

Section 5

Draft Statement of Commitments

PREAMBLE

The draft Statement of Commitments presented in this section has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, and presents a compilation of the actions and the initiatives the Proponent commits to implement if the proposed Yarraboldy Extension is approved. These commitments are designed to effectively manage, mitigate, guide and monitor the Yarraboldy Extension Project through its various phases.

The Environmental Assessment of the Yarraboldy Extension Project has identified a range of environmental, social and management outcomes and measures, all required to avoid or reduce the environmental and social impacts of the project. The draft Statement of Commitments reflects these desired outcomes, action and timing of commitments that would be undertaken to achieve the outcomes.

All parties involved in the design, establishment and operational phases of the project will be required to undertake their components of work in accordance with the commitments.



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Table 5.1
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Desired Outcome	Action	Timing
1. Groundwater		
Reduction in the amount of drawdown on local groundwater	1.1 Design the mine plan so that the interception of groundwater within the old Wallerawang Colliery underground workings is minimised.	Ongoing.
The need to discharge raw groundwater into the surrounding surface water environment is negated, thus avoiding the potential change in surface water quality.	1.2 Manage the small amount of groundwater intercepted on site for use in dust suppression.	As groundwater is intercepted.
Efficient dewatering of the pit.	1.3 Install a sump in a strategic location in the open cut pit.	Ongoing.
Determination if there are any impacts to groundwater associated with the Project to allow potential impacts to be identified in a timely manner to allow appropriate mitigation.	1.4 Continue the existing groundwater monitoring regime but also include monitoring of the bore that has been installed within the Yarraboldy footprint and the old ventilation shaft next to the haul road.	Ongoing.
Minimisation of groundwater contamination.	1.5 Manage chemicals and hydrocarbons appropriately.	Ongoing.
Prevention of managing water with a low pH.	1.6 Manage any potentially acid-generating material by the selective placement of cover material.	As required.
Mitigation of any groundwater impacts that are identified through monitoring in a timely manner.	1.7 Implement the following measures if impacts on groundwater users related to activities associated with the project are demonstrated to be greater than anticipated. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the significance of the impacts. • Investigate measures to minimise the impacts. • Describe what measures would be implemented to reduce, minimise, mitigate or remediate these impacts to the satisfaction of the DECCW - NOW. 	If an impact to a groundwater user is identified.
Timely mitigation of any impacts to groundwater.	1.8 If a non-conformance with a nominated trigger value is determined to be the result of activities associated with the Project, then the impacted landholder and DECCW - NOW will be notified and a remediation strategy will be proposed and implemented.	If a non-conformance with a nominated trigger value is determined to be the result of activities associated with the Project.



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2. Surface Water		
Minimisation of changes to existing drainage patterns of the Project Site	2.1 Retain selected surface water structures such as the existing dams, sediment retention points and clean water diversion banks.	During construction period.
Prevention of sediment-laden water discharge off site from the progressive disturbed areas of the Project Site.	2.2 Install temporary erosion and sediment control structures.	During construction, site establishment, operational and rehabilitation phases.
	2.3 Construct diversion and sediment basins for the capture of sediment-laden water for treatment.	
Minimisation of erosion and sedimentation.	2.4 Prepare and implement a general Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (in accordance with the requirements of Landcom (2004)) to manage surface water flows within the Project Site.	Ongoing.
	2.5 Maintain groundcover at 70% or better over areas disturbed and no longer required by the Project and as site conditions provide for practicability.	
	2.6 Progressively rehabilitate disturbed areas no longer required by the Project soon after the cessation of mining activities.	
Prevention of contamination of clean surface water on Project Site.	2.7 Construct diversion bunds for dirty water flow separate from clean water diversions bunds.	Ongoing.
	2.8 Divert dirty water into sediment basin and Retention Dam A.	
	2.9 Divert clean water along clean water diversion bunds for flow into Neubecks Creek.	
Prevention of contamination of water in Neubecks Creek.	2.10 Divert dirty water into sediment basins for treatment.	Ongoing.
	2.11 Pump water from sediment basin into Retention Basin A for storage and use in dust-suppression activities on Project Site.	
Prevention of saline groundwater discharge off site.	2.12 Pump groundwater from in-pit sump into Retention Dam A for storage and use in mining operations and dust suppression.	As required.
Minimisation of contamination of clean water on site with dirty water generated from mining operations	2.13 Install a sediment trap in the coal crushing/stockpiling and maintenance area to remove coal fines from surface flows.	Ongoing.
	2.14 Install an oil/water separating unit to receive and treat potentially contaminated water from the maintenance and wash-down bay for further treatment in the sediment basin.	
Implementation of a comprehensive and ongoing surface water monitoring program.	2.15 Monitor surface water quality for pH, EC, TSS, turbidity, Oil & Grease, filterable iron and sulfate ion concentrations.	Quarterly during surface flow events. Daily during discharge for pH, EC and turbidity.
	2.16 Record the volume and quality of water extracted from the in-pit sump for discharge off site.	Whenever required.



