Hunter Valley Operations Continuation Project

DPHI Presentation to the NSW Independent Planning Commission – Public Hearing

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16 July 2026

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands, skies and waters across New South Wales and pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

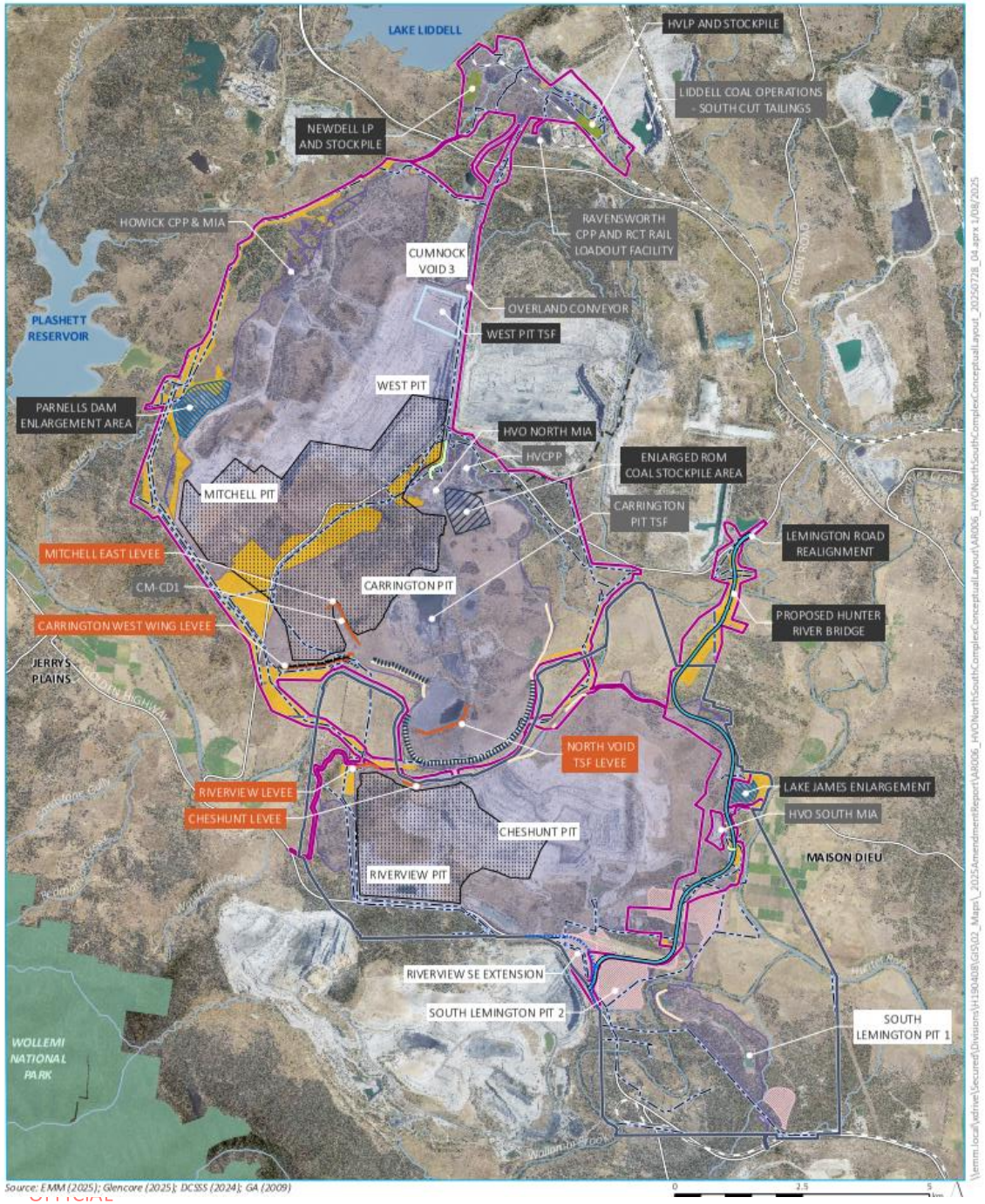
We honour Aboriginal peoples' ongoing connections to Country, community, culture and knowledge, and we commit to working in partnership to support self-determination.

Agenda

Item
Opening Statement
Introductions
Project scope and approval framework
Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Biodiversity
Water Resources
Environmental Controls
Rehabilitation and Land Use
Meeting close

Project scope

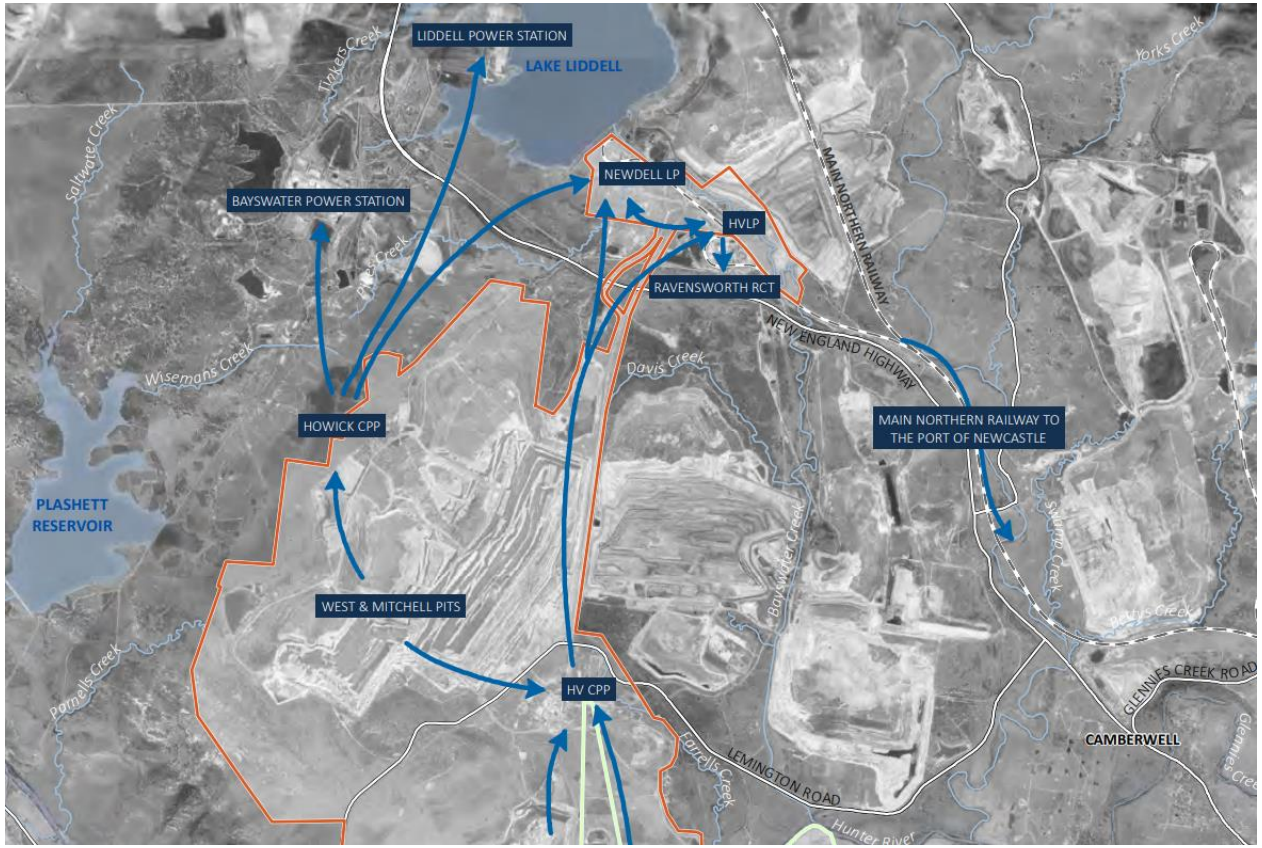
- Existing complex
- Two development consents
- Project involves extension of mining areas and mining of deeper coal seams
- Applications amended

