


Annual Review

Vickery Coal Mine

Name of operation	Vickery Coal Mine
Name of operator	Whitehaven Coal Mining Ltd
Development consent/project approval number	SSD-5000
Name of holder of development consent/project approval	Whitehaven Coal Mining Ltd
Mining lease number	ML 1471, CL 316, ML 1718, AUTH 406
Name of holder of mining lease	Whitehaven Coal Mining Ltd (ML 1471), Whitehaven Coal Mining Ltd (CL 316), Whitehaven Coal Mining Ltd (ML 1718), Whitehaven Coal Mining Ltd (AUTH 406)
Water licence number	Not applicable ¹
Name of holder of water licence	Whitehaven Coal Mining Ltd
EMOP start date	21 st June 2020
EMOP end date	31 st July 2021
Annual review start date	1 st January 2021
Annual review end date	31 st December 2021
<p>I, Mark Stevens certify that this audit report is a true and accurate record of the compliance status of Vickery Coal Project for the period January 1st 2021 until December 31st 2021, and that I am authorised to make this statement on behalf of Whitehaven Coal Mining Pty Ltd.</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>	
Name of authorised reporting officer	Mark Stevens
Title of authorised reporting officer	EGM- Project Delivery
Signature of authorised reporting officer	
Date	25-2-22
<p>¹ 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 Mine as at the 31st December 2021, is summarised in **Table 1** and further detailed in **Table 2**.

Table 1 - Statement of Compliance

Approval	Were all conditions of the relevant approval(s) complied with? ¹
Development Consent SSD-5000	Yes
Coal Lease 316	No
ML 1471	Yes
Authorisation 406	Yes
ML 1718	Yes

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

Table 2 - Non-Compliances

Relevant Approval	Condition, Schedule & Number	Condition Description (Summary)	Compliance Status	Comment	Section
CL316	Condition 3, (a)	Mining operations must not be carried out otherwise than in accordance with a Mining Operations Plan (MOP) which has been approved by the Director- General	Non-compliant	A number of historical boreholes were identified as having incomplete rehabilitation during an application to renew the Exploration MOP. No exploration and rehabilitation activities were undertaken in 2021.	11.2
CL316	Condition 4 (b)	The EMR must: (i) report against compliance with the MOP; (ii) report on progress in respect of rehabilitation completion criteria; (iii) report on the extent of compliance with regulatory requirements; and (iv) have regard to any relevant guidelines adopted by the Director-General	Non-compliant	The Annual Review Vickery Coal Mine 1 January 2020 – 31 Dec 2020 as submitted 11 March 2021 did not include historic 2017-2019 active exploration disturbance of 0.2ha.	11.2

Table 3 - Key for Table 2

Risk Level	Colour Code	Description
High	Non-compliant	Non-compliance with potential for significant environmental consequences, regardless of the likelihood of occurrence
Medium	Non-compliant	Non-compliance with: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Potential for serious environmental consequences, but is unlikely to occur; or- Potential for moderate environmental consequences, but is likely to occur
Low	Non-compliant	Non-compliance with: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Potential for moderate environmental consequences, but is unlikely to occur; or- Potential for low environmental consequences, but is likely to occur
Administrative non-compliance	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 seventh Annual Review (AR) produced for the Vickery Coal Mine (VCM), 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 VCM is located approximately 15 kilometres (km) south-east of Boggabri and approximately 25 km north of Gunnedah in New South Wales (Refer to Figure 1). Mining operations at the previous VCM 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 (WHC) acquired 100 percent (%) of the Coal Lease (CL) 316 and Authorisation (AUTH) 406 from Rio Tinto Limited in January 2010. ML1718 was issued under Part 5 of the NSW *Mining Act*, 1992 by the NSW Minister for Mineral Resources in September 2015.

The VCM (SSD 5000), to which this AR relates, was granted on the 19th September 2014. Construction and operation is yet to commence under SSD 5000.

