# New Acland Coal Mine Stage 3 Project

## Information Clarification to the AEIS

December 2014

Contents

# 1. Introduction

This Project Memorandum represents the consolidation of information requested by CoG after the public notification period of the AEIS.

# 2. Tank water quality testing 2010-2012

**Appendix O** of the AEIS included further results of tank water testing undertaken in 2010, 2011 and 2012. ADWQG limits for Lead of 0.02 mg/L were exceeded at 3 locations, with readings of 0.045, 0.015, 0.01, 0.01 and 0.016 mg/L.

In addition, the guideline's Cadmium level of 0.002 mg/L was met at one location.

Nickel (guideline limit of 0.02 mg/L) was recorded at 0.022 and 0.051 mg/L at 2 locations.

Mercury (guideline limit of 0.001 mg/L) was recorded at 0.001 at 1 location.

Aesthetic value limits for Zinc and Manganese were slightly exceeded at 2 locations.

Aesthetic value levels for pH were also under guideline levels at 4 locations.

The testing results have been provided to EHP Toowoomba previously and the elevated metal results explained as follow:

- The pH of the water in the tanks tested was mostly neutral, it is unlikely that trace metals in coal from NAC would leach and mobilise into the tank water under these conditions
- A likely source of metals is from diesel particulates, and other traffic related sources associated with the Warrego Highway
- A likely source of metals is plumbing and roofing materials used in the immediate and surrounding area
- Given the trace metal concentrations in coal from NAC we consider that coal from NAC is not likely to be a major source of metals

# 3. MLA Infrastructure

NHG confirm MLA (Infrastructure) 700001 for the proposed rail spur was lodged with DNRM on 27 November 2014. The application was accepted and is now live on DNRM's "MyMinesOnline" tenure management system.

# 4. Terrestrial Ecology

## 4.1 Rail Spur Ecology Assessments

The Rail Spur Ecology Assessment was included in **Section 5.3.12.5** of the AEIS and in **Section 3.11.8** of updated EM Plan. The proponent acknowledges that changes were not captured in Tables 1 and 3 in the Biodiversity Offset Strategy (BOS).

The construction of the rail spur will result in the clearing of the 1.5 ha of Poplar Box woodland, south of Lagoon Creek and north of the Jondaryan-Sabine Road as **Figure 7-6** shows the location of the vegetation affected by the rail spur. The rail spur corridor will be typically 40 m wide (20 m from the rail centreline to the boundary fence), as described in **Section 13.6.4** of the draft EIS. The width of the rail corridor has been reduced from a standard 60 metre corridor to a 40 metre corridor through the area covered by the Poplar Box woodland to reduce the impacted area from 2.2 ha to 1.5 ha.

Table 5.3-B of the AEIS shows the increased disturbance of Poplar Box woodland due to the rail corridor, cumulatively included under RE 11.3.2.

The rail spur crosses land used for agriculture and has been cleared for many years. The rail spur also crosses Lagoon Creek that is a shallow depression that lacks riparian vegetation. The agricultural use of the land along the rail spur alignment has principally been cropping, which has resulted in the clearing of vegetation to allow the planting of crops and pastures.

The area of remnant vegetation located at the southern end of the rail spur alignment is *Eucalyptus populnea* woodland (RE 11.3.2) and *Eucalyptus populnea* woodland with *Acacia harpophylla* and/or *Casuarina cristata* (RE 11.3.17). There are no threatened ecological communities found along the rail spur alignment. The remainder of the rail spur alignment will not impact other areas of native vegetation. **Table 4.1** lists the impact of the revised Project on both Commonwealth and Queensland listed vegetation communities that incorporates the clearing for the rail spur.

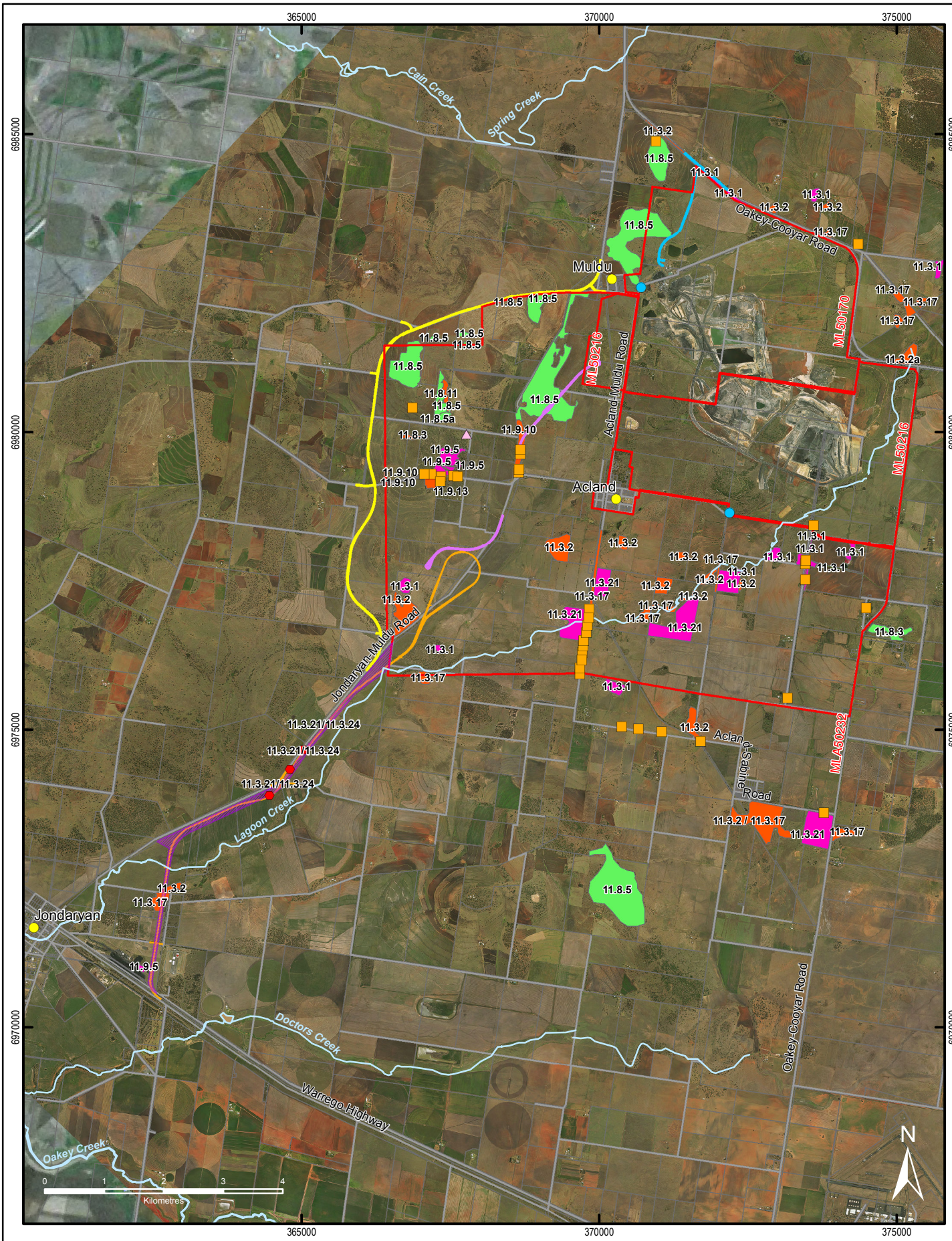
This area of vegetation affected by the rail spur will be incorporated into the offset package being developed by NAC as described in **Section 5.2.4.16** of the AEIS. The Offset Area Management Plan will confirm both the areas of vegetation impacted by the Project and the location and condition of offset sites. The Offset Area Management Plan will reflect all areas to be cleared by the revised Project and will incorporate the vegetation along the rail spur in the areas requiring offsetting. **Table 4.2** lists the maximum authorised impacts on endangered and of concern regional ecosystems, based on the revision are areas to be cleared for the rail spur.

Table 4.1 : Updated impacts to Matters of commonwealth and State Environmental Significance as shown in Table 3.36 of the EM Plan submitted with the AIES.

| RE | Regional Ecosystem | Common Name | EPBC Status | Qld Status | Area cleared (ha) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11.3.1 | *Acacia harpophylla* and/or *Casuarina cristata* open forest on alluvial plains | Brigalow | Endangered | Endangered | 12.0 |
| 11.9.5 | *Acacia harpophylla* and/or *Casuarina cristata* open forest on fine-grained sedimentary rocks | Brigalow | Endangered | Endangered | 12.6 |
| 11.9.10 | *Acacia harpophylla*, *Eucalyptus populnea* open forest on Cainozoic fine-grained sedimentary rocks | Brigalow | - | Of concern | 4.1 |
| 11.3.21 | *Dichanthium sericeum* and/or *Astrebla* spp. grassland on alluvial plains. Cracking clay soils | Bluegrass grass dominated natural grassland | Endangered | Endangered | 35.9 |
| 11.8.11 | *Dichanthium sericeum* grassland on Cainozoic igneous rocks | Bluegrass grass dominated natural grassland | Endangered | Of concern | 4.1 |
| 11.3.2 | *Eucalyptus populnea* woodland on alluvial plains | Poplar box | - | Of concern | 4.8 |
| 11.3.17 | *Eucalyptus populnea* woodland with *Acacia harpophylla* and/or *Casuarina cristata* on alluvial plains | Poplar box | - | Of concern | 7.0 |
| 11.9.13 | *Eucalyptus moluccana* or *E. microcarpa* open forest on fine grained sedimentary rocks | Gum topped box | - | Of concern | 3.6 |

Table 4.2 : Maximum authorised impacts on endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

| **RE** | **VM Act status** | **Maximum area of residual impact (ha)1** |
|---|---|---|
| 11.3.1 | Endangered | 12 |
| 11.3.21 | Endangered | 35.9 |
| 11.9.5 | Endangered | 12.6 |
| 11.3.2 | Of concern | 4.8 |
| 11.3.17 | Of concern | 7 |
| 11.8.11 | Of concern | 4.1 |
| 11.9.10 | Of concern | 4.1 |
| 11.9.13 | Of concern | 3.6 |
| **Common name**<br>**Species name** | **NC Act status** | **Total area of residual impact (ha)** |
| Koala<br>*Phascolarctos cinereus* | Special least concern | 19.5 |
| Belson's Panic<br>*Homopholis belsonii* | Endangered | 70.8 |




**LEGEND**

- Towns and Localities
- Roads
- Creeks
- Internal Haulage Road
- Revised Access to Mine
- Revised Jondaryan-Muldu Road Diversion
- Revised Rail Spur and Balloon Loop Alignment
- Cadastre
- Mining Tenements
- Infrastructure Mining Lease

**Observed Regional Ecosystems**

- Endangered
- Of Concern
- Least Concern

**Threatened Flora**

- Bothriochloa biloba
- Digitaria porrecta
- Homopholis belsonii
- Rhaponticum australe

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**NEW ACLAND COAL MINE STAGE 3 PROJECT**

**Figure 7-6 - Observed Regional Ecosystems & Species Locations**

Scale 1:85,000 on A4

Projection: Australian Geodetic Datum – Zone 56 (AGD84)

Produced: 12/12/2014 Path: I:\QENV2\Projects\QE06644\Spatial\ArcGIS\01_Figures\01_SEIS\07_TerrestrialEcology\141214_NewHope_ECOLOGY_Figure7-6_ObservedRegionalEcosystems.mxd

## 4.2 Flying Fox

The Grey-headed Flying-fox was seen in the revised Project site, on one occasion in 1999. This record was reported in the EIS for the initial mine development, that was prepared in December 1999. The species has not been recorded during ecology surveys undertaken since this time. Camps of the Grey-headed Flying-fox have not been located within the revised Project area.

During ecology surveys, Anabat detectors and harp traps have been used to identify the presence of bat species. The analysis of the Anabat data collected during these surveys has not recorded Grey-headed Flying-fox. The Grey-headed Flying-fox has not been trapped in the harp traps. Anabat detectors have been used for 80 hours (including 12 hours in the survey in November 2013).

This sighting of the Grey-headed Flying-fox was made along Lagoon Creek, where one flying-fox was seen in a flowering eucalypt trees. There are no details from the 1999 EIS that shows the location of this sighting.

Vegetation and habitat along Lagoon Creek comprises scattered remnants of vegetation, as either small clumps or scattered individual trees. These potential areas of habitat and vegetation suitable for use by the Grey-headed Flying fox for feeding will continue to be available to the species, with the development of the revised Project. Consequently, while areas suitable for foraging will be removed for the revised Project, areas of suitable habitat will be retained and enhanced, especially along Lagoon Creek and outside the mine pits (refer to the Conservation Zone Management Plan provided in Appendix J.6 of the draft EIS). As there are not any camps within the revised Project site, the impact on the species is considered to be low, as the Grey-headed Flying-fox uses habitat and resources from the general Acland area. Retention and enhancement of potential habitat outside the disturbance footprint will continue to be available to the species.

## 4.3 Koala Management Plan and Commitments

The Koala Management Plan (KMP) identified 18 ha of koala habitat as being affected by the revised Project. This is the area of the four regional ecosystems that constitute koala habitat within the revised Project disturbance area, listed in **Table 4.3**. The area of koala habitat impacted by the revised Project in the KMP did not acknowledge the area of poplar box woodland affected by the rail spur, which is koala habitat, an area of 1.5 ha. **Table 4.3** confirms that area of koala habitat estimated to be impacted by the revised Project is 19.5 ha.

Table 4.3 : Area of koala habitat impacted by the revised Project

| RE | Regional Ecosystem | Area (ha) |
|---|---|---|
| 11.3.2 | *Eucalyptus populnea* woodland on alluvial plains | 4.8 |
| 11.3.17 | *Eucalyptus populnea* woodland with *Acacia harpophylla* and/or *Casuarina cristata* on alluvial plains | 7.0 |
| 11.9.10 | *Acacia harpophylla*, *Eucalyptus populnea* open forest on Cainozoic fine-grained sedimentary rocks | 4.1 |
| 11.9.13 | *Eucalyptus moluccana* or *E. microcarpa* open forest on fine grained sedimentary rocks | 3.6 |
| Total | | 19.5 |

NAC is committed to the delivery of the actions in the KMP to mitigate the impact of the revised Project on koala habitat. The actions provided in the KMP remain unchanged, following the change of impact from 18 ha to 19.5 ha to koala habitat.

The KMP currently commits NAC to a wide range of actions to reduce the impact of the revised Project on koalas. These actions are listed in Table 4-1 and Table 4-2 of the KMP. The actions in Table 4-1 deal specifically with mitigating the loss of koala habitat. Actions that NAC will undertake include development and delivery of a rehabilitation plan along within the conservation zone to establish koala habitat and to provide vegetated linkages between areas of koala habitat within the mining lease. The KMP commits NAC to tree densities and location for rehabilitation works and fencing.

The area of the koala habitat to be rehabilitated will be determined as part of the development of the rehabilitation plan. The area of rehabilitation will be based on the area of the impact to koala habitat and be in proportion with the loss of habitat.

The rehabilitation areas presented in Figure 4-1 of the KMP show that NAC will undertake extensive rehabilitation works along the length of Lagoon Creek, within the mining lease, to improve the quality of habitat. Figure 4-1 also shows that NAC is negotiating the rehabilitation of koala habitat on land owned by another party.

## 4.4 Austral Cornflower

The Austral cornflower has been located within the road reserve of the Jondaryan-Muldu Road, outside the disturbance area of the revised Project.

Figures included in the draft EIS and AEIS show the Austral cornflower coinciding with the alignment of the rail spur. The rail spur is located outside the road reserve of the Jondaryan-Muldu Road, in the adjacent property, to the south of the Jondaryan-Muldu Road.

Surveys for the Austral cornflower located the species in three locations, as shown in **Figure 7-7** of the draft EIS. The scale of the figure and line width show that one location of the Austral cornflower is affected by the rail spur.

Location data for the Austral cornflower was captured by a hand-held GPS. These hand-held GPS have a tolerance of 16 m on location data. Consequently, while **Figure 7-7** shows that one incidence of the Australe cornflower occurring on the rail spur, this point is within the road reserve of the Jondaryan-Muldu Road and not impacted by the rail spur.

## 4.5 Grey-headed Flying-fox foraging habitat

Foraging habitat for the Grey-headed Flying-fox is present within the revised Project area as eucalypt communities. These communities are poplar box, mountain coolibah and gum-topped box woodlands. The area of these communities within the revised Project area is 280 ha. The area of foraging habitat (communities dominated by eucalypt, angophora and corymbia) that will be affected by the revised Project is 76 ha, leaving an area of foraging habitat this is unaffected by the revised Project of 204 ha.

The foraging habitat for the Grey-headed Flying-fox is present across the Darling Downs and locally in the Acland area. Foraging habitat is present on private properties, as well as within National Parks (e.g. Bunya Mountains National Park, Crows Nest National Park) and reserves across the region. With the Grey-headed Flying-fox able to range up to 50 km from a camp to forage, an area of 785,700 ha is available for the species to forage within. The loss of foraging habitat affected by the revised Project, an area of 76 ha, is insignificant to the available area of foraging habitat that is present in the area surrounding the known camps near Toowoomba.

Foraging habitat for the Grey-headed Flying-fox will remain available throughout the revised Project area and on adjacent properties. These locations are along Lagoon Creek, adjacent to the rail loop, west of the Manning Vale Pit, patches to the west and east of Acland-Muldu Road, to the south of Acland and a large area of Mountain Coolibah on the southern boundary of MLA50232.

Areas of suitable habitat will be retained (an area of 204 ha) and enhanced, especially along Lagoon Creek and outside the mine pits (refer to the Conservation Zone Management Plan provided in **Appendix J.6** of the draft EIS). NAC will also deliver a rehabilitation plan to mitigate the impact of the revised Project on koalas, as described in the KMP. The rehabilitation to be carried out for the koala will also provide additional areas of foraging habitat for the Grey-headed Flying-fox.

## 4.6 Belson's panic

**Clarification Item**

The EPBC calculator inputs table for *Homopholis belsonii*, still states the total residual impact on this species is 69.3 hectares. Please confirm the correct residual impact area for this species and, should the 70.8 ha be correct, please confirm whether the offset area of 87 ha for Belson's panic still remains and does not require recalculation.

**Issue Response**

There was a minor error in transferring the EPBC Calculator residual impact area into the BOS tables.

The residual impact to *Homopholis belsonii* is 70.8 ha as shown in the EPBC Offset Calculator of the BOS. The area of 87 ha is the calculated offset area as shown in the EPBC Offset Calculator, as we stated in the NHG Response document to the EHP comments.

The change to the BOS that is required to correct the areas of residual impact is to amend the Impact area row of the EPBC Calculator Inputs - *Homopholis belsonii* table on page 17 from 69.3 ha to 70.8 ha. This increase of 1.5 ha is the result in the clearing of poplar box and brigalow vegetation along the rail spur which is normally associated with this Regional Ecosystem. The EPBC calculator does not need to be altered, as it includes the impact area of 70.8ha.

The updated BOS is provided in **Appendix A**.

## 4.7 Pied Bat and Regent Honeyeater

**Clarification Item**

The Little Pied Bat and the Painted Honey Eater are listed NCA species and have been mentioned in the executive summary and the cumulative impacts chapter of the EIS. In these instances the EIS notes that the species were recorded within the revised project area. These species are not discussed in the Ecology chapter and are not shown to be present on the project site when presented in the fauna surveys in the relevant appendices such as Appendix G.5.1. Can you please provide some detail as to when/ how these species were recorded?

**Issue Response**

**Little Pied Bat**

The little pied bat was recorded during surveys conducted in February 2007. The species was recorded through bat calls. It had not been observed during surveys conducted prior to 2007. The little pied bat has not been recorded during the ecology surveys of the revised Project area undertaken since this time. During ecology surveys, Anabat detectors and harp traps have been used to identify the presence of bat species. The analysis of the Anabat data collected during these surveys has not recorded little pied bat. The little pied bat has not been trapped in the harp traps.

The mammal survey was undertaken in November 2014, which included the use of Anabat detectors and harp traps. The Anabat detectors and harp traps were used over a period of four nights. These were placed along Lagoon Creek and wooded areas of the revised Project area, within the Manning Vale West pit. The little pied bat was not observed during this or other ecology surveys of the revised Project area.

With the conduct of further surveys of the revised Project area since February 2007, the little pied bat has not been located. Consequently, it has not been dealt in the ecological assessments for the revised Project.

Areas of habitat for the little pied bat will be retained across the revised Project area and will continue to be available for the species.

**Painted Honeyeater**

The painted honeyeater was observed on one occasion along Lagoon Creek during surveys conducted in February 2007. It had not been observed during surveys conducted prior to 2007. The painted honeyeater has not been recorded during the ecology surveys of the revised Project area undertaken since this time. A dedicated bird survey was undertaken in late October and early November 2014. The bird survey comprised 146 hours of survey effort, over a seven day period, across the revised Project area. The period coincided with the breeding season of the painted honeyeater, of October to March. The painted honeyeater was not observed during this or other ecology surveys of the revised Project area.

The sighting of the painted honeyeater was made along Lagoon Creek, where it was seen in riparian habitat. Vegetation and habitat along Lagoon Creek comprises scattered remnants of vegetation, as either small clumps or scattered individual trees. These potential areas of habitat and vegetation suitable for use by the painted

honeyeater for feeding will continue to be available to the species, with the development of the revised Project. Consequently, while areas suitable for foraging will be removed for the revised Project, areas of suitable habitat will be retained and enhanced, especially along Lagoon Creek and outside the mine pits (refer to the Conservation Zone Management Plan).

