

# Project Approval

## Section 75J of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

I approve the project referred to in schedule 1, subject to the conditions in schedules 2 to 7.

These conditions are required to:

- prevent, minimise and/or offset adverse environmental impacts;
- set standards and performance measures for acceptable environmental performance;
- require regular monitoring and reporting; and
- provide for the ongoing environmental management of the project.

Richard Pearson  
**Deputy Director-General, DASP**  
**as delegate for the Minister for Planning**

Sydney

2010

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### SCHEDULE 1

**Application No:** 08\_0144  
**Proponent:** Narrabri Coal Operations Pty Limited  
**Approval Authority:** Minister for Planning  
**Land:** See Appendix 1  
**Project:** Narrabri Coal Project – Stage 2

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March 2011 modification in blue text (MOD 1)  
December 2011 modification in red text (MOD 2)  
September 2015 modification in green text (MOD 4)  
December 2015 modification in orange text (MOD 5)  
December 2016 modification in purple text (MOD 6)

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## DEFINITIONS

<p>Annual Review</p> <p>Approved mine plan</p> <p>BCA</p> <p>Brine</p> <p>Built features</p> <p>CCC</p> <p>CMA</p> <p>Conditions of this approval</p> <p>Construction</p> <p>CPI</p> <p>Day</p> <p>DPI Water</p> <p>Department</p> <p>Dispute resolution process</p> <p>DRE</p> <p>EA</p> <p>Environmental consequences</p> <p>EPA</p> <p>EP&amp;A Act</p> <p>EP&amp;A Regulation</p> <p>EPL</p> <p>Evening</p> <p>Feasible</p> <p>First workings</p> <p>GSC</p> <p>Incident</p> <p>km</p> <p>Land</p> <p>Material harm to the environment</p> <p>MSB</p> <p>Mining area</p>	<p>The review required by Condition 6 of Schedule 6</p> <p>The mine plan depicted in Figures 1 and 3 of Appendix 2</p> <p>Building Code of Australia</p> <p>Very salty water</p> <p>Includes any building or work erected or constructed on land, and includes dwellings and infrastructure such as any formed road, any pipeline, water sewer, telephone, gas or other service main and communication towers</p> <p>Community Consultative Committee</p> <p>Catchment Management Authority</p> <p>Conditions contained in schedules 2 to 7 inclusive</p> <p>The demolition of buildings or works, carrying out of works and erection of buildings covered by this approval</p> <p>Consumer Price Index, as published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics</p> <p>The period from 7 am to 6 pm on Monday to Saturday, and 8 am to 6 pm on Sundays and Public Holidays</p> <p>The Division of Water within DPI</p> <p>Department of Planning and Environment</p> <p>The independent dispute resolution process as described in Appendix 5</p> <p>Division of Resources and Energy within the NSW Department of Industry</p> <p>Environmental Assessment prepared for Narrabri Coal Pty Limited entitled <i>Stage 2 Narrabri Coal Project Environmental Assessment and Specialist Consultant Studies Compendium, Volumes 1&amp;2 (October 2009), including the Response to Public and Government Agency Submissions (May 2010), as modified by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the modification application 08_0144 MOD 1 and accompanying letter prepared by Narrabri Coal Operations Pty Limited;</li> <li>• the modification application 08_0144 MOD 2 and accompanying letter prepared by Narrabri Coal Operations Pty Limited;</li> <li>• the modification application 08_0144 MOD 4 and accompanying report prepared for Whitehaven Coal Limited entitled <i>Narrabri Mine Stockpile Extension Modification Environmental Assessment (April 2015); and</i></li> <li>• the modification application 08_0144 MOD 5 and accompanying report prepared by Resource Strategies entitled <i>Narrabri Mine Modification 5 Environmental Assessment (October 2015); and</i></li> <li>• <i>Whitehaven Coal Limited - Narrabri Coal Mine Annual Review Administrative Modification (MOD6), dated 14 December 2016.</i></li> </ul> <p>The environmental consequences of subsidence impacts, including: damage to built features; loss of surface flows to the subsurface; loss of standing pools; adverse water quality impacts; development of iron bacterial mats; cliff falls; rock falls; damage to Aboriginal heritage sites; impacts to aquatic ecology; ponding</p> <p>Environment Protection Authority</p> <p><i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i></p> <p><i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000</i></p> <p>Environment Protection Licence issued under the POEO Act</p> <p>The period from 6 pm to 10 pm</p> <p>Feasible relates to engineering considerations and what is practical to build</p> <p>Development of the main headings and gate roads to establish access to the coal in the mining area</p> <p>Gunnedah Shire Council</p> <p>A set of circumstances that causes or threatens to cause material harm to the environment, and/or breaches or exceeds the limits of performance measures/criteria in this approval</p> <p>Kilometre</p> <p>In general, the definition of land is consistent with the definition in the EP&amp;A Act. However, in relation to the noise and air quality conditions in Schedule 4 it means the whole of a lot, or contiguous lots owned by the same landowner, in a current plan registered at the Land Titles Office at the date of this approval</p> <p>Harm to the environment is material if it involves actual or potential harm to the health or safety of human beings or ecosystems that is not trivial</p> <p>Mine Subsidence Board</p> <p>The area outlined by a solid yellow line in the figures in Appendix 2</p>
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Mining operations	The extraction, processing and transportation of coal on the site, including the formation of mine access drifts and associated surface infrastructure such as gas and water drainage facilities
Minister	Minister for Planning, or delegate
Mitigation	Activities associated with reducing the impacts of the project
Mtpa	Million tonnes per annum
Negligible	Small and unimportant, such as not worth considering
Night	The period from 10 pm to 7 am on Monday to Saturday, and 10 pm to 8 am on Sundays and Public Holidays
NSC	Narrabri Shire Council
OEH	Office of Environment and Heritage
POEO Act	Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
Privately-owned land	Land that is not owned by a public agency, or a mining company (or its subsidiary)
Project	The Stage 2 Narrabri Coal Project described in the EA
Proponent	Narrabri Coal Operations Pty Limited or any other person or persons who rely on this approval to carry out the project that is subject to this approval
Raffinate	Good quality water produced by a water conditioning plant, lower in salinity than the water fed to the plant. The “waste” produced by the plant is brine.
Reasonable	Reasonable relates to the application of judgement in arriving at a decision, taking into account: mitigation benefits, cost of mitigation versus benefits provided, community views and the nature and extent of potential improvements
Reasonable costs	The costs agreed between the Department and the Proponent for obtaining independent experts to review the adequacy of any aspects of the extraction plan, or where such costs cannot be agreed, the costs determined by the Dispute Resolution Process
Rehabilitation	The treatment or management of land disturbed by the project for the purpose of establishing a safe, stable and non-polluting environment <a href="#">including the remediation of impacts</a>
Remediation	Activities associated with partially or fully repairing or rehabilitating the impacts of the project or controlling the environmental consequences of this impact
RMS	Roads and Maritime Services
ROM	Run-of-mine
Safe, serviceable & repairable	<a href="#">Safe means no danger to users who are present, serviceable means available for its intended use, and repairable means damaged components can be repaired economically</a>
Secretary	Secretary of the Department, or nominee
Second workings	Extraction of coal from longwall panels, mini-wall panels or pillar extraction
Site	All the land to which the project application applies, comprising the mining area and surface facilities area, as listed in Appendix 1 and shown in Appendix 2
Stage 1 Approval	The project approval granted by the Minister Planning for the Narrabri Coal Project, dated 14 November 2007
Stage 2 Approval	This project approval, for Stage 2 of the Narrabri Coal Project which includes the introduction of longwall mining operations and increasing ROM coal production to 8.0 Mtpa
Statement of Commitments	The Proponent’s revised commitments in Appendix 3, dated May 2010
Steep slopes	An area of land having a natural gradient of between 33° and 66°
Subsidence	The totality of subsidence effects, subsidence impacts and environmental consequences of subsidence impacts
Subsidence effects	Deformation of the ground mass due to mining, including all mining-induced ground movements, <a href="#">such as</a> vertical and horizontal displacement, tilt, strain and curvature
Subsidence impacts	Physical changes to the ground and its surface caused by subsidence effects, including tensile and shear cracking of the rock mass, localised buckling of strata caused by valley closure and upsidence and surface depressions or troughs

## SCHEDULE 2 ADMINISTRATIVE CONDITIONS

### OBLIGATION TO MINIMISE HARM TO THE ENVIRONMENT

1. The Proponent shall implement all practicable measures to prevent and/or minimise any harm to the environment that may result from the construction, operation, or rehabilitation of the project.

### TERMS OF APPROVAL

2. The Proponent shall carry out the project generally in accordance with the:
  - (a) EA; and
  - (b) conditions of this approval.