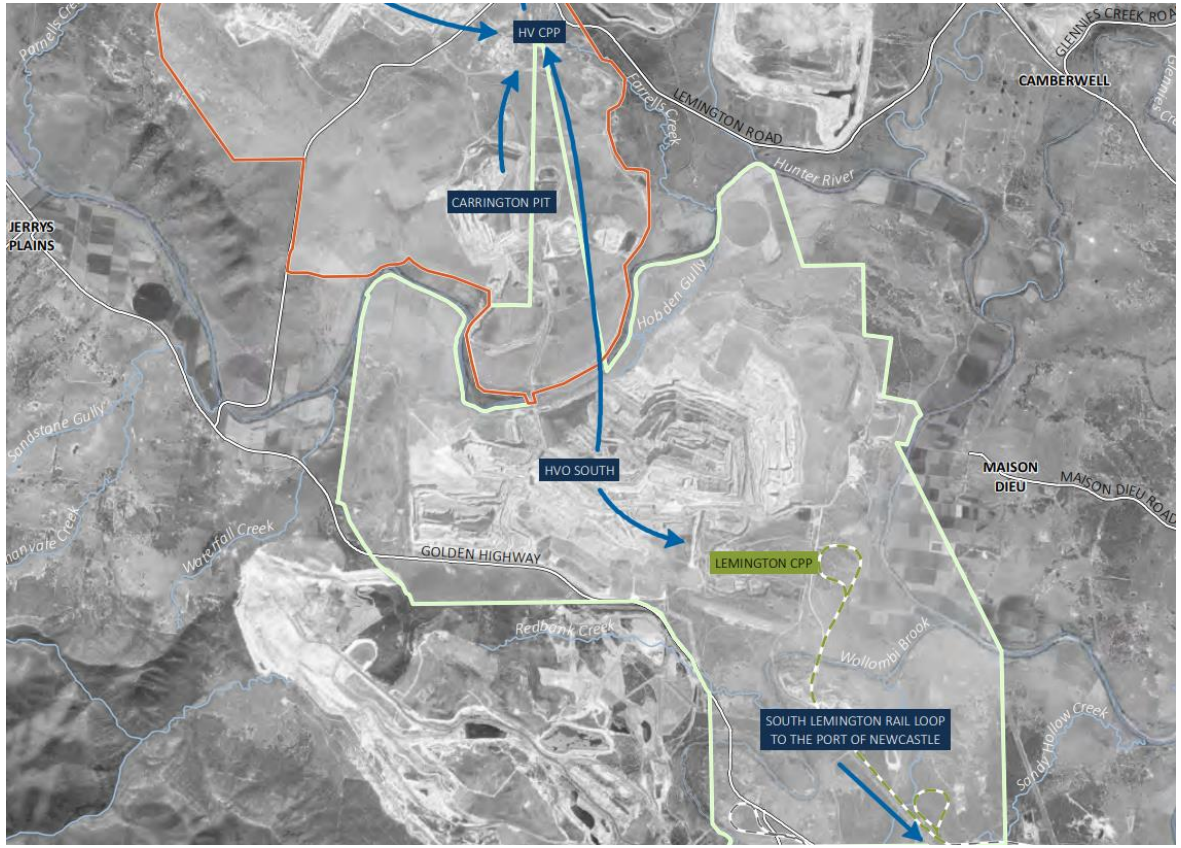


Comparison of key scope changes

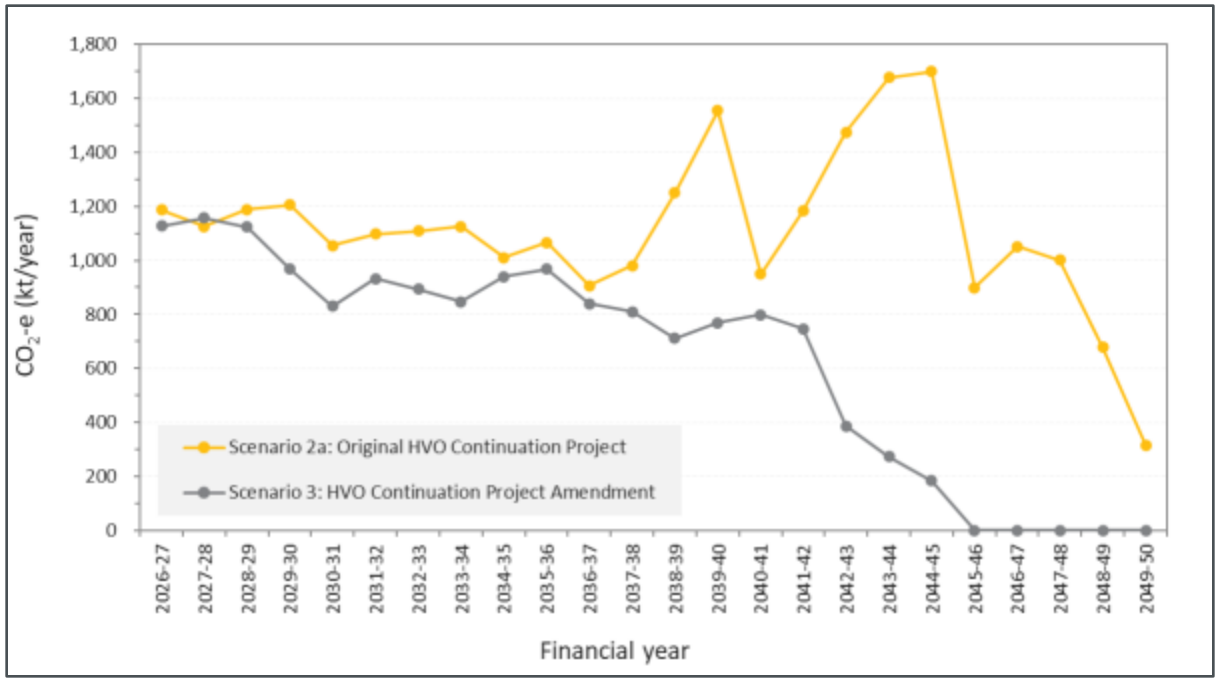
Component	Approved	Original project	Amended project
Project area	Refer previous slide		
Operating hours	24 hours, 7 days a week	As approved	As approved
Coal resource	North: 498Mt South: 320Mt	North: 400Mt South: 210Mt	North: 307Mt South: 122Mt
Workforce	Complex: up to 1,500 FTE	As approved	As approved
Mine life	North: Until end of 2026 South: Until 24 March 2030	North: Until end of 2050 South: Until end of 2045	North: Until end of 2045 South: Until end of 2042
Extraction rate	North: Up to 22Mtpa South: Up to 20Mtpa Complex: *Up to 42Mtpa*	North: As approved South: Up to 18Mtpa Complex: *40Mtpa*	North: As approved South: Up to 13Mtpa Complex: Up to 26Mtpa
Coal processing and transport, infrastructure	South: LCPP and rail loop	South: As approved	South: No LCPP or rail loop
Rehabilitation	North: Three final voids South: One final void	North: One final void South: As approved	North: Two final voids South: As approved

