Whitehaven

Maules Creek Continuation Project

February 2026

Maules Creek Coal Mine

Maules Creek Coal Mine (MCCM) is an open cut operation located near Boggabri, NSW. Operations commenced in June 2014, with first coal transported in 2015. The mine has a workforce of approximately 865 people and supports a wide range of local suppliers and services.

MCCM produces some of Australia's highest quality thermal coal, along with metallurgical coal used in steelmaking. With substantial coal reserves, the mine is well-placed to support continued production for decades to come. This long-term capacity was acknowledged by the NSW Government during the original approval process, which anticipated that a renewal of the mining leases would be required to facilitate ongoing mining activities beyond 2034.

The Maules Creek Continuation Project

Whitehaven has lodged an application with the NSW Government to continue operations at Maules Creek until 2044. Known as the Maules Creek Continuation Project (MCCP), this proposal will enable the continuation of operations entirely within the boundaries of the existing approved tenements and support the renewal of the associated mining leases.

Key benefits of the Maules Creek Coal Mine

MCCM is a significant contributor to the North West NSW economy. It helps to sustain local communities, support local businesses and provide skilled jobs for local people, while also underpinning global energy security and economic development.

MCCM has proven performance in progressively rehabilitating mine site areas, and in managing biodiversity offset land.

MCCM FY25 economic contribution

Spent
+$225m
with businesses that operate in North West NSW

Paid
$223m
to the Maules Creek Mine workforce

Paid
$168m
in royalties to the NSW Government

MCCM's local employment

Approximately
70%
of employees are based in local communities.

Approximately
14%
of permanent MCCM employees identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Community support in NSW

Whitehaven contributed over
$1.45m
in corporate community partnerships and donations in FY25 in NSW.

Almost
70%
of public submissions on the MCCP EIS are supportive.

Maules Creek Continuation Project

The Maules Creek Continuation Project will enable the continuation of operations at Whitehaven's Maules Creek Mine until 2044, which represents a further 10 years beyond the currently approved mine life.

If approved, it will support ongoing employment for more than 900 people and ensure the mine can maintain its important contribution to the North West NSW economy.

The continued operations will occur entirely within existing tenement boundaries and use the existing coal handling, processing and rail transportation infrastructure. It will also enable increased efficiency in the mining and recovery of resources, while a modest increase to the production limit - from 13Mtpa to 14Mtpa - will provide more flexibility in managing output fluctuations from year-to-year. The existing approved transport of up to 12.4Mtpa of product coal will be maintained.

As part of the comprehensive State and Federal Government assessment process, Whitehaven has worked with a range of stakeholders to develop a proposal that seeks to maximise the benefits and minimise the impacts of the mine's continued operation, as outlined in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Key aspects of the Project include:

- An increase in the operational workforce to an average of 940 people, with a peak of approximately 1,030
- Continued operation of the existing coal handling and preparation plant (CHPP) and train load-out and rail spur infrastructure, with upgrades as required
- Upgrades to workshops, electricity distribution and other ancillary infrastructure
- Development of a waste rock landform incorporating geomorphic design principles
- Construction and use of a remote go-line, access, and infrastructure area
- Increased water efficiency through construction and operation of a water pipeline between the MCCM pipeline network and the approved Vickery Coal Mine to Tarrawonga Coal Mine pipeline
- A revegetation program to establish approximately 2,300 ha of native woodland Landscape Revegetation Zones in the vicinity of the mine (in addition to any offset and rehabilitation requirements)
- Continued placement of coal rejects within the mined out voids and the out-of-pit overburden emplacement areas
- Ongoing exploration activities
- Other associated infrastructure, equipment and activities

Key management measures

The Project incorporates good design principles to maximise the benefits and minimise the impacts of the mine's continued operation:

- Utilising existing infrastructure at the mine
- Using geomorphic design to create a natural final landform
- Progressive rehabilitation and revegetation following mining operations
- Locating open cut and overburden emplacement areas at least 200 metres away from the mapped top-of-bank of Back Creek
- Delivering the Landscape Revegetation Zones on Whitehaven-owned land
- The Pipeline design and construction would avoid disturbance of trees.

Next steps and community involvement

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was lodged with the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) in June 2025.

The EIS will be subject to comprehensive review by relevant NSW Government Agencies, the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, as well as third party independent reviewers including the Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Unconventional Gas Development and Large Mining Development, Independent Expert Advisory Panel for Mining and the Independent Planning Commission.

Whitehaven is committed to ongoing engagement with the community and relevant stakeholders.

