



New South Wales Government
Independent Planning Commission

TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING

**RE: WILPINJONG COAL MINE CONTINUATION PROJECT –
GATEWAY CERTIFICATE APPLICATION (GA-121274489)**

APPLICANT MEETING

PANEL: PROF NEAL MENZIES (Chair)
DR CATHERINE MOORE
DR CLINTON FOSTER

OFFICE OF THE IPC: KENDALL CLYDSDALE
GEOFF KWOK

**APPLICANT
REPRESENTATIVES:** JON DEGOTARDI (Wilpinjong)
KIEREN BENNETTS (Wilpinjong)
CLARK POTTER (Wilpinjong)
JAMES HEESTERMAN (Wilpinjong)
STIRLING BARTLAM (Resource Strategies)
JAMIE WARWICK (Resource Strategies)

LOCATION: ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE

TIME & DATE: 11:00AM – 11:50PM
THURSDAY, 25 JUNE 2026

<THE MEETING COMMENCED

5 **PROF NEAL MENZIES:** Okay. Welcome, Wilpinjong team. I'm Neal Menzies, so I'm the Panel Chair. We're going to go through a formal process at the outset and then a very informal discussion with you. The only formality is that I'm going to start by reading an opening statement; from that point on, it'll be just a pretty straight forward discussion. Even before we kick off, Jon, did you want to go round the room with who your team are, just so we've got a sense of who we're talking to?

10 **MR JON DEGOTARDI:** Yes, no problems at all. I think we're just waiting for our consultants to jump onboard, Resource Strategies. But in the meantime, yes, myself, Jon Degotardi, Approvals Manager. And sitting in the meeting room at Wilpinjong we've got Kieren Bennetts in the middle-back, he's the Environment and Community Manager. Clark Potter is sitting to the right-hand side, the Environmental Lead for
15 Wilpinjong. And then James Heesterman is sitting to the left-hand side, the Project Advisor for Approvals. And then in Brisbane we've got our consultants helping pull these applications together, and that's Stirling and Jamie who've just come onboard there.

20 **PROF MENZIES:** Okay. Well, let me do the formal read through our opening statement and then we'll hand back to you guys. So, before I begin, I'd like to acknowledge that I'm speaking to you from the lands of the Yuggera and Turrbal people here in the Brisbane River Valley, and I acknowledge the traditional owners of all the lands from which we're meeting virtually today, and pay my respects to Elders
25 past and present.

Welcome to the meeting today to discuss the Gateway Certificate Application for the Wilpinjong Coal Mine Continuation Project currently before the Commission's Mining and Petroleum Gateway Panel for consideration.

30 My name is Neal Menzies. I'm the Chair of this Commission Panel, and I'm joined by my fellow panel members, Clinton Foster and Catherine Moore. We're also joined by Kendall Clydsdale and Geoff Kwok from the office of the Independent Planning Commission.

35 In the interests of openness and transparency and to ensure a full capture of information, today's meeting is being recorded, and a complete transcript will be produced and made available on the Commission's website. This meeting is one part of the Commission's consideration of this matter and will form one of several sources
40 of information upon which the Commission will base its assessment.

45 It's important for panel members to ask questions of attendees and to clarify issues whenever it's considered appropriate. If you're asked a question and are not in a position to answer, you may take the question on notice. Following the meeting, the Commission will advise you in writing of any questions taken on notice that the Panel considers to require a formal response. Any subsequent response or information provided to the Commission will then be published on our website.

I request that all participants here today introduce themselves before speaking for the first time, and that all members ensure that they do not speak over the top of each other, to ensure accuracy of the transcript.

5 Okay, we now move to a more informal format, Jon. So, I think that you guys have got a presentation you're going to make to us. We are likely to jump in and ask questions during that, okay, so don't be disconcerted if we break up the flow of your presentation by asking questions. It sort of gets the focus on the things that we're needing to understand, better focus on.

10 **MR DEGOTARDI:** Yes, no problems at all. I'll just share the screen. So, can you see that now?

PROF MENZIES: I can see that.