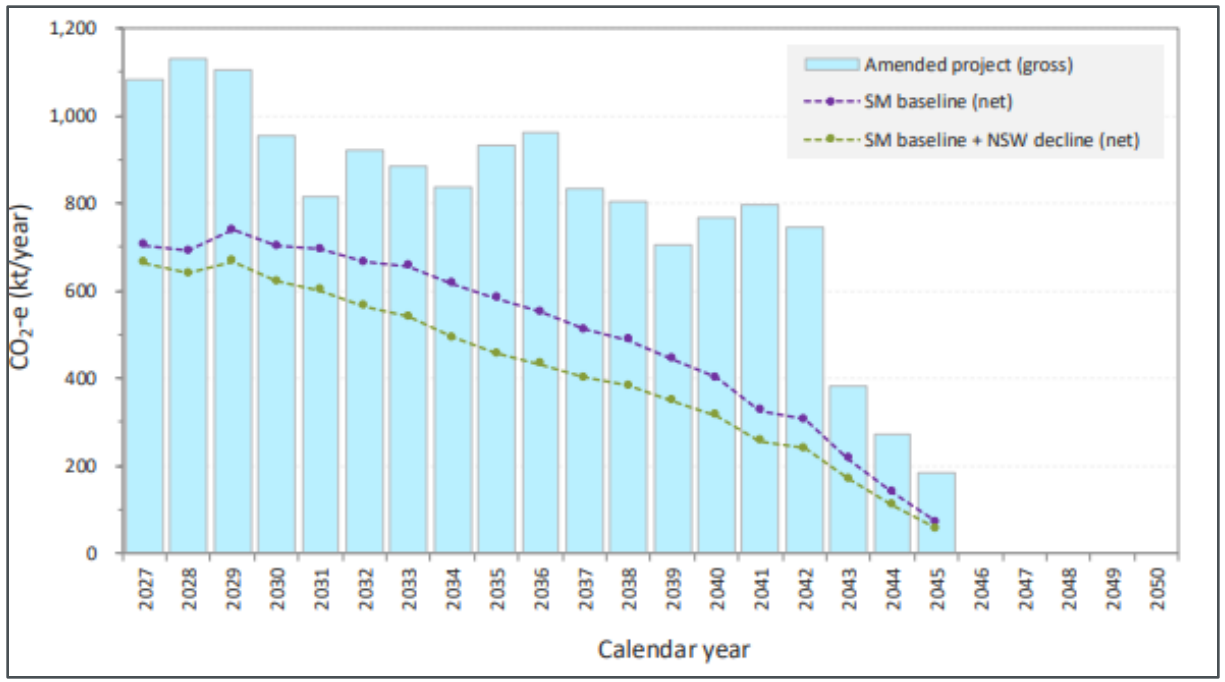
Complex operation





Contribution to greenhouse gas reductions

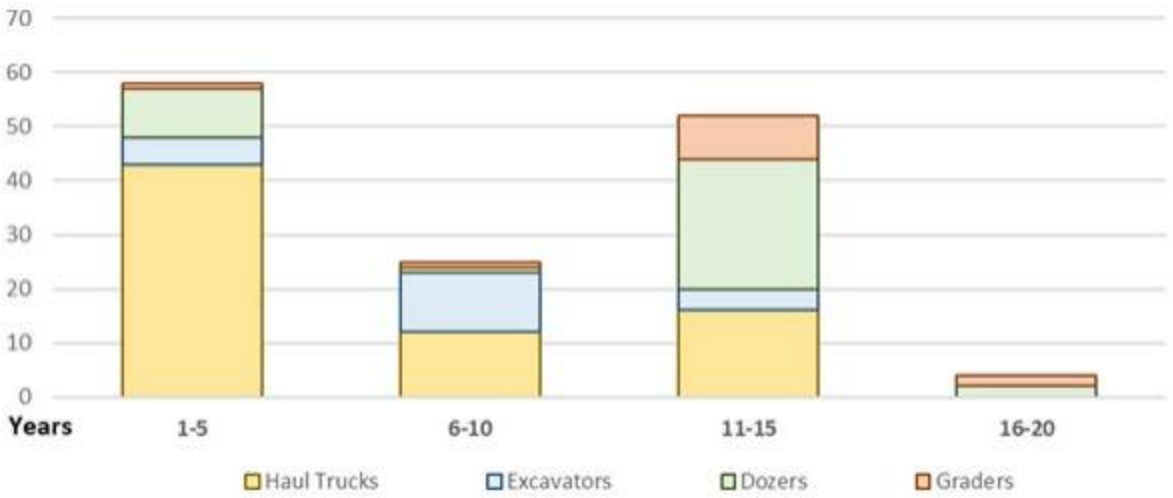




Calendar year	Scope 1 emissions for Amended Project (kt CO_2-e/year)				
	Gross [A]	Net with Safeguard Mechanism baseline [B]	Net with Safeguard Mechanism baseline + NSW decline [C]	Potential maximum offsets required[a] to achieve SM baseline [A - B]	Potential maximum offsets required[a] to achieve SM baseline + NSW decline [A - C]
Average (kt CO_2-e/year)	795.0	500.5	419.2	294.4	375.7
Total (kt CO_2-e)	15,104.2	9,509.7	7,965.2	5,594.5	7,139.0

