

Application for the continuation of Maules Creek Coal Mine

JUNE 2023

Whitehaven is currently preparing a new State Significant Development (SSD) application to seek approval for the continuation of the Maules Creek Coal Mine (MCCM) within the existing mining tenement.

MCCM was originally approved in 2013 to operate under a standard 21-year mine lease with an annual production limit of 13Mtpa ROM.

MCCM has coal reserves to support 40 years of production, which was acknowledged by the NSW Government during the original approval process with the understanding a renewal of the lease would be required to facilitate ongoing mining activities beyond 2034.

As such, this application will support the continuation of operations to approximately 2043.

The application will enable increased flexibility in the mining and recovery of high-quality coal resources entirely within the existing tenements, with a modest increase to the production limit to 14 Mtpa ROM coal which will provide more optionality in managing natural fluctuations in ROM output year-to-year.

The continuation of MCCM will also support the employment of an 800-strong open cut workforce and allow the significant economic benefits our largest asset delivers in North West New South Wales (NSW) to continue.

Community and stakeholder engagement

Whitehaven Coal is committed to ongoing, comprehensive engagement with the community and relevant stakeholders throughout the process. The Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be placed on public exhibition by the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) in due course, which will provide opportunities for questions and issues to be raised and addressed.

The comprehensive stakeholder social impact assessment will ensure there are opportunities for Aboriginal groups to be involved in the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessments. Continuous engagement with the Aboriginal community will be sustained throughout the different stages of the Project.

Water pipeline

A water pipeline will connect the existing Roma/Brighton bore pump station to the approved but not yet constructed pipeline between Tarrawonga Coal Mine (TCM) and the Vickery Extension Project.

The pipeline will allow water sharing between the three operations to provide the following benefits:

- Reduce external water requirements from the Namoi River and groundwater bores.
- Maximise the utilisation of storages between operations, allowing excess water from one operation to be transferred to another operation with spare capacity.
- Allow for the utilisation of the TCM final void post closure as a water storage.
- Share water supply from bores and the Namoi River between operations for drought security, in compliance with extraction limits and Water Access License (WAL) allocations.
- Provide the opportunity to investigate beneficial reuse of the water for agricultural purposes along the pipeline route.

Protecting biodiversity

The Project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will assess its potential impacts to biodiversity values.

Whitehaven Coal is committed to the post mining land use already approved in the current Project Approval. The area will revert to woodland post mining.

Baseline ecology surveys of the Project area have already commenced to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the biodiversity values within and surrounding the Project area. The surveys are used to inform mine design and likely biodiversity offsetting requirements.

Supporting global energy security and lower net global emissions

MCCM would continue to export some of the highest quality thermal coal, as well as steel making coal through to 2043 to our customers across Asia, supporting global energy security and our customers' decarbonisation ambitions.

A portion of the Project's saleable coal could be directed to steel making, consistent with the current operations, to support growing demand for steel making coal.

MCCM's high energy, low ash thermal coal is used in high efficiency, low emissions (HELE) electricity power plants delivering lower net global emissions compared to lower quality coal from elsewhere.

APPROVAL TIMELINE

Preparation and lodgement of Scoping Report (expected late 2023)

WE ARE HERE

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS development)

Development Application, including the EIS, lodged with NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE)

DPE reviews the EIS and prepares for public exhibition

EIS placed on public exhibition comment

Whitehaven responds to submissions

DPE assess the EIS, submissions and Whitehaven responses

The NSW Minister for Planning directs the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) to undertake an Independent Assessment

The IPC makes a determination

For more information about Maules Creek, visit:

whitehavencoal.com.au/maules-creek or scan the below QR code:



Key benefits of the Maules Creek Continuation Project

Supporting the local economy

Mining creates both direct and indirect jobs. It helps to diversify the regional economy, sustain local communities, provide skilled jobs and support global energy security.



Approximately
800
jobs,
predominantly
locally based.



Approximately
75%
of the
Maules Creek
workforce is
locally-based.



Continuation of
\$200m+
annual contribution
to local businesses
and suppliers in
North West NSW.