Retention and enhancement of potential habitat outside the disturbance footprint will continue to be available to the species.

With the conduct of further surveys of the revised Project area since February 2007, the painted honeyeater has not been located. Consequently, it has not been dealt in the ecological assessments for the revised Project.

## 4.8 Revised BOS

The disturbance footprint for the mining lease (MLA50232), infrastructure lease (Rail) and off-lease (roads) are best described in Section 5.1.2.4 of the AEIS.

The total footprint for the revised Project is estimated at 1,815 ha, a reduction of 215 ha than that reported in the draft EIS of 2,030ha. The total footprint of 1,815 ha can further be defined as 1,466 ha on the new MLA 50232, 250 ha on the existing ML areas, and 99 ha for off-lease road and rail infrastructure which is partly on existing transport easements.

The BOS that refers to 2027ha is incorrect and includes a duplication that was removed and described in Table 5.1.2-A of the AEIS.

The current version of the BOS does not discuss the disturbance footprint of the project or the area of MLs, as was shown in Section 3.1 of Appendix M of the AEIS. This was removed from the version of the BOS, as the description of the total disturbance footprint didn't relate specifically to the offset strategy.

## 4.9 Disturbance Footprint

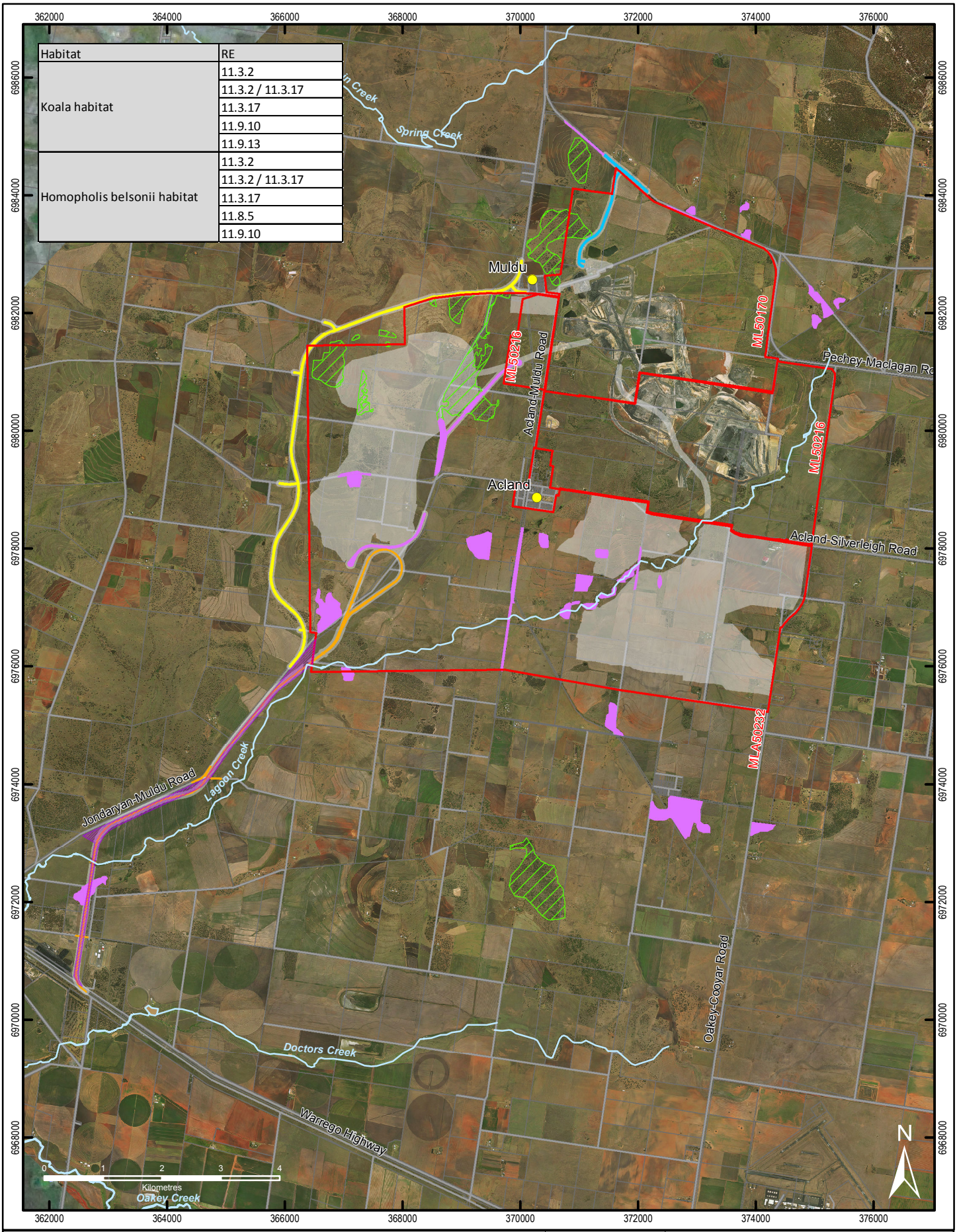
The area of non-remnant/high value regrowth vegetation within the disturbance footprint of the revised Project is 2.8 ha. This area has been calculated using the high value regrowth data from the DERM, Version 2.1.

## 4.10 Specific Comments and Recommendations Biodiversity

The area of impact to matters of State environmental significance is listed in **Table H4** (for completeness this table is shown in **Table 4.2**) of the *Recommended conditions for an amended environmental authority for the New Acland mining operations (Stage 3) issued under the Environmental Protection Act 1994* (EA Conditions V3).

The areas of impact to endangered and of concern regional ecosystems are consistent with those included in the revised Project's Biodiversity Offset Strategy. The BOS has also been amended to remove reference to *Digitaria porrecta*, which does need to be offset under the *Queensland Environmental Offset Act 2014*, due it's listing as near threatened, under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992,* and consequently is not a matter of State environmental significance. The amended BOS is provided in **Appendix A** of this Project Memorandum.

**Figure 1** illustrates the location of matters of state environmental significance within the revised Project area.




**LEGEND**

- Towns and Localities
- Roads
- Creeks
- Internal Haulage Road
- Revised Access to Mine
- Revised Jondaryan-Muldu Road Diversion
- Revised Rail Spur and Balloon Loop Alignment
- Cadastre
- Mining Tenements
- Homopholis belsonii habitat
- Koala habitat
- Infrastructure Mining Lease

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**NEW ACLAND COAL MINE STAGE 3 PROJECT**

**Figure 1 - Habitat Mapping**

Scale 1:85,000 on A4
Projection: Australian Geodetic Datum – Zone 56 (AGD84)

Produced: 12/12/2014 Path: I:\QENV2\Projects\QE06644\Spatial\ArcGIS\01_Figures\04_AEIS_Enviro_Authority\141212_NewHope_ECOLOGY_Figure1_HabitatMapping.mxd

## 4.11 Coolibah Black Box woodlands

The Coolibah - Black Box Woodlands of the Darling Riverine Plains and the Brigalow Belt South Bioregions was listed as a threatened ecological community on 1 March 2011, after the project was determined to be a controlled action. As a result, the MNES assessment for the project does not need to assess the impact of the project on this community.

From the survey work undertaken for the project, the regional ecosystems that comprise this threatened ecological community (RE 11.3.3, RE 11.3.15, RE 11.3.16, RE 11.3.28, RE 11.3.37) are not present within the revised Project site, and so the revised Project will not have an impact on this threatened ecological community.

# 5. Social

## 5.1 Road Closures

**1a As part of the finalisation of the AEIS and the preparation of the CG Report this issue needs to be addressed with clear mitigation and management strategies in place that are included in New Acland's commitment register and can be clearly referenced in the CG Report.**

**Issue 1: Additional fuel and running costs associated with closures**

The mitigation and management strategies considered as part of the change of travel distances did not include cost but the most direct route to minimise travel distances. Refer to **Section 5.1.6.2** and **Section 5.1.6.3** of the AEIS for the additional travel distances. It should be noted that the majority of affected landholders have a relatively small change in travel distances. The furthest additional travel distance (31 km) route is for one landholder located within Acland accessing Jondaryan-Muldu Road.

**Issue 2: Inconvenience for having to travel additional distances**
**Section 5.1.6.2** and **Section 5.1.6.3** of the AEIS provide a detailed description of additional travel distances for affected landholders within close proximity to the revised Project site. The majority of affected landholders will have to travel an additional 0 km to 19 km to access properties located within the key road network. The furthest additional travel distance (31 km) route is for one concerned landholder located within Acland accessing Jondaryan-Muldu Road.

**Issue 3: Additional travelling time incurred**

**Section 5.1.6.2** and **Section 5.1.6.3** of the AEIS submission provides a detailed description of additional travel distances for key affected landholders within close proximity of the revised Project site.

**Issue 4: Loss of direct access across the region**

Access across this region has not been lost but has been redirected via key routes which are as follows:

- North – south access via the realigned Jondaryan Muldu-Road;
- Access to Acland township via Oakay Cooyar Rd - Acland Sabine Road; and
- East- west access will be maintained via Warrego Highway or Peachey-Maclagan Road.

**Issue 5: Potential road safety issues**

Expected road impacts and safety issues related to the proposed closures will be addressed in the detailed design phase within the Road Use Management Plan (RMP) and the Traffic Management Plans (TMP) reports that will be submitted to DTMR and TRC when the project execution contracts have been awarded.

**Issue 6: Will this commitment result in the road being fully sealed from Acland to the intersection with the Oakey Cooyar Road**

The proposed key access road to Acland is via Acland-Sabine Road. New Hope is committed to fully seal the key access route (Acland Sabine-Road).

**Issue 7: What is the timing for the completion of this work to minimise the impacts on residents accessing Acland.**

Construction schedules and methods will be addressed in detail within the the RMP and the TMP reports that will be submitted to DTMR and TRC when the project execution contracts have been awarded. However, it is envisaged that the upgrade works along Acland-Sabine Road will be undertaken first prior to any road closures to ensure that access to Acland township is maintained at all times and the impacts are minimised.

**Issue 8: What mitigation will be considered for the following direct impacts (east – west movement, south west to north east movements, Acland township to north west/south west and School bus pick up routes)**

**Section 13.13** of the draft EIS provides a list of proposed mitigation measures for both the construction and operation phase.

Detailed mitigation measures and strategies related to the impact of the proposed road closures and diversions will be outlined within the RMP and the TMP documents which will be undertaken when the project execution contracts have been awarded. These documents will be submitted to DTMR and TRC for approval.

On-site (the relevant roads), provisions of advance notice and clear signage of changes in traffic conditions will be in place to warn road users of the proposed road closures and diversions.

*School Bus Route*

The school bus route that will be affected is S24 Quinalow to Oakey State High School. NHG has consulted with the operator of this route, Lawries Transport, on 14 and 15 July 2014 and confirmed that the proposed road changes will not have any adverse impacts on his operation.

Further engagement with Queensland Transport on the school bus route has indicated that, an alternative route will not be decided until a) the revised Project is approved, and b) the Department has time to assess the application. The Department's feedback was that they are unlikely to make changes until the road closures are applied for. It is also considered likely that the students living along the Acland Sabine Road would meet the bus at the Oakey-Cooyar Road. In this case, the other students on the bus would travel up the Oakey-Cooyar Road, instead of through Acland, which isn't expected increase the travelling distance. As per standard practice, Acland-Sabine road families more than 1 km from the bus stop would be entitled to apply for a subsidy for getting students to the new bus stop.

**Issue 9: Strategies to better manage, mitigate or provide alternatives that reduce road closure impacts on residents**

Detailed mitigation measures and strategies related to the impact of the proposed road closures and diversions will be outlined within the RMP and the TMP documents which will be undertaken when the Project execution contracts have been awarded. These documents will be submitted to DTMR and TRC for approval.

On-site (the relevant roads), provisions of advance notice and clear signage of changes in traffic conditions will be in place to warn road users of the proposed road closures and diversions.

**Issue 10: Consideration needs to be given to a west east / east west route that minimises the impacts for affected residents**

The key direct routes proposed across the region are suitable for general traffic. Minor roads providing access to farming properties would not be safe for general traffic. Childs Road is an unsealed dirt road that provides property access to the neighbouring farming property. The intersection of Childs Road and Jondaryan-Muldu Road will be realigned to accommodate a grade level crossing. This road is not suitable as the key access road for general traffic to access Acland. Therefore, the proposed travel route assessment undertaken does not include Childs Road as a key access route to Acland.

Note: As outlined above, NHG is committed to sealing Acland-Sabine Road as it is proposed to be the key route to Acland.

## 5.2 Community Reference Group/Community Information Sessions/Community newsletters.

**2a Does the Community Reference Group still meet.**

The Community Reference Group (CRG) meetings have/or will, take place in the 2014 calendar year during February, March, April, May, July, September, October, November, and possibly December. CRG members have the discretion to hold meetings every second month during periods of high commitments, such as during school holidays.

**2b Have these meetings taken place monthly since May 2014.**

CRG meetings have taken place as per the annual schedule in May, July and September. Next meetings will be held in October, November, and possibly December.

**2c Are the minutes available to view.**

Meeting minutes are available on the New Acland website. CRG members review the minutes at the forward meeting before the minutes are placed on the website, therefore minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2014 are yet to be endorsed and uploaded.

**2d Can you clarify if any further session have been carried out or are being undertaken as part of the AEIS public review period.**

The AEIS has been discussed at the September CRG meeting as part of NHG's ongoing engagement with the community. The CRG comprises the following representatives of the community:

| Name | Affiliation | Representing |
|---|---|---|
| Barry Mason | Retired Farmer, neighbour of the mine | Agriculture/Farming<br>Neighbours<br>Acland region |
| Sarah Due | South East Regional Manager, AgForce Queensland | Agriculture/Farming |
| Andrew Langton | President, Oakey Chamber of Commerce<br>Various Oakey community groups | Business<br>Oakey community |
| Matthew Boyd | Director of Nursing/Facility Manager, Oakey Hospital | Health |
| Cr Nancy Sommerfield | Councillor, Toowoomba Regional Council | Toowoomba Regional Council |
| Jodie Collins | Chairperson, Oakey Reconciliation Committee | Indigenous<br>Oakey Community |
| Lindsay Evans | Farmer<br>Various Jondaryan community groups | Agriculture/Farming<br>Jondaryan community |
| Graham Cooke | Farmer<br>Rural Fire Brigade<br>Landcare<br>Various Jondaryan community groups | Agriculture/Farming<br>Neighbours<br>Jondaryan community<br>Emergency Service<br>Environment |
| Victoria Menkins | Farmer and Business owner | Rural Business<br>Northern Communities e.g. Quinalow, Maclagan, Goombungee, Kulpi etc. |
| Glenys Bowtell | Project Coordinator, South Myall Catchment Landcare Group | Environment<br>Northern Communities e.g. Quinalow, Maclagan, Goombungee, Kulpi etc. |
| Tracey Tully | Principal, Oakey State High School | Education |

The NHG Community Information Centre in Oakey has been operating extended opening hours during this period with two dedicated Community Liaison Officers available to discuss any aspect of the AEIS.

Further to this, neighbours of the Mine have been personally contacted and offered free printed copies and electronic copies of the AEIS. Many are also currently receiving personal visits from NHG staff.

A number of community information sessions are forthcoming as per commitments contained within the AEIS. These include:

- A session presenting and allowing for comment on the Acland Management Plan and road access around Acland;
- A session in Jondaryan providing further comment to residents about the activities to take place at the JRLF, followed by regular visits by community staff through operation and decommissioning of the JRLF; and
- Yearly community information sessions for landholders in the area around the Mine.

**2e As these are available every quarter is there one for June 2014 and if so when do expect it to be available on the website. Are you expecting that there will there be a newsletter for October 2014?**

The mid-year edition of the Acland Community Newsletter was delayed due to unavoidable resourcing issues and subsequent attempts to capture relevant and up-to-date information. This edition is currently being distributed via Australia Post. A further newsletter is currently under development for release in December 2014.

## 5.3 Jondaryan Rail Load Out Facility

**3a Given the concerns expressed by residents in relation to air quality, noise, dust and associated consultation process what consultation and engagement strategies have been employed by NAC to inform residents and the general community of this change in work practice.**

The EA amendment application at Jondaryan is not a change in work practice because 5.2 Mtpa throughput was previously authorised until 31 December 2012 and 4.9 Mtpa throughput was authorised from 1 January 2013 until 31 December 2013. The EA amendment is a request to extend the 5.2Mtpa throughput until the relocation of the JRLF.

NAC is aware of concerns expressed by residents and in response to these concerns, as part of the amendment application, has requested to reduce the stockpile capacity from 600,000 tonnes to 250,000 tonnes.

This EA amendment application is subject to a separate approval process and NAC will engage with key stakeholders through its existing consultation processes and forums.

NAC has also publically committed in **Section 1.4.3** and **5.1.4.1** of the AEIS not to increase throughput at the JRLF above 5.2 Mtpa.

## 5.4 Acland War Memorial

**4a Although partial abandonment of the MLA has removed the Acland War Memorial from the application, please advise whether it is still the intension for TRC to acquire the public land and maintain the public facilities. It is unclear in the AEIS what NACs intentions are. The War Memorial is still noted in relevant commitments as well as the Acland Management Plan. These would need to be revised if the park was to remain in the hands of council.**

In 2011, NHG, through its Acland Pastoral Company, paid the former Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management for the purchase of an area of State Land, which includes the Tom Doherty Park in Acland. As a result, NHG has a Purchase Agreement in place (and has already paid for the purchase) that would be enacted on the grant of the proposed Mining Lease for the revised Project.

The retention of Acland, including the Tom Doherty Park, is a key commitment of the revised Project. The recent official removal of Acland from the Mining Lease Area for the revised Project, demonstrates that NHG is serious about fulfilling this commitment.

As part of the AEIS supplied to the Coordinator-General for the revised Project's Environmental Impact Statement, NHG has outlined an Acland Management Plan, which includes maintenance and management initiatives for the Tom Doherty Park. Consultation activities, including a public engagement session, are being rolled out to ensure that locals are able to provide feedback on not only the Park, but road access around the Acland area.

## 5.5 Community Consultation

NHG acknowledges that consultation, engagement and information provision on Stages 1 and 2 of NAC needed to be improved. Additionally, NHG acknowledges feedback from the community and understands that legacy issues still exist from this earlier period of operation.

Since 2011, NHG has been committed to significantly improving community engagement and communication activities in the Acland area. Implementation of these commitments includes:

- Establishment of a Corporate Affairs department within NHG including specific community and communications functions;
- Employment of two Community Liaison Officers who are based in the Acland district;
- Establishment of a Community Information Centre in Oakey;
- Establishment of a New Acland Community Reference Group (CRG);
- Establishment of a Community Investment Fund and refining of the Community Sponsorship and Donations Program;
- Employment of two communications professionals to develop communications collateral, including media releases, newsletters, stakeholder letters, fact sheets, posters, advertisements etc.; and
- Redevelopment of the NHG and New Acland Project websites.

During the development of the EIS and AEIS, a more specific suite of consultation programs, including a schedule for regular landholder engagement was developed. Initially this included meeting with landholders and neighbours of the Mine to discuss the revised Project and any concerns the landholders may have. This occurred following the release of the Terms of Reference (ToR).

Since then, NHG has continued to enhance and implement the revised Project's consultation and engagement plans and processes. A particular focus has been on meeting and having regular discussions with potentially affected landholders. During these discussions, landholders are provided with a range of information, including when they can expect to hear from NHG going forward. Landholders who are closest and most likely to be affected have had multiple discussions with NHG representatives. NHG is continuing to organise meetings with landholders who are further from the Mine or who have a low likelihood of impact.

As part of enhanced consultation and engagement process for the revised Project, landholders in the vicinity of the revised Project have been divided into three tiers, dependent upon potential impacts, location, and interest in the operation.

The AEIS outlines a schedule of consultation and engagement mechanisms that will be undertaken for each tier. NHG also recognises that landholders may have specific requests regarding engagement. Should a landholder have further requests regarding consultations, NHG is happy to discuss developing a more tailored program specific to their property.

All landholders will also receive information on the consultation process relating to the revised Project via the following means:

1. Stakeholder Letter (see **Appendix B**). This will be dispatched to all three tiers of landholders in November 2014. The letter outlines the communication and consultation that the landholder can expect in relation to environmental factors e.g. noise, dust and groundwater, relating to the property.
2. Acland Community Newsletter. The December edition of the Acland Community Newsletter will contain a story outlining the enhanced engagement and consultation program.
3. Media Release.
4. New Hope Community Information Centre:
    - Fact Sheet; and

- Posters.

## 5.6 Consultation and Engagement

To better understand the status of its community consultation for the revised Project, NHG commissioned an independent third party review of its consultation practices and strategies. This key action was undertaken to benchmark the NHG's consultation against industry standards and to identify opportunities for improvement.

In summary, the review reported that the common communication and engagement mechanisms employed by major coal projects of comparative scale include:

- a comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan;
- regular landholder and near neighbour engagement;
- regular liaison and presentations to Council;
- an established community grievance mechanism;
- information strategies including a Community Hotline and email account, a Project website, and a regular newsletter;
- a Community Consultative Committee;
- complaints and issues resolution procedures;
- project participation in community events and forums;
- mine site tours / open days;
- stakeholder engagement and / or partnership on relevant mitigation strategies and, in some cases, community involvement in monitoring activities.

