



# Application for the continuation of Maules Creek Coal Mine

DECEMBER 2023

**Whitehaven is currently preparing an new State Significant Development application to seek approval for the continuation of the Maules Creek Coal Mine (MCCM) within the existing mining and exploration tenements.**

MCCM was originally approved in 2012 to operate under a standard 21-year mine lease with an annual production limit of 13 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) of run-of-mine (ROM) coal.

MCCM has coal reserves to support 40 years of production, which was acknowledged by the New South Wales (NSW) Government during the original approval process with the understanding that a renewal of the lease would be required to facilitate ongoing mining activities beyond 2034.

As such, this application will support the continuation of operations to approximately 2045.

The application will enable increased flexibility in the mining and recovery of high-quality coal resources entirely within the existing tenements, with a modest increase to the production limit to 14 Mtpa ROM coal which will provide more optionality in managing natural fluctuations in ROM output year-to-year.

The continuation of MCCM will also support the employment of the approximately 800-strong open cut workforce and allow the significant economic benefits our largest asset delivers in north-west NSW to continue.

### Community and stakeholder engagement

Whitehaven is committed to ongoing, comprehensive engagement with the community and relevant stakeholders throughout the process. The Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be placed on public exhibition by the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) in due course, which will provide opportunities for questions and issues to be raised and addressed.

The stakeholder engagement to be undertaken for the EIS will ensure there are opportunities for Aboriginal groups to be involved in the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment. Continuous engagement with the Aboriginal community will be sustained throughout the different stages of the Project.

### Key Areas of assessment in EIS

The key areas to be assessed in the EIS will include potential impact on:

- **Biodiversity**, including terrestrial and aquatic flora and fauna.
- **Water hydrology**, quality and availability of surface and groundwater.
- **Noise** including cumulative noise
- **Air quality**, including emissions and particulate matter.
- **Aboriginal Heritage**, including Aboriginal cultural values.
- **Social and economic aspects**, including livelihoods, health and wellbeing, and access and economic benefits.
- **Land**, including stability, capability and soil chemistry.
- **Amenity**, including visual amenity and vibration.

Additionally, the EIS will assess other risks and potential hazards such as flooding, bushfires and contamination, as well as impacts to private property and public land.

### Water transfer pipeline

A water transfer pipeline will connect the existing MCCM Roma/Brighton bore pump station to the approved but not yet constructed pipeline between Tarrawonga Coal Mine (TCM) and the Vickery Extension Project. The pipeline will allow water sharing between the three operations to provide the following potential benefits:

- Reduce external water requirements from the Namoi River and groundwater bores.
- Maximise the utilisation of storages between operations, allowing excess water from one operation to be transferred to another operation with spare capacity.
- Allow for the utilisation of the TCM final void post closure as a water storage.
- Share water supply from bores and the Namoi River between operations for drought security, in compliance with extraction limits and Water Access License allocations.
- Provide the opportunity to investigate beneficial reuse of the water for agricultural purposes along the pipeline route.

### APPROVAL TIMELINE

Preparation of Scoping Report

Lodgement of Scoping Report

Secretary's environmental assessment requirements (SEARs) issued from the DPE

EIS development

WE ARE HERE

Development Application, including the EIS, lodged with DPE

DPE reviews the EIS and prepares for public exhibition

EIS placed on public exhibition for comment

Whitehaven responds to submissions

DPE assess the EIS, submissions and Whitehaven responses

The NSW Minister for Planning directs the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) to undertake an Independent Assessment

The IPC makes a determination

For more information about Maules Creek, visit:

[whitehavencoal.com.au/maules-creek](http://whitehavencoal.com.au/maules-creek) or scan the below QR code:



# Key benefits of the Maules Creek Continuation Project

## Supporting the local economy

Mining creates both direct and indirect jobs. It helps to diversify the regional economy, sustain local communities, provide skilled jobs and support global energy security.



Approximately  
**800**  
jobs,  
predominantly  
locally based.



Approximately  
**75%**  
of the MCCM  
workforce is  
locally-based.



Continuation of  
**\$200m+**  
annual contribution  
to local businesses  
and suppliers in  
North West NSW.



Approximately  
**\$160m**  
paid in wages  
annually to the  
MCCM workforce.