*Note: The general layout of the project is shown in Figures 1 and 2 of Appendix 2.*

3. If there is any inconsistency between the above documents, the most recent document shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency. However, the conditions of this approval shall prevail to the extent of any inconsistency.
4. The Proponent shall comply with any reasonable and feasible requirements of the **Secretary** arising from the Department's assessment of:
  - (a) any reports, plans, programs, strategies or correspondence that are submitted in accordance with the conditions of this approval; and
  - (b) the implementation of any actions or measures contained in these reports, plans, programs, strategies or correspondence.

### LIMITS ON APPROVAL

5. The Proponent may undertake mining operations on the site for 21 years from the date of this approval.

*Note: Under this Approval, the Proponent is required to rehabilitate the site and to perform additional undertakings to the satisfaction of the **Secretary**. Consequently, this approval will continue to apply in all other respects other than the right to conduct mining operations until the site has been rehabilitated to a satisfactory standard.*
6. The Proponent shall not extract more than 11 million tonnes of ROM coal from the site per calendar year.
7. The Proponent shall transport all coal from the site by rail.
- 7A. The Proponent may undertake a one off transport of coal by road of an approximate 600 tonne bulk sample of coal in accordance with the procedures, vehicle traffic route and transport operating hours as specified in the modification application 08\_0144 MOD 2 and accompanying letter dated 12 December 2011 from Whitehaven Coal Mining Limited.
8. The Proponent shall not transport any coal reject from the site.

### PLANNING AGREEMENTS

9. Within 6 months of this approval, the Proponent shall enter into planning agreements with Narrabri Shire Council (NSC), Gunnedah Shire Council (GSC) and the Minister in accordance with:
  - (a) Division 6 of Part 4 of the EP&A Act; and
  - (b) the terms of the Proponent's offers accepted at NSC's meeting of 16 February 2010, and GSC's meeting of 16 February 2010, which includes the matters set out in Appendix 4.

If there is any dispute between the Proponent and either NSC or GSC during the formal drafting of the planning agreements, then any of the parties involved may refer the matter to the **Secretary** for resolution.

### SURRENDER OF STAGE 1 APPROVAL

10. Within 12 months of the date of this approval, the Proponent shall surrender its previous project approval for the Narrabri Coal Mine to the satisfaction of the **Secretary**, in accordance with section 75YA of the EP&A Act. Prior to the surrender of the Stage 1 approval, if there is any inconsistency between the Stage 1

and Stage 2 approvals, the conditions of the Stage 2 approval shall prevail to the extent of any inconsistency.

#### **MANAGEMENT PLANS / MONITORING PROGRAMS**

11. With the approval of the **Secretary**, the Proponent may submit any management plan or monitoring program required by this approval on a progressive basis.

*Note: The conditions of this approval require certain strategies, plans, and programs to be prepared for the project. They also require these documents to be reviewed and audited on a regular basis to ensure they remain effective. However, in some instances, it will not be necessary or practicable to prepare these documents for the whole project at any one time, particularly as these documents are intended to be dynamic and improved over time. Consequently, the documents may be prepared and implemented on a progressive basis, subject to the conditions of this approval. In doing this however, the Proponent will need to demonstrate that it has suitable documents in place to manage the existing operations of the project.*

12. Stage 1 strategies, plans or programs continue to have effect until replaced by an equivalent approved strategy, plan or program prepared and approved under this approval.

#### **STRUCTURAL ADEQUACY**

13. The Proponent shall ensure that all new buildings and structures, and any alterations or additions to existing buildings and structures, are constructed in accordance with the relevant requirements of the BCA.

*Notes:*

- *Under Part 4A of the EP&A Act, the Proponent is required to obtain construction and occupation certificates for the proposed building works.*
- *Part 8 of the EP&A Regulation sets out the requirements for the certification of the project.*

#### **DEMOLITION**

14. The Proponent shall ensure that all demolition work is carried out in accordance with *Australian Standard AS 2601-2001: The Demolition of Structures*, or its latest version.

#### **OPERATION OF PLANT AND EQUIPMENT**

15. The Proponent shall ensure that all plant and equipment used on site is:
  - (a) maintained in a proper and efficient condition; and
  - (b) operated in a proper and efficient manner.

## SCHEDULE 3 SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS – MINING AREA

*Note: These conditions should be read in conjunction with section 5 of the revised Statement of Commitments.*

### SUBSIDENCE IMPACT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- The Proponent shall ensure that mine subsidence does not cause any exceedances of the performance measures in Table 1.

*Table 1: Subsidence Impact Performance Measures*

<b>Water Resources</b>	
Great Artesian Basin	The Proponent shall ensure that, within 5 years of the date of this approval, any loss of water flow into the Great Artesian Basin aquifers (equal to the maximum predicted impact, or the measured impact of the project, whichever is the greater), is managed, licensed or offset (including the possibility of injection of raffinate) to the satisfaction of <b>DPI Water</b> .
<b>Biodiversity</b>	
Flora and Fauna	The Proponent shall ensure that clearing and disturbance of vegetation above the mining area is minimised, to the satisfaction of the <b>Secretary</b> .

*Note: The Proponent may be required to define other performance measures and performance indicators in management plans required under this approval (see eg condition 3 below).*

### Performance Measures – Built Features

- The Proponent shall ensure that the project does not cause any exceedances of the performance measures in Table 2, to the satisfaction of **DRE**.

*Table 2: Subsidence Impact Performance Measures*

<b>Built Features</b>	
All built features	Always safe. Serviceability should be maintained wherever practicable. Loss of serviceability must be fully compensated. Damage must be fully repairable, and must be fully repaired or else replaced or fully compensated.
<b>Public Safety</b>	
Public Safety	No additional risk

*Notes:*

- The Proponent will be required to define more detailed performance indicators for each of these performance measures in Built Features Management Plans or Public Safety Management Plan (see condition 4 below).*
  - Requirements regarding safety or serviceability do not prevent preventative or mitigatory actions being taken prior to or during mining in order to achieve or maintain these outcomes.*
  - Compensation required under this condition includes any compensation payable under the Mine Subsidence Compensation Act 1961 and/or the Mining Act 1992.*
- Any dispute between the Proponent and the owner of any built feature over the interpretation, application or implementation of the performance measures in Table 2 is to be settled by **DRE**. **DRE** may seek the advice of the MSB on the matter. Any decision by **DRE** shall be final and not subject to further dispute resolution under this approval.

### Extraction Plan

- The Proponent shall prepare and implement Extraction Plans for any second workings to be mined to the satisfaction of the **Secretary**. Each Extraction Plan must:
  - be prepared by a team of suitably qualified and experienced persons whose appointment has been endorsed by the **Secretary**;

- (b) be approved by the Secretary before the Proponent carries out any of the second workings covered by the plan;
- (c) include detailed plans of the proposed first and second workings and any associated surface development;
- (d) include detailed performance indicators for each of the performance measures in Tables 1 and 2;
- (e) provide revised predictions of the potential subsidence effects, subsidence impacts and environmental consequences of the proposed second workings, incorporating any relevant information obtained since this approval;
- (f) describe the measures that would be implemented to ensure compliance with the performance measures in Tables 1 and 2, and manage or remediate any impacts and/or environmental consequences;
- (g) include the following to the satisfaction of DRE:
  - a Coal Resource Recovery Plan that demonstrates effective recovery of the available resource;
  - a Subsidence Monitoring Program to:
    - provide data to assist with the management of the risks associated with subsidence;
    - validate the subsidence predictions; and
    - analyse the relationship between the subsidence effects and impacts under the plan and any ensuing environmental consequences;
  - a Built Features Management Plan to manage the potential subsidence impacts and/or environmental consequences of the proposed second workings, and which:
    - addresses in appropriate detail all items of public infrastructure and all classes of other built features; and
    - has been prepared following appropriate consultation with the owner/s of potentially affected feature/s;
  - a Public Safety Management Plan to ensure public safety in the mining area; and
  - appropriate revisions to the Landscape Management Plan required under condition 3 of Schedule 5; and
- (h) include a:
  - Water Management Plan, which has been prepared in consultation with EPA and DPI Water, which provides for the management of the potential impacts and/or environmental consequences of the proposed second workings on surface water resources, groundwater resources and flooding, and which includes:
    - surface and groundwater impact assessment criteria, including trigger levels for investigating any potentially adverse impacts on water resources or water quality;
    - a program to monitor and report groundwater inflows to underground workings; and
    - a program to manage and monitor impacts on groundwater bores on privately-owned land;
  - Biodiversity Management Plan, which has been prepared in consultation with OEH and DRE, which provides for the management of the potential impacts and/or environmental consequences of the proposed second workings on flora and fauna;
  - Land Management Plan, which has been prepared in consultation with any affected public authorities, to manage the potential impacts and/or environmental consequences of the proposed second workings on land in general;
  - Heritage Management Plan, which has been prepared in consultation with OEH and relevant stakeholders for Aboriginal heritage, to manage the potential environmental consequences of the proposed second workings on heritage sites or values; and
- (i) include a program to collect sufficient baseline data for future Extraction Plans.