Development Consent (SSD-7480) was granted to VCPL on 12 August 2020 by the NSW Independent Planning Commission as a delegate of the NSW Minister for Planning under Section 75J of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979* (EP&A Act). The Development Consent allows for the development of an open cut mine and associated infrastructure with a 25 year mine life, extracting run-of-mine (ROM) coal at up to 10 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) and processing the coal, as well as coal from WHC's Tarrawonga Mine, at an on-site coal handling and processing plant (CHPP) for off-site transport by rail. Construction and mining activities associated with SSD-7480 have not commenced during the reporting period, therefore this AR is not required to address any conditions relevant to the Development Consent SSD-7480.

2.1 Mine Contacts

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

- Mr Mark Stevens, Executive General Manager – Project Delivery. Contact (07) 3738 2003 or 0400 041 364.

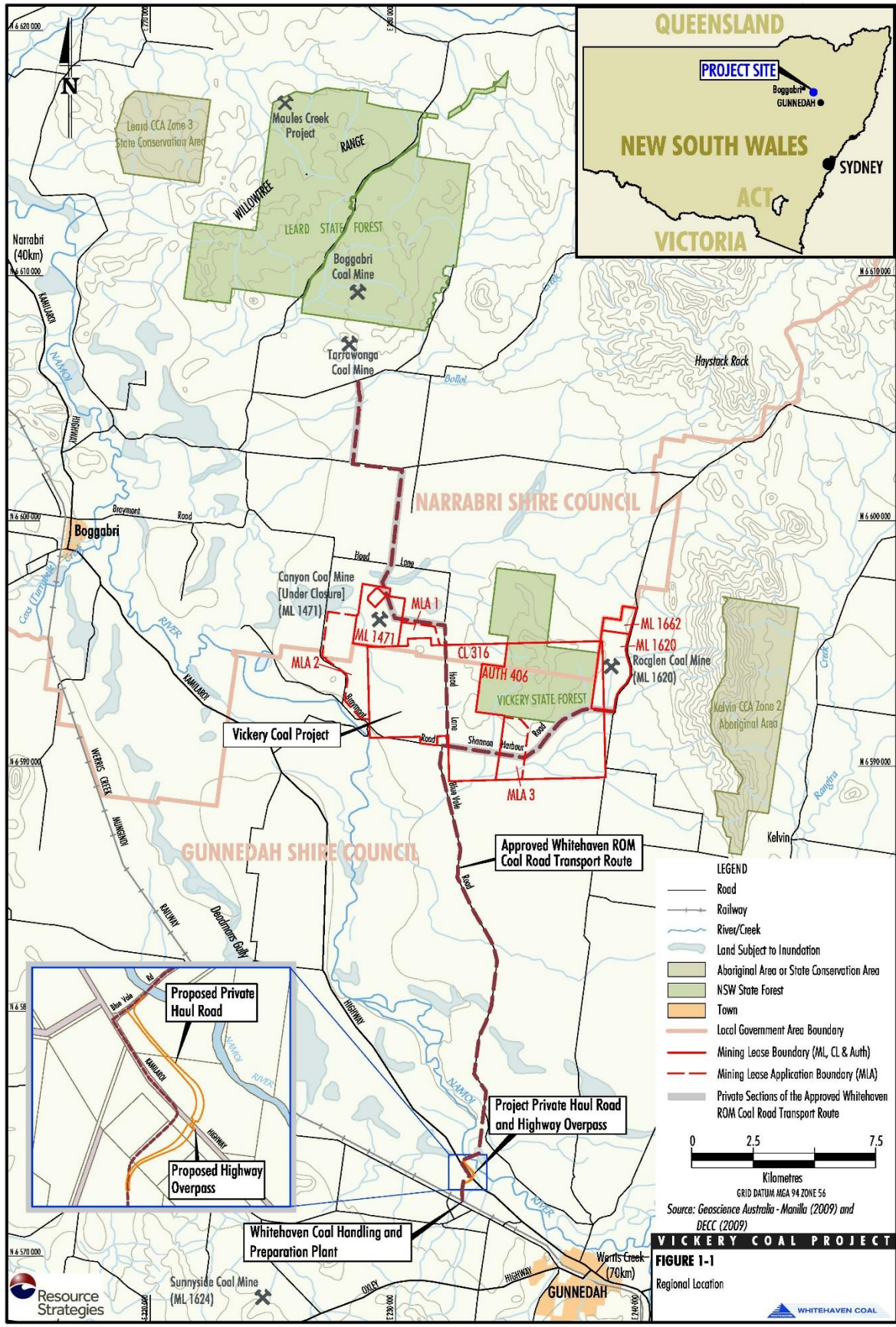


Figure 1 - Locality Plan

3. APPROVALS

3.1 Tenements, Licences and Approvals

Table 4 identifies the approvals in place for the VCM at the end of the reporting period, the issuing/responsible Authority, date of issue, expiry date and relevant comments.

Table 4 - Tenements, Licences and Approvals

Issuing/Responsible Authority	Type of Lease, Licence, Approval	Date of Issue	Expiry
Independent Planning Commission of NSW	Development Consent SSD-7480	12 th August 2020	11 th August 2045
Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment (DPIE)	Development Consent SSD-5000	19 th September 2014	31 st December 2044
Australian Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.	EPBC 2012/6263	17 th May 2012	Continuing
Australian Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.	EPBC 2016/7649	15 th September 2021	31 st December 2051
Environment Protection Licence – NSW (EPL)	EPL 21283	17 th May 2019	Continuing
Department of Regional NSW – Division of Mining, Exploration and Geoscience (DMEG)	Authorisation 406	29 th November 1988	18 th November 2020
Department of Regional NSW – Division of Mining, Exploration and Geoscience (DMEG)	Mining Lease 1471 (ML 1471)	7 th September 2000	7 th September 2021
Department of Regional NSW – Division of Mining, Exploration and Geoscience (DMEG)	Coal Lease 316 (CL 316)	5 th June 1988	15 th June 2033
Department of Regional NSW – Division of Mining, Exploration and Geoscience (DMEG)	Mining Lease 1718 (ML 1718)	15 th September 2015	15 th September 2036

