

AMBS Ref: 19777

2 September 2022



Andrew Wright  
Whitehaven Coal Limited  
231 Conadilly Street  
Gunnedah NSW 2380

Dear Andrew,

### ***Vickery Coal Mine EPBC Condition 21***

The Vickery Coal Mine (VCM) is subject to an approval granted under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). Condition 21 of the EPBC Act Approval 2016/7649 specifies the area of potential habitat required within land based offsets, for the Regent Honeyeater (*Anthochaera phrygia*) and Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*):

*21. The **approval holder** must provide the Minister with a statement, prior to the **commencement of the action** validating that the approved land based offsets specified in Table 9 of the **State development consent** contain at least 293.9 ha of potential Regent Honeyeater (*Anthochaera phrygia*) habitat (the equivalent of 2087 species credits) and 112 ha of potential Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) habitat (the equivalent of 795 species credits). The statement must be endorsed by an accredited assessor under the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 and must be published on the **approval holder's** website.*

As per Condition 21 of the EPBC Act Approval 2016/7649, the primary purpose of this study is to verify the quantity of potential habitat for the Regent Honeyeater and Koala within an offset property referred to as "Willeroi East" (as identified as the Willeroi East Offset Area in NSW SSD-7480 Approval Condition B56, Table 9). AMBS Ecology & Heritage Pty Ltd (AMBS) was engaged to undertake this study, which involved a desktop review of relevant information, including the results of field surveys of the vegetation and fauna habitats within Willeroi East, to produce a statement for the *Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water*, endorsed by an accredited assessor under the *NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (Mark Semeniuk, AMBS Director Fauna Ecology, Accredited BAM Assessor BAAS17072).

Plant Community Type (PCT) mapping within Willeroi East identified several PCTs that provide potential habitat for the Regent Honeyeater and Koala (Table 1; Attachment 1), for the following reasons:

- all PCTs (Table 1; Attachment 1) are associated with the Regent Honeyeater and Koala according to the *BioNet Threatened Biodiversity Data Collection* (DPE 2022);
- Koala feed and/or shelter trees are present within each polygon investigated; and
- Regent Honeyeater foraging resources are present within each polygon investigated.

It is the AMBS Accredited BAM Assessors opinion that the habitat area identified in Table 1 and Attachment 1 contains at least 293.9 ha of potential Regent Honeyeater (*Anthochaera phrygia*) habitat, and 112 ha of potential Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) habitat.

**Table 1 PCTs providing potential habitat for the Regent Honeyeater and Koala.**

PCT ID	PCT Name	Area (ha)
84	River Oak - Rough-barked Apple - red gum - box riparian tall woodland (wetland) of the Brigalow Belt South and Nandewar Bioregions	1.55
563	White Box - Silvertop Stringybark +/- White Cypress Pine grass shrub open forest of the southern Nandewar Bioregion and New England Tablelands Bioregion	0.01
588	White Box - White Cypress Pine shrubby hills open forest mainly in the Nandewar Bioregion	131.41
592	Narrow-leaved Ironbark - cypress pine - White Box shrubby open forest in the Brigalow Belt South Bioregion and Nandewar Bioregion	14.36
1308	White Box - White Cypress Pine shrubby open forest of the Nandewar Bioregion and Brigalow Belt South Bioregion	156.27
1383	White Box grassy woodland of the Nandewar Bioregion and Brigalow Belt South Bioregion	1.88
<b>Total Area (ha)</b>		<b>305.48</b>

Should you require any additional information or if I can be of assistance in any way please contact me on (02) 9518 4489 or email [mark@ambs.com.au](mailto:mark@ambs.com.au).

Yours sincerely,

Mark Semeniuk  
 Director Fauna Ecology  
 Accredited BAM Assessor (BAAS17072)  
 AMBS Ecology & Heritage

## Attachment 1: Regent Honeyeater and Koala potential habitat