15 **MR DEGOTARDI:** All right. So,

MR KENDALL CLYDSDALE: Sorry, Jon, just to interject. I think you've got it on the Notes mode for our end.

20 **PROF MENZIES:** We could see it in our end, we could see what notes you're going to use.

MR DEGOTARDI: Did that change across?

25 **PROF MENZIES:** That's changed across now. And we've lost you completely again.

MR DEGOTARDI: Love technology. Here we go. Try that.

30 **PROF MENZIES:** Okay, that's where we need to be, Jon.

MR DEGOTARDI: Awesome, all right. As per the agenda, I'm just going to have a real quick, I suppose, brief overview of the Wilpinjong Mine itself and the project, and then just jump into some slides that'll cover off on the dot points that you were requesting to review today.

35 So, we've gone through the introductions. Just, these are the dot points we're intending to cover off on today with the drainage page, some of the groundwater impact assessment process, how we're intending to manage the waste rock in Pits 9 and 10, and the rehabilitation processes, and then give you an idea of the next steps and timeline for the Continuation Project itself.

40 So, on the screen now, you can see Wilpinjong Coal Mine, just to give you a quick indication of where the coal mine is, down in the bottom left is Mudjee up as a laser pointer on here, Mudjee down here. We're about 40 kilometres northwest of Mudjee, and you can see Wilpinjong Coal Mine in relation to the adjacent coal mining operations at Moolarben Coal and Ulan Coal just to the west of Wilpinjong itself.

In terms of just giving some more high-level look at Wilpinjong Coal for those not familiar with the mine, the mine itself produces a high-quality thermal coal product both for domestic and import markets. Its existing development consent is valid through to the end of 2033, so the Continuation Project we're talking about today is looking at extending the operational timeframe of the mine out to the end of 2038 from the current approval finish date of the end of 2033.

We'll provide these slides through at the end of the meeting, so I'll go quite quickly through some of the just overview of the mine itself for you, to the topics on the agenda today.

So, the existing operation itself comprises Pits 1 through 8 and this is the general footprint of the mine as it currently stands. We do have a current modification application that we'll talk about a few times during the presentation today. This is this Pit 8 extension in the hatched zone here; this is currently under assessment by the NSW Government and the Federal Government. That process is commencing and Pits 9 and 10 with the Continuation Project that we're talking about today are located to the eastern side of the current operations through here. So, this is the future Pit 9 and future Pit 10 in here.

I'll leave these in the pack for you to read. This is just some of the socio-economic benefits of the mining operation to the New South Wales economy. Suffice to say, the main point on here is the mine in general has about 700 personnel to operate it itself, and it's about \$100 million per annum in wages to run the mine. In high-level terms, the coal coming from this operation goes onto support about a quarter, or 20% to a quarter, of New South Wales total coal-fired generation, itself coming from Wilpinjong Coal Mine.

So, giving you the high-level details of the Continuation Project, this is the SSD project itself. This is the extension that we're talking about, four to five years extension of operations into Pits 9 and 10 through here. We've got a current exploration lease over this area. We would apply for a new mining lease if successful with the SSD project.

We would intend to operate the existing coal coming from this facility back under our current coal handling preparation plant and our rail load-out facilities, so those would continue on as is itself, and this would just be basically an extension of footprint of mining operations. And also, I suppose, the development of supporting infrastructure to access this area. So, what we'll see as we get into the slides further on, Wollar Creek goes through here, so we'd intend to build some infrastructure to enable mine access into that with bridges into there, etc.

So, that's, yes, a really super high-level, super brief five-minute overview of the mine and the intended, or the scope for the SSD project. I don't know if you have any questions before we move onto the agenda items for today's Gateway Application.

PROF MENZIES: None of us are jumping in, so fire away, Jon.

MR DEGOTARDI: Okay. So, covering off on some of the agenda items. The first item that was mentioned was to look at the drainage patterning over the Pit 9 and 10 area. So, in terms of overall drainage through the area, water following the landscape generally flows from south to north – this is Wollar Creek here, so rainfall flowing down here through here. We do have an unnamed tributary in the middle of Pit 10 that also flows north to south, but generally, yes, water flow is heading through that area itself.