Note: 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.

4. OPERATIONS SUMMARY

4.1 Mining Operations

No mining operations have commenced for the VCM (refer to **Table 5**).

Table 5 - Production Summary

Material	Approved Limit	Previous Reporting Period (actual)	This Reporting Period (actual)	Next Reporting Period (forecast)
Waste Rock/Overburden	1,269 Mbcm ¹	0	0	0
ROM Coal/Ore	4.5 Mtpa ²	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

¹Environmental Impact Statement – Life of Mine

² Development Consent SSD-5000

4.2 Next Reporting Period

In August 2020 the Vickery Extension Project received approval from the NSW Independent Planning Commission (IPC) to operate an up to 10Mtpa open cut metallurgical and thermal coal mine, with onsite processing and rail infrastructure. On 16 September 2021 the Federal Minister for the Environment approved the Project under the Commonwealth's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Following the granting of the EPBC approval, activities in relation to the Project during the 2022 reporting period will include:

- detailed engineering and design studies in relation to infrastructure for the project;
- associated geotechnical investigations and other pre-construction activities; and
- various primary and secondary approvals (ie tenement applications and management plans).

Projects are subject to Whitehaven's strict capital allocation framework for projects. The VEP will continue to target progression through internal 'toll gates' (ie the Future Investment Decision [FID] stage), for the Project.

5. ACTIONS REQUIRED FROM PREVIOUS ANNUAL REVIEW

There were no actions required from DPI&E in relation to the 2021 Annual Review. However, **Table 6** indicates commitments identified by WHC from the last Annual Review.

Table 6 - Actions from the previous Annual Review

Action required from previous Annual Review	Requested by	Action taken by the Operator	Where discussed in Annual Review
Continue CCC Meetings	Operator	CCC Meeting held in August and November 2021	Section 9
Continuation of weed and feral animal monitoring on-site to guide management actions	Operator	Weed and feral animal monitoring was undertaken	Section 6.2.6 and 6.2.7
Continue environmental monitoring and reporting, as required	Operator	Environmental monitoring was continued	Section 6

6. ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

6.1 Air Quality

Air quality criteria for VCM is noted in SSD-5000 however, they are not relevant as no operational activities have occurred during the reporting period.