Notes:

*Management plans prepared under condition 4(h) should address all potential impacts of proposed underground coal extraction on the relevant features. Other similar management plans required under this approval (eg under conditions 13 and 23 of schedule 4 or condition 3 of schedule 5) are not required to duplicate these plans or to otherwise address the impacts associated with underground coal extraction.*

5. The Proponent shall ensure that the management plans required under condition 4(h) above include:
  - (a) an assessment of the potential environmental consequences of the Extraction Plan, incorporating any relevant information that has been obtained since this approval;
  - (b) a detailed description of the measures that would be implemented to remediate predicted impacts; and
  - (c) a contingency plan that expressly provides for adaptive management.

### **First Workings**

6. The Proponent may carry out first workings within the underground mining area, other than in accordance with an approved extraction plan, provided that DRE is satisfied that the first workings are designed to remain stable and non-subsiding in the long-term, except insofar as they may be impacted by approved second workings.

*Note: The intent of this condition is not to require an additional approval for first workings, but to ensure that first workings are built to geotechnical and engineering standards sufficient to ensure long-term stability, with negligible resulting direct subsidence impacts.*

### **Payment of Reasonable Costs**

7. The Proponent shall pay all reasonable costs incurred by the Department to engage independent experts to review the adequacy of any aspect of an Extraction Plan.

## SCHEDULE 4 SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS – SURFACE FACILITIES AREA AND GENERAL

### NOISE

Note: These conditions should be read in conjunction with section 10 of the revised Statement of Commitments.

#### Impact Assessment Criteria

- The Proponent shall ensure that the noise generated by the project does not exceed the levels set out in Table 1.

Table 1: Impact assessment criteria dB(A)

Location	Day	Evening	Night	
	L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15 minute)	L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15 minute)	L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15 minute)	L <sub>A1</sub> (1 minute)
All privately-owned residences	35	35	35	45

#### Notes:

- To determine compliance with the L<sub>Aeq</sub>(15 minute) limit, noise from the project is to be measured at the most affected point within the residential boundary, or at the most affected point within 30 metres of a dwelling (rural situations) where the dwelling is more than 30 metres from the boundary. Where it can be demonstrated that direct measurement of noise from the project is impractical, the EPA may accept alternative means of determining compliance (see Chapter 11 of the NSW Industrial Noise Policy). The modification factors in Section 4 of the NSW Industrial Noise Policy shall also be applied to the measured noise levels where applicable.
- These noise limits apply to applicable receivers under all meteorological conditions except for any one of the following:
  - wind speeds greater than 3 metres/second at 10 metres above ground level; or
  - stability category F temperature inversion conditions and wind speeds greater than 2 metres/second at 10 metres above ground level; or
  - stability category G temperature inversion conditions.
- Except for wind speed at microphone height, the data to be used for determining meteorological conditions shall be that recorded by the meteorological weather station located in the vicinity of the site, or as otherwise agreed by the Secretary.
- To determine compliance with the L<sub>A1</sub>(1 minute) noise limits, noise from the project is to be measured at 1 metre from the dwelling façade. Where it can be demonstrated that direct measurement of noise from the project is impractical, the EPA may accept alternative means of determining compliance (see Chapter 11 of the NSW Industrial Noise Policy).
- These limits do not apply if the Proponent has an agreement with the relevant owner/s of these residences to generate higher noise levels, and the Proponent has advised the Department in writing of the terms of this agreement.

#### Noise Acquisition Criteria

- If the noise generated by the project exceeds the criteria in Table 2 at any residence on privately-owned land then the Proponent shall, upon receiving a written request for acquisition from the landowner, acquire the land in accordance with the procedures in conditions 5-7 of schedule 7.

Table 2: Noise acquisition criteria dB(A)

Location	Day	Evening	Night
	L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15 minute)	L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15 minute)	L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15 minute)
All privately-owned residences	40	40	40

Note: Noise generated by the project is to be measured in accordance with the notes presented below Table 1. For this condition to apply, the exceedances of the criteria must be systemic.

### Additional Noise Mitigation Measures

3. If the noise generated by the project is equal to or exceeds the criteria in Table 3 at any residence on privately-owned land, then the Proponent shall, upon receiving a written request from the landowner, implement reasonable and feasible noise mitigation measures (such as double-glazing, insulation, and/or air conditioning) at the residence in consultation with the landowner. If within 3 months of receiving this request from the landowner, the Proponent and the landowner cannot agree on the measures to be implemented, or there is a dispute about the implementation of these measures, then either party may refer the matter to the [Secretary](#) for resolution.

Table 3: Additional noise mitigation criteria

Location	Day L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15 minute)	Evening L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15 minute)	Night L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15 minute)
All privately-owned residences	38	38	38

Note: Noise generated by the project is to be measured in accordance with the notes presented below Table 1. For this condition to apply, the exceedances of the criteria must be systemic.

### Noise Management Plan

4. The Proponent shall revise the Noise Management Plan for the Stage 1 project to encompass all proposed mine activities and potential impacts associated with noise management (Stages 1 and 2) and subsequently implement this revised version of the Noise Management Plan to the satisfaction of the [Secretary](#). This Plan shall:
- (a) be prepared in consultation with [EPA](#) by a suitably qualified expert whose appointment has been approved by the [Secretary](#);
  - (b) be submitted to the [Secretary](#) for approval by 30 June 2011;
  - (c) include a Noise Monitoring Program incorporating:
    - real-time noise and temperature inversion monitoring; and
    - attended noise monitoringto monitor the performance of the project;
  - (d) include reactive noise control measures to manage noise impacts for sensitive receivers; and
  - (e) include a protocol to establish whether the project is complying with the noise impact assessment criteria in Table 1.

### Continuous Improvement

5. The Proponent shall:
- (a) implement all reasonable and feasible best practice noise mitigation measures;
  - (b) investigate ways to reduce the noise generated by the project, including off-site road and rail noise and maximum noise levels which may result in sleep disturbance; and
  - (c) report on these investigations and the implementation and effectiveness of these measures in the [Annual Review](#), to the satisfaction of the [Secretary](#).

### AIR QUALITY

Note: These conditions should be read in conjunction with section 11 of the revised Statement of Commitments.

### Impact Assessment Criteria

6. The Proponent shall ensure that dust emissions generated by the project do not cause additional exceedances of the criteria listed in Tables 4 to 6 at any residence on privately-owned land.

Table 4: Long term impact assessment criteria for particulate matter

Pollutant	Averaging period	<sup>d</sup> Criterion
Total suspended particulate (TSP) matter	Annual	<sup>a</sup> 90 µg/m <sup>3</sup>
Particulate matter < 10 µm (PM <sub>10</sub> )	Annual	<sup>a</sup> 30 µg/m <sup>3</sup>

Table 5: Short term impact assessment criteria for particulate matter

Pollutant	Averaging period	<sup>d</sup> Criterion
Particulate matter < 10 µm (PM <sub>10</sub> )	24 hour	<sup>a</sup> 50 µg/m <sup>3</sup>

Table 6: Long term impact assessment criteria for deposited dust

Pollutant	Averaging period	Maximum increase in deposited dust level	Maximum total deposited dust level
<sup>c</sup> Deposited dust	Annual	<sup>b</sup> 2 g/m <sup>2</sup> /month	<sup>a</sup> 4 g/m <sup>2</sup> /month

Notes to Tables 4-6

- *a Total impact (i.e. incremental increase in concentrations due to the project plus background concentrations due to all other sources);*
- *b Incremental impact (i.e. incremental increase in concentrations due to the project on its own);*
- *c Deposited dust is to be assessed as insoluble solids as defined by Standards Australia, AS/NZS 3580.10.1:2003: Methods for Sampling and Analysis of Ambient Air - Determination of Particulate Matter - Deposited Matter - Gravimetric Method; and*
- *d Excludes extraordinary events such as bushfires, prescribed burning, dust storms, sea fog, fire incidents or any other activity agreed by the Secretary.*

## Operating Conditions

7. The Proponent shall:
- implement all reasonable and feasible measures to minimise the:
    - odour, fume and dust emissions of the project; and
    - release of greenhouse gas emissions from the project;
  - operate a comprehensive air quality management system that uses a combination of predictive meteorological forecasting and real-time air quality monitoring data to guide the day to day planning of operations and the implementation of both proactive and reactive air quality mitigation measures to ensure compliance with the relevant conditions of this approval;
  - minimise any visible air pollution; and
  - minimise the air quality impacts of the project during adverse meteorological conditions and extraordinary events (see note d to Tables 4-6 above).
- to the satisfaction of the Secretary.