Importantly, it identified that the NHG has offered all of the above engagement mechanisms listed, and surpassed the other projects in relation to:

- the level of community access provided through the Community Information Office;
- the level of staffing provided through the Community Liaison function;
- the detail provided in relation to landholder engagement; and
- provision of specific strategies to address concerns such as air quality monitoring, the Acland Management Plan and health concerns.

## 5.7 Workforce numbers

No change is anticipated in predicted workforce numbers provided as part of the EIS, irrespective of fluctuations in market conditions or trials involving new equipment at the Mine.

## 5.8 CRG

In 2012, NHG engaged the services of a professional consultancy firm to assist in the establishment of the CRG. This engagement included oversight of the development of a ToR to provide governance to the process and assist with the ongoing management of the CRG.

The community was notified of the impending establishment of the CRG in 2012, along with an invitation for membership. Information was disseminated through the local media via advertisements, media statements, through the New Hope Community Information Centre in Oakey and via email to local community and stakeholder groups. A total of twelve applications were received through this process representing a broad cross section of community interests. All twelve applicants were accepted and formed part of the membership of the inaugural CRG.

Discussions with the first term of the CRG recognised the importance of a Jondaryan representative on the group. The group approved an amendment to the ToR for the first term, to include thirteen members if a Jondaryan representative could be found (see **Appendix C**). As there were no applications from Jondaryan in the initial application period, NHG did a second recruitment round specifically looking for a representative from the Jondaryan community (see **Appendix D**).

It should be noted that the Oakey Coal Action Alliance (OCAA) directly approached individual members of the CRG during the first term of the CRG. In order to engage with the OCAA, understand their concerns and work together for the good of the community, the CRG invited the OCAA to attend and present to the membership. This invitation was refused by the OCAA.

An evaluation of the CRG by both NHG and CRG members, determined that the CRG should have an increased 'community' focus'. To achieve this, the following actions were implemented:

- Increased efforts to promote the group in the community. This resulted in 24 applications for the second term of the CRG, most of which were from local communities, rather than the wider TRC region.
- An increase in representation from communities surrounding the mine. The most recent CRG comprised eleven members – nine who live or work in local communities e.g. Oakey, Jondaryan, and two who live in Toowoomba (a TRC councillor and an Agforce representative). One position was kept open for a possible Goombungee representative.
- Transition from an independent facilitator, to an elected Chairperson from the CRG members. The current Chairperson is a landholder from the region who represents Jondaryan, emergency services and local landholders.
- Updates to the ToR to reflect the changed focus of the CRG.
- Changes to the meeting format and agenda, which now includes a general information sharing component, where members have the opportunity to provide the group with a general update about their representative area (this may or may not be related to NAC).

Recruitment of CRG members for the second term followed the following process:

1. Widely advertised the application period (including the role of the CRG). Advertisements through:
    - The Oakey Champion newspaper;
    - Notices on public noticeboards in Oakey and Jondaryan; and
    - Email notification to a wide range of local stakeholders, including TRC's Community Liaison Officers, who distributed the information to their local networks.
2. Review of applications for eligibility and representative groups.
3. Phone discussions with applicants who were unknown to NHG by the Mine General Manager and Senior Community Advisor.
4. Appointment of members based on broad cross section of community representation. Members may represent more than one section of the community. For the second term of the CRG, this included representatives from:
    - Education;
    - Indigenous representation body;
    - Environment;
    - Emergency Services;
    - Health;
    - Agriculture;
    - Local landholders;
    - TRC;
    - Business
    - Jondaryan;
    - Oakey;
    - Northern communities e.g. Kulpi, Maclagan, Quinalow; and

- Goombungee (NB: there were no applicants from Goombungee for term two of the CRG, as such a position was left open).

The application process for the third term of the CRG is currently underway and is following a similar course to the one outlined above. **Appendix E, Appendix F and Appendix G** provide a range of resources relating to the CRG including advertisements, meeting agendas and meeting minutes.

## 5.9 Community Complaint and Dispute Resolution Mechanism

NAC holds ultimate responsibility for issues relating to the revised Project. This is the case currently and will continue for the life of the revised Project.

## 5.10 Mental Health

Increased attention on mental health was addressed as part of the AEIS. This assessment involved additional interviews and input from the senior staff at the Oakey hospital, along with a well-respected, long term local doctor in the Oakey township.

The following extract from **Section 5.1.8.2** of the AEIS is included below for clarity around mental health investigations relating to the revised Project.

**Mental Health**

The World Health Organisation defines mental health as "a state of well-being in which every individual realizes his or her own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to her or his community" (http://www.who.int/features/factfiles/mental_health/en/).

On the evidence of the health providers consulted, the Oakey Hospital catchment does not have a higher than average prevalence of mental health issues beyond what would be expected in an ageing community with areas of low socio-economic status. Incidences of depression related to drought have been seen in the region, and youth suicide has been an issue of concern. Neither the Manager nor the DON were aware of any incidences of depression or mental illness relating to Acland or changes to the area.

Similarly, there were no elevated levels of affective disorders such as depression or mental health issues in the region. However, the Manager had spoken with patients from the Oakey area who were anxious about the potential for the Mine to encroach upon Oakey. The Manager also noted that some local residents were concerned or anxious about changes to the local area, however these concerns did not present as requiring a mental health or other diagnosis.

There is some vulnerability to depression resulting from drought and the hardships it has brought to families in the region. A 2009 study by the Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) found that areas that were currently in drought had almost twice the rate of mental health problems than in areas that had not been in drought in the last 3 years (AIFS, 2009). The potential for 'solastalgia' was raised by Private Submitters. Solastalgia is defined as *'a feeling of chronic distress caused by negatively perceived changes to a home and its landscape'* (Albrecht, 2012).

In SIA terms, solastalgia would reflect distress about changes to 'sense of place'. De Wit's definition of 'sense of place' includes the human experience of place, beliefs, perceptions, and attitudes held toward a place, and residents' conscious and unconscious attachments to place (De Wit, 2012).

Residents' sense of place in the district around Acland has a strong relationship to rural uses, village life with access to regional centres, and the area's heritage, including its agricultural and mining heritage. Sense of place in Acland has changed since properties were acquired by APC, in that the number of houses and other buildings has decreased. In addition, aspects of Acland's landscape have changed. The loss of residents and businesses was already occurring (with just 100 people counted in Acland in 2001, down from more than 300 during the 1940's and 1950's).

People who were attached to the area and who derived a sense of wellbeing from living in Acland are likely to have experienced a significant change in their sense of place, and for some, this led to a sense of loss and distress. Neighbouring residents who will be able to see the revised Project from their properties and those who will travel past are likely to find their sense of place affected in that the locality's landscape has changed.

Sense of place is highly subjective – local people who see the revised Project as incongruent with their rural or environmental values will feel their sense of place has been diminished, whereas others who derive personal and business income from the revised Project may have a different perspective. Changes to the physical and social environment in the Acland area over the past 10 years have been substantial. NAC acknowledges that these changes have distressed some residents who felt connected to the area, and valued its former attributes.

Health service providers did not identify any presentations by patients in relation to solastalgia or other mental health issues related to NAC. In recognition of community concerns about the loss of Acland's sense of place, NAC committed as part of the revised Project to avoid annexing the town and to maintain its services. The AMP presented in **Appendix I** of the AEIS) includes commitments to protect and enhance the Acland area.

In summary:

- There is no epidemiological evidence, and no evidence from the experience of the local hospital and general practice, which would indicate health issues are being caused by NAC, or would be expected to result from the revised Project.
- NAC has instituted veneering of coal trains, has committed to the relocation of the JRLF, consultation with residents living closest to the mine, and has committed to an adaptive management approach for air quality and noise. For additional information on these matters, please refer to **Section 5.1.3** of the AEIS.

Longer term residents who valued the rural landscape over mining, or who find the changes to Acland unacceptable, are likely to feel their sense of place will be diminished by the revised Project, whilst other residents who are employed by NAC or will derive other benefits from the revised Project may view it as important to the ongoing well-being of the area. NAC is implementing the commitments in the AMP to ensure aspects valued by the local and regional community are preserved.

## 5.11 Acland- Sabine Road

NAC is happy to include an additional commitment for the revised Project that states the following.

"NAC will ensure that the planned upgrade of the Acland-Sabine Road is completed before any of the current access roads to Acland Township are closed for the revised Project (i.e. to guarantee continuity of access to Acland Township at all times)."

Commitment 343 of the Commitments Register for the revised Project has been updated, and is provided in **Appendix H** of this Project Memorandum**.**

## 5.12 Enhanced Consultation and Engagement Process

Enhanced consultation and engagement initiatives have been undertaken by NAC during the current stage of the operation. Continuous improvement means that refinement of the process will be ongoing.

Two Community Engagement sessions are planned before the end of the year which will be specifically focused on areas of concern following both the EIS and AEIS submission process. Proposed dates for upcoming engagement sessions:

- Acland Township and road access: Wednesday 26th November 2014; and
- Jondaryan Rail Loading Facility: Thursday 27th November 2014.

Private/individual sessions have been taking place regularly through landholder meetings, at which, information relating to submissions have been addressed. Landholder meetings to date have focused on High Priority (Tier 1) landholders with multiple conversations having occurred with each of these important stakeholders.

In addition to face to face meetings with high priority stakeholders, general information about submissions has been raised through a number of communication and engagement activities. Activities that took place between the closure of the EIS public comment period and the AEIS public comment period include:

- Landholders were contacted by telephone to offer an AEIS and discuss any relevant issues.
- Various engagements through community interactions and visits to the NHG Community Information Centre (see **Table 5-1**)

- 171 visitors attended public tours to New Acland mine during this period. Public tours were held on 21 February, 12 March, 23 May, 23 July and 1 October.
- NHG held an information and exhibition stall at Farmfest during this period – 3 to 5 June. The NHG stall attracted hundreds of visitors during the three days, and many discussions were held regarding the revised Project and the Mine's operations.
- Fortnightly columns on the back page of the Oakey Champion. Each column notifies of our contact details. Topics during this period included EIS Community Information Sessions, public tours, Community Information Centre opening hours, NHG honouring Acland commitments, revised Project latest news.
- Advertisements in The Oakey Champion (See **Appendix I)**.
- Media stories and letters to the editor relating to consultation (see **Appendix I**).
- Many other stories were published in the local newspapers during this period relating to the NHG and New Acland relating to the operations and activities of the Mine, and regarding NHG's community support and investment programs.
- Information Campaign: the latest instalment of the company's information campaign, on an issue relevant to submitters, water usage, also ran during this period. The segment appeared on WIN and Channel 7 Darling Downs during August and September and also appeared in the Toowoomba Chronicle, the Oakey Champion and the High Country Herald.

Table 5-1 Consultation from the 3rd of March (end of EIS public comment period) until the 29th September (end of AEIS comment period)

| Stakeholder Groups | Events |
|---|---|
| Outside of area | 222 |
| Neighbour | 150 |
| Potentially Affected Landholder | 112 |
| Protest Group | 75 |
| School/Education | 45 |
| EIS Submitter | 41 |
| Tenant/Lessee | 32 |
| Indirectly Affected (General Business) | 29 |
| Interest Group | 28 |
| Charity/Sponsorship | 25 |
| Media | 15 |
| Local | 12 |
| Peak Body | 11 |
| Supplier | 10 |
| Historical Group/Society | 8 |
| Local Council | 8 |
| Emergency Services | 8 |
| State | 7 |
| Landcare/Waterways Group | 7 |
| Recreational/Sport Group | 7 |
| Jondaryan Resident | 6 |
| Indirectly Affected (General Business) | 6 |
| Interest Group | 6 |
| Cultural Group | 6 |
| Oakey Resident | 5 |
| Other | 38 |

| | |
|---|---|
| [No Stakeholder Groups] | 11 |
| Total Event search | 663 |

## 5.13 Community Information Centre

The Community Information Centre operated extended trading hours during the AEIS public comment period. During the public comment period, the Centre was open from 9am till 5pm, Monday to Friday. Note: staff may have closed the centre for short periods during breaks.

When absent from the Centre, the contact telephone line diverts to the mobile of a community staff member's mobile number. During the public comment period, this ensured that community members could access staff or staff message banks at all hours, and that staff were able to respond to enquiries quickly. The community also had ongoing access to the 1800 number and community email.

Landholders were also contacted individually through the AEIS public comment period to offer a printed copy of the AEIS, information on the AEIS, and to discuss any issues relevant to either the revised Project or the current operations.

Two Community Engagement sessions are planned before the end of the year which will be specifically focused on areas of concerns following both the EIS and AEIS submission process. Proposed dates for upcoming engagement sessions:

- Acland Township and road access: Wednesday 26th November 2014; and
- Jondaryan Rail Loading Facility: Thursday 27th November 2014.

These engagement sessions will be advertised in local media and a stakeholder letter, specifically regarding consultation activities, will be sent to landholders and Jondaryan residents prior to the event.

# 6. Groundwater

Details regarding the number of private landholder bores potentially impacted by groundwater drawdown associated with the revised Project was provided in **Section 5.1.5.3** of the AEIS, and is repeated below for clarity.

**Table 5.1.5-A** and **Table 5.1.5-B** present predicted drawdown at all potentially affected DNRM-registered groundwater bores, where the source aquifer is known in the DNRM database. The tables exclude bores owned by the NHG through the Acland Pastoral Company (APC), and use a lower cut-off of 1m as this is the drawdown level at which there is sufficient confidence in the reliability of model predictions. Similarly, the provision of two tables (potentially affected bores; **Table 5.1.5 A**, and likely affected bores; **Table 5.1.5-B**) is based on the assessment of confidence in the reliability of model predictions. **Table 5.1.5-C** presents a summary of the impact predictions.

Table 5.1.5-A Potentially affected private bores with known source aquifer (median predicted drawdown between 1 and 2 m)

| Bore RN | Aquifer | Predicted Drawdown (m) | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Median (most likely) | Minimum (lower confidence level) | Maximum (upper confidence level) |
| 94343 | Tertiary Basalt | 1.5 | 0.1 | 3.4 |
| 94730 | Tertiary Basalt | 1.2 | 0.5 | 1.9 |
| 38704 | Tertiary Basalt | 1.1 | 0.5 | 2.0 |
| 48114 | Tertiary Basalt | 1.1 | 0.2 | 2.6 |
| 42231619 | Tertiary Basalt | 1.0 | 0.0 | 4.4 |
| 86634 | Walloon Coal Measures | 1.9 | 1.3 | 3.7 |

| Bore RN | Aquifer | Predicted Drawdown (m) | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Median (most likely) | Minimum (lower confidence level) | Maximum (upper confidence level) |
| 16464 | Walloon Coal Measures | 1.9 | 0.7 | 3.2 |
| 107795 | Walloon Coal Measures | 1.9 | 1.3 | 3.1 |
| 17179 | Walloon Coal Measures | 1.9 | 1.3 | 3.4 |
| 107083 | Walloon Coal Measures | 1.7 | 0.0 | 4.3 |
| 147260 | Walloon Coal Measures | 1.6 | 1.0 | 3.0 |
| 147262 | Walloon Coal Measures | 1.6 | 1.1 | 3.1 |
| 147259 | Walloon Coal Measures | 1.6 | 1.0 | 3.0 |
| 48110 | Walloon Coal Measures | 1.6 | 1.0 | 2.9 |
| 37159 | Walloon Coal Measures | 1.5 | 0.7 | 3.2 |
| 107378 | Walloon Coal Measures | 1.5 | 0.8 | 2.5 |
| 71436 | Walloon Coal Measures | 1.5 | 0.5 | 3.2 |
| 31016 | Walloon Coal Measures | 1.5 | 0.7 | 2.5 |
| 36991 | Walloon Coal Measures | 1.5 | 0.8 | 2.3 |
| 87765 | Walloon Coal Measures | 1.4 | 1.0 | 2.6 |
| 94627 | Walloon Coal Measures | 1.4 | 0.8 | 2.8 |
| 107883 | Walloon Coal Measures | 1.3 | 0.7 | 2.5 |
| 31898 | Walloon Coal Measures | 1.2 | 0.6 | 2.7 |
| 32979 | Walloon Coal Measures | 1.2 | 0.5 | 2.2 |
| 94924 | Walloon Coal Measures | 1.2 | 0.5 | 2.1 |
| 71409 | Walloon Coal Measures | 1.1 | 0.8 | 2.3 |
| 42231524 | Walloon Coal Measures | 1.0 | 0.5 | 2.4 |
| 38843 | Marburg Sandstone | 1.5 | 0.5 | 2.1 |
| 17389 | Marburg Sandstone | 1.2 | 0.3 | 2.4 |
| 55155 | Marburg Sandstone | 1.2 | 0.4 | 1.7 |
| 119138 | Marburg Sandstone | 1.1 | 0.4 | 1.9 |
| 147604 | Marburg Sandstone | 1.1 | 0.4 | 1.7 |
| 42231590 | Marburg Sandstone | 1.1 | 0.4 | 1.6 |
| 32885 | Marburg Sandstone | 1.1 | 0.4 | 1.8 |
| 48270 | Marburg Sandstone | 1.1 | 0.4 | 1.8 |
| 61183 | Marburg Sandstone | 1.0 | 0.3 | 2.1 |
| 71462 | Marburg Sandstone | 1.0 | 0.4 | 1.6 |

Table 5.1.5-B: Likely affected private bores with known source aquifer (median predicted drawdown > 2 m)

| Bore RN | Aquifer | Predicted Drawdown (m) | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Median (most likely) | Minimum (lower confidence level) | Maximum (upper confidence level) |
| 94285 | Tertiary Basalt | 10.4 | 1.3 | 13.9 |
| 94801 | Tertiary Basalt | 8.1 | 0.7 | 10.6 |
| 71247 | Tertiary Basalt | 5.4 | 1.5 | 7.3 |
| 94722 | Tertiary Basalt | 3.5 | 0.7 | 5.8 |
| 42231620 | Tertiary Basalt | 3.2 | 0.2 | 8.1 |
| 83426 | Tertiary Basalt | 3.1 | 0.6 | 5.3 |
| 48209 | Tertiary Basalt | 2.5 | 0.2 | 5.3 |
| 119022 | Tertiary Basalt | 2.5 | 0.7 | 4.3 |
| 42231618 | Tertiary Basalt | 2.4 | 0.0 | 6.0 |
| 83287 | Tertiary Basalt | 2.3 | 0.2 | 4.6 |
| 42231617 | Tertiary Basalt | 2.2 | 0.1 | 5.7 |
| 147526 | Tertiary Basalt | 2.1 | 0.2 | 4.6 |
| 17490 | Walloon Coal Measures | 21.0 | 19.0 | 25.1 |
| 17125 | Walloon Coal Measures | 16.5 | 11.8 | 19.4 |
| 87958 | Walloon Coal Measures | 9.8 | 7.8 | 12.0 |
| 87948 | Walloon Coal Measures | 9.3 | 7.3 | 11.4 |
| 87927 | Walloon Coal Measures | 5.8 | 3.8 | 8.1 |
| 55224 | Walloon Coal Measures | 5.8 | 4.4 | 7.6 |
| 9583 | Walloon Coal Measures | 3.9 | 3.0 | 5.6 |
| 87741 | Walloon Coal Measures | 3.7 | 2.0 | 5.2 |
| 48164 | Walloon Coal Measures | 3.4 | 2.6 | 4.8 |
| 42231622 | Walloon Coal Measures | 2.9 | 1.8 | 4.4 |
| 107882 | Walloon Coal Measures | 2.8 | 1.7 | 4.6 |
| 83742 | Walloon Coal Measures | 2.7 | 1.8 | 4.2 |
| 119581 | Walloon Coal Measures | 2.7 | 1.7 | 4.0 |
| 83238 | Walloon Coal Measures | 2.6 | 0.9 | 4.1 |
| 61545 | Walloon Coal Measures | 2.5 | 2.0 | 3.4 |
| 55126 | Walloon Coal Measures | 2.4 | 0.9 | 3.6 |
| 87646 | Walloon Coal Measures | 2.3 | 1.5 | 3.7 |
| 64254 | Walloon Coal Measures | 2.2 | 1.4 | 3.6 |
| 87379 | Walloon Coal Measures | 2.0 | 1.4 | 3.5 |
| 87941 | Marburg Sandstone | 5.2 | 1.0 | 7.2 |
| 64280 | Marburg Sandstone | 5.0 | 0.8 | 7.5 |
| 66782 | Marburg Sandstone | 4.1 | 0.7 | 6.0 |
| 9564 | Marburg Sandstone | 3.8 | 0.9 | 5.3 |
| 17180 | Marburg Sandstone | 3.3 | 0.7 | 4.5 |

| Bore RN | Aquifer | Predicted Drawdown (m) | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Median (most likely) | Minimum (lower confidence level) | Maximum (upper confidence level) |
| 64185 | Marburg Sandstone | 3.3 | 0.6 | 5.6 |
| 94997 | Marburg Sandstone | 2.3 | 0.7 | 3.5 |
| 52872 | Marburg Sandstone | 2.2 | 0.7 | 2.8 |
| 107386 | Marburg Sandstone | 2.1 | 0.6 | 3.0 |

**Table 5.1.5-C:Summary of potentially and likely affected private bores with known source aquifer (median predicted drawdown)**

| Aquifer | Number of Bores Likely Affected (>2 m drawdown, median case) | Number of Bores Potentially Affected (1-2 m drawdown, median case) |
|---|---|---|
| Tertiary Basalt | 12 | 5 |
| Walloon Coal Measures | 19 | 22 |
| Marburg Sandstone | 9 | 10 |

Within the potentially impacted groundwater drawdown zone (i.e. > 1m median predicted drawdown for any aquifer) there are 77 DNRM registered bores with known source aquifer and 109 DNRM registered bores with no aquifer information. These bores are located on properties owned by approximately 50 landholders. The majority of the 109 bores with no aquifer information were drilled between 1910 and 2000 resulting in limited information being collected by the administering authority.