6.1.1 Dust Monitoring

Construction of the VCM is yet to commence and as such no air quality monitoring for compliance purposes is undertaken. Monitoring of deposited dust is undertaken on a monthly basis, with results within the criteria of 4g/m²/month (**Table 7**).

An elevated mean annual dust deposition level of 5.81 g/m²/month was recorded at site DG1 and 5.31 g/m²/month was recorded at site V1 and was reported to the DPI&E for administrative purposes. This result has been determined to be unrelated to the development and attributable to farming with slashing and cropping activities recorded around both dust gauges.

Table 7 - Depositional Dust

Site	Property Name	Annual mean total insoluble solids (g/m ² /month)
DG1	Ingleburn	5.81
DG2	Mirrabinda	1.62
V1	Greenwood/Shannon Harbour	5.31
V2	Greenwood/Shannon Harbour	0.90
V3	Welkaree/Tralee	2.61
V4	Shannon Harbour	1.03
V5	Wilga	2.15

6.1.2 Air Quality Monitoring

PM₁₀ is measured at a Whitehaven Coal owned property, approximately 1.5 km to the east of the north-eastern boundary of the mining lease. For the majority of the year, the results were within the criteria. The mean annual PM₁₀ particulate level was 7.4 µg/m³ which was within the 30 µg/m³ criteria. This value is below the predicted mean annual PM₁₀ particulate levels in the EIS (between 15 µg/m³ and 35 µg/m³).

The 24 hour average PM₁₀ particulate level was not exceeded during 2021. Total suspended particulate matter was within target criteria during the year with a value of 14.8 µg/m³.

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 Biodiversity Offset Area (BOA) Management

VCM commits to implementing the Vickery Mine BOS, in particular the requirements of SSD 7480 Condition B56/B57 and B58/B59 plus EPBC Approval 2016/7649 Conditions 19-21, within 2 years of the date of commencement of development; however commencement of the development was not triggered during the reporting period. The Willeroi East BOA is located in Maules Creek valley (tributary of Namoi River) adjacent to the eastern boundary of Mount Kaputar National Park.

6.2.2 Offset Security Management

VCM has commenced compliance with SSD 7480 Condition B56 and B57 by securing in perpetuity the Conservation Agreement CA0060 over the whole Willeroi property (including Willeroi East BOA) which was registered on the land title on 24th June 2021. VCM will re-engage with NPWS whom have previously shown interest in the Willeroi Offset property being transferred to National Park Estate; while in parallel VCM assesses the potential of other company owned properties as offsets towards the BOS. Future revisions of the BMP will outline how Credit Retirement for SSD 7480 Condition B60 and B61 will be undertaken; however currently does not apply until 2 years post commencement of the development. Following commencement of the VCM development is triggered; VCM commit to submitting six-monthly reports every 6 months to the Department on the progress towards retirements of credits required by SSD 7480 Condition B58/B59.

6.2.3 Weather Summary of Offset Properties

Regionally central meteorological station to the BOAs is the Gunnedah Pool site (BOM 2021) which has recorded highly variable rainfall over the last 3 years; from driest in 140 years of 237mm in 2019, followed by above average rainfall years in 2020 and 2021 of 833mm and 990mm respectively resulting in major flooding of the Namoi River in November and December 2021. VCM maintain a meteorological station on the Willeroi Offset property; a summary of weather conditions experienced at Willeroi (99 M15) being annual temperature ranges were 2°C to 34°C in 2022 and the total annual rainfall in 2022 was 686mm with the maximum in November (132mm) and minimum in April (13mm).