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Desired Outcome	Action	Timing
3. Flora		
Minimisation of short and long-term impacts on flora within the Project Site	3.1 Define and clearly mark vegetation for retention prior to the commencement of site establishment to ensure that native vegetation is confined only to those areas required for mining operations.	Prior to commencement of site establishment activities.
	3.2 Progressively rehabilitate completed areas within the Project Site to maximise cover of native vegetation in appropriate areas and minimise opportunities for erosion and weed invasion.	As areas become available for rehabilitation.
	3.3 Control noxious weeds on the Project Site.	Ongoing.
Establishment of native vegetation with ecological and conservation value.	3.4 Utilise local native plant species and shrubs for rehabilitation and landscaping.	During rehabilitation and landscaping activities.
	3.5 Undertake replacement planting of some of the same tree species and shrubs within the Project Site upon cessation of mining activities.	During rehabilitation and landscaping activities.
Establishment of original groundcover.	3.6 Retain bushrock with the topsoil and re-spread during the rehabilitation phase to return groundcover to near-original state.	During rehabilitation and landscaping activities.
4. Fauna		
Management of disturbance within the Project Site to minimise impact on fauna of conservation value.	4.1 Identify the boundaries of disturbance and progressive disturbance and avoid clearing outside these boundaries.	Site establishment phase.
	4.2 Retain all substantial habitat trees wherever possible.	Site establishment phase.
	4.3 Undertake any tree-felling in accordance with a prepared Tree Felling Protocol.	
	4.4 Provide habitat for important target species such as the Purple copper butterfly.	Rehabilitation phase.
Maintenance and improvement of the biodiversity value of the Project Site and surrounding areas.	4.5 Develop a Flora and Fauna and Rehabilitation Management Plan.	Prior to vegetation clearing.
	4.6 Progressively increase forest and woodland communities within the already disturbed areas, the coaly residue areas and the rehabilitated land, to provide foraging and sheltering habitat.	Ongoing and rehabilitation phase.
	4.7 Use nesting boxes and salvage hollows to assist in maintaining the short and long term habitat value for hollow dependent species.	Rehabilitation phase.
	4.8 Implement a biodiversity offset in consultation with DoP and DECCW.	Within 18 months of the date of Project Approval.



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Desired Outcome	Action	Timing
5. Heritage		
Site activities are undertaken without impacting upon any Aboriginal and European heritage items.	5.1 Stop works at and in the vicinity of any Aboriginal and European heritage sites or relics, if found.	During site establishment, construction and operational phases of Project.
	5.2 Contact DECCW if any Aboriginal and European heritage sites or relics are found.	
	5.3 Receive authorisation from DECCW prior to proceeding with any works in the vicinity of any identified Aboriginal and European heritage sites or relics are found.	
6. Transport Aspects		
Achieve safe and efficient transport operations	6.1 Install "Truck Turning" signs in accordance with RTA requirements.	Prior to despatch of coal from Yarraboldy.
	6.2 Install guide posts at all site entrances	As required.
	6.3 Improve the sight distances at all entrances through removal of vegetation in RTA verges with RTA approval.	As required.
7. Noise		
All activities are undertaken in such a manner as to reduce the noise level generated and minimise impacts on surrounding landholders and/or residents.	7.1 Regularly service all equipment used on-site to ensure the sound power levels remain at or below the levels used in the modelling to assess generated noise levels and compliance with the criteria.	Ongoing.
	7.2 Attend to local community concerns over construction, operational or transport noise.	Ongoing.
Noise generated by operational activities does not exceed DECCW nominated criteria nor significantly impacts on neighbouring landowners and/or residents.	7.3 Construct the amenity bund on the southern side of the mine area	During the first 6 months of operation.
	7.4 Position the drilling rig, if required, behind an earth mound to reduce noise levels.	If dictated by noise monitoring.
	7.5 Operate the pump behind a noise barrier.	Ongoing.
	7.6 Orientate the crusher with the open side facing northwards.	Ongoing.
	7.7 Operate the existing crushing plant only when new plant is not operating.	Until existing plant is decommissioned.

