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MOOLARBEN COAL COMPLEX OPEN CUT EXTENSION PROJECT

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2024

Welcome to the fifth edition of the Community Newsletter on the proposed Open Cut 3 (OC3) Extension Project.

Since our last update, we have made changes to our Project and we are now ready to share what we have been working on.

■ ABOUT THE OC3 EXTENSION PROJECT

The Project proposes to extend open cut operations to the south and east of the existing OC3 mining area. The Project is an important growth project for the Moolarben Coal Complex, which commenced operations in 2010 and has approval to mine until 2038.

The OC3 Extension Project is an extension of the existing operations. Its location within the Moolarben Valley, surrounded by elevated topography, is well suited to minimise amenity impacts for surrounding residences. The location adjacent to the Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve, does present a challenge to minimise biodiversity impacts.

While the initial project was carefully designed to avoid sensitive environmental features within the Moolarben Valley, we received specific feedback from the community, the NSW Biodiversity, Conservation and Science Directorate (BCS) and NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) on how we could further minimise these environmental impacts. As a result, we have made significant amendments to the Project. These amendments are shown on the plan on page 2 and discussed further on page 3.

■ CURRENT STATUS

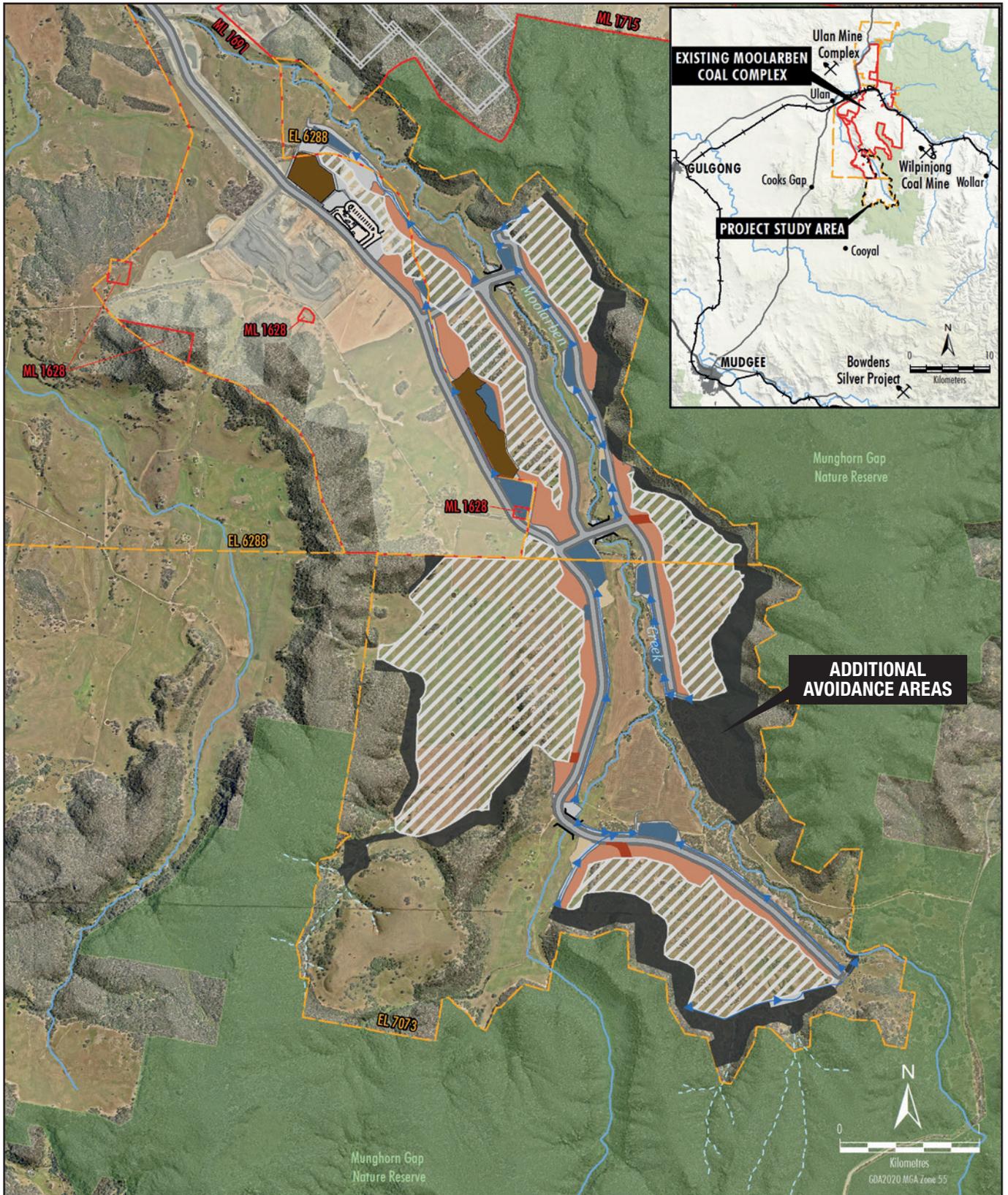
Response to Submissions

Moolarben prepared an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which comprehensively assessed the environmental, social and economic impacts of the Project. The Project EIS was lodged with the NSW Department of Planning on 10 November 2022 and was placed on public exhibition between 17 November 2022 and 14 December 2022.