## Air Quality Management Plan

- 7A. The Proponent shall prepare and implement an Air Quality Management Plan for the project to the satisfaction of the Secretary. This program must:
- be prepared in consultation with the EPA, and be submitted to the Secretary for approval prior to 30 December 2015, unless otherwise agreed with the Secretary;
  - describe the measures that would be implemented to ensure compliance with relevant air quality criteria and operating conditions of this approval;
  - describe the proposed air quality management system; and
  - include an air quality monitoring program that:
    - adequately supports the proactive and reactive air quality management system;
    - evaluates and reports on:
      - the effectiveness of the air quality management system; and
      - compliance with the air quality operating conditions; and
    - defines what constitutes an air quality incident, and includes a protocol for identifying and notifying the Department and relevant stakeholders of any air quality incidents.

## METEOROLOGICAL MONITORING

8. For the life of the project, the Proponent shall ensure that there is a meteorological station in the vicinity of the site that:
  - (a) complies with the requirements in *Approved Methods for Sampling of Air Pollutants in New South Wales* (DECC, 2007), or its latest version; and
  - (b) is capable of real-time measurement of temperature lapse rate in accordance with the *NSW Industrial Noise Policy*, unless a suitable alternative is approved by the Secretary following consultation with the EPA.

## WATER MANAGEMENT

*Note: These conditions should be read in conjunction with sections 6 and 7 of the revised Statement of Commitments.*

### Groundwater Model

9. Within 2 years of the commencement of longwall coal extraction, and every 5 years thereafter, the Proponent shall undertake a transient calibration of the groundwater model presented in the EA, in consultation with [DPI Water](#), and to the satisfaction of the [Secretary](#). This re-calibration of the groundwater model must include forward impact predictions of brine re-injection to the mine's goaf at the conclusion of mining operations.

### Water Supply

- 9A. The Proponent shall ensure that it has sufficient water for all stages of the project, and if necessary, adjust the scale of operations on site to match its available water supply.

*Note: Under the Water Act 1912 and/or the Water Management Act 2000, the Applicant is required to obtain the necessary water licences for the development.*

### Compensatory Water Supply

- 9B. The Proponent shall provide a compensatory water supply to any landowner of privately-owned land whose water supply is adversely and directly impacted as a result of the project (other than an impact that is minor or negligible), in consultation with [DPI Water](#), and to the satisfaction of the [Secretary](#).

The compensatory water supply measures must provide an alternative long-term supply of water that is equivalent to the loss attributable to the project. Equivalent water supply should be provided (at least on an interim basis) as soon as practicable from the loss being identified, unless otherwise agreed with the landowner.

If the Proponent and the landowner cannot agree on the measures to be implemented, or there is a dispute about the implementation of these measures, then either party may refer the matter to the [Secretary](#) for resolution.

If the Proponent is unable to provide an alternative long-term supply of water, then the Proponent shall provide alternative compensation to the satisfaction of the [Secretary](#).

## Discharges

10. Except as may be expressly provided for by an EPL, the Proponent shall not discharge any waters from the disturbed areas of the site. However, raffinate from the water conditioning plant may be transferred to water users in accordance with an approved Water Management Plan (see below).
11. Any raffinate from the water conditioning plant discharged to the Namoi River must be discharged in accordance with the conditions of an EPL and meet the following criteria:
  - (a) 50 percentile of all samples (volume based) are below 250 mg/l of Total Dissolved Solids;
  - (b) 100 percentile of all samples (volume based) are below 350 mg/l of Total Dissolved Solids; and
  - (c) pH values of all sampled water to be between 6.5 and 8.5.
12. Within 3 years of the date of this approval, or otherwise agreed by the [Secretary](#), the Proponent must commission the water conditioning plant identified in the EA, to the satisfaction of the [Secretary](#).

## Water Management Plan

13. Prior to 30 June 2011, the Proponent shall revise the Water Management Plan for the Stage 1 project to encompass all proposed mine activities and potential impacts associated with water management (Stages 1 and 2) and subsequently implement this revised version of the Water Management Plan to the satisfaction of the **Secretary**. This revised plan must be produced in consultation with **EPA** and **DPI Water** by suitably qualified expert/s whose appointment/s have been approved by the **Secretary** and include a:
- (a) Site Water Balance;
  - (b) Erosion and Sediment Control Plan;
  - (c) Surface Water Monitoring Plan;
  - (d) Raffinate Discharge and Transfer Control and Monitoring Plan;
  - (e) Groundwater Monitoring Program; and
  - (f) Surface and Groundwater Response Plan, setting out the procedures for:
    - investigating, and if necessary mitigating, any exceedances of the surface or groundwater assessment criteria (see conditions 16(b) and 18(c)); and
    - responding to any unforeseen impacts of the project.

*Note: The Raffinate Discharge and Transfer Control and Monitoring Plan does not need to be produced and approved until 3 months prior to the planned discharge or transfer of raffinate from the site.*

## Site Water Balance

14. The Site Water Balance must:
- (a) include details of:
    - sources and security of water supply;
    - underground water make;
    - water use on site;
    - water management on site;
    - off-site water transfers;
    - reporting procedures;
  - (b) describe measures to minimise water use by the project; and
  - (c) be reviewed and recalculated each year in the light of the most recent water monitoring data.

## Erosion and Sediment Control

15. The Erosion and Sediment Control Plan must:
- (a) be consistent with the requirements of *Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction* manual (Landcom, 2004), or its latest version;
  - (b) identify activities that could cause soil erosion and generate sediment;
  - (c) describe measures to minimise soil erosion and the potential for transport of sediment to downstream waters;
  - (d) describe the location, function, and capacity of erosion and sediment control structures; and
  - (e) describe what measures would be implemented to monitor and maintain the structures over time.

## Surface Water Monitoring Program

16. The Surface Water Monitoring Plan must include:
- (a) detailed baseline data on surface water flows and quality in creeks and other water bodies that could be affected by the project;
  - (b) surface water impact assessment criteria;
  - (c) a program to monitor the impact of the project on surface water flows and quality;
  - (d) procedures for reporting the results of this monitoring.

## Raffinate Discharge and Transfer Control and Monitoring Plan

17. The Raffinate Discharge Control and Monitoring Plan must:
- (a) be approved by the **Secretary** prior to any raffinate discharge to the Namoi River;
  - (b) include measures for the continuous monitoring and recording of volumes of water discharged to the Namoi River;
  - (c) contain an ambient water quality monitoring program upstream and downstream of the discharge point; and
  - (d) contain a water quality monitoring program for discharged waters.

## Groundwater Monitoring Program

18. The Groundwater Monitoring Program must include:
- (a) further development of the regional and local groundwater model;
  - (b) detailed baseline data to benchmark the natural variation in groundwater levels, yield and quality (including at any privately owned bores in the vicinity of the site);
  - (c) groundwater impact assessment criteria;
  - (d) a program to monitor the impact of the project on groundwater levels, yield and quality;
  - (e) a program to monitor any impacts of the project on the Namoi River Alluvium;
  - (f) a program to monitor (by the use of shallow piezometers/lysimeters), detect, and quantify any leakage/leachate from the site's evaporation/storage ponds, brine storage area or coal reject emplacement area; and
  - (g) procedures for reporting the results of this monitoring.

## Evaporation/Storage Ponds

19. The Proponent shall ensure that the integrity of the low permeability layers lining the evaporation/storage ponds is maintained and achieves a permeability of less than  $1 \times 10^{-14}$  m/s whenever these ponds are in use for the storage of saline waters and less than  $1 \times 10^{-9}$  m/s when being used to store raffinate or captured surface waters.

## Brine Storage Ponds

20. The Proponent shall ensure that the integrity of the low permeability layers lining the brine storage ponds is maintained and achieves a permeability of less than  $1 \times 10^{-14}$  m/s whenever these storage ponds are in use.

## Review of Brine Management and Beneficial Use of Water and Brine

21. Within 2 years of commissioning the water conditioning plant, and every 5 years thereafter, unless otherwise directed by the **Secretary**, the Proponent shall engage suitably qualified experts approved by the **Secretary** to review brine management and beneficial use options for raffinate, brine and minewater produced by the project. The Proponent shall implement all reasonable and feasible recommendations of these reviews, to the satisfaction of the **Secretary**.

## HERITAGE

*Note: These conditions should be read in conjunction with section 9 of the revised Statement of Commitments.*

## Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan

22. The Proponent shall not destroy damage or deface any known Aboriginal objects (as defined in the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*) without the written approval of the **Secretary**.
23. The Proponent shall revise the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan for the Stage 1 project to encompass all proposed mine activities and potential impacts associated with Aboriginal cultural heritage management for the site (Stages 1 and 2) and subsequently implement this revised version of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan to the satisfaction of the **Secretary**. This plan must:
- (a) be submitted the **Secretary** by 30 June 2011;
  - (b) be prepared in consultation with the **OEH**, the Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council and the Narrabri Goomeroi Aboriginal Corporation;
  - (c) include a protocol for the ongoing consultation and involvement of Aboriginal communities in the conservation and management of Aboriginal heritage on site; and
  - (d) describe the measures that would be implemented to protect Aboriginal sites on the mine site, (in particular all known Aboriginal sites on lands overlying Longwalls 1-3 and sites 10b, 38, 39 and 106-112), or any new Aboriginal objects or skeletal remains that are identified during the project.
24. Prior to undertaking any activities involving surface disturbance or vegetation removal for the lands overlying Longwalls 8-26, the Proponent shall undertake a detailed Aboriginal cultural heritage survey in consultation with the local Aboriginal community and **OEH**, and to the satisfaction of the **Secretary**. The **Secretary** may approve this survey being undertaken in several stages, as mining progresses.