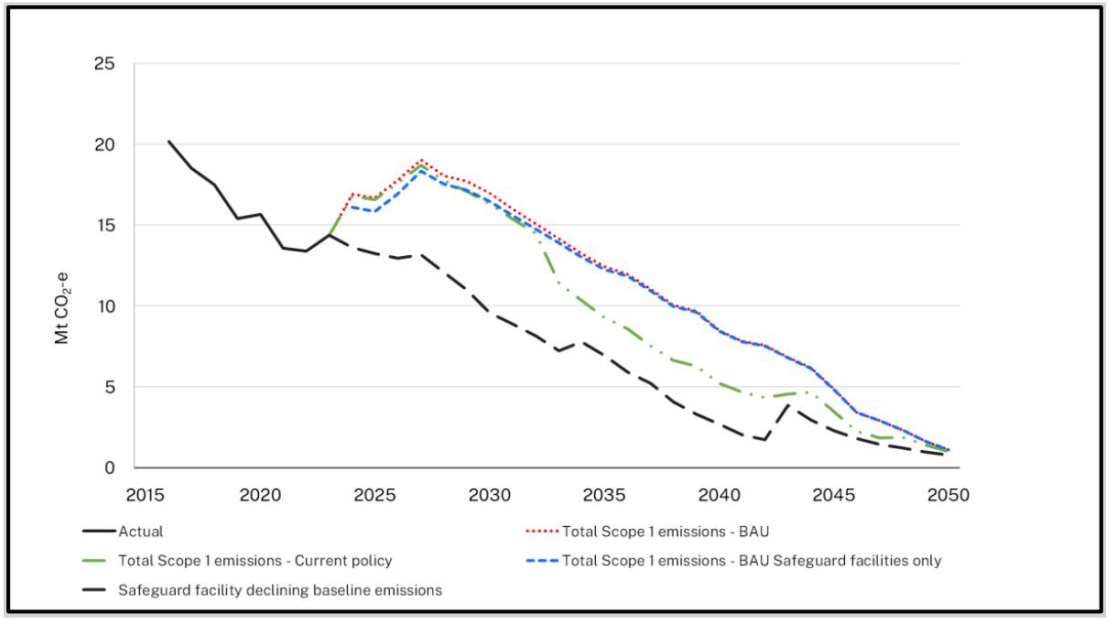
Electrification

- Feasibility considered in GHG assessment
- Guidance provided in Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Guide for NSW Coal Mines



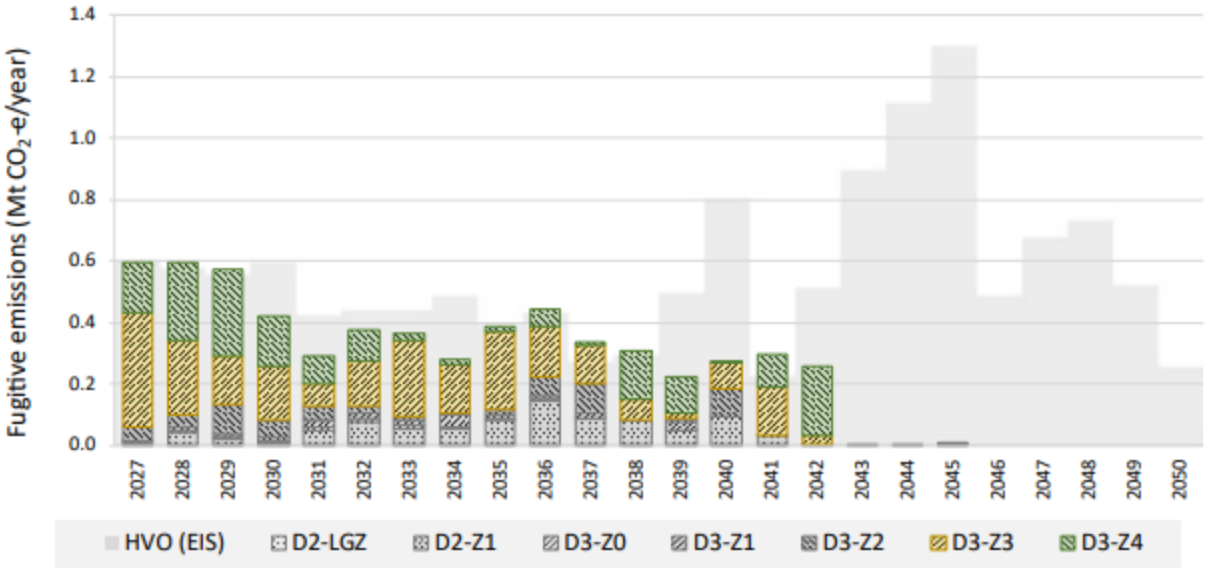
NSW emissions reduction targets

Mt CO2-e/year					
Financial year	Statewide – BAU	Statewide – current policy	Project with Safeguard baseline	Project with Safeguard and NSW decline	Percentage contribution, statewide current policy, project with NSW decline
2029-2030	87.14	82.97	0.787	0.703	0.85%
2034-2035	70.69	57.44	0.593	0.465	0.81%
2039-2040	62.60	42.70	0.365	0.286	0.67%
2044-2045	44.79	22.28	0.102	0.080	0.36%
2049-2050	39.99	18.22	0	0	0
Total (Mt CO_{2-e})	1,608.77	1,248.11	9.516	7.972	0.64%



Pre-drainage trial

- Opportunity to further reduce Scope 1 emissions
- Drain gas to convert methane to carbon dioxide
- Strict schedule



Reviews of available technology

- Consistent with EPA recommendation and regulation under Climate change mitigation and adaptation plans

Biodiversity

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Avoidance and minimisation

Project design and amendments have avoided impact to:

- 154.2 ha of *Central Hunter Grey Box – Ironbark Woodland* EEC
- 8.1 ha of *Hunter Floodplain Red Gum Woodland EEC* and 260 individuals of River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*)
- 2.6 ha of *Hunter Valley Footslopes Slaty Gum Woodland VEC*
- 10.1 ha of *Warkworth Sands Woodland EEC*

Remaining direct impact

- removal of 184.8 ha of native vegetation:
- 89.5 ha of this conforms to TECs under the BC Act, with 87.2 ha in HVO North and 2.3 ha in HVO South
- includes direct impact to 1.06 ha in HVO North and 0.15 ha in the RRG Additional Disturbance Area of *Hunter Floodplain Red Gum Woodland* EEC as potential SAII entity