6.2.4 Infrastructure & Waste Management

During the reporting period, a total of 2.3km of new fencing (fauna friendly) was constructed along the perimeter of the prospective Glenroc and Yarrowonga Offset Properties as well as maintenance of signage and gates undertaken as required to continue to restrict unauthorised access and minimise livestock incursion. Also during the reporting period, 300m of redundant internal fences were deconstructed from the Mt Somner Offset.

6.2.5 Heritage Management

During the reporting period, annual heritage inspections were completed on the 12 known Aboriginal archaeological heritage sites within the VCM BOA. Each site is maintained with demarcation fencing around the heritage site perimeter and signage to mitigate access and disturbance. During this reporting period, five new Aboriginal archaeological heritage sites were identified on the prospective Yarrowonga and Glenroc Offset

properties and four existing Aboriginal archaeological heritage sites on the prospective Blue Vale Offset property added.

6.2.6 Weed Management

WHC coordinated routine formal weed monitoring/inspections undertaken across VCM BOA in February, May, September and December 2021. The priority weeds identified included legacy weeds inherited from previous owners management regimes such as Box Thorn, Prickly Pear, Sweet Rose Briar, St John's Wort and Coolatai Grass 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 VCM BOA for weed control. During the reporting period, WHC implemented a weed control program across the VCM BOA including 1479ha treated across the Willeroi East, Mt Somner, Yarrowonga and Glenroc Offset Properties. Only appropriately qualified and experienced weed contractors (AQF3 accreditation or higher for use of herbicide) were engaged to undertake weed control works for WHC.

6.2.7 Pest Animal Management

WHC undertook routine pest animal monitoring across the VCM BOA in February, May, September, and November 2021. The adoption of a "monitor, measure and manage" approach to pest animal management will allow WHC to implement adaptive management in response to changes being measured through monitoring in pest animal abundance specific to the different geographical regions of the VCM BOA. Pest animal monitoring utilises the relevant methodologies for specific pest 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. Monitoring demonstrated that certain animals like Eastern Grey Kangaroos can be high abundance all year; while Feral Pigs and Foxes are seasonally variable between high to medium abundance and all other pest animal species recorded as scarce to low abundance levels across 2021. The pest animal monitoring ensures that timely and prioritised pest animal control is undertaken on a seasonal basis identifying what, where, when and how to target appropriate resources across the VCM BOA for pest animal management.

During the reporting period, WHC implemented a comprehensive feral animal control program across the VCM BOA with routine 1080 baiting and pig trapping programs undertaken in March (10 Foxes removed from 72 baits presented and 5 pigs trapped and removed), June and July (13 Foxes removed from 54 baits presented), September (20 Foxes removed from 54 baits presented and 11 feral Pigs trapped) and December 2021 (22 Foxes removed from 66 baits presented and 1 Feral Pig trapped). During the reporting period, 246 baits were presented on the VCM BOA resulting in 26% taken by pest animals. Night time open range shooting programs were implemented in conjunction with the other programs resulting in an additional 2 feral cats and 3 hares, being controlled on the Mt Somner Offset Property in 2021. Only appropriately qualified and experienced feral animal contractors (appropriate feral animal management qualifications, NSW fire arm licence and pesticide accreditation where relevant) were engaged to undertake feral animal control works for WHC.

6.2.8 Soil & Erosion Management

Annual inspections were undertaken including unsealed fire break tracks and associated drainage structures across the VCM 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)). The remaining sites and tracks/drainage structures are maintained during routine WHC Biodiversity firebreak track maintenance program.

6.2.9 Bushfire Management

During the reporting period, no bushfires occurred and no ecological burns were undertaken.

6.2.10 *Lepidium monoplocoides* Management

In accordance with approval requirements, monitoring of Winged Peppergrass was undertaken in late spring and summer 2021 during good growing conditions. In September 2021 this monitoring identified greater than 165 Winged Peppergrass individuals within the Canyon Protection Area. Following consultation with DPIE regarding monitoring of the Winged Peppergrass within Pilliga National Park, monitoring changed from a direct count of all individuals to counts within three plots with each plot 100 m². This monitoring recorded an average of 15 plants per 100 m² in the Canyon Protection Area in December 2021, broadly similar to the 17 plants per 100 m² recorded within monitoring locations in Pilliga National Park.