In terms of geology and underlying, just some background information, the underlying geology area, the coal seams and the general formations dip to the north-northeast through this general neck of the woods at 1 to 2 degrees. So, that sort of dip of the strata and dip of the flow regime in this part of the world is all sort of dipped towards the north effectively.

So, we've highlighted on here just the stream order rankings, just for information. But I suppose I might throw it open to questions if anyone had questions on, I suppose, the drainage pattern of the area and whether that covers off on the information you were seeking on this topic.

PROF MENZIES: So, just a starting question from me. The main stream that's running through that Pit 8/Pit 9 junction, I'm anticipating that that's going to remain intact as the mine proceeds across, and you're literally just going to bridge across there, so leave that at normal surface level protected from –

MR DEGOTARDI: Yes, that's correct, yes. So, we would have dual bridges here. We'll have a heavy haulage or a mine use only bridge that will be separated from the public infrastructure. Currently, Wollar Road comes through the southern part of Wollar here and continues onto the Hunter Valley to the east. There's a bridge over Wollar Creek here, so it's susceptible to flooding, so we'll be looking at re-establishing and re-aligning Wollar Road along the railway line, with a new public road bridge over Wollar Creek. And then parallel to that, there'd be a mine bridge separated from public road traffic at that point. But yes, the actual excavation of the mine would start east of the creek.

PROF MENZIES:
Yes.

MR DEGOTARDI: Yes.

PROF MENZIES: And then the unnamed stream that goes through Pit 10, will that just be diverted around Pit 10, so you don't have to deal with the water?

MR DEGOTARDI: Yes, that's correct. So, there'll be a diversion around here, part of the proposal, and then ultimately – and we'll show you this post-mining landform – ultimately we're looking at a drainage pathway post mining where this drainage line will come back through here and join Wollar Creek at a location around about here, post mining, so post 2038.

PROF MENZIES: Fellow panel members, have we got other questions before we move on?

5 **DR CLINTON FOSTER:** Clinton Foster here, Jon. I'll just ask a question and you're in the spine of Narrabeen between Pit 9 and 10, I guess you're going to cover this off anyway, I'm just thinking about drainage, say, from that into your pit when they're there. What happens, how do you protect that?

10 **MR DEGOTARDI:** So, there will be a clean water diversion system set up and that may involve contour drains or a combination of contour drains and pump and pipe. So, effectively, the clean water falling on this ridgeline here will be diverted around the active operations whilst the operations are active. And then once we've started, I suppose, rehabilitation and forming up those final landforms and progressive rehabilitation, those drainage channels we re-established flowing out from here across
15 back along the natural pathways.

DR FOSTER: So, that's about a 50-metre drop at the moment, isn't it, between that spine and where your pointer is now?

20 **MR DEGOTARDI:** Yes, it's quite substantial, yes, yes.

DR FOSTER: Okay.

25 **MR DEGOTARDI:** In terms of overall catchment area, yes, not a huge catchment area, but yes, in terms of vertical drop, yes, it's quite a substantial vertical drop.

DR FOSTER: Thank you.

30 **MR DEGOTARDI:** All right. If there's no further questions on the drainage patterns of the area, I'll just move onto the groundwater assessment process. So, to give you an overview of the groundwater assessments leading up to this point. So, Wilpinjong has been running since 2006. Prior to that, there were some groundwater models which started development back in 2005. So, there's quite a history of groundwater models, groundwater monitoring, and groundwater information feeding into where we
35 currently stand.

The most recent evolution of those, the SLR groundwater assessments, have occurred in 2025 for the Modification Application, peer reviewed by Dr Noel Merrick from Hydro Simulations. That's currently where we stand. So, the Independent Expert
40 Scientific Committee advice that was received as part of Mod 3 in November '25 was based on the Modification Groundwater Model itself.

45 And so, what we have done as part of the Gateway Application process is whilst we've developed a simple model for the Pit 9 and 10 area, we have built on quite an extensive framework of previous groundwater models and groundwater, or understanding of how the groundwater behaviour occurs at Wilpinjong.