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Desired Outcome	Action	Timing
8. Blasting		
Achieve compliance with all ANZECC Blasting Guidelines.	8.1 Utilise deck charges and/or other suitable techniques to minimise ground vibration.	For relevant blasts to achieve compliance.
	8.2 Utilise electronic detonators to minimise ground vibration.	For relevant blasts to achieve compliance.
	8.3 Optimise use of stemming materials and/or other suitable techniques to control airblast overpressure.	All blasts.
	8.4 Optimise initiation sequence to minimise airblast overpressure and ground vibration.	All blasts.
9. Air Quality		
Site activities are undertaken without exceeding DECCW air quality criteria or adversely impacting upon surrounding receivers.	9.1 Continue monitoring of PM ₁₀ at the existing monitoring site, this being representative PM ₁₀ level at the potentially worst affected receptor.	Ongoing.
	9.2 Increase frequency of PM ₁₀ sampling from once per six days to once per three days in the event that elevated PM ₁₀ levels are recorded.	In the event that elevated PM ₁₀ levels is recorded.
	9.3 Continue with implementation of dust mitigation practices associated with Pine Dale Coal Mine, including watering of disturbed areas and haul roads, and covering of product truck loads.	Ongoing.
	9.4 Implement extra mitigation measures such as more watering, and modification of site activities.	If increased dust levels are recorded during windy conditions.
Implementation of an appropriate air quality monitoring program for continued compliance with DECCW guideline levels.	9.5 Monitor deposited dust levels at six existing deposition gauges (D1-D6).	Ongoing.
	9.6 Review and submit dust monitoring results to DECCW.	Annually.
Minimisation of greenhouse gas, other gases, and odour emissions through reductions in diesel consumption.	9.7 Optimise and schedule vehicle operations to minimise vehicle movements.	Ongoing.
	9.8 Maintain engines according to manufacturers' guidelines and keep tyres at optimum pressure.	Ongoing.
	9.9 Minimise vehicle idling time.	Ongoing.
10. Visibility		
Limit the visibility of Operational areas from nearby residences and Castlereagh Highway.	10.1 Construct the amenity bund on the southern side of the mine area.	During the first 6 months of operation.
	10.2 Progressively rehabilitate all areas where mining is completed.	Ongoing.
	10.3 Orientate flood lighting to minimise off-site light emissions.	Ongoing.



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Desired Outcome	Action	Timing
11. Soils, Land Capability and Agricultural Suitability		
Maintenance of soil value for rehabilitation and minimisation of soil loss through erosion.	11.1 Retain soils stripped from undisturbed areas of the Project Site for rehabilitation works. 11.2 Develop appropriate soil management procedures for handling and stockpiling soils of the types found at the Project Site. 11.3 Develop appropriate soil and erosion management procedures to minimise soil erosion from stockpiles and stripped areas.	During site establishment, operational and rehabilitation phases.
Remediation of contaminated soils.	11.4 Excavate and remove soils contaminated with hydrocarbons. 11.5 Remove contaminated soil (if the contamination is limited in area) to a designated location at the site (away from natural drainage) for the bio-remediation of the contaminated material. 11.6 Remove contaminated soil (if the contamination is widespread) and transport to a facility licensed to accept the specific type of contaminated material.	As soon as possible and within one month of contamination occurring.