Bores within the 1m predicted drawdown zone in the year 2030 may not necessarily be impacted or impaired. To determine if a bore is impaired, future monitoring and assessments need to be undertaken and the NHG will be required to undertake such assessments as part of the revised Project.

The 77 bores identified in **Table 5.1.5-C** are located on properties owned by 42 individual landholders; however, of these 42 landholders, it is predicted that very few bores may actually be impaired to a degree that requires Make Good. It is not possible to predict drawdown or potential impacts on the DNRM registered unknown aquifer bores (109) which are located on 27 landholder properties within the 1 m drawdown extent for the Walloon Coal Measures. These bores will be investigated as part of a baseline survey, as committed by the NHG. Presently, for a further 12 bores located within the 1m drawdown extent for the Walloon Coal Measures, ownership cannot be determined at the present time as no land parcel information is available in the DNRM database. In total, 69 landholders have bores that sit within the 1m drawdown extent for the Walloon Coal Measures, with up to a further 12 bore located on other landholder properties.

Bores owned by the NHG are not included in the above tables. There are 159 bores on APC property that are located within the predicted 50% percentile 1m Walloon Coal Measures drawdown contour in the year 2030.

# 7. Surface Water

## 7.1 Part A: Mine water usage

The Private Submitter has provided a summary of the sites historical water use. The data that informs this summary is sourced from publically available data from Toowoomba Regional Council's (TRC)'s website and summary descriptions in the draft EIS. The concern raised by the Private Submitter is that there is a discrepancy between the reported use of water from Wetalla Wastewater Reclamation Facility (WWRF) and that this discrepancy is due to additional take of water from groundwater bores.

NAC has reviewed site records of use of water from WWRF. The site records are consistent with those published on TRC's website with a difference of less than 1.55% this discrepancy is believed to be due to the difference in reporting dates and is not believed to be significant.

As stated in **Chapter 6** of the draft EIS – groundwater use at the Mine (pg 25), the WWRF pipeline established in 2010 has reduced has significantly reduced the Mine's reliance on the Helidon Sandstone and Marburg

Sandstone aquifers for industrial use. This fact is reflected in **Table 7-1** which illustrates the recorded bore water and use of water from the WWRF.

Table 7-1: Water Imported to Site (2008 to 2014)

| Water Year | NAC Bore Water Use (ML) | NAC Wetalla Use (ML) | Total Make Up Water Supplied to Site (ML) |
|---|---|---|---|
| July 2008 to June 2009 | 1,801 | N/A | 1,801 |
| July 2009 to June 2010 | 1,401 | 710 | 2,111 |
| July 2010 to June 2011 | 889 | 535 | 1,424 |
| July 2011 to June 2012 | 182 | 876 | 1,058 |
| July 2012 to June 2013 | 31 | 474 | 505 |
| July 2013 to June 2014 | 80 | 980 | 1,060 |

It is also noted that the values provided in **Table 5.17** of the draft EIS are averages only. Historical water use has differed from the average due to changes in production and changes in the availability of water on site. Changes to the availability of water on site are due to rainfall runoff as well as incidental groundwater inflows to the mine pits. In particular it is noted that significant rainfall events in January 2013 and to a lesser extent January 2011 have resulted in the capture of surface water runoff from mine affected areas which has been used to supplement the Mine's water demands.

For example in December 2010 and January 2011, during which the site water use from WWRF was at its lowest, Jondaryan received over 300 mm of rainfall (approximately half the yearly average). While the event itself (2 days, 10$^{th}$ to 11$^{th}$ of January) was likely to be in the order of a 1 in 10 to 1 in 20 Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP event) the cumulative rainfall totals over the one and two month period were significantly rarer. The predicted exceedance probabilities for cumulative rainfall events over 7, 14, 20, 30, 60, 100 and 120 day periods were calculated for 100+ year period of historical rainfall data recorded at the Jondaryan Post Office rainfall gauge. These totals are presented in **Table 7-2**. The results compared to the January 2011 event totals over the same number of days suggests that the total volume of rainfall that fell within the period surrounding and including January 2011 was in the order of a 1 in 75 to 1 in 200 AEP event. Given these rainfall totals the volume of surface water runoff from disturbed areas, is expected to have been sufficient to reduce the sites water take by up to 75% of the typical water use.

Table 7-2 Exceedance Probability of Cumulative Rainfall Totals

| AEP (1 in Y ) | Cumulative Rainfall (mm) | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 7 day | 14 day | 20 day | 30 day | 60 day | 100 day | 120 day |
| **Dec 10 and Jan 11 total** | **176** | **201** | **310** | **402** | **804** | **1542** | **1605** |
| 5 | 137 | 166 | 194 | 222 | 442 | 918 | 878 |
| 10 | 161 | 192 | 225 | 256 | 510 | 1069 | 1014 |
| 15 | **175** | **206** | 242 | 276 | 549 | 1154 | 1092 |
| 20 | 184 | 216 | 254 | 290 | 577 | 1214 | 1147 |
| 50 | 214 | 245 | 290 | 334 | 667 | 1400 | 1324 |
| 75 | 226 | 258 | **306** | 354 | 707 | 1481 | 1403 |
| 100 | 235 | 267 | 316 | 369 | 736 | **1538** | 1460 |
| 200 | 256 | 287 | 342 | **404** | **806** | 1676 | **1599** |
| 500 | 283 | 314 | 374 | 452 | 901 | 1857 | 1788 |
| 1000 | 303 | 333 | 398 | 489 | 975 | 1994 | 1935 |

As presented in **Chapter 6** of the draft EIS, for the revised Project, the Tertiary Basalt allocation will continue to be partially used as the main water source to be treated for potable water. The Helidon Sandstone and Marburg Sandstone allocations will be maintained for emergency water supply purposes, which will involve periodic pumping of the associated bores to ensure groundwater extraction infrastructure is functioning. The draft EIS also notes that the extraction from the Walloon Coal Measures will be as a result of incidental groundwater inflows into the mine pit and will continue to be used for dust suppression.

NAC intends to increase their historical water use from WWRF in line with that stated in the draft EIS. This will support NAC through increased production associated with the revised Project as well as to allow for periods of below average rainfall.

## 7.2 Part B: OCAA Oakey Brine Stream Questions

NAC possesses a 'Notice of Approval of Resource for Beneficial Use' under the Environmental Protection (Waste Management) Regulation 2000 for the taking of up to a maximum of a 150 ML per annum of brine water (waste water) from the TRC's Oakey Reverse Osmosis Plant. This approval was granted by the then Environmental Protection Agency (now Department of Environment and Heritage Protection or DEHP) during 2008. Any specific issues with NAC's approved beneficial re-use of a waste product should be taken with DEHP.

The approved 150 ML per annum of brine water is normally incorporated into the Coal Handling and Preparation Plant (CHPP)'s annual water supply requirements of approximately 5,300 ML per annum. The CHPP's water supply is mainly sourced from:

- the WWRF under agreement with the TRC (i.e. via NAC's Wetalla Pipeline);
- water captured on-site in the pit and other dams; and/or
- the recycling of water back from the active tailings storage facility.

The brine water is significantly diluted through its incorporation into the CHPP's water supply dams. The CHPP's water supply system is a closed system, and as a result, possesses an extremely small risk of potential discharge off-site. This fact is demonstrated by **Figure 3-27** of **Chapter 3** of the draft EIS.

More importantly, the supply of the brine water is dictated by the TRC's operation of the Oakey Reverse Osmosis Plant which ceased during late 2012. As a result, NAC has not received any brine water on-site for nearly two years. In the past, during operation of the Oakey Reverse Osmosis Plant, NAC has never received more than 100 ML per annum, which equates on average to 274 KL per day during the annual period.

NAC maintains its on-site infrastructure for the receipt of brine water and still possesses an agreement with the TRC for the taking of this water. For the record, it should be noted, that NAC's acceptance of the brine water has saved the TRC (and its rate payers) a significant cost by negating the need to construct and operate evaporation dams for the brine water at Oakey. Evaporation dams also possess a range of operational environmental issues, and from a liability perspective, are costly to decommission and rehabilitate. The removal of these issues demonstrates further benefits that result from NAC's acceptance of the brine water. NAC believes its use of the brine stream is a good example of a sustainable mining practice that benefits the local community.

# 8. Private Submitters 284 and 286

## 8.1 Part A: Monitoring at the Residence of Private Submitters 284 and 286

NAC disagrees with the Private Submitter's general comments in relation to environmental monitoring. NAC reiterates that dust deposition (nuisance based), surface water and $PM_{10}$ (health based) monitoring has been conducted on a regular basis since commencement of mining operations during 2002 and that no significant or non-compliant issues have been identified in relation to these environmental parameters at the house site referenced by the Private Submitter. In recent years, in response to various environmental concerns raised by the Private Submitter, NAC has expanded its monitoring network to a secondary house site at the same property (i.e. the Private Submitter's current residence).

NAC acknowledges that noise monitoring was erroneously included in the regular monitoring list and that the referenced house site has only been used for background level determination in the past. NAC is aware from recent discussions with the noise professional, who possesses a long history of monitoring around the Mine, that the referenced house site was not originally included in the regular noise monitoring schedule because of its very low risk of non-compliance. This reasoning is also supported by the noise modelling completed for the Mine and the revised Project.

In relation to groundwater, a pump test was conducted at the property's main bore during 2002 to establish the baseline conditions (i.e. as part of a Landholder Agreement between NAC and the Private Submitter's family). In addition, NAC undertook regular standing-water-level monitoring of the main bore from 2002 until 2006 when a review of the groundwater data identified that the Mine was unlikely to ever cause an adverse impact to the main bore. This decision was consistent with advice provided to NAC by the groundwater professional during the 2002 pump test of the main bore. The main bore is located in the Myall Creek Alluvium, which is a shallow

alluvial aquifer associated with Spring and Myall Creeks to the north and northwest of the Mine. NAC's current mining operations have never physically disturbed the Myall Creek Alluvium. Nor will the revised Project's mining operations ever physically disturb the Myall Creek Alluvium. Finally in relation to groundwater, the decision to cease groundwater monitoring at the property's main bore during 2006 is also supported by the groundwater modelling completed for the Mine and the revised Project.

All NAC's environmental monitoring is conducted by a suitably qualified person and in accordance with the applicable Australian or Queensland standards and/or guidelines. NAC ensures specialised monitoring, such as $PM_{10}$ (health based) monitoring, is conducted by an independent third party professional. To-date, NAC has commissioned SIMTARS to conduct its $PM_{10}$ (health based) monitoring (i.e.as a recognised government monitoring specialist). NAC's environmental monitoring regime is risk based and is conducted proactively to better understand the potential for adverse impacts to its near neighbours (i.e. as a management tool). NAC's environmental monitoring regime is also modified in response to concerns raised by its near neighbours. NAC's environmental monitoring is subject to periodic audits by the DEHP. NAC's existing environmental monitoring regime involves contemporary practices used across Australia's mining industry.

For the revised Project, NAC is elevating the key environmental areas of air quality, noise and groundwater management through the implementation of various leading practice initiatives. NAC has clearly highlighted this approach throughout the draft EIS and AEIS, and has provided its numerous environmental management plans in an open and transparent fashion to enable the public to better understand its level of commitment to environmental management for the revised Project.

### 8.2 Part B: Proximity to the Residence of Private Submitters 284 and 286

NAC believes the Private Submitter's assertions about the distance of the revised Project's mining operations from the house site referenced by the Private Submitter are irrelevant.

From a visual perspective, it can be observed (refer to **Figure 3-1** of **Chapter 3** of the draft EIS), that the revised Project's Manning Vale West, Manning Vale East and Willeroo Pits are generally to the south of the Mine's current mining operations (Stage 1 and Stage 2), and as previously explained, will continue to progress over the life of the revised Project in a southerly direction away from the house site referenced by the Private Submitter. Importantly, it should be noted, that the distance comparisons to the house site referenced by the Private Submitter are not considered to be significant in terms of the impact assessment process completed for the revised Project.

For example, NAC believes the Private Submitter's arguments in relation to this matter are irrelevant because all modelling completed for the revised Project's potential impacts has been based on the complete operational footprint and intensity plus a range of other interrelated factors (e.g. climatic conditions, sensitive receptor locations, etc.). As previously explained, the revised Project's modelling has failed to identify any significant impacts at the house site referenced by the Private Submitter, which repudiates any concerns about the distance of the house site referenced by the Private Submitter from the revised Project's proposed operations.

In addition, as part of its environmental approvals for the revised Project, NAC will have to comply with strict environmental limits for parameters, such as noise and air quality, at the house site referenced by the Private Submitter. As espoused throughout the draft EIS and AEIS, NAC will be employing leading practice environmental management for noise and air quality through the use of real-time monitoring, predictive forecasting and adaptive management. Please refer to **Appendices J.10** and **J.11** of the draft EIS for further information in relation to air quality and noise management, respectively, for the revised Project.

## 9. Tom Doherty Park

As previously advised, the NHG through its APC, in 2011 purchased the Tom Doherty Park under a Compensation Agreement with the TRC for Mining Lease Application 50232. As a part of the terms and conditions of the Compensation Agreement, an agreed price for the Tom Doherty Park has already been paid to the TRC with ownership to be transferred on grant of Mining Lease 50232. The Compensation Agreement is legally binding under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989*, and therefore, cannot be altered.

## 10. Feedlot

The APC possesses an intensive animal feedlotting approval issued by the former Queensland Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (now the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry) for the construction and operation of a 5000 standard cattle unit cattle feedlot, comprising 30

production pens with a total pen area of 9.18 hectares, at Balgowan Property, 123 Muldu-Plainview Road, Acland, Queensland, 4401. The intensive animal feedlotting approval also allows for the construction and operation of the feedlots supporting infrastructure that includes a controlled drainage area, a sediment basin, a holding pond, an effluent irrigation system, manure stockpiling and disposal, and carcass disposal.

A Site-based Environmental Management Plan (EM Plan) was prepared for the operational phase of the proposed feedlot and to support the original approval process for the intensive animal feedlot. The intensive animal feedlotting approval was also the subject of an Appeal process before the Planning and Environment Court, which was handed down in favour of the APC by Judge Dodds on 12 December 2007.

An extensive range of operational conditions have been set for the proposed feedlot by the intensive animal feedlotting approval. The Site-based EM Plan defines how the various conditions of approval will be addressed and how the key environmental matters will be managed to prevent adverse impacts to surrounding sensitive receptors.

NAC believes the revised Project and the feedlot proposal have been suitably conditioned at a level commensurate with the nature and scale of their activities. It should be noted that there is an appreciable difference in the nature and scale of each activity. For example, the revised Project will be significantly larger than the feedlot operations and will be largely mobile in nature in comparison to the feedlot which will remain stationery. Each activity will be required to comply with a set of environmental conditions specific to their operation that will authorise a defined level of environmental harm deemed appropriate by their respective Administering Authorities. NAC and the APC will ensure that appropriate environmental management actions are implemented to meet the requirements of their respective environmental approvals.

As specified by the Office of the Coordinator General, NAC has reviewed the final Terms of Reference for the revised Project in relation to Section 9 'Cumulative Impacts'. As a result, NAC does not believe the proposed feedlot at Balgowan is of sufficient scale to warrant its inclusion in the cumulative impact assessment process for the revised Project. Please note, a 5000 standard cattle unit cattle feedlot is not a large feedlot proposal.

NAC has re-reviewed the air quality modelling for the revised Project at the Private Submitter's residence. The modelling results demonstrate that the predicted levels for $PM_{10}$, $PM_{2.5}$ and dust deposition are well below the corresponding compliance limits over the life of the revised Project. This result is significant given the modelling was conservative in nature, but is not unexpected if you consider the general climatic patterns for the area and the location of the Private Submitter's residence in relation to the revised Project. **Section 9.3.4** of **Chapter 9** of the draft EIS provides further detail around the Acland area's climatic patterns.

Importantly, NAC believes if the proposed feedlot is managed in accordance with its Site-based EM Plan and the revised Project is managed in accordance with its Air Quality Management Plan, then the cumulative levels of $PM_{10}$, $PM_{2.5}$ and dust deposition at any point in time for the operation of both proposals will not exceed the corresponding compliance limits for these air quality parameters. This inference is supported by the conservative nature of the impact assessment processes completed for both proposals and the level of environmental management planned for each proposal.

In addition, NAC could employ real-time monitoring of $PM_{10}$, $PM_{2.5}$ or total suspended particulates at the Private Submitter's residence if both proposals were to operate in the future (i.e. based on agreement). Please note, the feedlot proposal is still subject to further feasibility work before construction and operation is approved by the NHG. NAC and the APC are happy to work with the Private Submitter in the future to address any legitimate concerns, particularly if both proposals are approved for operation.

# 11. Submission Issues

## 11.1 Agricultural Trends

Considering that the region has been used for agricultural activities for over 100 years, NHG considers that the reference material produced by Hooper et al. 2002 is a fair reflection of agricultural trends over the last decade.

## 11.2 BOM data sets

A summary table for evaporation rates used for the assessments at the final voids for the Mine (Stage 2) and the revised Project (Stage 3) is provided in **Table 11-1**. As indicated in the table, the rates used for Stage 2 and Stage 3 are for all practical purposes the same. The discrepancy between the two datasets is well within any

reasonable margin of error for the estimation of evaporation rates. Therefore, the use of either dataset over another has no material effect on the outcomes of the final void assessment.

Table 11-1 Summary of Evaporation Rates

| Item | Stage 2 (mm/yr) | Stage 3 (mm/yr) | Percent Difference |
|---|---|---|---|
| Uncorrected Pan Evaporation | 2003 | 2070 | 3% |
| Corrected Pan Evaporation | 1402 | 1450 | 3% |
| Average Annual Rainfall | 646 | 635 | -2% |
| Net Evaporation on Voids | 756 | 815 | 8% |

## 11.3 Assumptions used for GGEs

A submission has claimed the revised Project represents 1.6% of Queensland's greenhouse gas emissions. This fraction has been determined be comparing greenhouse gas emissions over the life of the project to Queensland's annual greenhouse gas emissions. This approach is incorrect.

Average annual greenhouse gas emissions from the operation of the revised Project represent 0.12% of Queensland's greenhouse gas emissions. The increase in greenhouse gas emissions above current operations of the Mine represents 0.04% of Queensland's greenhouse gas emissions.

# 12. Noise

## 12.1 Noise Attenuation

The current fleet attenuation costs will be approximately $12 million. This initiative has commenced with a program of exhaust muffler replacements, and the arrival of a new excavator with a noise attenuated package. In addition to this, the capital investment for the project includes $116 million for the replacement of the key mining equipment to attenuated models over the next 3 to 5 years as the existing equipment is replaced as part of their end of life replacements.

## 12.2 Real-time noise monitoring network

NHG committed to establishing a real-time noise monitoring network, which will be used in conjunction with a weather forecasting system and an adaptive management process, to proactively relocate, reduce or stop noisier mining operations.

The submission raises doubts on whether the use of a real-time noise monitoring system and adaptive management can assist in achieving compliance due to

- potential difficulties in identifying an exceedance; and
- practical constraints that may delay actions to "limit or stop" mining operations.

As discussed in the **Section 5.2.4.13** of the AEIS, NHG have implemented a trial TARP to manage noise from current operations at the Mine. In addition to the TARP, live trend observation and live audio monitoring have also been implemented (known as dashboard operation of noise monitoring). The dashboard operation allows intervention of equipment when trends indicate that compliance is unlikely to be achieved. The objective of these tools is to reduce the potential for observed nuisance and maintain compliance with the current noise objectives through a real-time monitoring program and the implementation of an adaptive management framework for noise emissions from the mining operations.

The monitoring component of the tools consists of:

- real-time noise monitoring undertaken at Acland;
- noise levels recorded and analysed every 10 minutes;
- analysis of low frequency noise levels (<600 Hz) and noise recordings to determine if there is a risk of mining operations resulting in an exceedance of the EA conditions; and
- isolation of source noise from an 'area of interest' (utilising the noise monitoring equipment's directional noise source capability.

