

Whitehaven and Water in North West NSW



At Whitehaven, we are on a mission to help the world progress. The coal we produce helps to power economic growth, build industries, support local communities and deliver value to a wide range of stakeholders.

As the largest private employer in North West NSW, we are committed to ensuring the ongoing prosperity of our region, our workforce and the hundreds of local families and businesses that rely on our presence. This includes continuing to carefully manage and plan our water needs.

We recognise that water is a shared resource with the local communities near our operations and that it plays a critical role in maintaining healthy ecosystems. We are committed to managing water resources transparently and responsibly in accordance with our water management plans.

We have effective protocols in place to manage water risks across our operations. These risks include:

- excess water during periods of above-average rainfall
- water scarcity during periods of low rainfall and drought
- managing the quality of water we return to the environment.

We regularly monitor the water balance at each of our sites, invest in water management infrastructure, implement initiatives that maintain compliant water management, and investigate opportunities to minimise water usage.

Water is managed in accordance with strict conditions of approval and water management plans. These management plans are reviewed, approved and enforced by applicable regulators.

Water agencies in NSW

In NSW, Whitehaven operates under a comprehensive and layered regulatory framework. Whitehaven takes surface water and groundwater under Water Access Licences (WALs) issued by the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) in accordance with the Water Management Act

2000 and the relevant Water Sharing Plans. Our licences specify the water source, purpose category and the share component that determines how much water can be allocated each year.

All water take is metered and automatically reported to Water NSW, which manages water accounts and tracks usage against available allocation. Compliance with licence conditions and extraction limits is independently regulated and enforced by Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR).

In addition to NSW approvals, some projects are also assessed under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999 where potential impacts to water resources require federal consideration. Our licences operate within the same state-based allocation and compliance framework that applies to other water users.

Whitehaven's water allocations in NSW

The volume of water licensed users can access varies annually. In FY25, Whitehaven held water licences in NSW for 11,898 unit shares from groundwater and river water sources. A unit share is equivalent to one ML if 100% of the allocations are made.

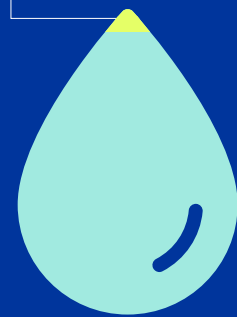
In accordance with these licences, we extract water from the Namoi River to support our NSW operations. In FY25, Whitehaven was allocated less than 1.9% of the nearly 280,000 ML allocated in the Lower Namoi Regulated River. We extracted less water than we were allocated and only pumped 1,654 ML of water from

the river. The balance of our water was sourced from rainfall and groundwater.

Our NSW operations are also licensed to extract groundwater. This includes licences for water which flows into our sites' pits passively. We have groundwater licences of 6,318 unit shares which is equal to less than 6% of the groundwater allocations in the sources where we hold licences.

We report on our water use in each site's annual review, and in our group-wide Sustainability Report. These documents are publicly available on our website.

1.9% of available water was allocated to Whitehaven



98.1% of available water was allocated to other water users (mainly irrigation)

Water efficiency

While we are not a large water user in relative terms, good water management is a critical part of what we do.

Water is essential to our operations, we use it primarily to wash coal and control dust during our mining processes. We continually seek to reduce, reuse and recycle water, including recycling water through our coal washing and preparation plants (CHPP) multiple times and using binding agents in dust suppression to reduce our water consumption. In FY25, 29% of water used in our CHPPs was recycled, reducing our requirements to extract water.

Clean water is kept separate from water affected by mining activities. A system of drains and dams divert clean water run-off from undisturbed areas around mining operations into existing water courses. Rainfall runoff from disturbed areas of our mining operations is collected within open pits and on-site storage for treatment before release back to the environment or use.



Economic benefit

Whitehaven generated approximately \$400,000 in coal sales for each megalitre of water extracted at our operations. Beyond our operations, our activities in North West NSW generate significant economic benefits for NSW. In FY25 we spent \$513M with suppliers in the region and paid over \$200M in salaries to people living in regional NSW.

Water trading

When licensed water allocations are not used in our operations, we can and do trade these to other water users. In FY25, around 2,500 ML was traded to other water users (typically irrigators) in the catchments in which we operate.