So, I was thinking in terms of, yes, questions, if you wanted to ask at this point on where we're standing for groundwater models, and how we've arrived at the simple

model we currently have. I suppose, for context from this point onwards, we are in the process of developing the EIS for the actual Development Application in quarter 3, 2027. So, there is a much more detailed groundwater model going to be forthcoming in the future. We're actively commencing those works at the moment, but for the moment, the model provided for the Gateway Application is the simple model, essentially for this area.

PROF MENZIES: Yes, Jon, it's an interesting pause point really, isn't it, that we as a panel have to be a bit disciplined about not asking questions that you can't reasonably be expected to answer until you've done the EIS. So, forgive us if we do tend to ask things that you're going to say, "Yes, we'll catch that in the full EIS." But actually, that's the intention of this process, is to make sure that we flag for you things that you will need to capture.

Catherine, over to you, I'm sure you've got a whole slew of questions.

DR MOORE: Yes. So, yes, forgive me just in the way that Neal described, if it's in the EIS, just say, or it's intended to be in the EIS. One question I had came out of the Merrick review – the previous Merrick review of the Pit 8 extension. In the report where he talked about the potential adjustment of the general head boundary to account for the lowering of water levels from the mine. So, the GHB was set at a particular level and hadn't been lowered as the background regional groundwater levels were lowered. And I just wondered – I imagine that wasn't done in this particular Gateway work, but would that be done in the EIS?

MR JON DEGOTARDI: I'll throw it over to yourself, Jamie or Stirling on that one.

MR JAMIE WARWICK: Yes. Jamie Warwick from Resource Strategies. So, yes, Catherine, that hasn't been updated for the Gateway Application, but it is one of the considerations in terms of the model review and improvements that will be made through the EIS process, so yes, we will be taking on board that feedback from Noel.

DR MOORE: Okay. I also was wondering about the timing of the base flow estimates and how they would be superimposed on the stream flow regime. And I noted in the – firstly, has that been done, so that the impacts of a baseload decline should really depend on what's happening with the, you know, when the, when it's hitting the stream flows, and particularly in low stream flows.

So, I wondered had that comparison of baseloads with actual stream flows been done and so that you get an altered hydrograph. And that, there's something in the Surface Water Modelling Report and something in the Groundwater Modelling Report, but those two bits I couldn't see how they'd been put together to assess the actual base flow, you know, the magnitude of the base flow impacts in comparison to the stream flows over time.

MR WARWICK: Yes, so there is an old gauging station on Wollar Creek that is no longer operational, so that was ceased in the 1990s, I believe. The EIS, I guess we'll take that point on board, Catherine, for the EIS. I'll have to take it on notice in terms of coming back to with a specific answer for that one.

5 **DR MOORE:** Thank you. So, related to that, in the Surface Water Report it showed, there was a dotted line that showed declines in the stream flows for Wollar Creek and Wilpinjong Creek. Figure 3.9 in the Surface Water Report. Do you know – so, the data in those graphs goes back to 2012, but the trend is obviously occurring from further back. Do you know would that have come from that monitoring point, at least on Wollar Creek, or is there a further away site that those long-term trends have been estimated from, or is it from the groundwater modelling report? It was just a bit unclear to me where those long term dotted trends had come from.

10 **MR WARWICK:** It would be possibly from Wilpinjong Creek, that trend. There is a gauging station on Wilpinjong Creek which is operational which would cover that period, so there would be that more recent data.

15 **DR MOORE:** I was just [unintelligible 00:29:28].

MR WARWICK: Yes, we can take that on notice, Catherine, in any case, we'll come back to you, just to keep it moving.

20 **DR MOORE:** Okay, cool. So, the ... This is a bit related to the question that Clinton asked. So, in the Narrabeen high between Pit 9 and 10, there would be some runoff into the alluvium, the groundwater on either side of that, and I just was unclear about the, how that process was represented in the groundwater model, that sort of cascading of overland flow then becoming recharge off to the side of the high area. Is that something that you can talk to?

25 **MR WARWICK:** I'd have to take that one on notice. There is, yes, consideration, like the recharge model component of the groundwater assessment which is built into the Gateway Application, but that will obviously be reviewed for the EIS as well.