## TRANSPORT

*Note: These conditions should be read in conjunction with section 13 of the revised Statement of Commitments.*

#### **Mine Access Road Intersection**

25. The Proponent shall maintain the Mine Access Road Intersection with Kurrajong Creek Road and the Kamilaroi Highway in consultation with NSC and to the satisfaction of **RMS**.

#### **Greylands and Scratch Roads**

26. Prior to using Greylands and Scratch Roads to construct mine-related infrastructure, the Proponent shall enter into an agreement with NSC to:
- construct watercourse crossings (either culverts or concrete causeways) on those sections of these roads that it uses in a manner that does not restrict fish passage, in consultation with **NSW T&I** (Fisheries) and to the satisfaction of NSC; and
  - fund the maintenance of those sections of these roads that it uses to an all-weather unsealed road standard.

#### **Gunnedah Traffic Management Study**

27. The Proponent shall contribute, on an equitable basis with other coal project rail users, to the costs of an independent Traffic Management Study analysing the impacts of increased rail traffic on road safety and congestion due to increased closure of rail level crossings within Gunnedah, prepared to the satisfaction of GSC.

*Note: This study should examine funding mechanisms to implement any recommendations to improve road safety and reduce traffic congestion associated with rail level crossings and be completed by 30 June 2011.*

### **VISUAL**

*Note: These conditions should be read in conjunction with section 14 of the Statement of Commitments.*

#### **Visual Amenity**

28. The Proponent shall minimise the visual impacts of the project to the satisfaction of the **Secretary**.

#### **Lighting Emissions**

29. The Proponent shall ensure that:
- no outdoor lights shine above the horizontal; and
  - all external lighting associated with the project complies with *Australian Standard AS4282 (INT) 1995 – Control of Obtrusive Effects of Outdoor Lighting*.

### **ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND GREENHOUSE GAS**

*Note: These conditions should be read in conjunction with section 11 of the revised Statement of Commitments.*

#### **Energy Savings Action Plan**

30. The Proponent shall revise the Energy Savings Action Plan for the Stage 1 project to encompass all proposed mine activities and potential impacts associated with energy management for the site (Stages 1 and 2) and subsequently implement this revised version of the Energy Savings Action Plan to the satisfaction of the **Secretary**. This plan must:
- be prepared in consultation with **OEH**;
  - be prepared in accordance with the *Guidelines for Energy Savings Action Plans* (DEUS, 2005), or its latest version;
  - be submitted to the **Secretary** for approval prior to 30 June 2011; and
  - include a program to monitor the effectiveness of measures to reduce energy use on site.

#### **Gas Drainage**

31. The Proponent shall implement all reasonable and feasible measures to minimise the greenhouse gas emissions from the underground mining operations to the satisfaction of the **Secretary**.

32. Prior to carrying out longwall coal mining operations, the Proponent shall submit a Greenhouse Gas Minimisation Plan for the approval of the **Secretary**. This plan must:
- (a) be prepared in consultation with **OEH**;
  - (b) identify options for minimising greenhouse gas emissions from underground mining operations, with a particular focus on capturing and/or using these emissions;
  - (c) investigate the feasibility of implementing each option;
  - (d) propose the measures that would be implemented in the short to medium term on site; and
  - (e) include a research program to inform the continuous improvement of the greenhouse gas minimisation measures on site.

## **WASTE**

*Note: These conditions should be read in conjunction with section 3 of the revised Statement of Commitments.*

### **Waste Minimisation**

33. The Proponent shall revise the Waste Management Plan for the Stage 1 project to encompass all proposed mine activities and potential impacts associated with waste management for the site (Stages 1 and 2) and subsequently implement this revised version of the Waste Management Plan to the satisfaction of the **Secretary**. This plan must:
- (a) be submitted to the **Secretary** for approval prior to 30 June 2011;
  - (b) identify the various waste streams of the project;
  - (c) describe what measures would be implemented to reuse, recycle, or minimise the waste generated by the project;
  - (d) ensure irrigation of treated wastewater is undertaken in accordance with *Environmental Guidelines: Use of Effluent by Irrigation* (DEC, 2004), or its latest version; and
  - (e) include a program to monitor the effectiveness of these measures.

## SCHEDULE 5 REHABILITATION AND OFFSETS

### REHABILITATION

*Note: These conditions should be read in conjunction with sections 4, 8 and 12 of the revised Statement of Commitments and condition 3(c) of schedule 3.*

#### Rehabilitation Objectives

1. The Proponent shall rehabilitate the site to the satisfaction of the **Secretary** and **DRE** in accordance with the rehabilitation objectives in Table 1.

*Table 1: Rehabilitation Objectives*

<b>Domain</b>	<b>Rehabilitation objective</b>
Surface Facilities Area	Set through condition 4 below
Other land affected by the project	Restore ecosystem function, including maintaining or establishing self-sustaining native ecosystems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• comprised of local native plant species; with</li> <li>• a landform consistent with the surrounding environment</li> </ul>
Built features	Repair/restore to pre-mining condition or equivalent
Community	Minimise the adverse socio-economic effects associated with mine closure including the reduction in local and regional employment
	Ensure public safety

*Note: The Proponent may be required to define other rehabilitation objectives in management plans or strategy required under this schedule.*

#### Progressive Rehabilitation

2. To the extent that mining operations permit, the Proponent shall carry out rehabilitation progressively, that is, as soon as reasonably practicable following the disturbance.

#### Landscape Management Plan

3. The Proponent shall revise the Landscape Management Plan for the Stage 1 project to encompass all proposed mine activities and potential impacts associated with landscape management for the site (Stages 1 and 2) and subsequently implement this revised version of the Landscape Management Plan to the satisfaction of the **Secretary** and **DRE**. This plan must:
  - (a) be submitted to the **Secretary** for approval by 30 June 2011;
  - (b) be prepared by suitably qualified expert/s whose appointment/s have been endorsed by the **Secretary**;
  - (c) be prepared in consultation with **DPI Water**, **OEH** and **NSC**; and
  - (d) include a:
    - Rehabilitation Management Plan; and
    - Mine Closure Plan.

#### Rehabilitation Management Plan

4. The Rehabilitation Management Plan must include:
  - (a) the rehabilitation objectives for the site;
  - (b) a strategic description of how the rehabilitation of the site would be integrated with surrounding land use;
  - (c) a general description of the short and long term measures that would be implemented to rehabilitate the site;
  - (d) a detailed description of the measures that would be implemented to remediate predicted subsidence impacts under individual Extraction Plans;
  - (e) a detailed description of the measures that would be implemented to minimise environmental impacts of mining operations and to rehabilitate the site, including measures to be implemented for:
    - managing remnant vegetation and habitat on site;
    - minimising impacts on fauna;
    - minimising visual impacts;
    - conserving and reusing topsoil;

- controlling weeds, feral pests, and access;
  - managing bushfires; and
  - managing any potential conflicts between rehabilitation works and Aboriginal cultural heritage.
- (f) detailed performance and completion criteria for the rehabilitation of the site;
- (g) a detailed description of how the performance of the rehabilitation works would be monitored over time to achieve the stated objectives and against the relevant performance and completion criteria; and
- (h) details of who is responsible for monitoring, reviewing and implementing the plan.

*Note: In accordance with condition 11 of schedule 2, the preparation and implementation of Rehabilitation Management Plans is likely to be staged, with each plan covering a defined area (or domain) for rehabilitation. In addition, while mining operations are being carried out, some of the proposed remediation or rehabilitation measures may be included in the detailed management plans that form part of the Extraction Plan. If this is the case, however, then the Proponent will be required to ensure that there is good cross-referencing between the various management plans.*

### **Mine Closure Plan**

5. The Mine Closure Plan must:
- (a) define the objectives and criteria for mine closure;
  - (b) investigate options for the future use of the site;
  - (c) provide a detailed methodology for decommissioning the site's evaporation/storage ponds and the treatment of any accumulated salt within or around those ponds;
  - (d) investigate ways to minimise the adverse socio-economic effects associated with mine closure, including reduction in local and regional employment levels;
  - (e) describe the measures that would be implemented to minimise or manage the on-going environmental effects of the project; and
  - (f) describe how the performance of these measures would be monitored over time.