During the reporting period, the previously translocated Winged Peppergrass plant from the Vickery Impact Area to the Canyon Protection Area continued to produce flowers and seeds until June 2021 with a total of 106 seeds collected from this individual post translocation and a further 34 seeds allowed to self-sow within the Canyon Protection Area before completing its life cycle. Further, a germination and propagation trial for the Winged Peppergrass commenced in 2021 with a total of 216 seedlings grown from seed collected from the Canyon Protection Area in October 2020 was planted back into the Canyon Protection Area on 14 September 2021. Additionally, 1,000 seeds of the species were direct seeded within the Canyon Protection Area within marked one metre cells on 14 September 2021. Monitoring of the 216 seedlings grown from seed collected from the Canyon Protection Area recorded fruit production indicating that the species was able to complete its life-cycle following translocation and reinforce the Winged Peppergrass population within the Canyon Protection Area. No germination of Winged Peppergrass was observed within direct seeding cells during the reporting period.

6.2.11 Key Environmental Performance/Management Issues

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

6.2.12 Proposed Improvements to Environmental Management

No improvements are proposed within the next reporting period.

6.3 Blasting

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

6.4 Operational Noise

Noise criteria for the VCM are noted in SSD 5000 however, they are not relevant for this reporting period as site operations and coal haulage have not begun on site.

6.5 Aboriginal Heritage Management

A number of cultural heritage items have been identified on the site. 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 in 2012.

No Aboriginal management measures were put in place in 2021 due to the status of the mine site.

The Vickery Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan was approved during the reporting period for SSD-7480.

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 ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

An environmental performance summary for VCM is presented in **Table 8** below.

Table 8 - Environmental Performance

Aspect	Approval Criteria/ EIS Prediction	Performance During the Reporting Period	Trend/Key Management Implications	Implemented/Proposed Management Actions
Mean annual dust deposition	4 g/m ² /month	5.81 g/m ² /month at DG1 and 5.31g/m ² /month at V1.	No operational activities at VCM – exceedances not deemed to be mine related	N/A - site not operational
Mean annual PM ₁₀ particulate level	30 µg/m ³	7.4 µg/m ³	Within criteria	N/A - site not operational
24 hour average PM ₁₀ particulate level	50 µg/m ³	Compliant with criteria.	Within criteria	N/A - site not operational
Mean annual Total Suspended Particulate (TSP) matter	90 µg/m ³	14.8 µg/m ³	Within criteria	N/A
Biodiversity	EPBC 2012/6263 and 3(33) of SSD-5000, requires the translocation and protection of the Winged Peppercreess.	Progress made towards protecting the species.	N/A	Continue regular monitoring and maintenance of fence.
Erosion	ML 1471 (15 & 47)	Continued erosion issues within the final void.	Erosion within Canyon void. Void is a closed system.	Areas requiring erosion repair within the Canyon Void were identified. Remediation work was undertaken and remains ongoing.
Water	SSD-5000, Schedule 3 (25)	No water discharges offsite.	No operational activities at VCM	N/A

7. WATER MANAGEMENT

7.1 Surface Water Management

7.1.1 Environmental Performance/Management

Construction of the VCM is yet to commence and as such no water quality monitoring for compliance purposes is undertaken. No water take occurred during the reporting period.

7.1.2 Key Environmental Performance/Management Issues

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

7.1.3 Proposed Improvements to Environmental Management

No improvements are proposed for the next reporting period.

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 VCM is yet to commence.

7.2.2 Key Environmental Performance/Management Issues

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

7.2.3 Proposed Improvements to Environmental Management

No improvements are proposed for the next reporting period.

8. REHABILITATION PERFORMANCE DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

8.1 Status of Mining and Rehabilitation

Table 9 summaries the rehabilitation status at Vickery. Historic 2017-2019 active exploration disturbance of 0.2ha is noted in Table 9.

