 6.1.1 Criteria

The air quality criteria applicable to the VCP are specified in SSD-5000 Schedule 3, Tables 8, 9 & 10. These are summarised below:

*Table 4 - Air Quality Criteria*

Parameter	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 PM10 particulate level	30 µg/m <sup>3</sup>
24 hour average PM10 particulate level	50 µg/m <sup>3</sup>



### 6.1.2 Dust Monitoring

Construction of the VCP is yet to commence and as such no air quality monitoring for compliance purposes is undertaken.

### 6.1.3 Key Environmental Performance/Management Issues

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

### 6.1.4 Proposed Improvements to Environmental Management

No improvements are proposed within the next reporting period.

## **6.2 Biodiversity**

### 6.2.1 Threatened Flora

Investigations into the occurrence of threatened flora within the Project Approval Area were undertaken as part of the Environmental Assessment by Niche Environment and Heritage Consultants Pty Ltd, between November 2011 and January 2013.

The investigation identified one threatened flora species, Winged Peppercross (*Lepidium monoplocoides*) which has potential to be affected by the Project. The location within the Project Approval Area where the Winged Peppercross was identified, and an additional area where the species was identified outside the Project Approval Area, have been fenced to provide protection from livestock.

### 6.2.2 Threatened Fauna

Investigations into the occurrence of threatened fauna within the Project Approval Area were undertaken by Niche Environment and Heritage Pty Ltd, as part of the Environmental Assessment between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> November 2011. These investigations identified that 25 threatened fauna species could potentially be affected by the Project. These species and their potential for impact are available in the EIS available on the Whitehaven Coal website.

Construction of the VCP is yet to commence and as such, no monitoring of threatened fauna was conducted during the reporting period.

### 6.2.3 Biodiversity Offsets

Tarrawonga Coal Mine (TCM) revised Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) draft was submitted to DPE for NSW approval on the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018. TCMs approved Biodiversity Offset Strategy includes the Willeroi West BOA for maintaining and improving 1,660ha of native woodland and forest adjacent to the south eastern boundary of Mount Kaputar Nation Park. VCPs approved Biodiversity Offset Strategy includes the Willeroi East (Offset Area 1) BOA for maintaining and improving 1,671ha of native woodland and forest adjacent to Willeroi West BOA and the south eastern boundary of Mount Kaputar National park, as well as Offset Areas 2 to 5 covering 391.5ha located to the south and east of Boggabri.

A summary of the VCP Biodiversity Offset Strategy (BOS) implementation, undertaken in conjunction with the neighbouring Tarrawonga BOS, during the reporting period follows:

### Offset Security Management

During the reporting period, WHC undertook detailed cadastral survey definition and vegetation assessment as part of preparation of Conservation Agreements with the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT). WHC worked closely with the BCT during 2018 to progress Conservation Agreements towards in perpetuity securement of Willeroi BOA. WHC have consulted with DPE and DoEE as required during the reporting period to keep key regulators abreast of securement progress. Following registration of Conservation Agreements; WHC will prioritise negotiations of those BOAs that NPWS has previously shown interest in being transferred to National Park Estate.

### Infrastructure Management

During the reporting period, 10.0km of redundant internal fences were deconstructed from the revegetation areas on the Willeroi BOA. Part of the former fencing material and redundant waste historically deposited onsite at the Willeroi BOA was removed and recycled at the Narrabri Waste Management Facility with the remainder temporarily stockpiled to be correctly disposed offsite during the next reporting period. The condition of the BOA fences, gates and signage were maintained to continue restricting unauthorised access and prevent inadvertent livestock grazing with no new fencing constructed. Hazardous material assessments were completed during the reporting period for redundant and derelict assets/infrastructure (i.e. sheds and cottages) associated with the former agricultural use as part of planning for their demolition and removal in the next reporting period.

### Seed Management

Routine seed assessments completed for the Willeroi BOA were impacted by the severe drought conditions that were experienced during 2018. 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. Due to the drought conditions, additional seed collection opportunities within the Willeroi BOA were limited.

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 FY18 (completed) and currently being grown for the FY19 revegetation programs for the Willeroi BOA.