### **OFFSETS**

#### **Biodiversity Offset Strategy**

6. The Proponent shall provide a suitable biodiversity offset strategy to compensate for the impacts of Stages 1 and 2 of the project. This offset strategy must:
- (a) be prepared in consultation with **OEH**;
  - (b) be submitted to the **Secretary** for approval by 31 December 2010, or as otherwise agreed by the **Secretary**;
  - (c) provide a detailed assessment of offset proposal/s involving the property/ies (agreed to by **OEH**) adjoining Mt Kaputar National Park to confirm the ability of either of these property/ies to meet "like for like or better" and "maintain or improve" conservation outcomes;
  - (d) include and assess proposals to offset impacts to the Inland Grey Box EEC, *Bertya opposens*, and foraging habitat for the Superb Parrot;
  - (e) include proposals on offsetting both direct and indirect impacts (ie edge effects) of the project; and
  - (f) determine the best overall combination of lands to provide a suitable offset.
7. The Proponent shall make suitable arrangements to provide appropriate long-term security for the offset areas by 31 December 2011, or other date agreed by the **Secretary**, to the satisfaction of the **Secretary**.

## SCHEDULE 6

### ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT, MONITORING, AUDITING AND REPORTING

*Note: This schedule should be read in conjunction with sections 15, 16 and 17 of the revised Statement of Commitments.*

#### ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

##### Environmental Management Strategy

1. The Proponent shall revise the Environmental Management Strategy for the Stage 1 project to encompass all proposed mine activities and potential impacts associated with environmental management for the site (Stages 1 and 2) and subsequently implement this revised version of the Environmental Management Strategy to the satisfaction of the **Secretary**. This strategy must:
  - (a) be submitted to the **Secretary** for approval prior to 30 June 2011;
  - (b) provide the strategic context for environmental management of the project;
  - (c) identify the statutory requirements that apply to the project;
  - (d) describe the role, responsibility, authority and accountability of all key personnel involved in the environmental management of the project
  - (e) describe the procedures that would be implemented to:
    - keep the local community and relevant agencies informed about the operation and environmental performance of the project;
    - receive, handle, respond to, and record complaints;
    - resolve any disputes that may arise during the course of the project;
    - respond to any non-compliance; and
    - respond to emergencies; and
  - (f) include a clear plan depicting all the monitoring currently being carried out in the project area.

##### Management Plan Requirements

2. The Proponent shall ensure that the management plans required under this approval are prepared in accordance with any relevant guidelines, and include:
  - (a) detailed baseline data;
  - (b) a description of:
    - the relevant statutory requirements (including any relevant approval, licence or lease conditions);
    - any relevant limits or performance measures/criteria;
    - the specific performance indicators that are proposed to be used to judge the performance of, or guide the implementation of, the project or any management measures;
  - (c) a description of the measures that would be implemented to comply with the relevant statutory requirements, limits, or performance measures/criteria;
  - (d) a program to monitor and report on the:
    - impacts and environmental performance of the project;
    - effectiveness of any management measures (see (c) above);
  - (e) a contingency plan to manage any unpredicted impacts and their consequences;
  - (f) a program to investigate and implement ways to improve the environmental performance of the project over time;
  - (g) a protocol for managing and reporting any:
    - incidents;
    - complaints;
    - non-compliances with statutory requirements; and
    - exceedances of the impact assessment criteria and/or performance criteria; and
  - (h) a protocol for periodic review of the plan.

##### Revision of Strategies, Plans and Programs

3. Within 3 months of the submission of an:
  - (a) audit under condition 7 of schedule 6;
  - (b) incident report under condition 4 of schedule 6; and
  - (c) annual review under condition 5 of schedule 6; and
  - (d) any modification to the conditions of this approval (unless the conditions require otherwise),the Proponent shall review, and if necessary revise, the strategies, plans, and programs required under this approval to the satisfaction of the **Secretary**.

*Note: This is to ensure that the strategies, plans and programs are updated on a regular basis, and incorporate any recommended measures to improve the environmental performance of the project*

## REPORTING

### Incident

4. The Proponent shall notify the **Secretary** and any other relevant agencies of any incident associated with the project as soon as practicable after the Proponent becomes aware of the incident. Within 7 days of the date of the incident, the Proponent shall provide the **Secretary** and any relevant agencies with a detailed report on the incident.

### Regular

5. The Proponent shall provide regular reporting on the environmental performance of the project on its website, in accordance with the reporting arrangements in any plans or programs approved under the conditions of this approval, and to the satisfaction of the **Secretary**.

### Annual Review

6. By the end of March each year, the Proponent must submit a review of the environmental performance of the project for the previous calendar year to the satisfaction of the **Secretary**. This review must:
  - (a) describe the development (including any rehabilitation) that was carried out in the past year, and the development that is proposed to be carried out over the next year;
  - (b) include a comprehensive review of the monitoring results and complaints records of the project over the past year, which includes a comparison of these results against the:
    - relevant statutory requirements, limits or performance measures/criteria;
    - monitoring results of previous years; and
    - relevant predictions in the EA and Extraction Plan;
  - (c) identify any non-compliance over the last year, and describe what actions were (or are being) taken to ensure compliance;
  - (d) identify any trends in the monitoring data over the life of the project;
  - (e) identify any discrepancies between the predicted and actual impacts of the project, and analyse the potential cause of any significant discrepancies; and
  - (f) describe what measures will be implemented over the next year to improve the environmental performance of the project.

*Note: The "Post Approval Requirements for State Significant Developments - Annual Review Guideline 2015, NSW Government, October 2015" (or its latest version) provides a reporting framework to integrate the reporting requirements of the Annual Review required by the Department under the project approval and the Annual Environment Management Report (AEMR) required by DRE under the Mining Lease.*

## INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT

7. Prior to 13 September 2010, and every 3 years thereafter, unless the **Secretary** directs otherwise, the Proponent shall commission and pay the full cost of an Independent Environmental Audit of the project (Stages 1 and 2). This audit must:
  - (a) be conducted by suitably qualified, experienced and independent team of experts whose appointment has been endorsed by the **Secretary**;
  - (b) include consultation with the relevant agencies
  - (c) assess the environmental performance of the project and assess whether it is complying with the relevant requirements of this approval and any relevant mining lease or EPL (including any strategy, plan or program required under these approvals);
  - (d) review the adequacy of strategies, plans or programs required under these approvals; and, if appropriate,
  - (e) recommend measures or actions to improve the environmental performance of the project, and/or any strategy, plan or program required under these approvals.

*Note: This audit team must be led by a suitably qualified auditor and include experts in the fields of subsidence, water and noise management (other than for the 2010 audit which is not required to include a subsidence expert in the audit team).*

8. Within 6 weeks of the completing of this audit, or as otherwise agreed by the **Secretary**, the Proponent shall submit a copy of the audit report to the **Secretary**, together with its response to any recommendations contained in the audit report.

#### **COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

9. The Proponent shall maintain a Community Consultative Committee (CCC) for the project to the satisfaction of the **Secretary**, in general accordance with the *Guideline for Establishing and Operating Community Consultative Committees for Mining Projects (Department of Planning, 2007)*, or its latest version.

*Note: The CCC is an advisory committee. The Department and other relevant agencies are responsible for ensuring that the Proponent complies with this approval.*

#### **ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

10. The Proponent shall:
  - (a) make copies of the following publicly available on its website:
    - the documents referred to in Condition 2 of Schedule 2;
    - all current statutory approvals for the project;
    - all approved strategies, plans and programs required under the conditions of this approval;
    - a comprehensive summary of the monitoring results of the project, reported in accordance with the specifications in any conditions of this approval, or any approved plans and programs;
    - a complaints register, updated on a monthly basis;
    - minutes of CCC meetings;
    - the annual reviews of the project;
    - any independent environmental audit of the project, and the Proponent's response to the recommendations in any audit;
    - any other matter required by the **Secretary**; and
  - (b) keep this information up-to-date, to the satisfaction of the **Secretary**.

## SCHEDULE 7 ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES FOR AIR QUALITY AND NOISE MANAGEMENT

### NOTIFICATION OF LANDOWNERS

1. If the results of the monitoring required in schedule 4 identify that impacts generated by the project are greater than the relevant impact assessment criteria, except where a negotiated agreement has been entered into in relation to that impact, then the Proponent shall, within 2 weeks of obtaining the monitoring results, notify the **Secretary**, the affected landowners and tenants (including tenants of mine-owned properties) accordingly, and provide quarterly monitoring results to each of these parties until the results show that the project is complying with the criteria in schedule 4.
2. If the results of monitoring required in schedule 4 identify that impacts generated by the project are greater than the relevant air quality impact assessment criteria in schedule 4, then the Proponent shall send the relevant landowners and tenants (including tenants of mine-owned properties) a copy of the NSW Health fact sheet entitled "Mine Dust and You" (and associated updates) in conjunction with the notification required in condition 1.

### INDEPENDENT REVIEW

3. If a landowner considers the project to be exceeding the impact assessment criteria in schedule 4, then he/she may ask the **Secretary** in writing for an independent review of the impacts of the project on his/her land.