Fifty seven public submissions were received from individuals and 18 public submissions were received from organisations during the public exhibition period. A further 15 comments were received from Government agencies. These submissions can be viewed on the NSW Department of Planning's website (www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects). You can find the Project by searching for "Moolarben OC3 Extension Project" or "SSD-33083358".

Moolarben has spent the last year addressing these submissions and is aiming to lodge its Submissions Report in early March 2024. The Submissions Report will be accompanied by an Amendment Report, which explains changes made to the Project in direct response to some of the submissions.

GENERAL ARRANGEMENT



ADDITIONAL AVOIDANCE AREAS

| LEGEND | | | |
|--------|--|--|--|
| | National Park/Nature Reserve | | OC3 Extension Project - Amended |
| | Exploration Licence Boundary | | Indicative Open Pit Extent |
| | Mining Lease Boundary | | Indicative ROM Pad |
| | Moolarben Coal Complex Disturbance Footprint | | Culvert |
| | Underground Longwall Layout | | Indicative Haul Roads |
| | | | Indicative Infrastructure Corridor |
| | | | Indicative Infrastructure Area |
| | | | Indicative Construction/Rehabilitation Material Stockpiles |
| | | | Conceptual Flood Levee Embankment |
| | | | Conceptual Water Management Infrastructure |
| | | | Indicative Vehicle Access |
| | | | Conceptual Surface Water Drain |
| | | | Additional Avoidance/Minimisation for the Amended Project |



Concept Design prepared by Dirtz Track Pty Ltd for Mid-Western Regional Council (July 2023)

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION

Moolarben contributes to the new Mudgee Pump Track

Moolarben is thrilled to be providing \$350,000 towards the newly proposed Pump Track to be constructed at the Glen Willow Regional Sporting Complex.

The funding has been provided to the Mid-Western Regional Council as a community contribution associated with the Project.

The pump track will serve as a hub for BMX enthusiasts and riders of all levels, which is great for the Mudgee community.

KEY MATTERS RAISED IN SUBMISSIONS

- Biodiversity impacts, including concerns over proximity of mining to the Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve and impacts to threatened species and ecological communities;
- Greenhouse gas emissions from the extraction of additional coal, and broader concerns with coal-fired power generation and its contribution to climate change;
- Groundwater and surface water impacts, including potential impacts to natural springs in the Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve and Goulburn River baseflow;
- Aboriginal cultural heritage impacts, particularly cumulative impacts to heritage in the region; and
- Agricultural impacts, particularly loss of agricultural land in the Moolarben Valley.

AMENDMENTS

In response to concerns raised by BCS, NPWS and other community members, MCO has revised the Project design and reduced the disturbance footprint to further avoid and/or minimise biodiversity impacts.

Moolarben has reduced the disturbance footprint by 18% from 825ha to 675ha, with an associated reduction in resource of approximately 10 million tonnes (Mt), which lowers the total run-of-mine coal to be extracted by 25%.