30 **DR MOORE:** Okay. And the recharge model in the – is it called the recharge model in the [unintelligible 00:30:48] separate, and then coupled afterwards? Have I got that right? They're not history matched together, here in – the recharge estimated in the groundwater model takes that recharge estimate rather than it being history matched together.

35 **MR WARWICK:** I'll need to take that on notice.

40 **DR MOORE:** Sorry. Okay. Cool. And I was also wondering about the voids, the hydraulic properties of the spoil that will fill the void. And I was unclear about where – firstly, yes, how they've been derived, was there an analogue from another mine or somewhere else – yes, just how were the void hydraulic properties for the modelling determined?

45 **MR WARWICK:** Are you able to just elaborate a bit more on that in terms of ... Do you mean, like, the slopes of the sort of backfilled void or ...?

DR MOORE: So, no, in the Merrick report it describes when the void was emptied, it had been represented by a high-K lake kind of representation, which is common for an

empty void in the groundwater model. But for the voids that were being filled with spoil, I wondered how the hydraulic connectivity and storage properties of that spoil were being derived.

5 **MR WARWICK:** Yes, I'll probably have to take that on notice as well, Catherine. There is spoil monitoring that the site does, but yes, in terms of the hydraulic connectivity properties, yes, I'll need to come back to you separately, if that's okay.

10 **DR MOORE:** Okay. Three easy questions. The spatial parameterisation of the hydraulic properties, I think they, from my reading, they were zones of constant parameter values were used to represent that. But I just wanted to check that I've got that right; that they weren't spatially varying pilot points or grid-based parameterisation when we're talking about zones of, you know, the one zone for the alluvium and one zone for the ICM in each layer and so on. Is that correct or was it
15 more spatially variable?

MR WARWICK: No, that's my understanding of how it's represented, yes, in the model.

20 **DR MOORE:** Okay. And I just wondered was there a spatial plot of the residuals? I know the model-to-measurement residuals are really well document in a transient sense for each hydrograph, but was there any spatial plot of the residuals available? It'd just be great to see if there was one.

25 **MR WARWICK:** I don't believe that is available but that is something that could be produced, yes.

30 **DR MOORE:** Okay. Lucky last question from me on this. So, the connectivity between the alluvium and the surficial layers and the ICM in particular. In some of the hydrographs, so the kind of visual inspection in the Merrick review, that sort of described how the shallow layers were more driven by the climatic fluctuations whereas the deeper hydrographs were more driven by the mining impacts, but in some of those shallow hydrographs, you do sort of see both impacts occurring. And I wondered has there been any work on the separation of those forcings in terms of how
35 they manifest in those dynamic groundwater levels.

MR WARWICK: Yes, there's obviously a comprehensive monitoring network which the team's looking to expand to better improve that understanding and the vertical gradients between those two units. So, the figure shown there at the moment shows a
40 number of proposed installations that will be going in. There's actually a couple more that will be going in along the alluvium as well in the coming months, but that will feed into that conceptualisation, Catherine, that we'll go into.

45 **DR MOORE:** Okay. That's great. That separation of effects is really useful, and the time series too, if that's possible. Thank you, thank you so much for answering those questions.

PROF MENZIES: Okay Jon, back to you at this point.

MR DEGOTARDI: Yes, okay. So, I'll just quickly cover off on some of those water resources and preliminary key predictions questions as well before we move onto the spoil agenda item.

5 So, just looking at the alluvium mapping along Wollar Creek, so we have performed
some initial, I suppose, electromagnetic surveys in the area and it indicates that we
have a thinner alluvium alongside Wollar Creek rather than what's been mapped as
quite extensive areas in the general mapping. So, one of the items we'll be looking at
10 expanding as part of the EIS project is further electromagnetic surveying through the
area to really pin down that extent of the alluvium both in spatial extents but also depth
around Wollar Creek itself.

In terms of just understanding what's currently in the general area. So, there's one
15 public bore located at the former Wollar School, it's a closed facility now, but there's
one just over here in the village of Wollar. We don't have any private bores in the
vicinity of the project; there are some bores in here that are owed by the mine, but
there's no other bores of note in that general footprint.

