



**CANYON COAL MINE
ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

Document Owner: General Manager

Last Revision Date: 05/2018

Date Printed: 18/05/2018

**WHC_PLN_CAN_ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**CANYON COAL MINE
ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL
HERITAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Edition	Rev.	Comments	Author	Authorised By	Date
1	0	Initial document			Dec 2005
	1	2015 Modification Review	T. Dwyer	J. Johnson	Nov 2015
	2	2017 AR Review	E. Clements	N. Wood	May 2018



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ACRONYMS USED THROUGHOUT THIS DOCUMENT

AR	-	Annual Review (incorporates Annual Environmental Management Report)
AHIMS	-	Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System
DEC	-	Department of Environment and Conservation (now OEH)
LALC	-	Local Aboriginal Land Council
OEH	-	Office of Environment and Heritage



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1 INTRODUCTION

The Whitehaven Coal Mine (now known as Canyon Coal Mine) is located within the Narrabri Shire, approximately 30 km north-west of Gunnedah and 15 km east of Boggabri in the Gunnedah coalfields of NSW. The mine is approved under DA 8-1-2005, as modified.

The mine commenced operations in 2000 and ceased mining in 2009 following exhaustion of the resource. The site has undergone extensive rehabilitation and the majority of surface infrastructure, including all coal handling and processing infrastructure, has been removed.

When initially developed, this Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Management Plan was prepared:

- in accordance with condition 32 (Schedule 3) of DA 8-1-2005; and
- in consultation with Red Chief Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) and the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) .

A letter of acceptance of the Plan subject to the incorporation of amendments requested by Red Chief LALC is attached as Appendix 1.

A copy of the Plan, including the letter of support from Red Chief LALC, was forwarded to DEC (now Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH)) for ratification.

The recommended measures are also consistent with those nominated in the report prepared by Archaeological Surveys and Reports Pty. Ltd. in consultation with Red Chief LALC and titled "The Archaeological Investigation for Sites of Indigenous Cultural Heritage Significance on the Site of the Proposed Canyon Extension to the Whitehaven Open Cut Coal Mine" which was included in the Canyon Extension Statement of Environmental Effects as Appendix 1.

The site has been in closure since 2009, with disturbance restricted to rehabilitation and site maintenance (i.e. fire breaks) on previously disturbed areas. The Plan has therefore been revised to be appropriate to current status of the site.



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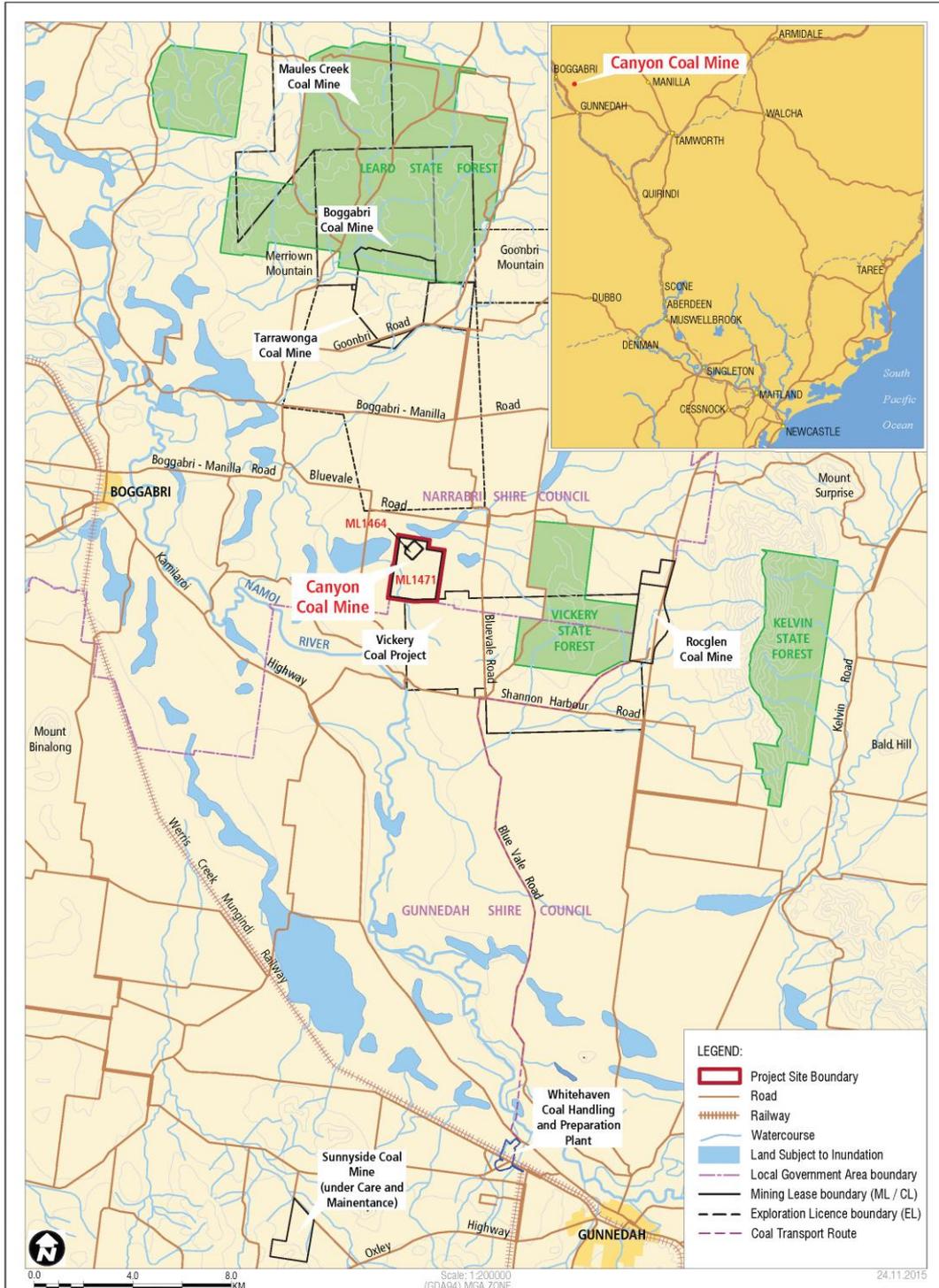