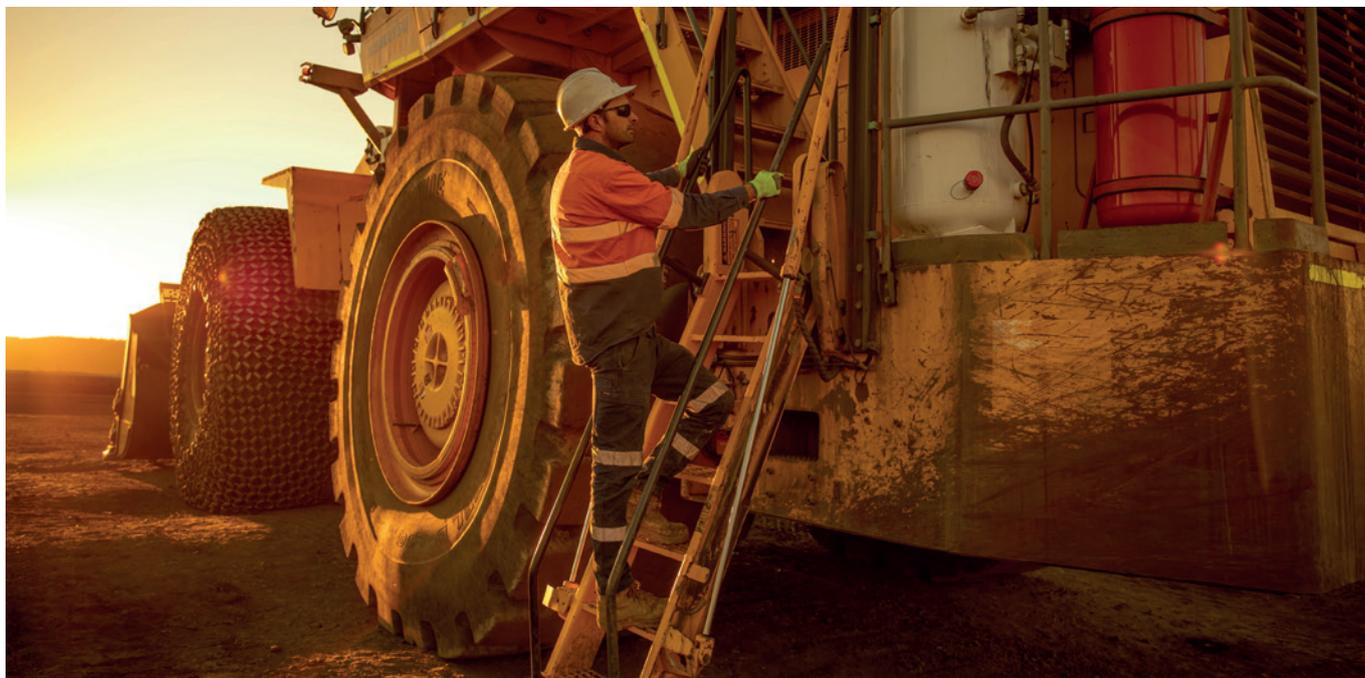
The Amended Project now:

- Increases setback from the Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve to 100m.
- Avoids disturbance of mapped rocky habitat and breeding habitat associated with the threatened Large eared Pied Bat, Eastern Cave Bat and the Broad-headed Snake.
- Reduces disturbance of the woodland component of Box-Gum Woodland CEEC by approximately 59% from 84ha to 34ha.
- Reduces disturbance of Regent Honeyeater Important Habitat Mapping by approximately 56% from 184ha to 81ha.
- Increases the Habitat Enhancement Area along Moolarben and Murdering Creeks by approximately 18% from 160ha to 188ha. As described in the Project EIS, this area would be subject to ecological restoration and ongoing maintenance of retained areas of native vegetation.
- Increases the area to be rehabilitated to native woodland vegetation by approximately 65% from 325ha to 533ha, providing a long-term net increase in native woodland in the Moolarben Valley and improved connectivity with the Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve.

With these additional amendments, Moolarben considers that the Project strikes an appropriate balance between environmental, social and economic outcomes. Moolarben had a direct economic impact of \$1.3 billion to the Mudgee region in 2022. The extension Project would ensure this contribution continues and would economically benefit the local community and the region.

■ APPROVALS PROCESS

| MILESTONES | OPPORTUNITIES FOR FEEDBACK |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Moolarben commences scoping phase consultation and preparation of Scoping Report | <p>Initial stakeholder engagement during preparation of the Scoping Report has been undertaken to ensure community issues and concerns with the Project are identified and scoped.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Moolarben submits Scoping Report and receives SEARs from NSW Dept. of Planning | <p>Focused engagement has been undertaken to inform the preliminary social impact assessment component of the Scoping Report.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Moolarben lodges a Referral under the Commonwealth EPBC Act | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Project determined to be a controlled action under the Commonwealth EPBC Act. SEARs re-issued to address Commonwealth matters | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Moolarben undertakes EIS phase consultation and prepares the Project EIS | <p>Engagement continued with stakeholders during preparation of the EIS. Questions and comments raised by the community were considered in the Project design and addressed in the EIS.</p> <p>Focused engagement also informed the social impact assessment and the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment for the EIS.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Moolarben submits development application to NSW Dept. of Planning and the Project EIS is placed on public exhibition | <p>The community has further opportunity to submit feedback directly to NSW Dept. of Planning during the public exhibition period.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Moolarben responds to submissions made during public exhibition | <p>Engagement will continue with stakeholders to address concerns raised during public exhibition.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NSW Dept. of Planning assesses the Project, having regard to Moolarben's EIS, public and agency submissions and Moolarben's response to these submissions | <p>Community feedback can continue to be provided to Moolarben or the NSW Dept. of Planning while the Project is under assessment.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Independent Planning Commission determines the Project | <p>Independent Planning Commission will hold a public hearing for the Project where members of the public will have the opportunity to address the commissioners.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commonwealth Minister for the Environment makes separate determination under the EPBC Act | |



If you would like further information on the proposed Project or have any questions regarding the Moolarben Coal Complex, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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