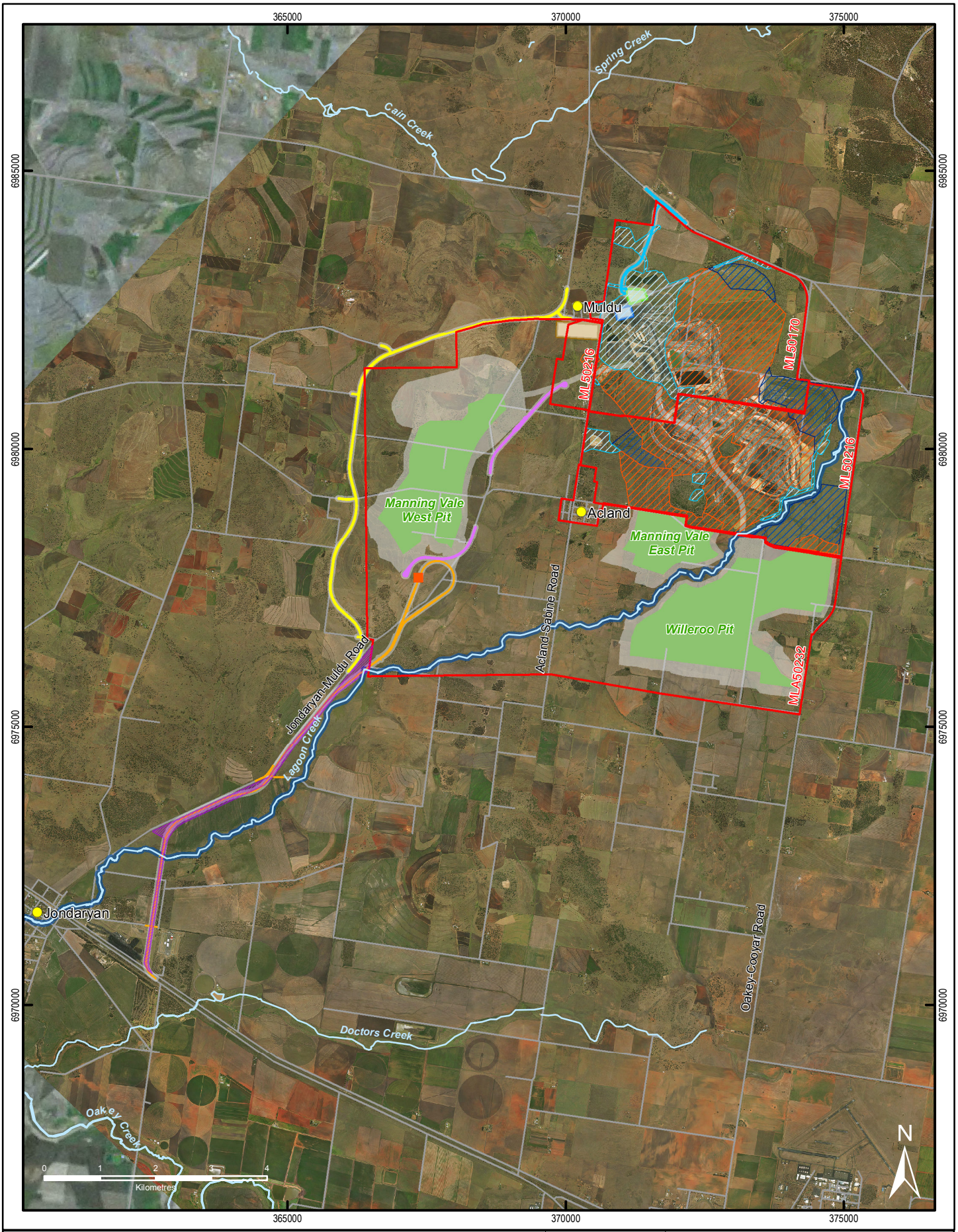
In the event that monitoring indicates noise levels from mining operations may exceed of the EA conditions, NAC undertake the following actions:

- communicate with operators to understand current operations and key sources of noise;
- adjust operations (e.g. shut down plan, move equipment, suspend operations) to reduce noise levels;
- determine if actions have reduced noise levels sufficiently to achieve compliance; and
- take further actions as required to achieve compliance.

# 13. Figure updates

**Figure 1** of this Project Memorandum illustrates the location of matters of state environmental significance within the revised Project area.

**Figure 1** and **Figure 2** of the EHP proposed conditions have been updated, and are provided below for completeness.




## LEGEND

- Towns and Localities
- Train Loadout Facility

**Revised Rail & Road Infrastructure**

- Internal Haulage Road
- Revised Access to Mine
- Revised Jondaryan-Muldu Road Diversion
- Revised Rail Spur and Balloon Loop Alignment
- Roads
- Creeks
- Mining Tenements
- Disturbance Footprint Area
- Stage 3 Pit Areas
- Infrastructure Mining Lease
- Watercourse Buffer

**Disturbance Areas - Stage 2**

- Mining Areas
- Other Surface Infrastructure Areas
- Out of Pit Dumping Areas

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# NEW ACLAND COAL MINE STAGE 3 PROJECT

## Figure 1 - Revised Project Overview Indicative Only

Scale 1:90,000 on A4

Projection: Australian Geodetic Datum – Zone 56 (AGD84)

Produced: 11/12/2014 Path: I:\QENV2\Projects\QE06644\Spatial\ArcGIS\01_Figures\04_AEIS_Enviro_Authority\EA\141205_NewHope_Figure1_RevisedProjectOverview.mxd


**LEGEND**

- Towns and Localities
- Existing Dam
- Proposed Dam
- Proposed Compliance Point
- Sample Site
- Roads
- Creeks
- Revised Rail Spur and Balloon Loop Alignment
- Jondaryan-Muldu Road Diversion
- Stage 3 Pit Areas
- Amended Mine Lease Boundary Application
- New Acland Coal Mine
- Infrastructure Mining Lease

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**NEW ACLAND COAL MINE STAGE 3 PROJECT**

**Figure 2 - Surface Water Monitoring Points**

Scale 1:55,000 on A4

Projection: Australian Geodetic Datum – Zone 56 (AGD84)

Produced: 26/11/2014 Path: I:\QENV2\Projects\QE06644\Spatial\ArcGIS\01_Figures\04_AEIS_Enviro_Authority\EA\141126_NewHope_Figure2_SurfaceWaterMonitoringPoints.mxd

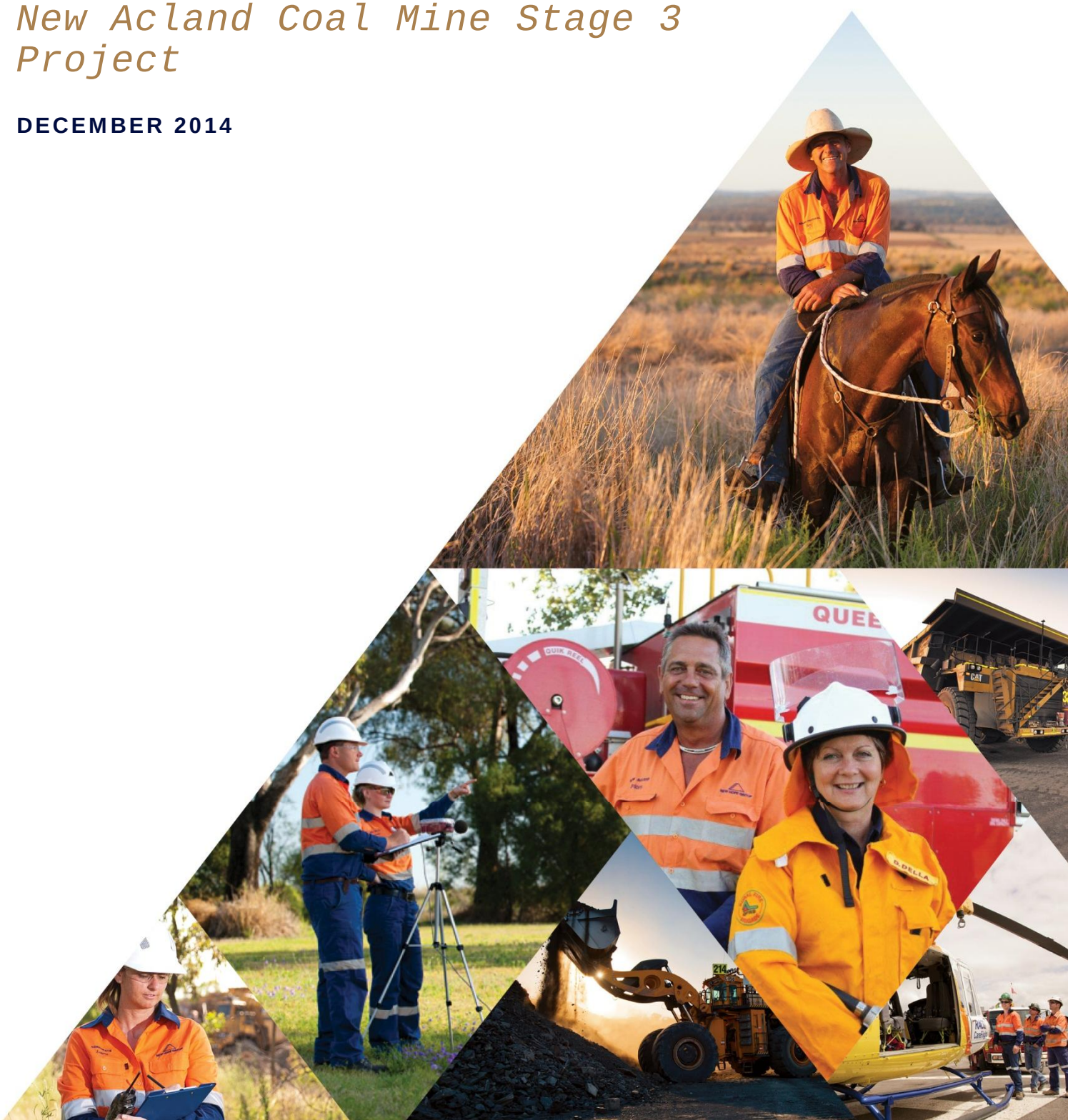
# Appendix A. BOS

NEW HOPE GROUP

# BIODIVERSITY OFFSET STRATEGY

*New Acland Coal Mine Stage 3 Project*

**DECEMBER 2014**



# Contents

# 1. Introduction

New Acland Coal Pty Ltd (NAC) has developed this Biodiversity Offset Strategy (the Strategy) in accordance with the Queensland Environmental Offsets Policy (Version 1.0) 2014 (QEOP) and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC) Environmental Offsets Policy 2012 (EOP), for the construction of the revised New Acland Stage 3 Project (the revised Project).

The Strategy discusses the State and Commonwealth offset requirements for the revised Project including:

- Policy requirements
- Offset approach
- Impacts on Matters of State environmental significance
- Impacts on Commonwealth threatened species and communities
- Proposed offsets for significant residual impacts on Matters of State environmental significance
- Proposed offsets for significant residual impacts on Commonwealth threatened species and communities
- Securing offsets
- Management of offsets

# 2. Policy Requirements

Two offset policies apply to the revised Project, at the State and Commonwealth levels. The offset requirements for the revised Project and each applicable policy have been assessed within this Strategy.

The offset policies to be considered for the revised Project are:

- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 Environmental Offset Policy 2012* (EPBC EOP)
- *Queensland Environmental Offsets Policy 2014* Version 1.0 (QEOP)

## 2.1. EPBC EOP

The following has been extracted from the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 Environmental Offset Policy 2012*.

The use of offsets to compensate for adverse impacts to heritage values is appropriate in some circumstances. In cases where offsetting of adverse impacts on heritage values is considered possible and appropriate, the principles of this policy apply with regard to determining what constitutes a suitable offset. Offsets for impacts on heritage values should improve the integrity and resilience of the heritage values of the property involved. This may include offsets in areas adjacent to the property.

The EPBC Act environmental offsets policy has five key aims, to:

1. ensure the efficient, effective, timely, transparent, proportionate, scientifically robust and reasonable use of offsets under the EPBC Act
2. provide proponents, the community and other stakeholders with greater certainty and guidance on how offsets are determined and when they may be considered under the EPBC Act
3. deliver improved environmental outcomes by consistently applying the policy
4. outline the appropriate nature and scale of offsets and how they are determined
5. provide guidance on acceptable delivery mechanisms for offsets.

## 2.2. QEOP

The main purpose of the Queensland *Environmental Offsets Act 2014* is to counterbalance the significant residual impacts of particular activities on prescribed environmental matters through the use of environmental offsets.

The supporting QEOP provides a decision-support tool to enable consistent assessment by administering agencies of offset proposals provided by authority holders to satisfy offset conditions.

An offset condition may only be imposed on an authority for a prescribed environmental matter. Prescribed environmental matters are:

- a Matter of National Environmental Significance (MNES)
- a Matter of State Environmental Significance (MSES)
- a Matter of Local Environmental Significance (MLES).

The revised Project will provide an offset for the significant residual impacts to both matters of National and State Environmental Significance. This requirement will be included in the revised Project's Environmental Authority (EA) that will set out the impact to Matters of State Environmental Significance.

# 3. Offset Approach

## 3.1. Avoidance

The revised Project avoids mining within Acland and includes a buffer zone along Lagoon Creek, where a revegetation program will be implemented over the life of the revised Project. The revised Project also avoids Poplar Box and Brigalow vegetation near the rail loop. Figure 1 shows the location of the revised Project, while Figure 2 sets out the revised Project's footprint.

Impacts on all ecological values have been avoided and minimised as far as practicable. The revised Project will use ongoing opportunities to further avoid impacts at a local scale through the detailed design and construction phases.

## 3.2. Residual Impacts

The revised Project will impact on Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC), Endangered and Of Concern Regional Ecosystems (REs), watercourse vegetation and threatened species (Figure 2).

TECs are those communities listed as threatened under the Commonwealth EPBC Act. REs are those vegetation communities in a bioregion that are consistently associated with a particular combination of geology, landform and soil. A community that is a TEC can correspond with an RE, but not necessarily.

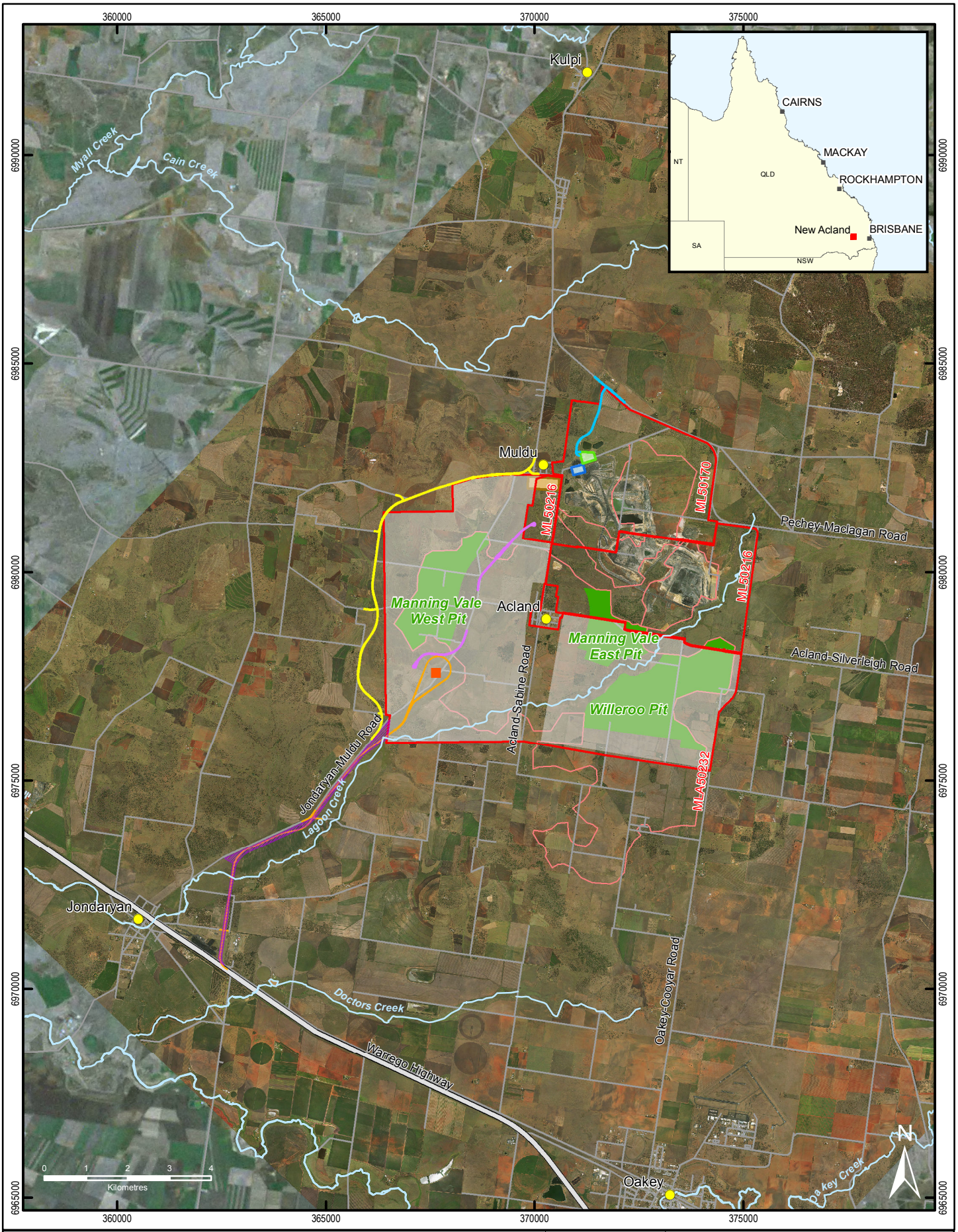
The residual and unavoidable impacts resulting from clearing required for the revised Project will be offset in accordance with the EPBC EOP and QEOP. The offsets proposed are intended to satisfy both policies, for example, one offset for Brigalow will satisfy both the EPBC EOP and QEOP requirements.

Residual impacts requiring offsets under EPBC EOP and QBOP have been calculated for the revised Project and verified using the EOP offset calculator. Where watercourses, as defined under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* (VMA) will be impacted upon by clearing, the area requiring offsetting has been calculated by applying the applicable buffers as per the regional vegetation management code and Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM) stream order mapping. This buffer has been applied to the field verified vegetation mapping.

The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP) Biodiversity Planning Assessment Mapping identifies regional corridors across the project area. The value attributed to connectivity has been based on impacts on Endangered and Of Concern REs, watercourses and protected species within the corridor areas. Additionally, with the proposed mitigation measures for fragmentation, barrier effects and reduction in vegetation communities and habitats, the overall function of the corridors are not expected to be compromised or significantly impacted.

The impacts on flora and fauna protected under the EPBC and *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NCA) that are classified and known to occur on the site have been included in this strategy. The offsets that are proposed under the EPBC EOP and QEOP provide a net

environmental gain and cover all of the significant residual impacts associated with the revised Project.




**LEGEND**

- Towns and Localities
- Train Loadout Facility
- Roads
- Creeks
- Internal Haulage Road
- Revised Access to Mine
- Revised Jondaryan-Muldu Road Diversion
- Revised Rail Spur and Balloon Loop Alignment
- Proposed Extent of Surface Rights Area
- Coal Resource Area
- Mining Tenements
- Infrastructure Mining Lease
- Stage 3 Pit Areas
- CHPP Precinct
- Material Handling Facility
- Mine Industrial Area

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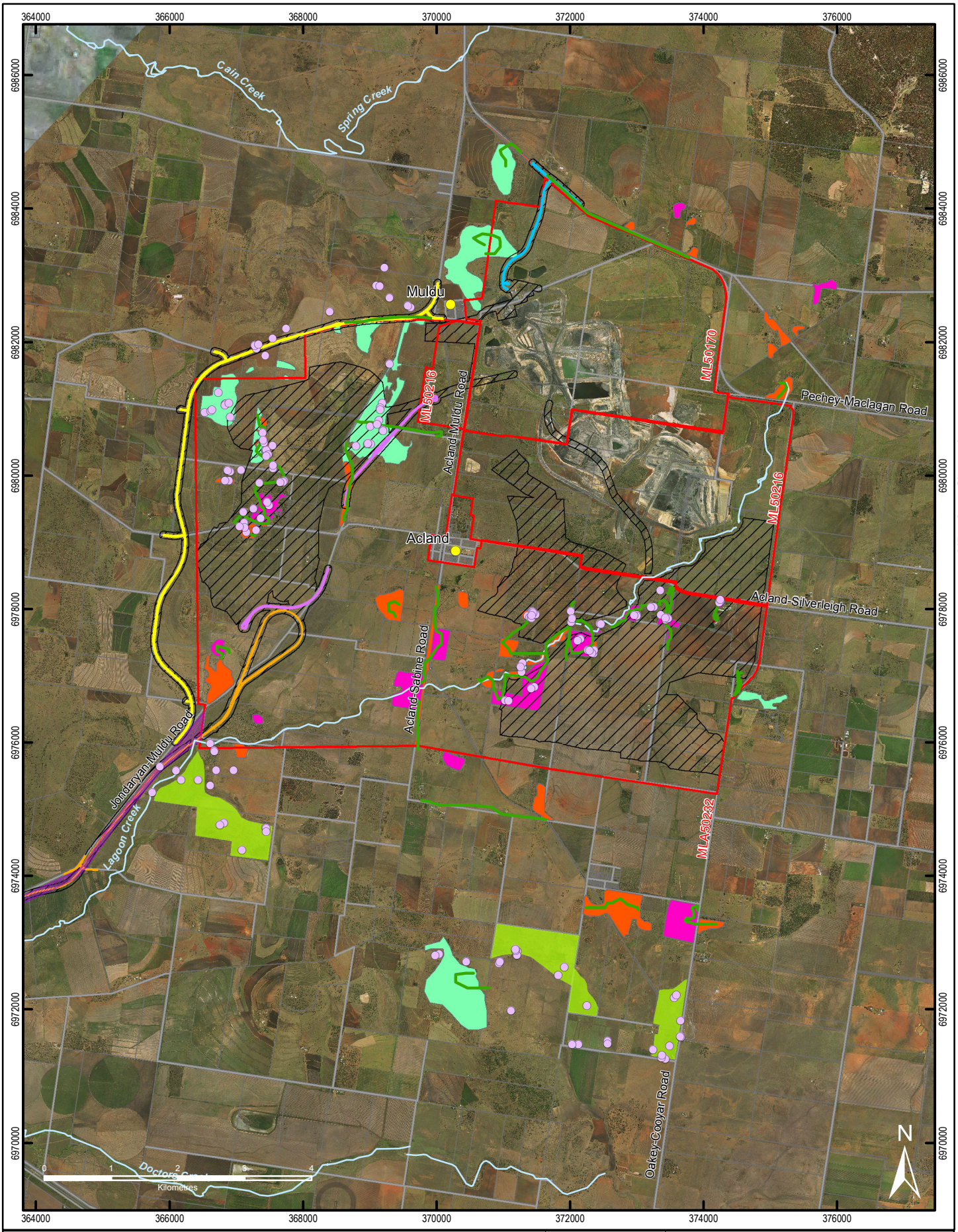
SINCLAIR KNIGHT MERZ SKM

**NEW ACLAND COAL MINE STAGE 3 PROJECT**

**Figure 1 - Revised Project Overview**

Scale 1:120,000 on A4
Projection: Australian Geodetic Datum – Zone 56 (AGD84)

Path: I:\QENV2\Projects\QE06644\Spatial\ArcGIS\01_Figures\01_SEIS\Biodiversity_Strategy\141205_NewHope_BiodiversityStrategy_Figure1_ProjectOverview.mxd
Produced: 5/12/2014




**LEGEND**

- Towns and Localities
- Vegetation & Biocondition Sites
- Internal Haulage Road
- Revised Access to Mine
- Revised Jondaryan-Muldu Road Diversion
- Revised Rail Spur and Balloon Loop Alignment
- Flora Transects
- Roads
- Creeks
- Cadastre
- New Acland Coal Mine
- Disturbance Footprint Area
- Infrastructure Mining Lease
- Proposed Bluegrass Offset Locations

**Observed Regional Ecosystems**

- Endangered
- Of Concern
- Least Concern

NEW HOPE GROUP

SINCLAIR KNIGHT MERZ SKM

**NEW ACLAND COAL MINE STAGE 3 PROJECT**

**Figure 2 - Location of Flora Survey Sites**

Scale 1:75,000 on A4
Projection: Australian Geodetic Datum – Zone 56 (AGD84)

Produced: 5/12/2014 Path: I:\QENV2\Projects\QE06644\Spatial\ArcGIS\01_Figures\01_SEIS\Biodiversity_Strategy\141205_NewHope_BiodiversityStrategy_Figure2_LocationOfFloraSurveySites.mxd

# 4. Impacts on Matters of State Environmental Significance

The revised Project will have an impact on the following Matters of State Environmental Significance:

- remnant endangered regional ecosystems;
- remnant endangered grassland regional ecosystems Regional ecosystems;
- remnant of concern regional ecosystems;
- remnant of concern grassland regional ecosystems;
- watercourse regional ecosystem;
- fauna listed as Endangered, Vulnerable and special least concern under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*; and
- flora listed as Endangered or Vulnerable under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

Matters of State Environmental Significance are listed on Table 1.