Anyone can provide feedback on the Project to Whitehaven via:

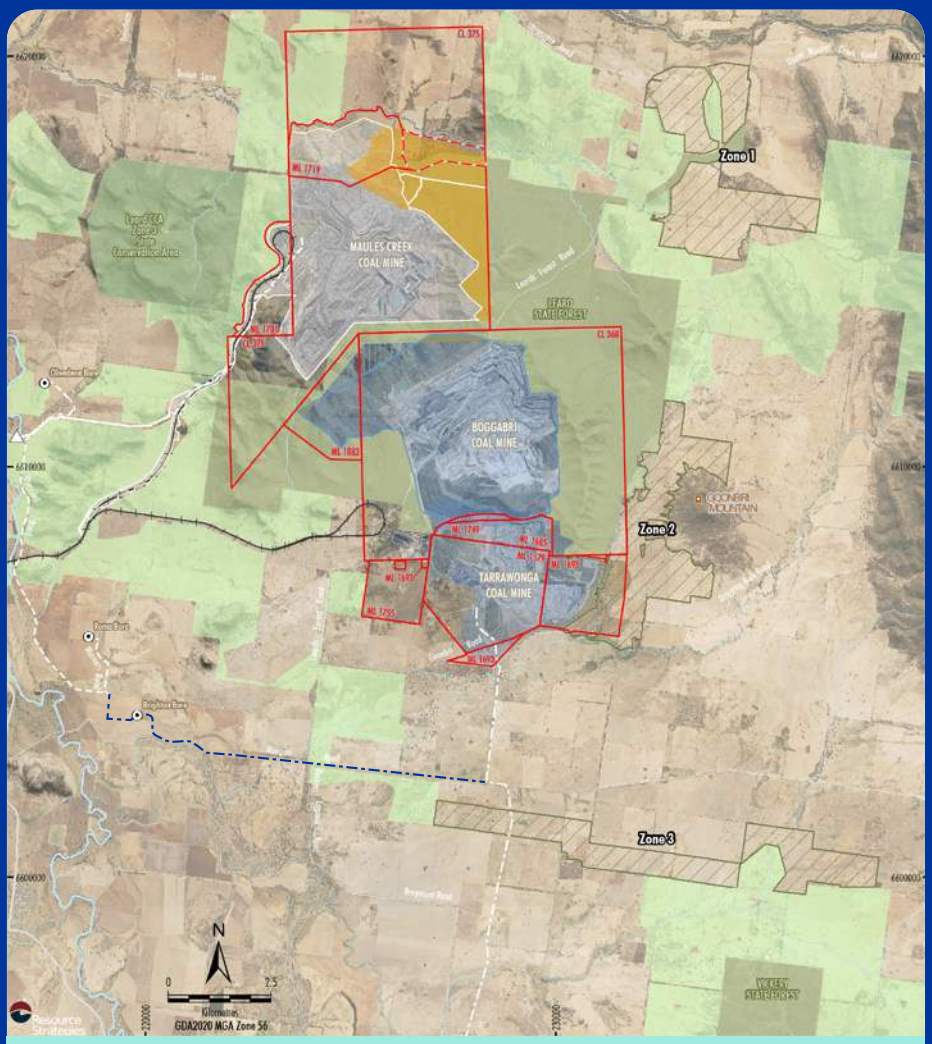
MaulesCreekCoal@whitehavencoal.com.au

1800 WHAVEN (1800 942 836)

Approval Timeline

- Preparation of Scoping Report
- Lodgement of Scoping Report
- Secretary Environmental Assessment requirements (SEARs) issued from the DPHI
- Commonwealth EPBC Referral Lodged
- EIS Development
- Development Application, including the EIS, lodged with the DPHI
- DPHI reviews the EIS and prepares for public exhibition
- EIS placed on public exhibition for comment
- NSW Government Agencies comprehensive review of the EIS
- Whitehaven responds to submissions received from NSW Government Agencies and the public
- DPHI assesses the EIS, submissions and Whitehaven responses — WE ARE HERE
- The NSW Minister for Planning directs the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) to undertake an Independent Assessment
- The IPC makes a determination
- The Commonwealth Minister makes a determination

General Arrangement of the Project



Legend

- State Conservation Area
- State Forest
- Rail Line
- Mining Tenement Boundary (ML and CL)
- Provisional Mining Lease Application Area
- Existing Conserved Areas
- Other Mining Operation[1]
- Other Mining Operation – Proposed[1]
- VCM to TCM Water Transfer Pipleline

EXISTING/APPROVED MCCM DEVELOPMENT

- Approximate Extent of Existing/ Approved Surface Development
- MCCM Water Supply Pipeline
- MCCM Groundwater Supply Bore
- MCCM Namoi River Pump Station

MAULES CREEK CONTINUATION PROJECT

- Indicative Project Disturbance Extent
- Indicative Landscape Revegetation Zones[2]
- Indicative Water Transfer Pipeline (Proposed)

[1] BC boundary digitised from Figure 1 of the BCM Modification 10 Scoping Letter. A portion of the Vegetated Corridor is within the Approved BCM Mine Disturbance and will not be mined through.

[2] Landscape Revegetation Zones shown on this figure are approximate extents only.

Source: NSW Spatial Services (2024)
Orthophoto Mosaic: Whitehaven (2019-2024)