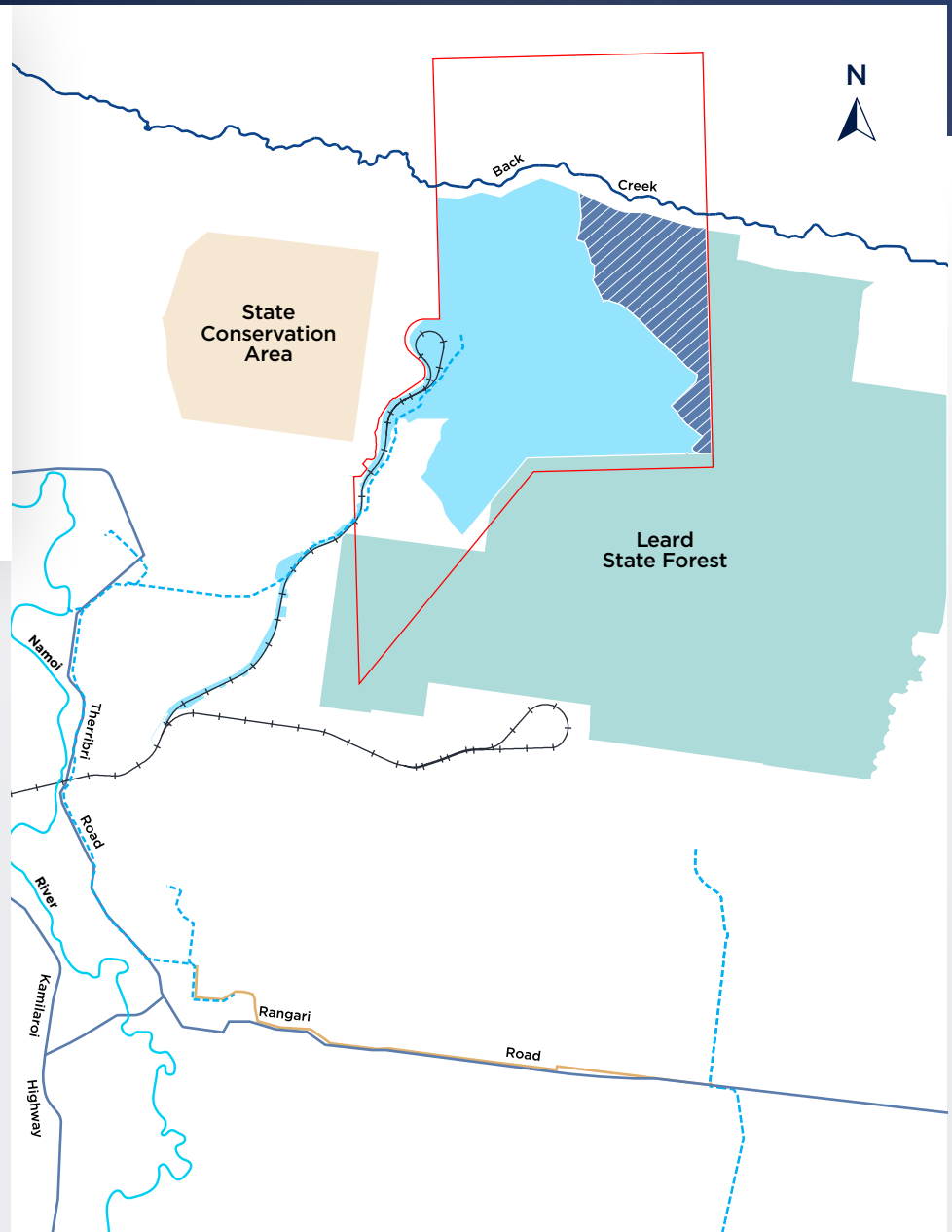
MCCM contributed  
**\$280m+**  
in taxes and  
royalties in FY22.



Approximately  
**20%**  
of the MCCM  
workforce identify  
as Aboriginal and/or  
Torres Strait Islander.

### Legend

- +++ Site Rail Loop
- Indicative Proposed Water Transfer Pipeline
- - - Indicative Approved Water Transfer Pipeline
- Roads
- Mining Lease Boundary
- Approximate Extent of Existing Approved Surface Development
- ▨ Indicative Open Cut Extension Area



The Maules Creek Continuation Project extends to the north and east of the current mine.

## Contact Information

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Scan the QR code for  
more information about  
Maules Creek