### Revegetation Management

The draft BMP revegetation strategy focuses on restoration and revegetation of cleared non-native grassland (former cultivation) and derived native grasslands, and assisting natural regeneration in better quality woodland areas. Revegetation ground preparation was completed during the previous reporting period. During the reporting period, WHC coordinated an overstorey revegetation program in September 2018 across the Willeroi BOA with 86ha planted with 6,469 hiko seedlings of *Eucalyptus albens*, *Eucalyptus blakelyi*, *Eucalyptus melliodora*, *Angophora floribunda*, *Eucalyptus populanea*, *Eucalyptus macrocarpa*, *Eucalyptus pilligaensis*, *Eucalyptus melanophloia* and *Eucalyptus crebra*. Despite the prevailing drought conditions

throughout 2018; routine tree watering and maintenance activities post planting have been successful to ensure that over an 80% survival had been achieved by the end of the reporting period which is commensurate with the target Box Gum Woodland vegetation structure of the Willeroi BOA. Previous ecological due diligence identified that there was 87ha of natural regeneration revegetation not requiring additional active revegetation at Willeroi BOA.

### Heritage Management

During the reporting period, historical heritage assessments were completed for redundant and derelict assets/infrastructure (i.e. sheds and cottages) associated with the former agricultural use as part of planning for their demolition and removal in the next reporting period. There are 19 known Aboriginal cultural heritage sites within the Willeroi BOA with each site maintained with identification/demarcating fencing around the heritage site perimeter and signage to mitigate access and disturbance.

### Habitat Management

During the reporting period, two rock debris habitat structures were constructed for habitat augmentation of the Willeroi BOA in accordance with the draft BMP.

### Weed Management

WHC coordinated routine formal weed monitoring/inspections undertaken across Willeroi BOA in February, May, September and November 2018. The priority weeds for control were noted as general broadleaf weeds (Biosecurity Act 2015 priority and general biosecurity duty species) as well as legacy noxious weeds inherited from previous owners' management regimes such as Coolati Grass, St Johns Wort, Sweet Briar and Common Prickly Pear. 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 Willeroi BOA for weed control.

During the reporting period, WHC implemented a comprehensive weed control program across the Willeroi BOA including 857.0ha treated between April and November 2018 targeting primarily Coolati Grass and St Johns Wort infestations as well as Sweet, Briar, Broadleaf and Pear 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.

### Feral Animal Management

WHC coordinated routine formal feral animal monitoring across the Willeroi BOA in February, May, September and November 2018. 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 Willeroi BOA. Feral animal monitoring utilises the relevant methodologies for specific feral animals generally in accordance with the NSW DPI *Monitoring Techniques for Vertebrate Pests* (2005) so that a range of methods can be used such as transects/spotlighting, sandpads, cameras traps where practicable and relevant to specific offset areas/properties. Monitoring demonstrated that there were some feral animals species that were in moderate abundance such as the European Red Fox, Feral Pig and Feral Goat. 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 Willeroi BOA for feral animal management.

During the reporting period, WHC implemented a comprehensive feral animal control program across the Willeroi BOA with fox baiting and pig trapping undertaken in March (5 Foxes baited from 32 baits presented and no Feral Pigs trapped), June (8 Foxes baited from 42 baits presented and 7 Feral Pigs trapped), October (8 Foxes baited from 42 baits presented and 5 Feral Pigs trapped) and December 2018 (6 Foxes from 42 baits presented, 3 Feral Pig trapped and 1 Fallow Deer removed). The Feral Goat harvesting during the reporting period resulted in 263 captured with the Feral Goats on sold to an abattoir. Only appropriately qualified and experienced feral animal contractors (appropriate feral animal management qualifications, NSW gun licence and pesticide accreditation where relevant) were engaged to undertake feral animal control works for WHC.

### Soil & Erosion Management

During the reporting period, no specific treatment or soil erosion mitigation works were undertaken.

### Grazing Management

Willeroi BOA was destocked at the end of 2015 and during the reporting period, grazing was continued to be excluded from the Willeroi BOA.