The Matters of State Environmental Significance affected by the revised Project are a combination of endangered and of concern regional ecosystems, a watercourse regional ecosystem and flora and fauna listed in the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

An area of 2.39 ha of the poplar box woodland (11.3.2) falls within 50 metres of Lagoon Creek, which is a stream order 2, making the area of the community that is adjacent to Lagoon Creek a Matter of State Environmental Significance.

Table 1 Impact to Matters of State Environmental Significance

| RE | VMA Class | BVG 1: 1M | Short Description (Regulation) | Total area (ha) | % riparian "Regional" corridor | % "State" terrestrial corridor | Area in Stream Order Buffer |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11.3.1 | E | 25a | *Acacia harpophylla* and/or *Casuarina cristata* open forest on alluvial plains | 12.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11.3.2 | OC | 17a | *Eucalyptus populnea woodland on alluvial plains* | 4.8 | 0 | 0 | 2.39 (SO2) |
| 11.3.17 | OC | 25a | *Eucalyptus populnea* woodland with *Acacia harpophylla* and/or *Casuarina cristata* on alluvial plains | 7.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11.3.21 | E | 30a | *Dichanthium sericeum* and/or *Astrebla* spp. grassland on alluvial plains. Cracking clay soils | 35.9 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| RE | VMA Class | BVG 1: 1M | Short Description (Regulation) | Total area (ha) | % riparian "Regional" corridor | % "State" terrestrial corridor | Area in Stream Order Buffer |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11.8.11 | OC | 30b | *Dichanthium sericeum* grassland on Cainozoic igneous rocks | 4.1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11.9.5 | E | 25a | *Acacia harpophylla* and/or *Casuarina cristata* open forest on fine-grained sedimentary rocks | 12.6 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11.9.10 | OC | 25a | *Eucalyptus populnea*, *Acacia harpophylla, open forest on fine-grained sedimentary rocks* | 4.1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11.9.13 | OC | 13d | *Eucalyptus moluccana* or *E. microcarpa* open forest on fine grained sedimentary rocks | 3.6 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| Listed species | NC Status | Description |
|---|---|---|
| *Phascolarctos cinereus - Koala* | Special least concern | Poplar box woodland, that is habitat for the Koala will be cleared for the revised Project in the Manning Vale West pit, in areas adjacent to Lagoon Creek and along the rail spur. |
| *Homopholis belsonii* - Belson's panic | Endangered | Twelve patches found in the bluegrass dominated grassland community and are found in the Manning Vale West Pit and the Willaroo Pit, to the south of Lagoon Creek. This species has been found in the shelter of trees in the brigalow and poplar box vegetation communities. |

E – Endangered; OC – Of Concern

# 5. Impacts on Federal threatened species and communities

The revised Project will result in the clearing of 64.7 ha of two threatened ecological communities, as listed in Table 2.

Three flora species that are listed under either the EPBC Act have been recorded from the revised Project site and are within the disturbance footprint. The affected species are listed Table 2.

The EPBC Offset calculator the each of the Matters of National Environmental Significance is included in Appendix A. The justification of the scores used in the Offset calculators is also provided in Appendix A.

Table 2 Impact on MNES

| Matters of National Environmental Significance Impacts | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Threatened Ecological Community | EPBC Act Status | Significantly Impacted | Primary reason for the outcome |
| Bluegrass dominant grasslands of the Brigalow Belt Bioregions (North and South) | Endangered | Yes – 40.1 ha | Significant impact as per the MNES Guidelines Version 1.1 |
| Brigalow (*Acacia harpophylla* dominant and co-dominant) | Endangered | Yes – 24.6 ha | Significant impact as per the MNES Guidelines Version 1.1 Brigalow |
| Listed Flora Species | | | |
| *Homopholis belsonii* (Belson's panic) | Vulnerable | Yes | Significant impact as per the MNES Guidelines Version 1.1 |

# 6. Proposed offsets for residual impacts on Matters of State Environmental Significance

The impact of the revised Project on Matters of State Environmental Significance is described below and presented in Table 3.

### Brigalow Offset

The total Brigalow impact of the revised Project on brigalow is 28.7 ha, which includes both Queensland and Commonwealth listed communities, comprised of RE 11.3.1, RE 11.9.5 and RE 11.9.10.

NAC is currently investigating several options with regard to suitable Brigalow offset areas within the Bioregion. The Brigalow offset for Queensland and Commonwealth impacts will be collocated to improve the ecological benefit of the offset and to improve the management effectiveness of the offset.

### Natural grasslands Offset

The bluegrass community consists of RE 11.3.21 and 11.8.11. Of this, the entire 40 ha is listed by Queensland and Commonwealth legislation that require to be offset. An area of 247 ha has been identified on the NHG's property as being suitable for the location of the bluegrass offset and should satisfy the Queensland and Commonwealth offset policies. The three listed grass species that may be impacted by the revised Project have been identified as occurring within the proposed offset area, and so will be collocated within the natural grasslands offset area.

### Poplar box and Gum-topped box Offset

NAC is investigating options for the establishment of an offset for poplar box (RE 11.3.2 and 11.3.17) and gum-topped box (RE 11.9.13) in the Bioregion. Initial information has identified that an appropriate area is available to offset the clearing of 15.4 ha of these communities. Investigations are continuing and discussions are planned with third party landholders on whose property the offset may be located.

### Fauna listed under Nature Conservation Act

Habitat for the Koala, a special least concern species under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, will be cleared for the revised Project. The revised Project will impact an area of approximately 19.5 ha of potential Koala habitat that meets the criteria of "habitat critical to the survival" of Koala and includes REs 11.3.2, 11.3.17, 11.9.10 and 11.9.13. Details of impacted areas for each RE and proposed offset areas can be found in Table 3.

### Plants listed under Nature Conservation Act

One species of plant listed under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* will be affected by the revised Project. This species is *Homopholis belsonii*.

These species will be translocated and re-established within areas of bluegrass dominant grassland offset, to be located to the south of the revised Project on land owned by NAC.

Table 3 Proposed State Offsets

| RE | Regional Ecosystem | Common Name | Cth Status | VM Status | Area cleared (ha) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11.3.1 | *Acacia harpophylla* and/or *Casuarina cristata* open forest on alluvial plains | Brigalow | Endangered | Endangered | 12.0 |
| 11.9.5 | *Acacia harpophylla* and/or *Casuarina cristata* open forest on fine-grained sedimentary rocks | Brigalow | Endangered | Endangered | 12.6 |
| 11.9.10 | *Acacia harpophylla*, *Eucalyptus populnea* open forest on Cainozoic fine-grained sedimentary rocks | Brigalow | - | Of concern | 4.1 |
| 11.3.21 | *Dichanthium sericeum* and/or *Astrebla* spp. grassland on alluvial plains. Cracking clay soils | Bluegrass grass dominated natural grassland | Endangered | Endangered | 35.9 |
| 11.8.11 | *Dichanthium sericeum* grassland on Cainozoic igneous rocks | Bluegrass grass dominated natural grassland | Endangered | Of concern | 4.1 |
| 11.3.2 | *Eucalyptus populnea* woodland on alluvial plains | Poplar box | - | Of concern | 4.8 |
| 11.3.17 | *Eucalyptus populnea* woodland with *Acacia harpophylla* and/or *Casuarina cristata* on alluvial plains | Poplar box | - | Of concern | 7.0 |
| 11.9.13 | *Eucalyptus moluccana* or *E. microcarpa* open forest on fine grained sedimentary rocks | Gum topped box | - | Of concern | 3.6 |

# 7. Proposed offsets for residual impacts on Federal threatened species and communities

The offset areas for TEC and species have been calculated using the EPBC Offset calculator and the assessment of the condition of TECs within the revised Project site. Table 4 lists the areas to be provided as an offset.

For the Brigalow offset, the area of impact has been calculated as 24.6 ha, being the area of the constituent regional ecosystems – 11.3.1 and 11.9.5. With this area and an assessment of the condition of the community and an conservative estimate for the time of a patch of brigalow to reach ecological benefit and area of 60 ha is produced from the calculator. This area has been used as the size of the brigalow offset to be secured. Once a patch of brigalow has been identified and assessed, this area will need to be revised, with a site assessment of the condition of the offset site.

The bluegrass dominant grassland will be offset on land owned by NAC. The area of land that is suitable for use as a grassland and listed species offset is 247 ha. This area has been determined by condition assessment completed in 2013. The area of impact and the assessment of the condition of the impacted communities have been used in the EPBC Offset calculator to determine the expected area of offset needed to offset the impact to the bluegrass dominant grassland.

Table4 Proposed Federal Offsets

| Threatened Species or Community | Area (ha) | Proposed Offset |
|---|---|---|
| Brigalow (Acacia harpophylla dominant and co-dominant) | 24.6 | 60 ha within an area of naturally regenerating Brigalow that is part of the Brigalow TEC is being investigated to satisfy both the EPBC EOP requirement and the QEOP requirement |
| Bluegrass dominant grasslands of the Brigalow Belt Bioregions (North and South) | 40.1 | 90 ha of Bluegrass dominated grasslands will be required to offset the impact to this community. An area of 247 ha is available for this offset. |
| *Homopholis belsonii* (Belson's panic) | 70.8 | 87 ha of grasslands will be required to offset the impact to this species if the planned translocation of the species catastrophically fails*. An area of 247 ha is available for this offset. |

* = Please note, successful translocation of the species is deemed as an avoidance of the potential impact. This management approach also possesses the added advantage of protecting the species in-perpetuity.

## 7.1. Brigalow TEC Offset

The total Brigalow impact for the revised Project is 24.6 ha has been classified as the EPBC listed TEC (comprised of REs 11.3.1 and RE 11.9.5).

NAC is currently investigating several options with regard to suitable Brigalow offset areas within the Bioregion. The Brigalow TEC offset will be collocated with the State offset and will contribute to a greater environmental outcome due to the larger patch size.

An offset of approximately 60 ha is expected to be needed to offset the impact of the revised Project on the Brigalow TEC.

## 7.2. Natural grasslands Offset

The bluegrass dominated natural grasslands consists of REs 11.3.21 and 11.8.11. Of this, the entire 40.1 ha is captured by the EPBC offset requirements. The proposed bluegrass offset of 90 ha has been identified on the NAC's property and this should satisfy both Commonwealth and State offset policies. The three listed grass species that may be impacted by the revised Project have been identified as occurring within the proposed offset area, and so will be collocated within the natural grasslands offset area.

# 8. Delivery of Biodiversity Offsets

The next phase of the process after the revised Project has been approved and issued with an amended EA will be to finalise arrangements for the potential offset areas. NAC will deliver a proponent driven offset, where an Offset delivery plan will be prepared.

The Offset delivery plan will be prepared that will:

- describe how the environmental offset will be undertaken and how the conservation outcome will be achieved
- account for and manage risks of the offset failing to achieve a conservation outcome
- outline the governance arrangements of the offset and describe the monitoring and auditing processes of these arrangements
- describe the offset size and scale that is proportionate to the significant residual impact that the offset will address

The Offset delivery plan will:

- describe the prescribed environmental matter to which the offset condition relates;
- state whether the offset condition will be delivered, wholly or partly, on the land on which the environmental offset will be undertaken;
- include particulars of, or a description sufficient to identify, the land on which the environmental offset will be undertaken; and identify, and contain details of, any person with an interest in the land on which the environmental offset will be undertaken;
- describe the existing land use of the land on which the environmental offset will be undertaken and any impact that land use may have on the delivery of the offset;
- state:
  - the measures the NAC will take to secure the land on which the environmental offset will be undertaken as a legally secured offset area;
  - why NAC considers the stated measures are reasonable and practicable;
  - the period during which NAC will take these measures;
  - why NAC considers the stated period is reasonable for the purpose of securing the land.

There are several legally binding mechanisms NAC will consider for securing the offset areas. These area:

- an environmental offset protection area, under Section 30 of the Environmental Offsets Act 2014;

- 'gazettal as a protected area (e.g. a nature refuge)' under the NCA;
- 'voluntary declaration of an area of high nature conservation value' under the VMA; or
- use of a 'covenant' under the *Land Title Act 1994* or *Land Act 1994*.

# 9. Management of Offset Areas

The Offset delivery plan will be prepared for each offset site to meet the requirements of the EPBC EOP and QEOP. The Offset delivery plan will include information on the threats and the management actions required at each offset site to abate those threats. The Offset delivery plan will contain an estimate of the costs of management and will provide a monitoring program that will extend until the management outcomes are achieved.

Management actions may include:

- management of grazing;
- weed management;
- feral pest management;
- management of fire; and
- if applicable, active revegetation.

The length of active management will be influenced by the condition of vegetation, type of habitat, climatic conditions and vegetation on site, as well as existing management issues.

# Appendix A – EPBC Offset Calculator

EPBC Calculator Inputs - Brigalow TEC

| Calculator Variable | Input | Explanation | Reference document/s |
|---|---|---|---|
| Impact description | Clearing of a threatened ecological community for construction of the revised Project | Residual impact on Brigalow in revised Project area (24.6 ha). Community is present in small, fragmented areas of brigalow are located along Lagoon Creek that flows through the revised Project area | Appendix H.1 MNES Report. |
| Impact area | 24.6 ha residual impact | Field surveys to confirm presence of brigalow community, consistent with listing advice.<br>Condition of vegetation was recorded by BioCondition surveys (Eyre et al. 2011) and by using the listing advice condition criteria. | Appendix H.1 MNES Report; Appendix G Terrestrial Ecology Field Survey Results BioCondition – A Condition Assessment Framework for Terrestrial Biodiversity in Queensland – Assessment Manual (Eyre et al. 2011) |
| Quality of vegetation impacted (0-10) | 4 | Components of habitat quality for consideration in the EPBC Act offsets assessment guide include site condition, site context and species stocking rate.<br>Site condition - Condition of the vegetation was found to be impacted by clearing, weed infestation and grazing. Site condition score 5.<br>Site context – Patches of the community are scattered and fragmented across the landscape, with limited connection to other areas of vegetation. There is some connection long Lagoon Creek. Site condition score 4.<br>Species stocking rate – Surveys found a dominance of common species, with no listed fauna and one listed flora species. | Appendix G Terrestrial Ecology Field Survey Results Ecological Equivalence Methodology Guideline Version 1 (DERM, 2011) |

| Calculator Variable | Input | Explanation | Reference document/s |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | The species stocking rate is considered to be low. Species stocking rate is 4.<br>The average score across the three components is 4. | |
| Proposed offset Area | 60 ha | Area of Brigalow community that NAC is seeking to secure on a third party property. | |
| Risk related time horizon | 20 years | Offset will be secured "in perpetuity" so the maximum timeframe has been used. | |
| Time until ecological benefit | 15 years | The time until benefit is 15 years, as the Brigalow community will be present on the offset property. | |
| Start area | 60 ha | Area of Brigalow community that NAC is seeking to secure on a third party property. | |
| Start quality | 5 | The start quality is an estimate and is to be confirmed once negotiations with the third party landholder allow for NAC to undertake a survey of the potential offset site. | |
| Risk of loss (%) without offset | 15% | The risk of loss without an offset is estimated to be 15% on the basis that the loss of the community from clearing is low due to the operation of clearing controls (Qld Vegetation Management Act and Cth EPBC Act). It is very unlikely that there will be approvals in place for the clearing of vegetation and there is not pending threat of clearing.<br><br>This level of risk has been assigned as the clearing of vegetation on these properties needs planning approval from the State and Commonwealth governments, as it is both remnant vegetation and a threatened ecological community. While approval for the clearing of vegetation is possible, an applicant will need to provide information to the regulators on the impact of the development of the values of the vegetation and provide an offset for the residual impact of the clearing. | |
| Future quality without offset (scale of 0-10) | 4 | The future quality of the vegetation is anticipated to decline slightly over the 15 year period of the evaluation. This is as a result of the gradual increase in impact of weeds and grazing and the likely continued exclusion of fire. | |

| Calculator Variable | Input | Explanation | Reference document/s |
|---|---|---|---|
| Risk of loss (%) with offset | 5% | Risk of loss of the Brigalow community at an offset site is considered to be 5%. The offset site will be protected and managed to improve the quality of the community. A covenant placed on title of the offset property will avert the risk of loss of the offset area as the landowner will not be able to obtain development approval that has an impact on the offset. | |
| Future quality with offset (scale of 0-10) | 8 | The future quality of the offset vegetation will be 8. This is on the basis that the Brigalow community is present at the site and will respond to management and removal of threats (weeds, grazing) to lead to regeneration of the community. | |
| Confidence in result (quality) | 50% | Confidence in the quality result is rated a relatively low level, as the offset site has yet to be inspected and the quality of the existing vegetation to be evaluated.<br>Without specific knowledge of the offset vegetation, a very conservative level of confidence has been applied. | |
| Confidence in result (risk of loss) | 50% | Confidence in the risk result is rated a relatively low level, as the offset site has yet to be inspected and the quality of the existing vegetation to be evaluated.<br>Without specific knowledge of the offset vegetation, a very conservative level of confidence has been applied. | |