If the **Secretary** is satisfied that an independent review is warranted, the Proponent shall within 2 months of the **Secretary's** decision:

- (a) consult with the landowner to determine his/her concerns;
  - (b) commission a suitably qualified, experienced and independent person, whose appointment has been approved by the **Secretary**, to conduct monitoring on the land, to:
    - determine whether the project is complying with the relevant impact assessment criteria in schedule 4; and
    - identify the source(s) and scale of any impact on the land, and the project's contribution to this impact; and
  - (c) give the **Secretary** and landowner a copy of the independent review.
4. If the independent review determines that the project is complying with the relevant impact assessment criteria in schedule 4, then the Proponent may discontinue the independent review with the approval of the **Secretary**.

If the independent review determines that the project is not complying with the relevant impact assessment criteria in schedule 4, and that the project is primarily responsible for this non-compliance, then the Proponent shall:

- (a) take all reasonable and feasible measures, in consultation with the landowner, to ensure that the project complies with the relevant criteria and conduct further monitoring to determine whether these measures ensure compliance; or
- (b) secure a written agreement with the landowner to allow exceedances of the relevant criteria, to the satisfaction of the **Secretary**.

If further monitoring under paragraph (a) determines that the project is complying with the relevant criteria, then the Proponent may discontinue the independent review with the approval of the **Secretary**.

If the independent review determines that the project is not complying with the relevant land acquisition criteria in schedule 4, then the Proponent shall offer to acquire all or part of the landowner's land in accordance with the procedures in conditions 5-7 below, to the satisfaction of the **Secretary**.

### LAND ACQUISITION

5. Within 3 months of receiving a written request from a landowner with acquisition rights, the Proponent shall make a binding written offer to the landowner based on:
  - (a) the current market value of the landowner's interest in the property at the date of this written request, as if the property was unaffected by the project the subject of the project application, having regard to the:
    - existing and permissible use of the land, in accordance with the applicable planning instruments at the date of the written request; and

- presence of improvements on the property and/or any approved building or structure which has been physically commenced at the date of the landowner's written request, and is due to be completed subsequent to that date, but excluding any improvements that have resulted from the implementation of 'reasonable and feasible measures' under schedule 4 or condition 4(a) of this schedule;
- (b) the reasonable costs associated with:
- relocating within the Narrabri or Gunnedah local government areas, or to any other local government area determined by the **Secretary**;
  - obtaining legal advice and expert advice for determining the acquisition price of the land, and the terms upon which it is to be acquired; and
- (c) reasonable compensation for any disturbance caused by the land acquisition process.

However, if following this period, the Proponent and landowner cannot agree on the acquisition price of the land and/or the terms upon which the land is to be acquired, then either party may refer the matter to the **Secretary** for resolution.

Upon receiving such a request, the **Secretary** shall request the President of the NSW Division of the Australian Property Institute (the API) to appoint a qualified independent valuer to:

- (a) consider submissions from both parties;
- (b) determine a fair and reasonable acquisition price for the land and/or the terms upon which the land is to be acquired, having regard to the matters referred to in paragraphs (a)-(c) above;
- (c) prepare a detailed report setting out the reasons for any determination; and
- (d) provide a copy of the report to both parties and the **Secretary**.

Within 14 days of receiving the independent valuer's report, the Proponent shall make a binding written offer to the landowner to purchase the land at a price not less than the independent valuer's determination.

However, if either party disputes the independent valuer's determination, then within 14 days of receiving the independent valuer's report, they may refer the matter to the **Secretary** for review. Any request for a review must be accompanied by a detailed report setting out the reasons why the party disputes the independent valuer's determination. Following consultation with the independent valuer and both parties, the **Secretary** shall determine a fair and reasonable acquisition price for the land, having regard to the matters referred to in paragraphs (a)-(c) above and the independent valuer's report. Within 14 days of this determination, the Proponent shall make a binding written offer to the landowner to purchase the land at a price not less than the **Secretary's** determination.

If the landowner refuses to accept the Proponent's binding written offer under this condition within 6 months of the offer being made, then the Proponent's obligations to acquire the land shall cease, unless the **Secretary** determines otherwise.

6. The Proponent shall pay all reasonable costs associated with the land acquisition process described in condition 5 above.
7. If the Proponent and landowner agree that only part of the land shall be acquired, then the Proponent shall also pay all reasonable costs associated with obtaining Council approval for any plan of subdivision (where permissible), and registration of the plan at the Office of the Registrar-General.

**APPENDIX 1  
SCHEDULE OF PROJECT LAND**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Land Title Reference</b>
<i>Pit Top Area</i>	<p>Lot 60 DP 757124, Part Lot 115 DP757124            Lot 152 DP816020, Part Lots 151 &amp; 152 DP816020            Lots 381 &amp; 382 DP1028753            Various Crown and Council roads.</p>
<i>Underground Mining Area</i>	<p>Lot 7 DP 757104, Part Lots 3, 7, 8, 10, 25, 67 &amp; 68 DP757104            Part Lots 57, 58, 63 to 65 DP757114            Lot 61 DP 757124, Part Lots 81 &amp; 83 DP757124            Lot 2 DP 811171, Part Lot 1 DP811171            Lot 1 DP254253            Lot 1 DP659899            Part Lot 152 DP 816020            Part Lot 3 DP1005608            Part Lot 2 DP1124652            Part Lot 842 DP1134385            Part Jacks Creek State Forest (Part Lot 58 DP 757114)            Part Pilliga East State Forest            Various Crown and Council roads.</p>
<i>Remainder of Mine Site</i>	<p>Lot 1 DP1124652, Part Lot 2 DP1124652            Lot 841 DP1134385, Part Lot 842 DP1134385            Part Lots 3, 8, 10, 25, 67 &amp; 68 DP 757104            Part Lots 57, 63 to 65 DP 757114            Part Lots 81 &amp; 83 DP 757124            Part Lot 1 DP798487            Part Lot 1 DP811171            Part Lots 151 &amp; 152 DP816020            Part Lot 3 DP1005608            Part Jacks Creek State Forest (Part Lot 58 DP 757114 &amp; Part Lot 60 DP757114)            Part Pilliga East State Forest (undefined)            Various Crown and Council roads.</p>
<i>Water Pipeline Route</i>	<p>Lots 60 &amp; 89 DP757124            Lot 151 DP816020            Lots 381 &amp; 382 DP1028753            Lot 1 DP1124652            Various Crown and Council roads.</p>