### Bushfire Management

In accordance with the draft BMP, annual fuel load monitoring was undertaken in December 2018 as part of planning and assessment for an ecological burn of the Willeroi BOA revegetation areas in Autumn 2019. WHC also completed a 17ha ecological burn of the Willeroi BOA in April 2018. Other fire management implemented by WHC during the reporting period included the maintenance fire break tracks (43.9km) to a zero fuel barrier standard. WHC maintains regular communications throughout the reporting period with both the Liverpool Range and Namoi-Gwydir Zone RFS teams around planning of WHC BOA 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.

### Monitoring Program

During the reporting period, the ecological monitoring program of the Willeroi BOA included winter bird surveys that were undertaken in July 2018; annual spring flora monitoring of 8 sites in October 2018 and fauna monitoring of 6 sites undertaken during November 2018. During the winter bird surveys, one threatened species was recorded (Turquoise Parrot). Despite the prevailing dry conditions for much of 2018; the native plant species richness did not change from the previous year with 8 sites meeting or exceeding the performance criteria (80% of native species richness benchmark for relevant biometric vegetation communities i.e. between 23 and 30 native species). Native overstorey cover increased from 0 sites last year to 1 out of the 8 sites meeting or exceeding the performance criteria (overstorey cover benchmark for relevant biometric vegetation communities i.e. between 6% and 40% cover). Native midstorey cover increased from 3 sites last year to 4 out of the 8 sites meeting or exceeding the performance criteria (midstorey cover

benchmark for relevant biometric vegetation communities i.e. between 0% and 25% cover). Native ground cover grasses had no change from the previous year with 8 out of the 8 sites meeting or exceeding the performance criteria (grass groundcover benchmark for relevant biometric vegetation communities i.e. between 5 % and 40% cover). A total of 66 bird species were recorded during standardised bird surveys in 2018. Average species richness at the 4 woodland sites was 23 and ranged from 16 to 33. Average species richness at the 2 restoration sites was 12.5 and ranged from 10 to 15. These results are similar to 2017 where average species richness at woodland sites was 25 (ranged from 19 to 32), and average species richness at restoration sites was 9.5 (ranged from 7 to 12). A total of 6 microbat species were recorded from harp trapping in 2018. Average species richness at the 4 woodland sites was 3 but ranged from 2 to 6. The results are consistent with 2017 where a total of 7 microbat species were also recorded (site average 3, ranging from 1 to 5).

#### 6.2.4 Weeds

No spraying of weeds was undertaken during the reporting period.

#### 6.2.5 Feral Animal Control

Given their proximity to one another, feral animal monitoring and control undertaken on the Canyon Coal Mine (CCM) is considered to be applicable to the VCP. Two monitoring cameras were installed on the CCM during November 2018, with results thus far indicating that Macropods are in high abundance, foxes are medium to scarce abundance, cats, goats, rabbits and deer are all scarce in abundance, and pigs and hare have a scarce to high abundance.

Pig trapping on CCM during the reporting period results in the capture and elimination of 23 pigs.

#### 6.2.6 Key Environmental Performance/Management Issues

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

#### 6.2.7 Proposed Improvements to Environmental Management

It is anticipated that monitoring will be expanded over the VCP early in 2019, and that control programs will be integrated based on the monitoring results obtained during 2019.

### **6.3 Blasting**

#### 6.3.1 Criteria

Blasting criteria for the VCP are noted in SSD-5000 however, they are not relevant for this reporting period as no blasting has been undertaken onsite.

#### 6.3.2 Key Environmental Performance/Management Issues

No blasts were undertaken during the reporting period.

### 6.3.3 Proposed Improvements to Environmental Management

No blasting is proposed to be undertaken during the next reporting period.

## 6.4 Operational Noise

### 6.4.1 Criteria

SSD-5000 details the noise criteria for site operations and coal haulage however, there was no requirement for noise monitoring during the reporting period given that development has not yet begun on site.

### 6.4.2 Key Environmental Performance/Management Issues

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

### 6.4.3 Proposed Improvements to Environmental Management

No improvements are proposed within the next reporting period.

## 6.5 Aboriginal Heritage Management

### 6.5.1 Environmental Management Measures

An assessment of cultural heritage of the mine site was conducted by Landskape in 2012. A total of 34 Aboriginal cultural heritage sites (including those sites that have been previously recorded and were reinspected as part of the field surveys) were identified during the field surveys of the Project mining area. See Figure 2.