EPBC Calculator Inputs - Bluegrass dominant grasslands of the Brigalow Belt Bioregions (North and South)

| Calculator Variable | Input | Explanation | Reference document/s |
|---|---|---|---|
| Impact description | Clearing of a threatened ecological community for construction of the revised Project | Residual impact on Bluegrass dominant grasslands in revised Project area (40.1 ha). The community is present in scattered areas along Lagoon Creek and patch in Manning Vale west pit. | Appendix H.1 MNES Report. |
| Impact area | 40.1 ha residual | Field surveys to confirm presence of Bluegrass dominant grasslands community, | Appendix H.1 MNES Report; |

| Calculator Variable | Input | Explanation | Reference document/s |
|---|---|---|---|
| | impact | consistent with listing advice.<br>Condition of vegetation was recorded by BioCondition surveys (Eyre et al. 2011) and by using the listing advice condition criteria. | Appendix G Terrestrial Ecology Field Survey Results<br>BioCondition – A Condition Assessment Framework for Terrestrial Biodiversity in Queensland – Assessment Manual (Eyre et al. 2011) |
| Quality of vegetation impacted (0-10) | 5 | Components of habitat quality for consideration in the EPBC Act offsets assessment guide include site condition, site context and species stocking rate.<br>Site condition - Condition of the vegetation was found to be impacted by clearing, weed infestation and grazing. Site condition score 6.<br>Site context – Patches of the community are scattered and fragmented across the landscape, with limited connection to other areas of vegetation. Site condition score 5.<br>Species stocking rate – Surveys found a dominance of common species, with no listed fauna and one listed flora species. The species stocking rate is considered to be low. Species stocking rate is 4.<br>The average score across the three components is 5. | |
| Proposed offset Area | 90 ha | This is the area of the grassland community that NAC has on its land, adjacent to the revised Project. | |
| Risk related time horizon | 20 years | Offset will be secured “in perpetuity” so the maximum timeframe has been used. | |
| Time until ecological benefit | 15 years | The time until benefit is 15 years, as the grassland community will be present within the offset sites, however will require management of weeds and grazing the achieve the realisation of the offset objectives. | |
| Start area | 90 ha | This is the area of the grassland community that NAC has on its land, adjacent to the | |

| Calculator Variable | Input | Explanation | Reference document/s |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | revised Project. | |
| Start quality | 4 | The start quality has been derived from surveys of the disturbance area of the revised Project. The start quality of 4 reflects that there is encroachment of woody vegetation at the edges of some of the community, use of the community for grazing and the widespread presence of weeds that compete with native species within the community. | |
| Risk of loss (%) without offset | 15% | The risk of loss without an offset is estimated to be 15% on the basis that the loss of the community from clearing is low due to the operation of clearing controls (Qld Vegetation Management Act and Cth EPBC Act).<br><br>This level of risk has been assigned as the clearing of vegetation at the offset sites needs planning approval from the State and Commonwealth governments, as it is both remnant vegetation and a threatened ecological community. While approval for the clearing of vegetation is possible, an applicant will need to provide information to the regulators on the impact of the development of the values of the vegetation and provide an offset for the residual impact of the clearing. | |
| Future quality without offset (scale of 0-10) | 3 | The future quality of the vegetation is anticipated to decline slightly over the 15 year period of the evaluation. This is as a result of the gradual increase in impact of weeds and grazing. | |
| Risk of loss (%) with offset | 5% | Risk of loss of the grassland community at an offset site is considered to be 5%. The offset site will be protected and managed to improve the quality of the community. A covenant placed on title of the offset property will avert the risk of loss of the offset area as the landowner will not be able to obtain development approval that has an impact on the offset. | |
| Future quality with offset (scale | 8 | The future quality of the offset vegetation will be 8. This is on the basis that the grassland community is present at the site | |

| Calculator Variable | Input | Explanation | Reference document/s |
|---|---|---|---|
| of 0-10) | | and will respond to management and removal of threats (weeds, grazing) to lead to regeneration of the community. | |
| Confidence in result (quality) | 75% | Confidence in the quality result is rated at 75%, as the sites have been surveyed and there is knowledge of the current state of both the impact area and offset area. | |
| Confidence in result (risk of loss) | 75% | Confidence in the risk result is rated at 75%, as there is knowledge of the management of the impact and offset sites and the risks that are present with the management of the offset. | |

EPBC Calculator Inputs - Homopholis belsonii

| Calculator Variable | Input | Explanation | Reference document/s |
|---|---|---|---|
| Impact description | Clearing of a threatened species for construction of the revised Project | Residual impact on *Homopholis belsonii* in revised Project area (70.8 ha). The species is associated with poplar box woodland (RE 11.3.2), mountain coolibah woodland (RE11.8.5), poplar box/brigalow woodland (RE11.3.17) and brigalow/poplar box open forest (RE 11.9.10). | Appendix H.1 MNES Report. |
| Impact area | 70.8 ha residual impact | Field surveys to confirm presence of *Homopholis belsonii*. | Appendix H.1 MNES Report; Appendix G Terrestrial Ecology Field Survey Results BioCondition – A Condition Assessment Framework for Terrestrial Biodiversity in Queensland – Assessment Manual (Eyre et al. 2011) |
| Quality of vegetation impacted (0-10) | 5 | Components of habitat quality for consideration in the EPBC Act offsets assessment guide include site condition, site context and species stocking rate.<br>Site condition - Condition of the vegetation was found to be impacted by clearing, weed | |

| Calculator Variable | Input | Explanation | Reference document/s |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | infestation and grazing. Site condition score 6.<br>Site context – Patches of the community are scattered and fragmented across the landscape, with limited connection to other areas of vegetation. Site condition score 4.<br>Species stocking rate – Surveys found a dominance of common species, with no listed fauna and one listed flora species. The species stocking rate is considered to be medium. Species stocking rate is 5.<br>The average score across the three components is 5. | |
| Proposed offset Area | Proposed offset areas | 87 ha | |
| Risk related time horizon | 20 years | Offset will be secured "in perpetuity" so the maximum timeframe has been used. | |
| Time until ecological benefit | 15 years | The time until benefit is 15 years, to allow for the successful establishment of the species at offset sites and for the plants to reproduce. | |
| Start area | Proposed offset areas | 87 ha | |
| Start quality | 4 | The start quality has been derived from surveys of the disturbance area of the revised Project. The start quality of 4 reflects that there is encroachment of woody vegetation at the edges of some of the communities in which *Homopholis belsonii* is located, use of the community for grazing and the widespread presence of weeds that compete with *Homopholis belsonii* within the communities. | |
| Risk of loss (%) without offset | 15% | The risk of loss of the species without an offset is estimated to be 15% on the basis that the loss of the species from clearing is low due to the operation of clearing controls (Qld Nature Conservation Act and Cth EPBC Act).<br><br>This level of risk has been assigned as the clearing of the species on the offset properties needs planning approval from the State and Commonwealth governments, as the species is a listed under both Queensland and Commonwealth legislation. | |

| Calculator Variable | Input | Explanation | Reference document/s |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | While approval for the clearing of vegetation is possible, an applicant will need to provide information to the regulators on the impact of the development of the values of the species and provide an offset for the residual impact of the clearing. | |
| Future quality without offset (scale of 0-10) | 3 | The future quality of the vegetation community in which the species is found is anticipated to decline slightly over the 15 year period of the evaluation. This is as a result of the gradual increase in impact of weeds and grazing. | |
| Risk of loss (%) with offset | 5% | Risk of loss of the species at an offset site is considered to be 5%. The offset site will be protected and managed to improve the quality of the community. A covenant placed on title of the offset property will avert the risk of loss of the offset area as the landowner will not be able to obtain development approval that has an impact on the offset. | |
| Future quality with offset (scale of 0-10) | 8 | The future quality of the offset vegetation will be 8. This is on the basis that the community in which the species is present at the site and will respond to management and removal of threats (weeds, grazing) to lead to regeneration of the species. The species will also be translocated where it will establish additional communities of the species. | |
| Confidence in result (quality) | 85% | Confidence in the quality result is rated at 85%, as the sites have been surveyed and there is knowledge of the current state of both the impact area and offset area. | |
| Confidence in result (risk of loss) | 85% | Confidence in the risk result is rated at 85%, as there is knowledge of the management of the impact and offset sites and the risks that are present with the management of the offset. | |

# Offsets Assessment Guide

For use in determining offsets under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
2 October 2012

This guide relies on Macros being enabled in your browser.

| Matter of National Environmental Significance | |
|---|---|
| **Name** | Brigalow |
| **EPBC Act status** | Endangered |
| **Annual probability of extinction**<br>Based on IUCN category definitions | **1.2%** |

| Key to Cell Colours |
|---|
| User input required |
| Drop-down list |
| Calculated output |
| Not applicable to attribute |

## Impact calculator

| Protected matter attributes | Attribute relevant to case? | Description | Quantum of impact | | Units | Information source |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ***Ecological communities*** | | | | | | |
| **Area of community** | Yes | Small, fragmented areas of brigalow are located along Lagoon Creek that flows through the mining lease | **Area** | 24.6 | Hectares | Vegetation and ecology surveys reported in revised Project EIS, 2013 |
| | | | **Quality** | **4** | Scale 0-10 | |
| | | | **Total quantum of impact** | 9.84 | Adjusted hectares | |
| ***Threatened species habitat*** | | | | | | |
| **Area of habitat** | No | | **Area** | | | |
| | | | **Quality** | | | |
| | | | **Total quantum of impact** | 0.00 | | |
| **Protected matter attributes** | **Attribute relevant to case?** | **Description** | **Quantum of impact** | | **Units** | **Information source** |
| **Number of features**<br>e.g. Nest hollows, habitat trees | No | | | | | |
| **Condition of habitat**<br>Change in habitat condition, but no change in extent | No | | | | | |
| ***Threatened species*** | | | | | | |
| **Birth rate**<br>e.g. Change in nest success | No | | | | | |
| **Mortality rate**<br>e.g Change in number of road kills per year | No | | | | | |
| **Number of individuals**<br>e.g. Individual plants/animals | No | | | | | |

## Offset calculator

| Protected matter attributes | Attribute relevant to case? | Total quantum of impact | Units | Proposed offset | Time horizon (years) | | Start area and quality | | Future area and quality without offset | | Future area and quality with offset | | Raw gain | Confidence in result (%) | Adjusted gain | Net present value (adjusted hectares) | | % of impact offset | Minimum (90%) direct offset requirement met? | Cost ($ total) | Information source |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ***Ecological Communities*** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Area of community** | Yes | 9.84 | Adjusted hectares | Offset site is yet to be identified, suitable offset sites are not found on land owned by New Hope Group. | **Risk-related time horizon (max. 20 years)** | 20 | **Start area (hectares)** | 60 | **Risk of loss (%) without offset** | 15% | **Risk of loss (%) with offset** | 5% | 6.00 | 50% | 3.00 | 2.36 | 10.42 | 105.89% | Yes | | |
| | | | | | | | | | **Future area without offset (adjusted hectares)** | 51.0 | **Future area with offset (adjusted hectares)** | 57.0 | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | **Time until ecological benefit** | 15 | **Start quality (scale of 0-10)** | **5** | **Future quality without offset (scale of 0-10)** | **4** | **Future quality with offset (scale of 0-10)** | **8** | 4.00 | 50% | 2.00 | 1.67 | | | | | |
| ***Threatened species habitat*** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Area of habitat** | No | | | | **Time over which loss is averted (max. 20 years)** | | **Start area (hectares)** | | **Risk of loss (%) without offset** | | **Risk of loss (%) with offset** | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | **Future area without offset (adjusted hectares)** | 0.0 | **Future area with offset (adjusted hectares)** | 0.0 | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | **Time until ecological benefit** | | **Start quality (scale of 0-10)** | | **Future quality without offset (scale of 0-10)** | | **Future quality with offset (scale of 0-10)** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Protected matter attributes** | **Attribute relevant to case?** | **Total quantum of impact** | **Units** | **Proposed offset** | **Time horizon (years)** | | **Start value** | | **Future value without offset** | | **Future value with offset** | | **Raw gain** | **Confidence in result (%)** | **Adjusted gain** | **Net present value** | | **% of impact offset** | **Minimum (90%) direct offset requirement met?** | **Cost ($ total)** | **Information source** |
| **Number of features**<br>e.g. Nest hollows, habitat trees | No | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Condition of habitat**<br>Change in habitat condition, but no change in extent | No | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ***Threatened species*** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Birth rate**<br>e.g. Change in nest success | No | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Mortality rate**<br>e.g Change in number of road kills per year | No | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Number of individuals**<br>e.g. Individual plants/animals | No | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

## Summary

| Protected matter attributes | Quantum of impact | Net present value of offset | % of impact offset | Direct offset adequate? | Cost ($) | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | Direct offset ($) | Other compensatory measures ($) | Total ($) |
| **Birth rate** | 0 | | | | $0.00 | | $0.00 |
| **Mortality rate** | 0 | | | | $0.00 | | $0.00 |
| **Number of individuals** | 0 | | | | $0.00 | | $0.00 |
| **Number of features** | 0 | | | | $0.00 | | $0.00 |
| **Condition of habitat** | 0 | | | | $0.00 | | $0.00 |
| **Area of habitat** | 0 | | | | $0.00 | | $0.00 |
| **Area of community** | 9.84 | 10.42 | 105.89% | **Yes** | $0.00 | N/A | $0.00 |
| | | | | | **$0.00** | **$0.00** | **$0.00** |

# Offsets Assessment Guide

For use in determining offsets under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
2 October 2012

This guide relies on Macros being enabled in your browser.

| Matter of National Environmental Significance | |
|---|---|
| **Name** | Bluegrass dominant grasslands of the |
| **EPBC Act status** | Endangered |
| **Annual probability of extinction**<br>Based on IUCN category definitions | **1.2%** |

| Key to Cell Colours |
|---|
| User input required |
| Drop-down list |
| Calculated output |
| Not applicable to attribute |

## Impact calculator

| Protected matter attributes | Attribute relevant to case? | Description | Quantum of impact | | Units | Information source |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ***Ecological communities*** | | | | | | |
| **Area of community** | Yes | Scattered areas along Lagoon Creek and patch in Manning Vale west pit | **Area** | 40.1 | Hectares | Vegetation and ecology surveys reported in revised Project EIS, 2013 |
| | | | **Quality** | **5** | Scale 0-10 | |
| | | | **Total quantum of impact** | 20.05 | Adjusted hectares | |
| ***Threatened species habitat*** | | | | | | |
| **Area of habitat** | No | | **Area** | | | |
| | | | **Quality** | | | |
| | | | **Total quantum of impact** | 0.00 | | |
| **Protected matter attributes** | **Attribute relevant to case?** | **Description** | **Quantum of impact** | | **Units** | **Information source** |
| **Number of features**<br>e.g. Nest hollows, habitat trees | No | | | | | |
| **Condition of habitat**<br>Change in habitat condition, but no change in extent | No | | | | | |
| ***Threatened species*** | | | | | | |
| **Birth rate**<br>e.g. Change in nest success | No | | | | | |
| **Mortality rate**<br>e.g Change in number of road kills per year | No | | | | | |
| **Number of individuals**<br>e.g. Individual plants/animals | No | | | | | |

## Offset calculator

| Protected matter attributes | Attribute relevant to case? | Total quantum of impact | Units | Proposed offset | Time horizon (years) | | Start area and quality | | Future area and quality without offset | | Future area and quality with offset | | Raw gain | Confidence in result (%) | Adjusted gain | Net present value (adjusted hectares) | | % of impact offset | Minimum (90%) direct offset requirement met? | Cost ($ total) | Information source |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ***Ecological Communities*** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Area of community** | Yes | 20.05 | Adjusted hectares | Five offset locations on land owned by New Hope Group, on properties adjoining the New Acland coal mine. | **Risk-related time horizon (max. 20 years)** | 20 | **Start area (hectares)** | 90 | **Risk of loss (%) without offset** | 15% | **Risk of loss (%) with offset** | 5% | 9.00 | 75% | 6.75 | 5.32 | 28.24 | 140.85% | Yes | n/a | |
| | | | | | **Future area without offset (adjusted hectares)** | 76.5 | | | | | **Future area with offset (adjusted hectares)** | 85.5 | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | **Time until ecological benefit** | 15 | **Start quality (scale of 0-10)** | **4** | **Future quality without offset (scale of 0-10)** | **3** | **Future quality with offset (scale of 0-10)** | **8** | 5.00 | 75% | 3.75 | 3.14 | | | | | |
| ***Threatened species habitat*** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Area of habitat** | No | | | | **Time over which loss is averted (max. 20 years)** | | **Start area (hectares)** | | **Risk of loss (%) without offset** | | **Risk of loss (%) with offset** | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | **Future area without offset (adjusted hectares)** | 0.0 | **Future area with offset (adjusted hectares)** | 0.0 | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | **Time until ecological benefit** | | **Start quality (scale of 0-10)** | | **Future quality without offset (scale of 0-10)** | | **Future quality with offset (scale of 0-10)** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Protected matter attributes** | **Attribute relevant to case?** | **Total quantum of impact** | **Units** | **Proposed offset** | **Time horizon (years)** | | **Start value** | | **Future value without offset** | | **Future value with offset** | | **Raw gain** | **Confidence in result (%)** | **Adjusted gain** | **Net present value** | | **% of impact offset** | **Minimum (90%) direct offset requirement met?** | **Cost ($ total)** | **Information source** |
| **Number of features**<br>e.g. Nest hollows, habitat trees | No | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Condition of habitat**<br>Change in habitat condition, but no change in extent | No | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ***Threatened species*** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Birth rate**<br>e.g. Change in nest success | No | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Mortality rate**<br>e.g Change in number of road kills per year | No | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Number of individuals**<br>e.g. Individual plants/animals | No | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

## Summary

| Protected matter attributes | Quantum of impact | Net present value of offset | % of impact offset | Direct offset adequate? | Cost ($) | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | Direct offset ($) | Other compensatory measures ($) | Total ($) |
| **Birth rate** | 0 | | | | $0.00 | | $0.00 |
| **Mortality rate** | 0 | | | | $0.00 | | $0.00 |
| **Number of individuals** | 0 | | | | $0.00 | | $0.00 |
| **Number of features** | 0 | | | | $0.00 | | $0.00 |
| **Condition of habitat** | 0 | | | | $0.00 | | $0.00 |
| **Area of habitat** | 0 | | | | $0.00 | | $0.00 |
| **Area of community** | 20.05 | 28.24 | 140.85% | **Yes** | n/a | N/A | $0.00 |
| | | | | | **$0.00** | **$0.00** | **$0.00** |

# Offsets Assessment Guide

For use in determining offsets under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
2 October 2012

This guide relies on Macros being enabled in your browser.

| Matter of National Environmental Significance | |
|---|---|
| **Name** | Homopholis belsonii |
| **EPBC Act status** | Vulnerable |
| **Annual probability of extinction**<br>Based on IUCN category definitions | **0.2%** |

| Key to Cell Colours |
|---|
| User input required |
| Drop-down list |
| Calculated output |
| Not applicable to attribute |

## Impact calculator

| Protected matter attributes | Attribute relevant to case? | Description | Quantum of impact | | Units | Information source |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ***Ecological communities*** | | | | | | |
| **Area of community** | No | | **Area** | | | |
| | | | **Quality** | | | |
| | | | **Total quantum of impact** | 0.00 | | |
| ***Threatened species habitat*** | | | | | | |
| **Area of habitat** | Yes | Associated with poplar box woodland (RE 11.3.2), mountain coolibah woodland (RE11.8.5), poplar box/brigalow woodland (RE11.3.17) and brigalow/poplar box open forest (RE 11.9.10) | **Area** | 70.8 | Hectares | Ecological site surveys, biocondition assessments, SPRAT and RE databases |
| | | | **Quality** | **5** | Scale 0-10 | |
| | | | **Total quantum of impact** | 35.40 | Adjusted hectares | |
| **Protected matter attributes** | **Attribute relevant to case?** | **Description** | **Quantum of impact** | | **Units** | **Information source** |
| **Number of features**<br>e.g. Nest hollows, habitat trees | No | | | | | |
| **Condition of habitat**<br>Change in habitat condition, but no change in extent | No | | | | | |
| ***Threatened species*** | | | | | | |
| **Birth rate**<br>e.g. Change in nest success | No | | | | | |
| **Mortality rate**<br>e.g Change in number of road kills per year | No | | | | | |
| **Number of individuals**<br>e.g. Individual plants/animals | No | | | | | |

## Offset calculator

| Protected matter attributes | Attribute relevant to case? | Total quantum of impact | Units | Proposed offset | Time horizon (years) | | Start area and quality | | Future area and quality without offset | | Future area and quality with offset | | Raw gain | Confidence in result (%) | Adjusted gain | Net present value (adjusted hectares) | % of impact offset | Minimum (90%) direct offset requirement met? | Cost ($ total) | Information source |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ***Ecological Communities*** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Area of community** | No | | | | **Risk-related time horizon (max. 20 years)** | | **Start area (hectares)** | | **Risk of loss (%) without offset** | | **Risk of loss (%) with offset** | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | **Future area without offset (adjusted hectares)** | 0.0 | **Future area with offset (adjusted hectares)** | 0.0 | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | **Time until ecological benefit** | | **Start quality (scale of 0-10)** | | **Future quality without offset (scale of 0-10)** | | **Future quality with offset (scale of 0-10)** | | | | | | | | | |
| ***Threatened species habitat*** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Area of habitat** | Yes | 35.40 | Adjusted hectares | Five offset locations on land owned by New Hope Group, on properties adjoining the New Acland coal mine. Offset sites to be with bluegrass dominant native grassland. | **Time over which loss is averted (max. 20 years)** | 20 | **Start area (hectares)** | 87 | **Risk of loss (%) without offset** | 15% | **Risk of loss (%) with offset** | 5% | 8.70 | 85% | 7.39 | 7.11 | 36.19 | 102.22% | Yes | n/a |
| | | | | | | | | | **Future area without offset (adjusted hectares)** | 74.0 | **Future area with offset (adjusted hectares)** | 82.7 | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | **Time until ecological benefit** | 15 | **Start quality (scale of 0-10)** | **4** | **Future quality without offset (scale of 0-10)** | **3** | **Future quality with offset (scale of 0-10)** | **8** | 5.00 | 85% | 4.25 | 4.12 | | | | |
| **Protected matter attributes** | **Attribute relevant to case?** | **Total quantum of impact** | **Units** | **Proposed offset** | **Time horizon (years)** | | **Start value** | | **Future value without offset** | | **Future value with offset** | | **Raw gain** | **Confidence in result (%)** | **Adjusted gain** | **Net present value** | **% of impact offset** | **Minimum (90%) direct offset requirement met?** | **Cost ($ total)** | **Information source** |
| **Number of features**<br>e.g. Nest hollows, habitat trees | No | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Condition of habitat**<br>Change in habitat condition, but no change in extent | No | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ***Threatened species*** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Birth rate**<br>e.g. Change in nest success | No | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Mortality rate**<br>e.g Change in number of road kills per year | No | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Number of individuals**<br>e.g. Individual plants/animals | No | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

## Summary

| Protected matter attributes | Quantum of impact | Net present value of offset | % of impact offset | Direct offset adequate? | Cost ($) | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | Direct offset ($) | Other compensatory measures ($) | Total ($) |
| **Birth rate** | 0 | | | | $0.00 | | $0.00 |
| **Mortality rate** | 0 | | | | $0.00 | | $0.00 |
| **Number of individuals** | 0 | | | | $0.00 | | $0.00 |
| **Number of features** | 0 | | | | $0.00 | | $0.00 |
| **Condition of habitat** | 0 | | | | $0.00 | | $0.00 |
| **Area of habitat** | 35.4 | 36.19 | 102.22% | **Yes** | n/a | N/A | $0.00 |
| **Area of community** | 0 | | | | $0.00 | | $0.00 |
| | | | | | **$0.00** | **$0.00** | **$0.00** |

# Appendix B. Stakeholder Letter

Dear Landholder,

As you are aware, the New Hope Group has developed a revised New Acland Coal Mine Stage 3 Project. New Hope acknowledges that landholders near the mine have a particular interest in environmental aspects of the Mine's activities including ground water, air quality and noise. To address this interest, New Hope has developed a detailed consultation and engagement program which includes enhanced engagement activities for landholders near the Mine. This is to ensure residents receive regular, accurate information on the revised Project and the opportunity to discuss issues and areas of concern.