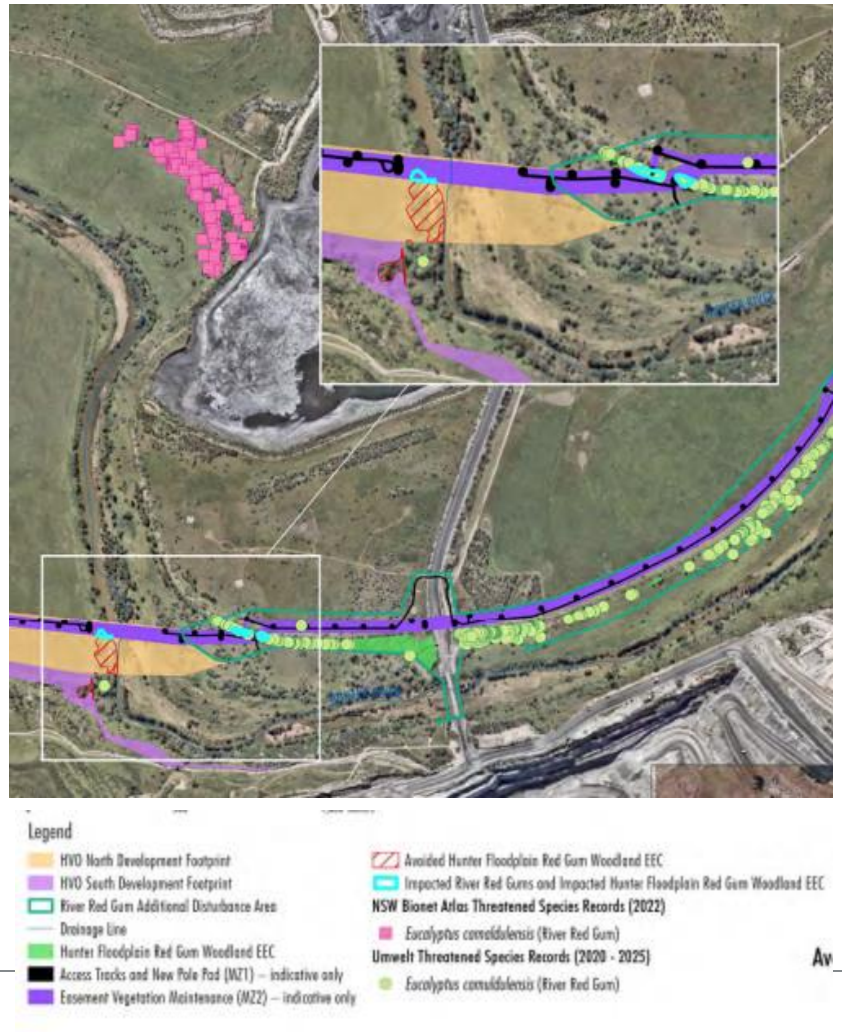
Hunter Floodplain Red Gum Woodland EEC

Avoidance

- impacts were reduced during the assessment
- CPHR noted efforts have been made to avoid the EEC and did not request further avoidance

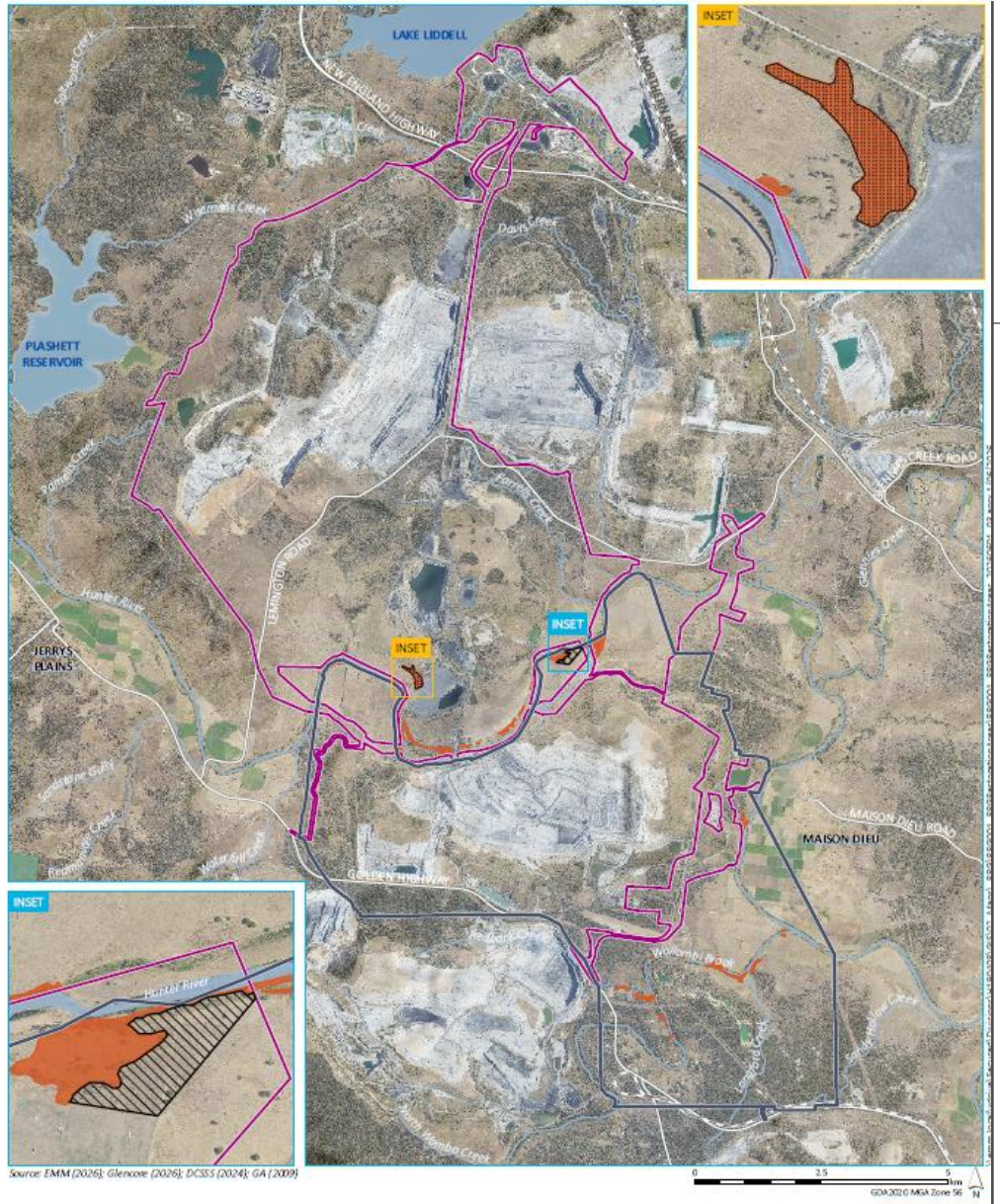
Table 5.5 Avoided Impacts to *Hunter Floodplain Red Gum Woodland EEC*