Six sites were identified in the proposed haul road and overpass Project area. The sites comprise 25 scatters of stone artefacts, one containing axe-grinding grooves, and 15 isolated finds of stone artefacts

The majority of sites located within the Project mining area were associated with the open plains and the banks of ephemeral streams or drainage lines. Lower artefact densities occurred along the ridge top and upper slope areas. Stone assemblages are generally small in size ranging from single artefacts, to 67 artefacts discovered in one scatter.

A number of small to medium artefact scatters were located in the proposed haul road and overpass area on the banks of the Namoi River. The largest scatter (AHIMS site no. 20-4-0037) comprised approximately 57 flakes and one core.

### 6.5.2 Consultation

No soil stripping has been undertaken for the VCP. No additional Aboriginal cultural heritage items have been discovered, and no consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders was conducted during the reporting period.

### 6.5.3 Environmental Management Measures

Given the status of the site, the environmental management measures for Aboriginal Heritage are limited to ensuring that any identified heritage sites remain undisturbed.

### 6.5.4 Key Environmental Performance/Management Issues

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

### 6.5.5 Proposed Improvements to Environmental Management

No improvements are proposed within the next reporting period.



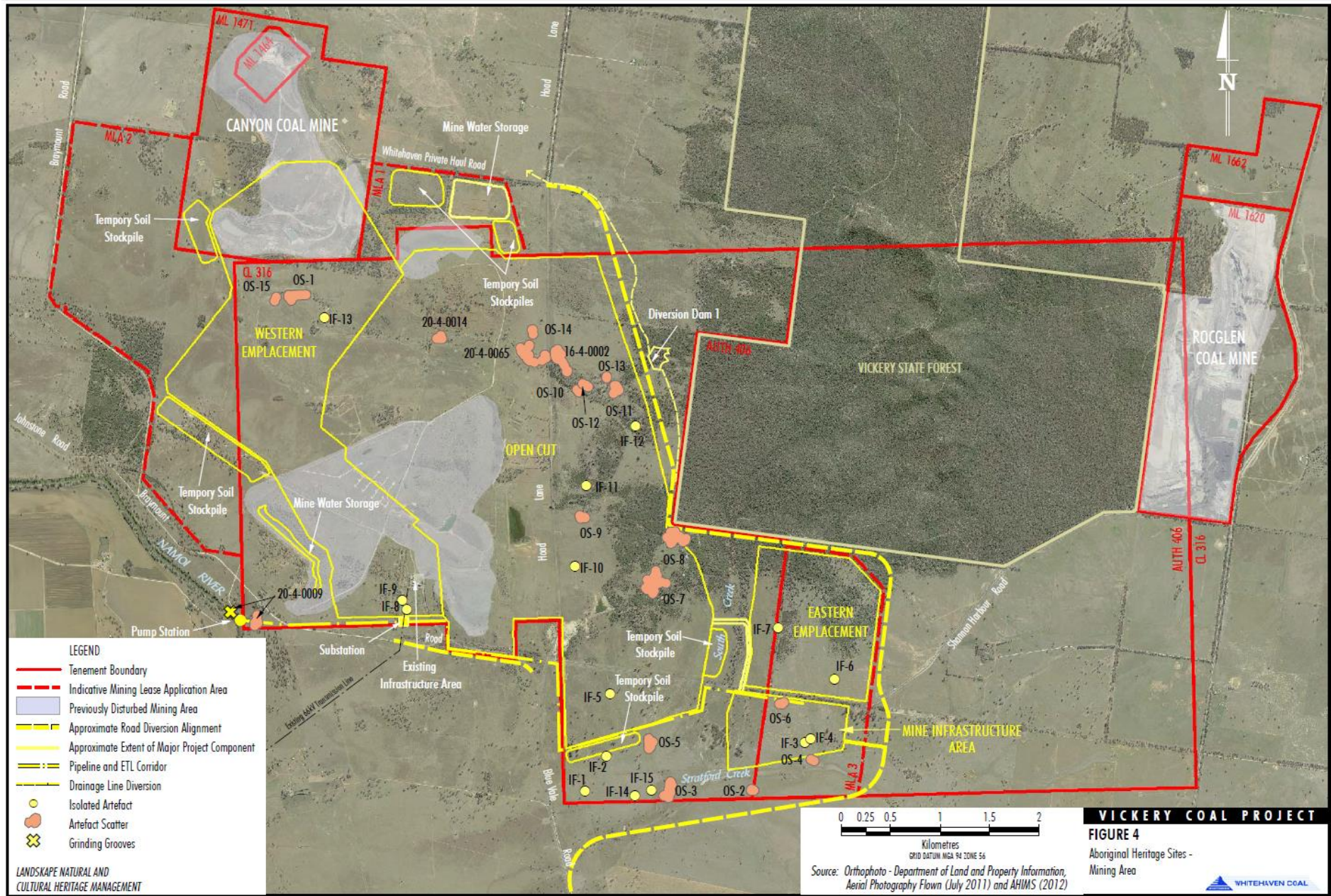


Figure 2 - Aboriginal Heritage Sites - Proposed Mining Area

## **6.6 Natural Heritage**

There are no features of natural heritage within the Project Approval area, and hence no specific management procedures are required.

## **6.7 Bushfire Management**

### **6.7.1 Environmental Management Measures**

VCP is located within an area of cleared agricultural land. Whitehaven Coal personnel liaise with the local Rural Fire Service, as required.

There have been no bushfire incidents on, or adjacent to, the mine site since SSD-5000 was granted.

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

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

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

No improvements are proposed for the next reporting period.

## **6.8 Waste Management**

### **6.8.1 Environmental Management Measures**

No waste generating activities were undertaken at the VCP during the reporting period.