Figure 1 - Canyon Coal Mine Location



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2 CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE MINE SITE

Archaeological investigations undertaken at the Canyon Coal Mine since 1999 have identified a total of four sites ("Whitehaven 1 to 4"), with a further site (No: 24-4-0013) having previously been identified on the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) databank.

Figure 2 shows the locations of each of the above sites. Of these sites, only two, "Whitehaven 3" and Whitehaven 4", occur within the Canyon mining leases.

"Whitehaven 3" remains and is shown in Plate 1. The site has been fenced to prevent inadvertent damage.

"Whitehaven 4", an isolated artefact, was located within the area of approved disturbance. Destruction of this site was approved under a Section 90 Permit (No: 2051 – see Appendix 2) of the National Parks and Wildlife Act (1974), subject to compliance with the conditions identified in the permit. The destruction of this site occurred in 2005 with written notification provided to the Western Aboriginal Heritage Unit of Department of Conservation and Environment (now OEH) following completion of the works via the then Annual Environmental Management Report. .



Plate 1 - "Whitehaven 3"



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Figure 2 - Cultural Heritage Sites



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3 MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

WHC recognises the importance of Aboriginal relics and sites and its obligations under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (as amended), and will undertake all activities in a manner which conserves the cultural heritage values of the area.

Prior to any person undertaking work on the site, he/she is required to undergo a generic induction which incorporates environmental aspects including archaeological and cultural heritage obligations, with the form and detail of the overall induction determined by the nature of the work to be undertaken.

In the event of the discovery of a potential site or artefact, the following procedure will be followed.

- Work will cease in the area of the discovery.
- If the area of discovery is in deposited material then work will also cease in the area where the material has come from.
- The person discovering the artefact will notify their supervisor who will ensure that work has ceased and the area(s) is(are) cordoned off with tape.
- The supervisor will notify the Environmental Department.
- The Environmental Department will:
 - request a qualified archaeologist to attend the site and advise on its archaeological significance;
 - request the Site Monitor for Red Chief LALC, if not already present, to attend and advise on its cultural significance in consultation with the qualified archaeologist; and
 - if the find is determined to be a site, notify OEH with the advice from the archaeologist and Red Chief LALC for determination of further procedures.
- The General Manager – Open Cut Operations will implement the procedures issued by OEH.

In the event that damage occurs to any Aboriginal site or place, the activities causing the damage will cease immediately and procedures identified above followed. Subject to the nature of the damage, appropriate professional advice in addition to that provided by WHC's consultant archaeologist may be sought.

Failure to report a discovery and those responsible for the damage or destruction occasioned by unauthorised removal or alteration to a site or to archaeological material may be prosecuted under the relevant Acts.



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4 DOCUMENT REVIEW AND REPORTING

In the event that an Aboriginal artefact or site is identified, a site register card will be completed and forwarded to OEH for entry onto the AHIMS database.

The measures implemented to preserve and protect Aboriginal Cultural heritage at the site will be reported in the Annual Review (AR).

This Plan will be reviewed in accordance with the requirements of Schedule 5 Condition 12 of DA 8-1-2005.



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Appendix 1 - Letter of Support from Red Chief LALC



**RED CHIEF
LOCAL ABORIGINAL
LAND COUNCIL**

**PO BOX 745
GUNNEDAH, NSW 2380**

**Phone: (02) 6742 3602
Fax: (02) 6742 3815**

Attention
Mr Chris Burgess
Area Manager
Whitehaven Coal Mining Pty Ltd
PO BOX 600
GUNNEDAH NSW 2380

Dear Chris

We would be happy to accept Whitehaven Cultural & Heritage Management Plan with the following changes.

3.5 Workforce Education: (to read as)

Prior to any person undertaking work on the Whitehaven Coal Mine site, he/she is required to undergo a general induction programme which incorporates environmental aspects including archaeological and cultural heritage sensitivities and management, procedures and obligations, with the form and detail of the overall induction determined by the nature of the work to be undertaken. The Cultural & Heritage awareness programme will be delivered by Red Chief LALC at a cost to Whitehaven Coal Mine.

Notwithstanding the invitation to Aboriginal monitors from Red Chief LALC to be present during all soil disturbing activities, all operators engaged in soil disturbing/soil stripping activities will be given additional training in the recognition of Aboriginal sites and artefacts by Red Chief LALC.

Regards


Gina Field
Manager


Robert Horne
Curator



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Appendix 2 - Consent to Destroy No. 2051