## APPENDIX 2 PROJECT MAPS

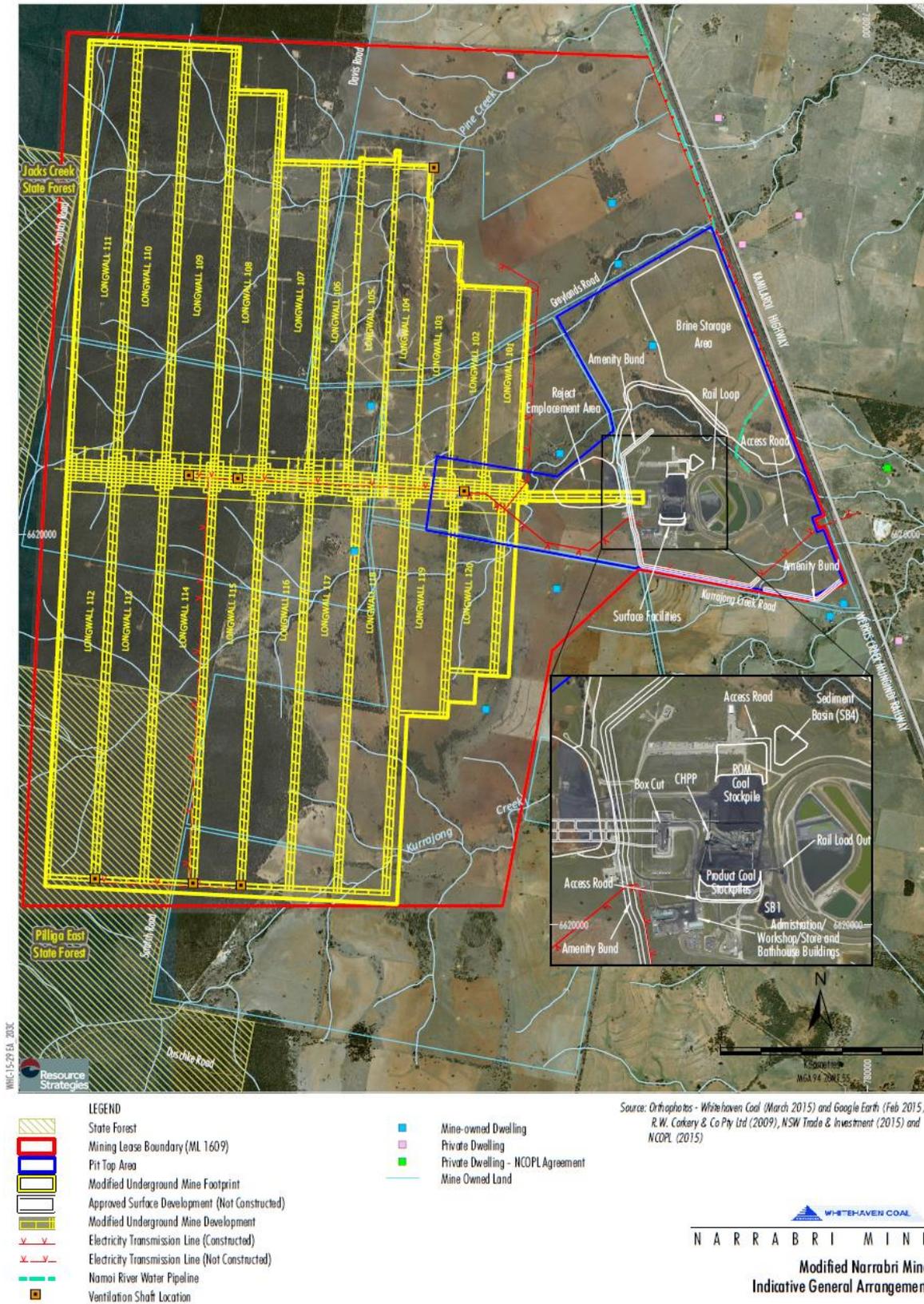
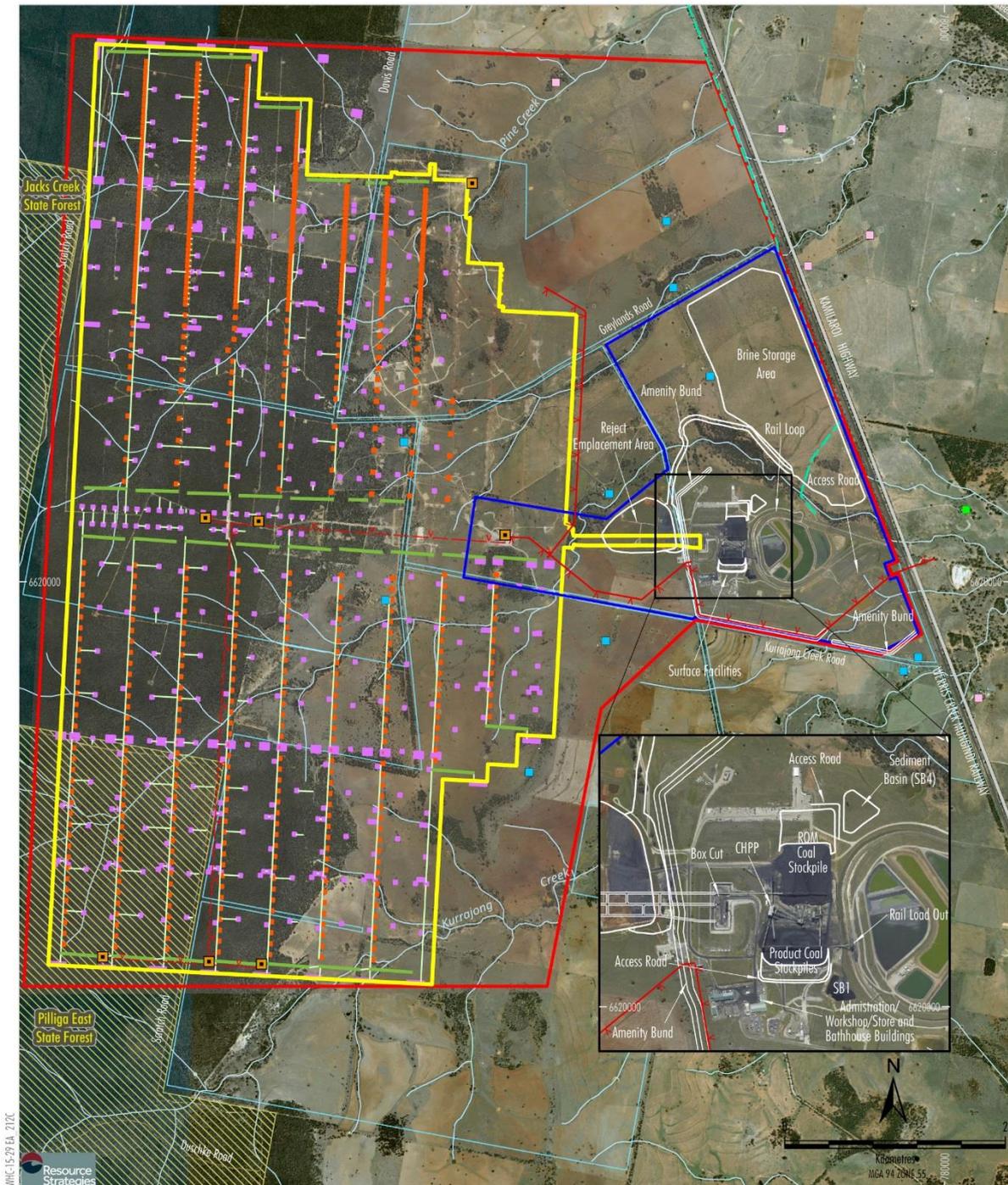


Figure 1: Indicative General Arrangement



LEGEND	
	State Forest
	Mining Lease Boundary (ML 1609)
	Pit Top Area
	Approved Surface Development (Not Constructed)
	Modified Underground Mine Footprint
	Electricity Transmission Line (Constructed)
	Electricity Transmission Line (Not Constructed)
	Namoi River Water Pipeline
	Ventilation Shaft
	Goaf Drainage Borehole
	Pre-Drainage Borehole
	Pre-conditioning Borehole
	Unsealed Access Track
	Mine-owned Dwelling
	Private Dwelling
	Private Dwelling - NCOPL Agreement

Source: Orthophotos - Whitehaven Coal (March 2015) and Google Earth (Feb 2015); R.W. Corkery & Co Pty Ltd (2009), NSW Trade & Investment (2015) and NCOPL (2015)

**WHITEHAVEN COAL**  
**NARRABRI MINE**  
 Modified Indicative Underground Mine  
 Surface Infrastructure

Figure 5

Figure 2: Indicative Surface Infrastructure

**APPENDIX 3**  
**STATEMENT OF COMMITMENTS**  
**(Refer original project approval)**

**APPENDIX 4  
GENERAL TERMS OF PLANNING AGREEMENTS**

**Continuation of Stage 1 Planning Agreements**

<b>Funding Area</b>	<b>Minimum Proponent Contribution</b>	<b>Funding Time Frame</b>
<u>Narrabri Shire</u> Upgrade and seal Kurrajong Creek Road, adjacent to the Project site	7.0 kilometres length of Kurrajong Creek Road to be upgraded and sealed.	Works to be completed within 12 months of Stage 1 project approval (17 November 2007).
<u>Narrabri Shire</u> Monetary Contribution – Provision of bush fire services	\$7,000	One instalment to be paid within 12 months of Stage 1 project approval (17 November 2007).
<u>Narrabri Shire</u> Community Infrastructure Contribution	\$93,000	An initial instalment of \$13,000 to be paid within 12 months of Stage 1 project approval (17 November 2007) with \$20,000 to be paid for a period of four years on the anniversary of the initial payment.
<u>Gunnedah Shire</u> Monetary Contribution – Gunnedah Urban Riverine Scheme	\$100,000	\$20,000 each year for a period of 5 years with the first instalment to be paid within 12 months of Stage 1 project approval (17 November 2007).

Notes:

- The Gunnedah Urban Riverine Scheme Contributions must be reviewed and adjusted to take into account any increase in the CPI over time, in accordance with the Planning Agreement between the Proponent and Gunnedah Shire Council required under this approval.
- The Community Infrastructure Contribution must be reviewed and adjusted to take into account any increase in the CPI over time, in accordance with the Planning Agreement and Narrabri Shire Council required under this approval.

**Stage 2 Planning Agreements**

<b>Funding Area</b>	<b>Minimum Proponent Contribution</b>	<b>Funding Time Frame</b>
<u>Narrabri Shire</u> Narrabri Swimming Complex	\$1,500,000	First contribution of \$750,000 to be made in conjunction with the 2010 Stage 1 community enhancement contribution.  Second contribution of \$750,000 to be paid in conjunction with the 2011 Stage 1 community enhancement contribution.
<u>Gunnedah Shire</u> Monetary Contribution	\$100,000	\$20,000 each year for a period of 5 years with the first instalment to be paid in conjunction with the 2010 Stage 1 community enhancement contribution.

Notes: The notes for Stage 1 Community Enhancement Program contributions apply to Stage 2 Community Enhancement contributions.

APPENDIX 5  
INDEPENDENT DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURE

**Independent Dispute Resolution Process  
(Indicative only)**