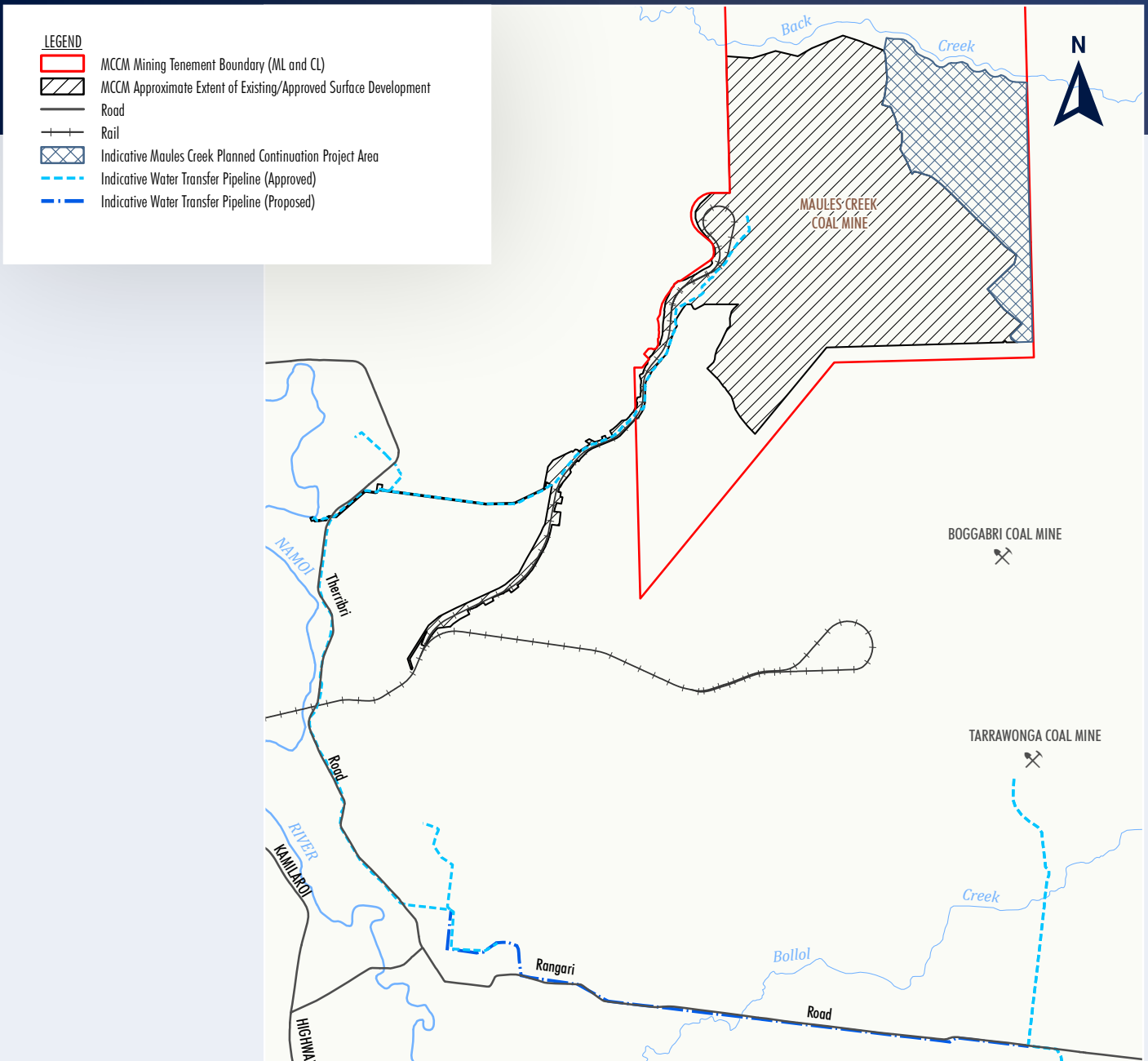
Approximately
\$160m
paid in wages
annually to the
Maules Creek
workforce.



MCCM contributed
\$280m+
in taxes and
royalties in FY22.



Approximately
20%
of the Maules Creek
workforce identify
as Aboriginal and/or
Torres Strait Islander.



The Maules Creek Continuation Project extends to the north and east of the current mine.

Contact Information

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Scan the QR code for
more information about
Maules Creek