So, the preliminary assessment and the key predictions. So, none of the private bores
20 are located within that 2-metre drawdown extent. You can see that map here itself. As
I've mentioned, we've got three bores that Peabody owns that's within those extents,
but no external private bores within that area.

So, on the initial assessment at the moment, we believe that the project would meet the
25 Level 1 Impact Considerations under the Aquifer Interference Policy itself, except
where the water quality is considered when the pit crest is within sort o 200 metres of
Wollar Creek. So, generally we believe we're at Level 1 Impact Consideration under
that AIP. The preliminary estimates for the base flow contribution reduction to Wollar
30 Creek, that's the number there, so the 0.033 megalitres per day is the estimated
reduction in the baseflow based on that single model to date.

And the final one, just on the groundwater side of things, is further groundwater water
as part of the EIS. As I mentioned, we've got further electromagnetic surveys to do to
35 firm up the extents of the alluvium itself. We've got additional hydrogeological bores
to install around the general area for ongoing monitoring, so these outlines in yellow
are all proposed. We do have some existing bores installed at this point, but the
network is looking to expand quite substantially.

We also have to look at some further geotechnical assessment of potential impacts to
40 Wollar Creek. As I mentioned before, a small portion of Pit 9 here is within the 200-
metre zone of Wollar Creek, and so that will be to address the requirements for any
activities within 200 metres as part of the Aquifer Interference Policy.

So, all of that will help inform the groundwater impact assessment being pulled
45 together for the EIS. And then as part of that whole process, we will be preparing a
Groundwater Management Plan for the project which will have additional monitoring
TARPs and reporting requirements that will be developed between now and the project
getting underway.

So, I suppose, just that additional context on some of the further groundwater work, was there any – looking at the time, any remaining questions on the groundwater points at this point before we move onto the waste rock management?

5 **PROF MENZIES:** No, okay.

MR DEGOTARDI: So, in terms of how Wilpinjong manages its waste. Wilpinjong is a really shallow depth of cover operation, so it doesn't as such need those major out-of-pit emplacements due to those low strip ratios. So, part of this project will involve
10 in-pit waste rock storage, so we will dump in pit in front of ourselves whilst we get the operation underway to make room for ourselves.

There will be some minor, some out-of-pit bunds etc., especially around Pit 10, to manage some of the waste balances, but for the most part, most of it is actually stored
15 in pit when we need pit room itself.

In terms of temporary emplacement materials, all of those materials that end up in bunds will be eventually moved back in the last year of the project. So, coal mining itself, or coal extraction is expected to finish in 2037. And you'll notice we've asked
20 for an approval through to the end of 2038, so the final year of operation will be tending to, I suppose, be final landform re-shaping as required to move some of those final above surface pit bunds back into the mine for prep.

And then I might just jump through to the rehabilitation process because it's kind of
25 tied into that management of spoil itself, before we jump onto those questions. So, this is the intended final landform post mining, and some of those geomorphic design principles you can see there, as previously mentioned, we're looking at some of those drainage lines extending out from the central spine between Pit 9 and 10. So, this is
30 post mining and this will be the re-establishment of those drainage channels towards Wollar Creek through here. Then, as I mentioned previously, the intention is that Pit 10, the unnamed tributary here would eventually be flowed through the design principles back to Wollar Creek at this point here.

So, in terms of rehabilitation – and this is more for information and discussion with the
35 Panel at this point – but prior to 2016, Wilpinjong had a combination of both agricultural and conservation land use post mining itself. There's, I suppose, a general trend that occurred after that point where the conservation component or the return of all the land to native vegetation sort of took precedent, and so what we've put in the Gateway Application at this point was the intention to return this area to native
40 vegetation.

But I suppose that's up for discussion, whether it may be more prudent that some of this land could be returned to both an agricultural post-mining land use and in
45 combination with conservation and native vegetation. We've, at the early phases of this project, set the goals for the project as we've moved through the consent process at this point, so definitely open to both considerations, it's just where we've ended up with, I suppose over the last number of years with consultation with the New South Wales Government, conservation has generally been where it's headed for post-mining

land use. But we're definitely open to discussions if there was a desire for some portion of the lease to be returned to agricultural use post mining as well.

