

Narrabri Mine

North west exploration licences

The Narrabri Mine is an existing underground coal mine located 17km south east of Narrabri. It has been operating since 2012 and employs around 500 people, most of whom live in the region.

The Mine has had two exploration licences (EL), EL9455 and EL9466 approved under the NSW Government's Operational Allocation framework. The framework allows for existing tenement holders to apply for an area of up to 33% of their existing tenement size for the purposes of developing a better mine design, recovering coal resources that would otherwise be likely to be sterilised, or extending the life of a mine.

The approved licences cover a combined area of around 3721 hectares south of the town of Narrabri:

- EL9456: 1,746Ha located about 23 kilometres south of Narrabri
- EL9455: 1,975Ha located about 12 kilometres south of Narrabri.

The Department of Regional NSW has assessed the applications in accordance with relevant Government guidelines, including running a market interest test over a larger area called 'Gorman North' (AUTH216) which didn't receive any interest from any other parties.

Find out more about the existing mine at whitehavencoal.com.au/Narrabri

Gorman North

The Strategic Statement on Coal Exploration and Mining in NSW identifies areas where potential future coal exploration could take place. The area to the north west of the existing Narrabri Mine known as Gorman North is included as an area for potential exploration.

Gorman North is covered by a government authority AUTH216, which overlaps with areas covered by the Narrabri Mine's exploration licence applications.

A market interest test was conducted by the NSW Government over this area. No interest was received from any other party in tendering for the area.

Find out about the Strategic Release process at www.regional.nsw.gov.au/meg/nsw-resources/coal

Exploration program

Whitehaven Coal is undertaking an exportation program within EL9455 and EL 9456, commencing 01 September 2026.

- A Review of Environmental Factors has been undertaken to assess any potential impacts resulting from the exploration activities.
- The Resources Regulator has approved the work programs. Approval documentation is accessible via the NSW Government website <https://www.resources.nsw.gov.au/resources-regulator/exploration/exploration-activity-approvals>
- Land Access Agreements have been obtained with private landholders where explorations drilling is planned to take place.

Contact us

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Legend

- State forest
- Mining Lease
- Exploration Licence/Authority

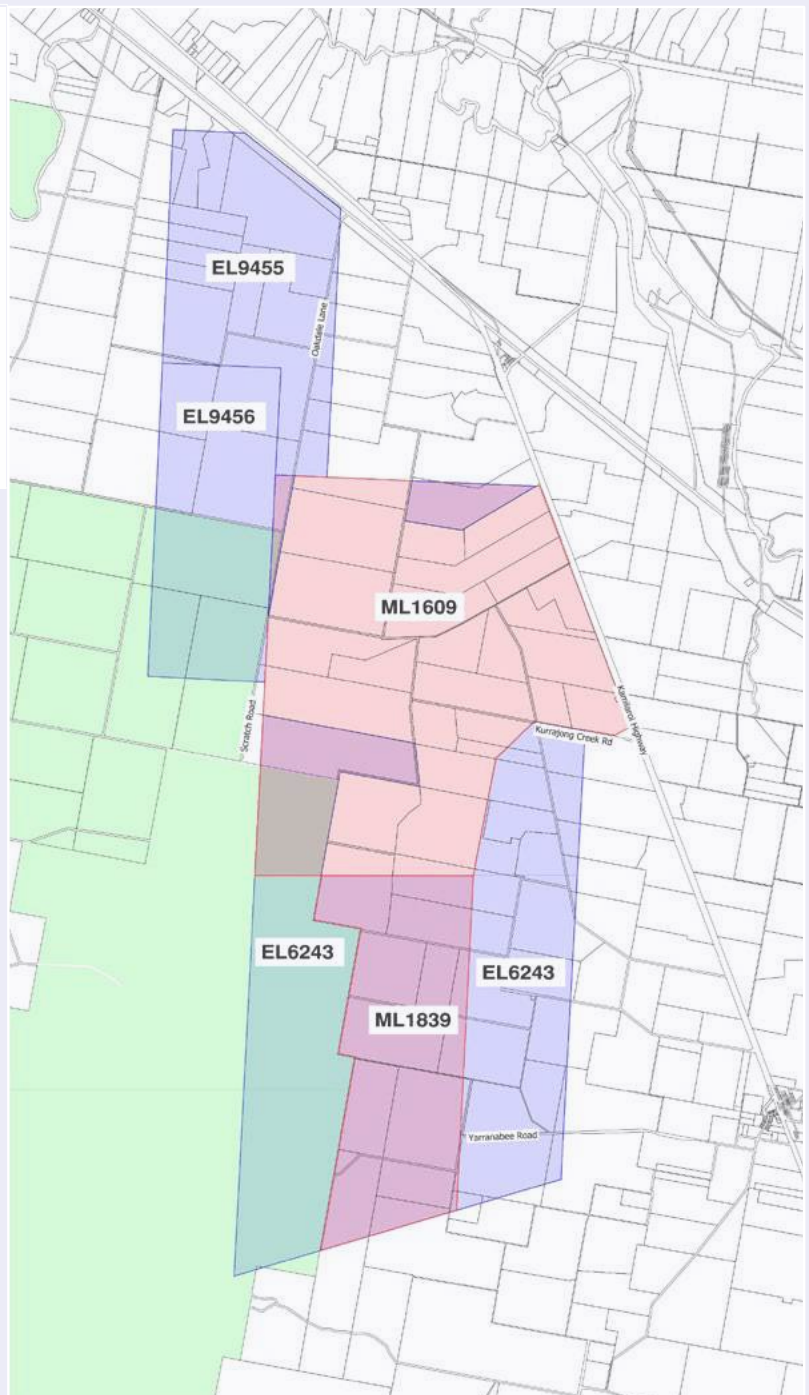
ML1609 Mining lease covering existing Narrabri Mine

ML1839 Mining lease covering a portion of the Narrabri Stage 3 area

EL6243 Narrabri Stage 3 exploration licence area

EL9455 Approved exploration licence area

EL9456 Approved exploration licence area



Find out more

Find out about the public comment process at regional.nsw.gov.au/meg/community/landholder-rights/public-comment-on-coal-and-petroleum-titles or call the Department of Regional NSW on (02) 4063 6600

Information about landholder's rights is available at regional.nsw.gov.au/meg/community/landholder-rights

Find out more about exploration at nswmining.com.au/exploration

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