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

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

### **6.8.3 Proposed Improvements to Environmental Management**

## 6.9 Meteorological Monitoring

Meteorological monitoring is undertaken to the north of the Project Area as shown in EA figure 4.14. A summary of weather data for the reporting period is shown in Table 4 below.

**Table 5 - Meteorological Monitoring**

Month	Rain (mm)	Minimum Wind Speed (m/s)	Average Wind Speed (m/s)	Maximum Wind Speed (m/s)	Average Wind Direction (degrees)
January	36.2	0	2.5	9.9	127
February	65	0	2.7	13.9	115
March	11.8	0	2.7	9.2	113
April	19.8	0	2.4	7.3	126
May	0	0	1.8	8.3	164
June	6	0	2.0	6.2	138
July	9.6	0	1.7	8.6	278
August	43.6	0	1.9	9.9	271
September	26.6	0	2.3	7.3	154
October	44.8	0	2.5	9.2	105
November	73.6	0	2.6	9.2	221
December	19.6	0	2.6	12.7	108

## 6.10 Environmental Performance Summary

An environmental performance summary for VCP is presented in Table 6 below.

**Table 6 - Environmental Performance**

Aspect	Approval Criteria/EIS Prediction	Performance During the Reporting Period	Trend/Key Management Implications	Implemented/Proposed Management Actions
Biodiversity	EPBC 2012/6263 and 3(33) of SSD-5000, requiring the translocation and protection of the Winged Peppercross within the disturbance boundary.	The area of Winged Peppercross has been successfully fenced off and signposted for protection.	Nil	Upon approval of the Biodiversity Management Plan, the translocation of the Winged Peppercross will be undertaken.

## 7. Water Management

### 7.1 Surface Water Management

No surface water monitoring was undertaken during the reporting period, as construction of the VCP is yet to commence.

#### 7.1.1 Discharges

There were no wet weather discharges during the reporting period.

#### 7.1.2 Water Take

During the reporting period no water was used on site.

### 7.2 Groundwater Management

#### 7.2.1 Environmental Performance/Management

No groundwater monitoring for compliance purposes has been undertaken during the reporting period, as construction of the VCP is yet to commence.

There has been no requirement for provision of any compensatory water supply during the reporting period as construction of the VCP is yet to commence.

### 7.3 Rehabilitation Performance during the Reporting Period

#### 7.3.1 Status of Mining and Rehabilitation

No disturbance has yet been undertaken for the VCP and as such, there has been no requirement for rehabilitation (refer Table 7).