5 **PROF MENZIES:** So, Jon, I'll respond to that as the sort of agriculture person on the Panel. Firstly, by saying it's not the role of the Panel to tell you, you know, how this should end, we're just giving advice as to the sorts of things that should be in the Environmental Impact Statement that comes forward. But look, as an agriculturalist I look at that landscape and the areas that are BSAL aren't used differently to the rest of the landscape. So, it's hard to see that there's an argument there for trying to
10 selectively deal with them and re-establish them as agriculture land rather than, you know, a native ecosystem like you're building elsewhere.

15 So, my personal view, and let me stress this is a personal view, some panel in the future will consider the Environmental Impact Statement and your plans for Pits 9 and 10, but my view would be there'd be no reason why we would expect you to do something different to the BSAL soils. Other than recognising that they're probably a useful resource as part of your broader rehabilitation plan.

20 **MR DEGOTARDI:** Yes, sure, okay. Yes, so, essentially, I suppose that's just an overview of the rehabilitation intended final landform that we're currently planning at this point. But is there any questions on ...

25 **PROF MENZIES:** Yes, just a – and once again, this if for my own interest as opposed to an activity of the Panel – what sort of land capability class do you achieve on the areas that you are rehabilitating?

MR DEGOTARDI: I might – Kieren?

30 **MR KIEREN BENNETTS:** I might have to take that on notice, sorry, Jon. We're obviously going for native, so heavily eucalypt is our rehabilitation, so I'm not sure of the correct answer to give you on that one.

35 **PROF MENZIES:** No, that's okay, and it's not one we'll come back to you requesting an answer to. It was personal interest as opposed to our professional role we're here to do as part of the Panel.

MR BENNETTS: Yes, no problem.

40 **MR DEGOTARDI:** All right –

DR FOSTER: Jon, sorry, sorry, Clinton here again, Jon. Just a question with your – you're going back to your coal handling and preparation plant. So, that waste, where does that waste go from that processing?

45 **MR DEGOTARDI:** Oh, so the tailings ...

DR FOSTER: Yes, the tailings, yes.

MR DEGOTARDI: Yes, so there's a tailings facility, or tailings ponds near the coal handling and preparation plant, so that would be intended to be returned in that general area [unintelligible 00:48:19] within the footprint.

5 **DR FOSTER:** Yes. Thanks.

MR BENNETTS: Sorry, Jon, I might just jump in there. We are co-disposal as well, so we do have a belt press filter. So, the majority of our waste is placed back into pit as well, but we do have the option there to use tailings dams as wells.

10 **DR FOSTER:** Thank you.

MR CLYDSDALE: Sorry, just for the transcription purposes, can I just get whoever spoke then to just ...

15 **MR BENNETTS:** Yes, sorry, Kieren Bennetts, Wilpinjong.

MR CLYDSDALE: Thank you, Kieren, much appreciated.

20 **MR DEGOTARDI:** All right. The final slide from myself is part of the, I suppose, the next steps for the project itself. So, with the Continuation Project, the SEARs have just been issued as of the 23rd (two days ago), so those SEARs will be augmented with any further developments that happen along the way. So, the Controlled Action Decision, Gateway Certificate etc., coming up in the future.

25 So, in terms of the Controlled Action Decision, the EPBC Referral, we're anticipating to lodge that for the project coming up shortly within the next month or so. And then the actual Development Application with the EIS at this stage is looking like it'll be submitted in Q3, 2027, so we're about a year away from this point in time before the
30 EIS goes into the government to start the actual assessment process and public consultation/public hearings for that process.

35 And the only other point that the Panel had requested some drone footage. So, we have flown the drone, that's an image from the drone's flight there, that's facing south into Pit 9. So, the railway bridge in front of us, this is Wollar Creek flowing, sorry, Wollar Creek is flowing from south to north, flowing at us in this stream here, and Pit 9 in this valley here, that's the central spine. Pit 10 is over the other side of that ridgeline there.