	Area (ha)			
	EIS Avoidance	EIS Impact	Post-EIS Avoidance	Residual Impact
HVO North	6.2	1.5	0.44	1.06
HVO South	1.3	0.1	0.1	0.0
Total	**7.5**	**1.6**	**0.54**	**1.06**



Biodiversity - RRGRRS

- HVO North and South consents already require management of *Hunter Floodplain Red Gum Woodland* EEC on site under RRGRRS.
- Additional 6.6 ha area to be managed for the project
- Strategy includes measures to restore the EEC on site through revegetation and management
- Requirement for rehabilitation and restoration objectives with short/medium/long term measures, completion criteria and restoration plan, to be prepared in consultation with CPHR and Water Group



Water resources

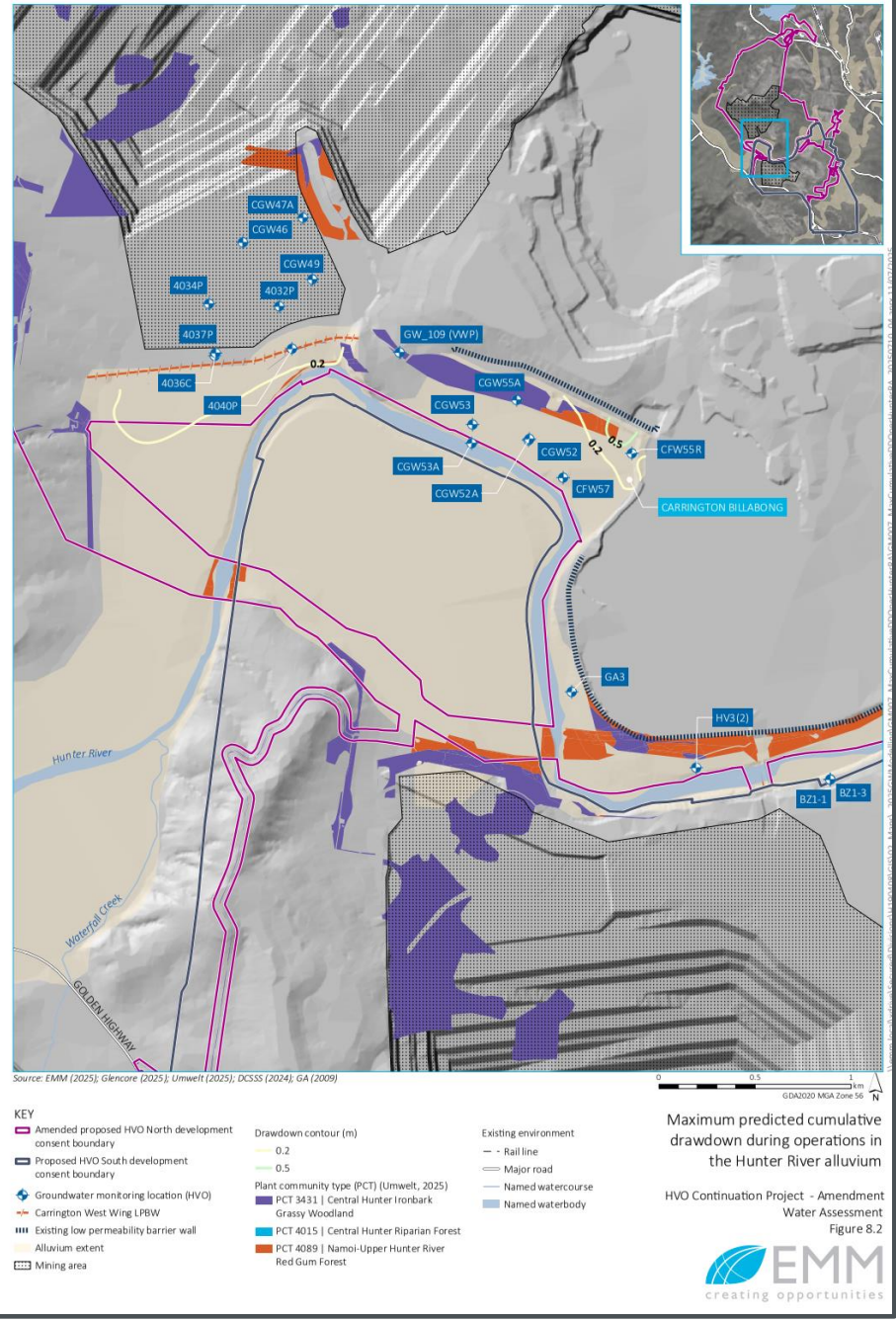
- Existing complex and site water management
- Mining Panel advice

Groundwater

- Low-permeability barrier
- Project would generally not exceed Level 1 impact considerations under the AIP
- No impact to long term viability of GDEs

Surface water

Flooding



Environmental controls – Air Quality

Air quality impacts managed through proactive and reactive controls

Conservative modelling (excludes reactive measures)

Proactive controls	Reactive controls
• Realtime dust monitoring	• Targeted operational changes
• Weather forecasting	• Increased watering
• Routine dust suppression	• Activity / equipment relocation
• Mine planning	• Temporary shut-downs