Table 9 - Rehabilitation Status

Mine Area Type ¹	Previous Reporting Period (Actual) (ha)	This Reporting Period (Actual) (ha)	Next Reporting Period (Forecast) (ha)
	2020	2021	2022
Total Mine Footprint	0	0	0
Total Active Disturbance	0.2	0.2	0
Land Being Prepared for Rehabilitation	0	0	0
Land Under Active Rehabilitation	0	0	0
Completed Rehabilitation	0	0	6.2 ²

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

² 6 ha of additional disturbance associated with 74 exploration bores to be drilled, will be disturbed and rehabilitated during the 2022 reporting period. See section 8.5.

8.2 Post Rehabilitation Land Uses

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

8.3 Key Rehabilitation Performance Indicators

No rehabilitation occurred during the reporting period.

8.4 Renovation or Removal of Buildings

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

8.5 Other Rehabilitation Undertaken

No exploration drilling / disturbance related to drilling was undertaken in the reporting period in CL316, all previous bores were capped.

In the next reporting period, rehabilitation activities will be undertaken on the 77 existing bores, which comprises of 0.2 hectares. In addition 6 hectares of disturbance will be rehabilitated associated with 74 newly drilled bores.

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

8.6 Departmental Sign-off of Rehabilitated Areas

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

8.7 Variations in Activities against MOP/RMP

Not applicable.

8.8 Trials, Research Projects and Initiatives

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

8.9 Key Issues to Achieving Successful Rehabilitation

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

8.10 Actions for Next Reporting Period

Ongoing environmental monitoring and management, as per SSD-5000.

9. COMMUNITY

In accordance with Schedule 5, Condition 6 of SSD-5000, the Community Consultative Committee (CCC) met in August and November 2021.

No complaints were received during the 2021 reporting period.

Community contributions are managed in accordance with the Whitehaven Coal Donations and Sponsorship Policy. Whitehaven Coal donated \$219, 460.39 to various local Gunnedah and Regional groups during the reporting period.

10. INDEPENDENT AUDIT

No independent audit was undertaken for the VCM during the reporting period. The first scheduled Independent Environmental Audit (IEA) will take place within 2 years from the commencement of construction.

The Canyon Coal Mine and the Vickery Coal Mine both overlap ML 1471. In November 2021, Canyon Coal Mine IEA was undertaken. The final IEA report and action plan was submitted in December 2021 and approved by DPIE. The IEA identified one administrative non-compliance, which has been actioned and closed out.

11. INCIDENTS AND NON-COMPLIANCES DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

11.1 Reportable Incidents

There were no reportable incidents recorded during the reporting period.

11.2 Non-compliances

A non-compliance was identified at VCM during the reporting period and remains under investigation by the Resource Regulator.

Exploration drilling undertaken between 2017-2019 was not completely rehabilitated in accordance with all commitments prescribed by the Exploration MOP. Borehole capping, waste removal and drill site rehabilitation activities have been completed for all exploration drilling undertaken between 2017-2019, with outstanding rehabilitation limited to the final grouting of drill holes and removal of collar casing, which will be completed as a priority in 2022. The total area requiring rehabilitation following grouting is approximately 0.2ha.

The Vickery Coal Mine annual review 1 January 2020 – 31 Dec 2020 as submitted 11 March 2021 did not include reporting of the historic 2017-2019 active exploration disturbance of 0.2ha. This has been addressed and included in section 8 of this annual review.

11.3 Regulatory Actions

No penalty notices were received in 2021.

12. 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:

- Continuation of the CCC meetings;
- Continuation of weed and feral animal monitoring on-site to guide management actions,
- Environmental management related to exploration, and rehabilitation of previous boreholes; and
- Continued environmental monitoring and reporting, as required.

13. REFERENCES

Annual Review Guideline – Post Approval requirements for State significant mining developments (October 2015), NSW Government, available: <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/en/Policy-and-Legislation/Mining-and-Resources/~media/3AA21D35168042FE813DD0FB92E00E58.ashx>, accessed on 19/01/2022.