**Table 7 - Rehabilitation Status**

Mine Area Type <sup>1</sup>	Previous Reporting Period (Actual) (ha)	This Reporting Period (Actual) (ha)	Next Reporting Period (Forecast) (ha)
	2018	2019	2020
A. Total Mine Footprint	0	0	0
B. Total Active Disturbance	0	0	0
C. Land Being Prepared for Rehabilitation	0	0	0
D. Land Under Active Rehabilitation	0	0	0
E. Completed Rehabilitation	0	0	0

<sup>1</sup>Refer to Annual Review Guidelines (p.11) for description of mine area types.

### 7.3.2 Post Rehabilitation Land Uses

Two final rehabilitation land uses are to be established at Vickery – land suitable for grazing (780ha), and native forest/woodland (1,360ha).

### 7.3.3 Renovation or Removal of Buildings

No renovation or removal of buildings occurred during the reporting period.

### 7.3.4 Other Rehabilitation Undertaken

No additional rehabilitation of exploration areas, infrastructure, shafts, adits, dams, fence lines or bunds occurred during the reporting period.

### 7.3.5 Departmental Sign-off of Rehabilitated Areas

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

### 7.3.6 Variations in Activities against MOP/RMP

Not applicable.

### 7.3.7 Trials, Research Projects and Initiatives

No rehabilitation trials, research projects or other initiatives were undertaken during the reporting period.

### 7.3.8 Key Issues to Achieving Successful Rehabilitation

No specific issues in achieving rehabilitation success have been determine to date.

## **7.4 Actions for Next Reporting Period**

No specific rehabilitation actions are proposed for the next reporting period.

# **8. Community**

## **8.1 Community Consultation**

In accordance with Schedule 5, Condition 6 of SSD-5000, a Community Consultative Committee (CCC) continues to operate for VCP. The committee comprises of representatives from the Gunnedah Shire Council, Narrabri Shire Council, WHC and the community.

Two CCC meetings were held during the 2018 calendar year, with the first held in August, and the second in October.

## **8.2 Community Complaints**

VCP 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 2018 reporting periods, consistent with previous years.

### **8.3 Community Engagement and Contributions**

Community contribution are managed in accordance with the Whitehaven Coal Donations and Sponsorship Policy. A total of \$374,751 worth of donations were made by WHC during the 2018 calendar year, of this, \$246,979 went towards Gunnedah and regional areas. Groups which received contributions included, but were not limited to, the following:

#### GUNNEDAH

- Role Models and Leaders Australia Ltd
- Rotary Club of Gunnedah
- Gunnedah Cycling & Triathlon Club Inc
- Gunnedah Family Support
- Black & Blue Gym
- Gunnedah Show Society
- Winanga-Li Aboriginal Child & Family Centre
- Gunnedah PCYC
- Gunnedah Ministers Fraternal
- Gunnedah & District Chamber of Commerce
- Gunnedah Eisteddfod Society
- Winanga-Li Aboriginal Child & Family Centre
- Gunnedah West Rotary Club
- Gunnedah Multiple Sclerosis Club
- Apex Gunnedah
- Gunnedah Men of League
- Gunnedah High School
- Challenge Community Service
- Curlewis Public School
- Old Bank Galley

#### REGIONAL

- NSW Minerals Council
- Australian Indigenous Oztag
- AUSIMM
- Dorothea Mackellar Memorial Society
- Armajun Health Service Aboriginal Corporation
- Aboriginal Steel Art
- ASX Thomson Reuters Charity Foundation
- Gomeroi Elders
- Uralla Shire Council
- Wee Waa Koori Netball

## **9. Independent Audit**

No independent audit was undertaken of the VCP during the reporting period. The first scheduled independent audit will take place within 2 years from the commencement of construction.

## **10. Incidents and Non-compliances during the Reporting Period**

### **10.1 Reportable Incidents**

No environmental incidents occurred at VCP during the reporting period.

### **10.2 Non-compliances**

There were no non-compliances found during the reporting period.

### **10.3 Regulatory Actions**

No regulatory actions were received for the VCP during the reporting period.

## **11. Activities to be completed in the Next Reporting Period**

The following measures will continue, or be implemented, in the next reporting period to improve the environmental or community performance of the operation:

- Continued undertaking of the CCC meetings;
- Continued weed and feral animal control, as required; and
- Continued environmental monitoring and reporting, as required.