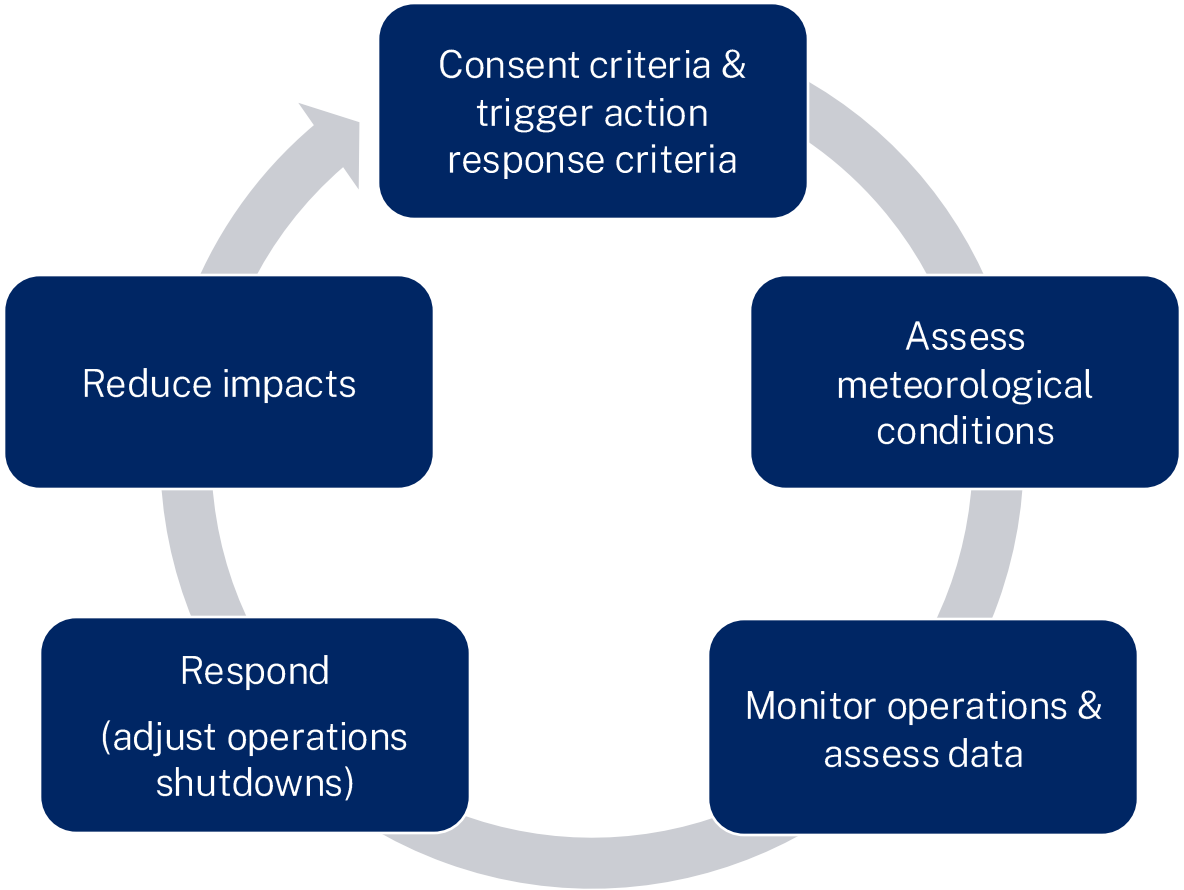
Compliance with air quality criteria

Environmental controls – Noise

Noise control strategy
• Temporary equipment shutdowns
• Equipment relocations or modification
• Targeted management of noise-generating activities
• Additional controls during adverse weather conditions

Compliance while maintaining operations

Environmental controls – cumulative impacts



Regional Approach

- HVO and neighbouring mines operate under consent criteria
- Controls collectively manage cumulative air quality impacts
- Responses triggered by actual conditions and monitoring data

Real-time monitoring allows rapid intervention to minimise cumulative air quality impacts.

Aboriginal cultural heritage

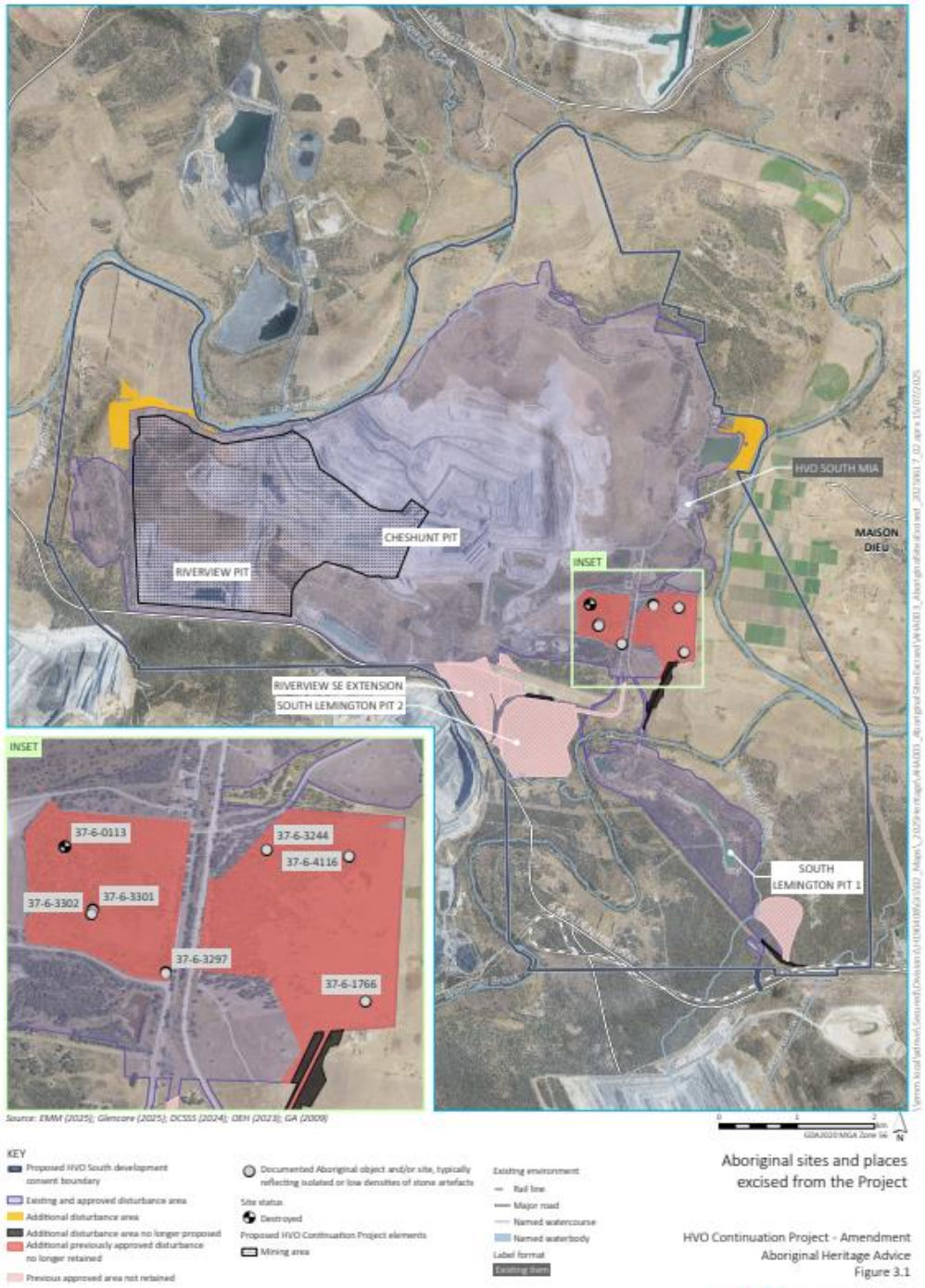
Avoidance and minimisation

Project design and amendments have avoided impact to:

- 9 sites of high significance, 7 sites of moderate significance and 66 sites of low significance
- 3 ha of a high significance artefact scatter and 2 sites of high significance (culturally modified trees originally proposed to be impacted) by changing the Lemington Road alignment in areas of the Warkworth sand system
- highly significant Carrington Mine – Colluvial Deposit 1 (CM-CD1) site

Remaining direct impact

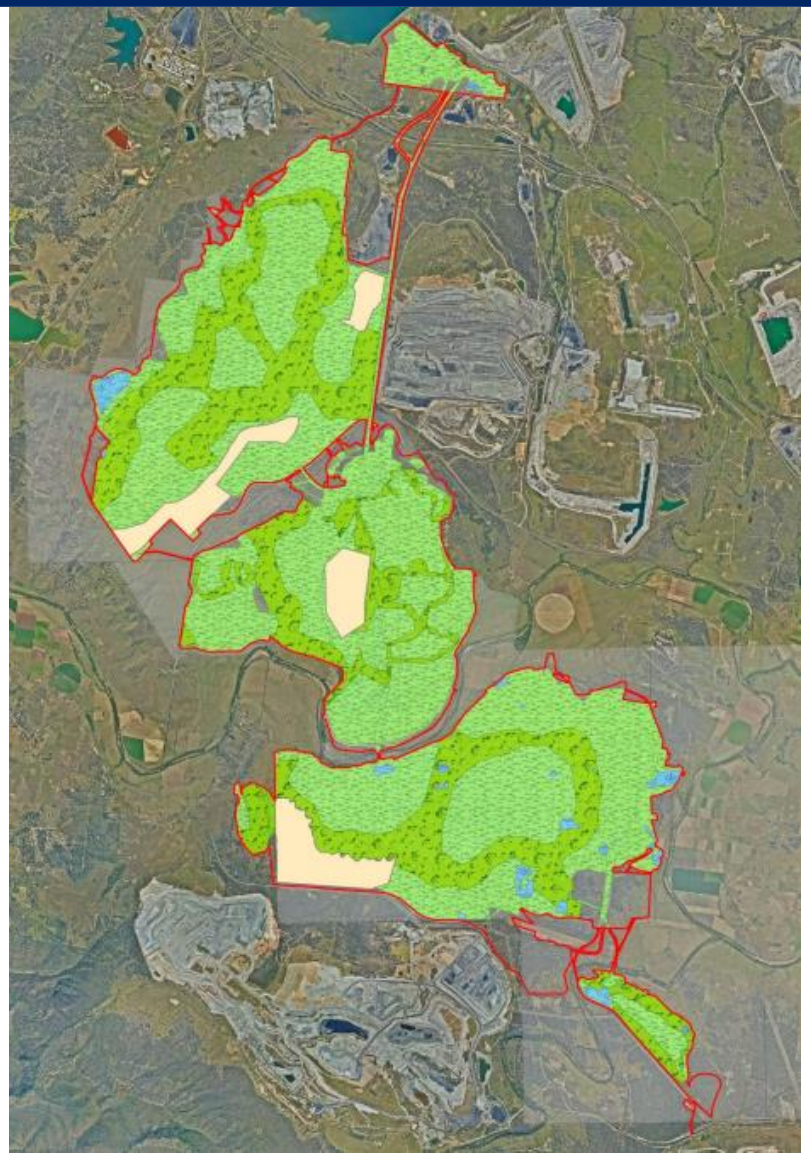
- 2 sites of high significance (stone artefact scatters)
- 10 sites of moderate significance (stone artefact scatters)
- 187 sites of low to low-moderate significance (generally isolated finds and low-density artefact scatters)



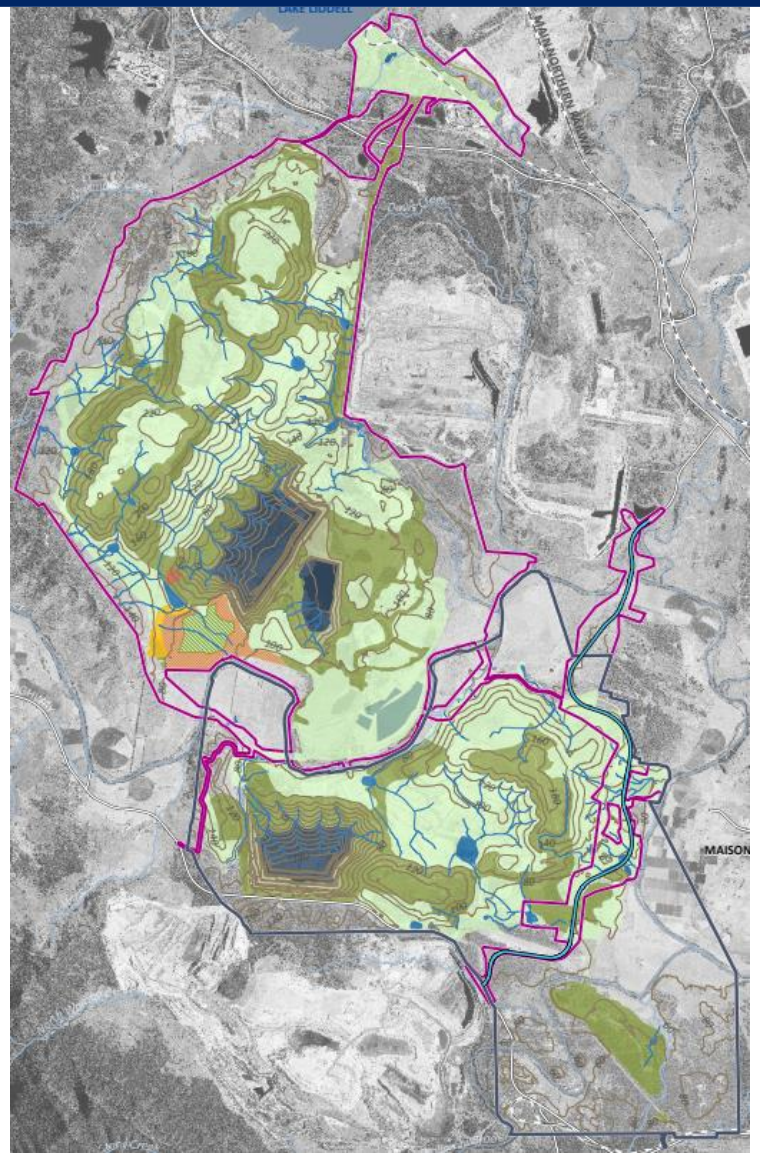
Rehabilitation

- Contemporised final landform
- Improved long-term stability
- + 1 final void (from 2 to 3)
- 60% grazing 40% native vegetation
- Increased agricultural post mining (approx. 4,818 ha suitable for grazing)
- Conditions require closure plan, rehabilitation strategy and post-mining land use strategy

Approved



Project



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