40 So, we do have that drone footage available. Also, just one clarification, we have flown Pit 9, but did the Panel, where the majority of the BSAL soils were mapped, but did the Panel also require just a drone flight down the centre line of Pit 10 as well or just happy with the Pit 9 BSL area?

45 **PROF MENZIES:** I'm going to give once again my starting view. So, as once again the agriculture person, I don't need to see every square inch of the landscape, so a flight down Pit 9, provided there's no sense that Pit 10 is, you know, very different from Pit 9, but if your view is that they're comparable, a flight down 9 would be sufficient.

Jon, it's just that I'm not familiar – well, I'm reasonably familiar with that landscape, I'm not familiar with that particular piece of land, and looking at it from Google Earth, you don't really get much of a sense of what it's like at ground level. So, it's just to help me to understand what is the existing agricultural system there and so then I can form a view as to what is the extent of loss that occurs because that's going to be mined.

MR DEGOTARDI: Yes.

PROF MENZIES: So, I'm content with a drone flight down through Pit 9.

MR DEGOTARDI: All right.

PROF MENZIES: My fellow panel members may disagree. Clinton and Catherine, you're okay with this?

DR FOSTER: Yes, I am, because it provides the context of what we're looking at. So, and that's, if it's not remarkably different, as you said, Neal, that's fine with me.

DR MOORE: And the same here with me.

PROF MENZIES: Great.

MR DEGOTARDI: Yes, I can give you a 5-second overview of that, if you want, now, and then we can share that alongside the presentation as well. I'll just ...

PROF MENZIES: I'm up for 5 seconds of it, Jon, thank you.

MR DEGOTARDI: So, hopefully this comes through at a decent pace while I'm sharing over on my own. Hopefully it's not too jumpy. You can see that, so this is near Pit 9, we're panning around facing south now, sort of turning towards the east, looking at that central spine, Pit 10 over to the other side of that ridge there, facing almost due east now looking down Wollar Road towards Bylong Valley. And then panning around to the north, the railway line is that line cutting through the paddock there. And then, yes, almost spinning around to face the north at this point, so that's – hopefully you can see my mouse, Wollar Creek on the left-hand side of that image.

PROF MENZIES: Yes, look, that's going to be excellent for our purposes, so if you can send that one through. I voice-over would be brilliant if you can do that, just as you've sort of done, Jon, as to which direction we're looking and, you know, what we have in view as the drone moves around.

MR DEGOTARDI: Yes, no problems at all. All right.

MR CLYDSDALE: Sincerely appreciate you putting the drone up for the Panel too, Jon, thank you.

MR DEGOTARDI: Yes, no problems. I'd like to thank James at Wilpinjong for that one.

DR MOORE: Jon, was that just flown in the last week or so or ...?

5 **MR DEGOTARDI:** Yes, that's correct, yes, a couple of days ago. Yes, so it's looking really green at the moment. Decent rainfall [unintelligible 00:54:40].

PROF MENZIERS: Could be Queensland, it looks so beautiful.

10 **DR FOSTER:** Perfect the next. Good.

PROF MENZIERS: Okay. Well, I think, panel members, have we got any other questions for the Wilpinjong team before we draw it to a conclusion?

15 **DR FOSTER:** Not from me, Neal.

PROF MENZIERS: Okay. Catherine?

DR MOORE: Not from me, either.

20 **PROF MENZIERS:** Okay. So, guys, the process from here. We will reflect on what questions we've asked that you haven't immediately provided answers, just to make sure that, you know, they are questions we actually need you to answer. Because in a discussion, sometimes things get raised that aren't substantive, they're for interest sake, as the question I asked you. So, we'll come back in writing with the questions
25 that we would like you to provide us answers.

I would like to thank you on behalf of the Panel for joining us today and for providing us a bit of an insight that was hard to grasp from the application itself. And also, for being willing to go well over the time we'd allocated. Sometimes we get interested and
30 ask more questions than others, and today's been one of those times, so thanks for sticking with us.

So, I'll formally call the meeting to an end, and yes, thank you for your help.

35 **MR DEGOTARDI:** No worries, thank you.

>THE MEETING CONCLUDED