Based on the location of your property, the following table provides an outline of engagement activities you can expect regarding the revised Stage 3 Project. Please note this table is a guide only and New Hope recognises that landholders may have specific requests regarding engagement. As such, if you would like a more tailored program specific to your property, the New Hope community team would be happy to discuss with you.

| Engagement/ Consultation Activity | Type of Engagement | Frequency | Phase of Project | Detail |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Regular general update and discussion. | Face to face meeting, or phone call | Six monthly or additional as requested | Life of Project | - Offer of minimum 2 face to face meetings each year<br>- Updates will cover a range of key areas including:<br>o Environmental monitoring<br>o Health and coal mining<br>o Enquiries and complaints process<br>o Environment i.e. Ground Water, Noise/Vibration and Air Quality |
| Report on Monthly Environment Monitoring | NAC website | Monthly | Life of Project | - Written report providing an overview of environmental monitoring |
| | Mail or email | Quarterly | Life of Project | - Overview of environmental monitoring sent out in hard copy quarterly |
| Landholder Agreement | Face to face | Approx. 1 – 5 meetings (or until finalised) | Pre-Approval and/or construction | - Provision of Landholder Agreement<br>- Discussion of the purpose and process of a Landholder Agreement between NAC and the landholder |
| Discussion with a Hydrogeologist about NAC ground water modelling | Face to face | 1 meeting offered | Pre-Approval | - Detailed explanation of modelling and potential ground water impacts, including specific information about landholder's bores<br>- May be included as part of the regular update discussion |
| 24hr phone number | Phone call | Available for landholders should it be required | Construction and Operation | - Phone number available to sensitive receptors 24 hours a day. Allows landholder to report urgent operation impacts e.g. noise at night, and speak to site personnel |
| Notification of blast events | Phone call | Before a blast | Operation | - Sensitive receptors to be notified of blasts within the 48hr period before a blast |
| Opportunity to talk to NAC technical staff | Face to face, Phone or mail | When requested | Operation | - Open offer to all sensitive receptors<br>- Further explanation of NAC activities from technical staff member, with particular focus on potential impacts on the landholder's property<br>- May be included as part of the regular update discussion |

As a landholder and community member, you will also have access to the full range of New Hope's communication and engagement activities. These include, but are not limited to, access to community staff at the New Hope Community Information Centre, information on the dedicated New Acland Project website (www.aclandproject.com.au), as well as regular community newsletters and updates through the local media.

If you wish to discuss any of New Hope's consultation and community engagement procedures, please contact the staff at the New Hope Community Information Centre in Campbell Street, Oakey, (07) 4691 3445 or send an to email community@newhopegroup.com.au or call 1800 882 142.

Regards,

xxx

Dear Landholder,

As you are aware, the New Hope Group has developed a revised New Acland Coal Mine Stage 3 Project. New Hope acknowledges that landholders near the mine have a particular interest in environmental aspects of the Mine's activities including ground water, air quality and noise. To address this interest, New Hope has developed a detailed consultation and engagement program which includes enhanced engagement activities for landholders near the Mine. This is to ensure residents receive regular, accurate information on the revised Project and the opportunity to discuss issues and areas of concern.

Based on the location of your property, the following table provides an outline of engagement activities you can expect regarding the revised Stage 3 Project. Please note this table is a guide only and New Hope recognises that landholders may have specific requests regarding engagement. As such, if you would like a more tailored program specific to your property, the New Hope community team would be happy to discuss with you.

| Engagement/ Consultation Activity | Type of Engagement | Frequency | Phase of Project | Detail |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Regular general update and discussion. | Face to face, phone call | 6 monthly (to be reviewed each phase of project through consultation with landholder) | Life of project | - Offer of minimum 2 face to face meetings each year<br>- Updates will cover a range of key areas including:<br>o Environmental monitoring<br>o Health and coal mining<br>o Enquiries and complaints process<br>o Environment i.e. Ground Water, Noise/Vibration and Air Quality |
| Report on Monthly Environment Monitoring | NAC website | Monthly | Life of Project | - Written report providing an overview of environmental monitoring |
| | Mail or email | Quarterly | Life of Project | - Overview of environmental monitoring sent out in hard copy quarterly |
| Landholder Agreement | Face to face | Approx. 1 – 5 meetings (or until finalised) | Pre-Approval and/or Construction | - Discussion of the purpose and process of a Landholder Agreement between NAC and the landholder<br>- A Landholder Agreement may be instigated if landholder is interested |
| Opportunity to talk to a Hydrogeologist about NAC ground water modelling | Face to face | 1 meeting offered | Pre-Approval | - Detailed explanation of modelling and potential ground water impacts, including specific information about landholder's bores<br>- May be included as part of the regular update discussion |
| Opportunity to talk to NAC technical staff | Face to face, phone or mail | When requested | Operation | - Further explanation of NAC activities from a technical staff member, with particular focus on potential impacts on the landholder's property<br>- May be included as part of the regular update discussion |

As a landholder and community member, you will also have access to the full range of New Hope's communication and engagement activities. These include, but are not limited to, access to community staff at the New Hope Community Information Centre, information on the dedicated

New Acland Project website (www.aclandproject.com.au), as well as regular community newsletters and updates through the local media.

If you wish to discuss any of New Hope's consultation and community engagement procedures, please contact the staff at the New Hope Community Information Centre in Campbell Street, Oakey, (07) 4691 3445 or send an to email community@newhopegroup.com.au or call 1800 882 142.

Regards,

xxx

Dear Landholder,

As you are aware, the New Hope Group has developed a revised New Acland Coal Mine Stage 3 Project. New Hope acknowledges that landholders near the mine have a particular interest in environmental aspects of the Mine's activities including ground water, air quality and noise. To address this interest, New Hope has developed a detailed consultation and engagement program which includes enhanced engagement activities for landholders near the Mine. This is to ensure residents receive regular, accurate information on the revised Project and the opportunity to discuss issues and areas of concern.

Based on the location of your property, the following table provides an outline of engagement activities you can expect regarding the revised Stage 3 Project. Please note this table is a guide only and New Hope recognises that landholders may have specific requests regarding engagement. As such, if you would like a more tailored program specific to your property, the New Hope community team would be happy to discuss with you.

| Engagement/ Consultation Activity | Type of Engagement | Frequency | Phase of Project | Detail |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Report on Monthly Environmental Monitoring | Community information session | Yearly | Life of Project | - Community Info session to discuss and explain environmental monitoring results and other issues<br>- Tier 3 landholders sent letter of invitation |
| | NAC website | Monthly | | - Written report providing an overview of environmental monitoring |
| | Mail or email | Quarterly | | - Overview of environmental monitoring sent out in hard copy quarterly |
| Opportunity to talk to an NAC community staff member and/or technical staff member | Face to face, Phone or mail | When requested | Operation | - Enquiries, concerns or complaints from landholders |

As a landholder and community member, you will also have access to the full range of New Hope's communication and engagement activities. These include, but are not limited to, access to community staff at the New Hope Community Information Centre, information on the dedicated New Acland Project website (www.aclandproject.com.au), as well as regular community newsletters and updates through the local media.

If you wish to discuss any of New Hope's consultation and community engagement procedures, please contact the staff at the New Hope Community Information Centre in Campbell Street, Oakey, (07) 4691 3445 or send an to email community@newhopegroup.com.au or call 1800 882 142.

Regards,

xxx

# Appendix C. ToR Amendment

# Appendix 3

# Terms of Reference Amendment

Page 1, section 3, paragraph 2 of the Terms of References states:

> *"A total CRG membership of no more than 12 foundation members will be selected to achieve this diverse representation"*

At the request of New Acland Community Reference Group (CRG) members and the community, an amendment to this statement has been suggested to allow for the selection of a Jondaryan community representative.

The amendment would allow for a 13th member, representing Jondaryan, to sit on the foundation CRG during the first CRG term. This amendment will only apply from March 2013 until October 2013, at which point all members will need to reapply for their position on the CRG.

31/1/13

# Appendix D. CRG Notice

# Applications for a Jondaryan representative on the New Hope Community Reference Group – Now Open

The New Hope Group is seeking a Jondaryan resident to join the company's Community Reference Group (CRG).

The CRG's role is to provide a local perspective on key topics, particularly in relation to potential impacts and opportunities presented by the New Acland operation, but it will also encourage members to disseminate information back into the community.

The group's members come from a wide cross-section of community interests and they represent important sectors such as agriculture, education, business, infrastructure and health.

New Hope is looking for a CRG member to represent the Jondaryan community.

Applicants have until January 30 to get their expression of interest lodged. They will then be reviewed and a representative will be selected.

Application forms for the CRG are available online at www.aclandproject.com.au.

Alternatively, drop into the New Hope Information Centre and collect one.

New Hope Information Centre
Shop 90/88 Campbell St
Oakey
(07) 4691 3445

Residents who would like further information about the CRG and application process can call into the Information Centre, or call Community Liaison Officer, Helen Braithwaite on 0409 082 403.

# Appendix E. CRG Agenda

# Meeting Agenda

## New Acland Community Reference Group – Meeting 2

*Date:* **Monday, 26 November 2012**

*Time:* **3.00pm**

*Location:* **Library, Oakey State School (Primary).** *NB: Members need to sign in at the school office before heading to the library.*

*Attendees:* **Community Reference Group (CRG) members**

*New Hope Group representatives:*
Jim Randell (General Manager – New Acland)
Helen Williams (Community Liaison Officer)
Jennifer Wilson (CRG Administrative Support), Secretariat
Andre du Preez (Project Manager – New Acland Project) – Guest

| Time | Item | Reference material |
|---|---|---|
| 3.00pm | Welcome & Registration | Registration Form |
| 3.05pm | Safety share | N/A |
| 3.10pm | Community feedback and input<br>- Opportunity for members to present and discuss feedback from the community<br>- May include issues, concerns, suggestions and opportunities | N/A |
| 3.50pm | Break – Afternoon Tea | N/A |
| 4.05pm | New Acland Continuation Plan update – Andre du Preez, Project Manager – New Acland Project<br>- Followed by discussion by members | N/A |
| 4.35pm | Housekeeping | N/A |
| 4.45pm | Future meeting dates | Date Claimer |
| 4.50pm | Discuss relevant items and topics for future meetings and the agenda for the next CRG meeting | N/A |
| 5.00pm | Meeting close | N/A |

*The minutes of all New Acland CRG meetings will be circulated to members prior to being published on the New Hope Group website. Committee members will have 4 business days to respond with feedback. If no response is received, this will be taken as approval.*

***Items for future discussion:***

- *Agricultural land*

# Meeting Agenda

## New Acland Community Reference Group – Meeting 3

*Date:* **Monday, 4th February 2013**

*Time:* **3.00pm**

*Location:* **Library, Oakey State School (Primary).**

*Attendees:* **Community Reference Group (CRG) members**

**Michael Cuthill - Facilitator**

*New Hope Group representatives:* Jim Randell (General Manager – New Acland)
Helen Williams (Community Liaison Officer)
Jennifer Wilson (CRG Administrative Support), Secretariat

| Time | Item | Reference material |
|---|---|---|
| 3.00pm | Welcome & Registration | Registration Form |
| 3.05pm | Safety share | N/A |
| 3.10pm | Community feedback and input<br>- Opportunity for members to present and discuss feedback from the community<br>- May include issues, concerns, suggestions and opportunities | N/A |
| 3.50pm | Break – Afternoon Tea | N/A |
| 4.05pm | New Hope Update | N/A |
| 4.15pm | Jondaryan CRG Member update | N/A |
| 4.25pm | CRG Communication | Comms Pack |
| 4.50pm | House Keeping<br>- Discuss relevant items and topics for future meetings | N/A |
| 5.00pm | Meeting close | N/A |

*The minutes of all New Acland CRG meetings will be circulated to members prior to being published on the New Hope Group website. Committee members will have 4 business days to respond with feedback. If no response is received, this will be taken as approval.*

***Items for future discussion:***

- *Agricultural land – topic on hold until the release of the draft Darling Downs Regional Plan*

# Meeting Agenda

## New Acland Community Reference Group – Meeting 4

*Date:* **Monday, 8th April 2013**

*Time:* **3.30pm (note change of time, previously 3:00pm)**

*Location:* **Oakey RSL Function Room, Campbell St Oakey**

*Attendees:* **Community Reference Group (CRG) members**

**Michael Cuthill – Facilitator**

*New Hope Group representatives:* Jim Randell (General Manager – New Acland)
Helen Williams (Community Liaison Officer)
Jennifer Wilson (CRG Administrative Support), Secretariat

| Time | Item | Reference material |
|---|---|---|
| 3.00pm | Welcome & Registration | Registration Form |
| 3.05pm | Safety share | N/A |
| 3.10pm | Community feedback and input<br>- Opportunity for members to present and discuss feedback from the community<br>- May include issues, concerns, suggestions and opportunities | N/A |
| 3.50pm | Break – Afternoon Tea | N/A |
| 4.05pm | Jondaryan CRG Member update | N/A |
| 4.15pm | New Hope Update<br>- Revised Expansion Plan – ToR update<br>- Site update | N/A |
| 4.50pm | House Keeping<br>- Discuss general items and topics for future meetings | N/A |
| 5.00pm | Meeting close | N/A |

***Items for future discussion:***

- *Agricultural land – topic on hold until the release of the draft Darling Downs Regional Plan*
- *Education – topic to be discussed when both education representatives are available*

# Meeting Agenda

New Hope Group

## New Acland Community Reference Group – Meeting 5

| | |
|---|---|
| *Date:* | **Monday, 27th May 2013** |
| *Time:* | **3.30pm (note change of time, previously 3:00pm)** |
| *Location:* | **Library, Oakey State School (Primary).** *NB: Members need to sign in at the school office before heading to the library* |
| *Attendees:* | Community Reference Group (CRG) members<br>Michael Cuthill – Facilitator |
| *New Hope Group representatives:* | Jim Randell (General Manager – New Acland)<br>Helen Williams (Community Liaison Officer)<br>Jennifer Wilson (CRG Administrative Support), Secretariat |
| *CRG Guests* | Sinclair Knight Merz Representatives |

| Time | Item | Reference material |
|---|---|---|
| 3.30pm | Welcome & Sign In | Sign In Form |
| 3.35pm | Safety share | N/A |
| 3.40pm | Community feedback and input<br>- Opportunity for members to present and discuss feedback from the community<br>- May include issues, concerns, suggestions and opportunities | N/A |
| 4.05pm | New Hope Update<br>- Don't Undermine Your Workmates' Safety<br>- Farmfest | N/A |
| 4.20pm | Break – Afternoon Tea | N/A |
| 4.30pm | SIA Presentation | N/A |
| 5.20pm | House Keeping<br>- Discuss general items and topics for future meetings | N/A |
| 5.30pm | Meeting close | N/A |

***Items for future discussion:***

- *Agricultural land – topic on hold until the release of the draft Darling Downs Regional Plan*
- *Education – topic to be discussed when both education representatives are available*

NEW HOPE GROUP

# AGENDA

| | |
|---|---|
| **TITLE:** | **New Acland Community Reference Group – Meeting 6** |
| **DATE:** | Monday, 29th July 2013 |
| **VENUE:** | Oakey State School (Primary) |
| **START TIME:** | 3:30pm (note change of time, previously 3:00pm) |
| **ATTENDEES:** | Community Reference Group (CRG) members<br>Michael Cuthill – Facilitator<br>New Hope Representatives:<br>- Jim Randell (General Manager – New Acland)<br>- Helen Braithwaite (Community Liaison Officer)<br>- Jennifer Wilson (CRG Administrative Support), Secretariat |
| **GUESTS:** | N/A |

| Time: | Item: | Reference Material: |
|---|---|---|
| 3:30pm | Welcome and Sign In | Sign In Form |
| 3:35pm | Safety Share | N/A |
| 3:40pm | Community feedback and input<br>- Opportunity for members to present and discuss feedback from the community<br>- May include issues, concerns, suggestions and opportunities | N/A |
| 4:05pm | New Hope Update<br>- New Acland expansion | N/A |
| 4:20pm | Break – Afternoon Tea | N/A |
| 4:30pm | Discussion of draft Community Investment Fund (CIF) | CIF draft documents |
| 5:20pm | House Keeping<br>- Discuss general items and topics for future meetings | N/A |
| 5:30pm | Meeting close | |

*Items for future discussion:*
- *Agricultural land – to be discussed soon, in light of draft Darling Downs Regional Plan*
- *Education in the local area*

NEW HOPE GROUP

# AGENDA

| | |
|---|---|
| **TITLE:** | **New Acland Community Reference Group – Meeting 6** |
| **DATE:** | Monday, 29th July 2013 |
| **VENUE:** | Oakey State School (Primary) |
| **START TIME:** | 3:30pm (note change of time, previously 3:00pm) |
| **ATTENDEES:** | Community Reference Group (CRG) members<br>Michael Cuthill – Facilitator<br>New Hope Representatives:<br>- Jim Randell (General Manager – New Acland)<br>- Helen Braithwaite (Community Liaison Officer)<br>- Jennifer Wilson (CRG Administrative Support), Secretariat |
| **GUESTS:** | N/A |

| Time: | Item: | Reference Material: |
|---|---|---|
| 3:30pm | Welcome and Sign In | Sign In Form |
| 3:35pm | Safety Share | N/A |
| 3:40pm | Community feedback and input<br>- Opportunity for members to present and discuss feedback from the community<br>- May include issues, concerns, suggestions and opportunities | N/A |
| 4:05pm | New Hope Update<br>- New Acland expansion | N/A |
| 4:20pm | Break – Afternoon Tea | N/A |
| 4:30pm | Discussion of draft Community Investment Fund (CIF) | CIF draft documents |
| 5:20pm | House Keeping<br>- Discuss general items and topics for future meetings | N/A |
| 5:30pm | Meeting close | |

*Items for future discussion:*
- *Agricultural land – to be discussed soon, in light of draft Darling Downs Regional Plan*
- *Education in the local area*

NEW HOPE GROUP

# AGENDA

| | |
|---|---|
| **TITLE:** | **New Acland Community Reference Group – Meeting 7** |
| **DATE:** | Monday, 21st October 2013 |
| **VENUE:** | Oakey RSL - Function room |
| **START TIME:** | 3:30pm (note change of time, previously 3:00pm) |
| **ATTENDEES:** | Community Reference Group (CRG) members<br>Michael Cuthill – Facilitator<br>New Hope Representatives:<br>- Bruce Denney (Chief Operations Officer)<br>- Jim Randell (General Manager – New Acland)<br>- Helen Braithwaite (Community Liaison Officer)<br>- Jennifer Wilson (CRG Administrative Support), Secretariat |
| **GUESTS:** | N/A |

| **Time:** | **Item:** | **Reference Material:** |
|---|---|---|
| 3:30pm | Welcome and Sign In | Sign In Form |
| 3:35pm | Safety Share | N/A |
| 3:40pm | Community feedback and input<br>- Opportunity for members to present and discuss feedback from the community<br>- May include issues, concerns, suggestions and opportunities | N/A |
| 4:00 | New Hope Update | N/A |
| 4:15pm | Community Investment Fund CIF Update | |
| 4:30pm | Presentation by Bruce Denney followed by afternoon tea and socialising | N/A |

*Items for future discussion:*
- *Agricultural land – to be discussed soon, in light of draft Darling Downs Regional Plan*
- *Education in the local area*

NEW HOPE GROUP

# AGENDA

| | |
|---|---|
| TITLE: | **New Acland Community Reference Group** |
| DATE: | Monday, 16th December 2013 |
| VENUE: | Oakey RSL - Function room |
| START TIME: | 6pm |
| ATTENDEES: | Community Reference Group (CRG) members<br><br>New Hope Representatives:<br>- Jim Randell (General Manager – New Acland)<br>- Helen Braithwaite (Community Liaison Officer)<br>- Jennifer Wilson (CRG Administrative Support), Secretariat |
| GUESTS: | N/A |

| Time: | Item: | Reference Material: |
|---|---|---|
| 6:00pm | Welcome and Sign In | Sign In Form |
| 6:05pm | Safety Share | N/A |
| 6:10pm | Community Investment Fund discussion and final recommendations | CIF summary sheet |
| 6:40pm | Chairperson discussion | N/A |
| 6:50pm | Miscellaneous | N/A |
| 7:00pm | Christmas Dinner together | N/A |

NEW HOPE GROUP

# AGENDA

| | |
|---|---|
| TITLE: | **New Acland Community Reference Group** |
| DATE: | Monday, 10 February 2014 |
| VENUE: | Oakey RSL - Function room |
| START TIME: | 5.30pm |
| ATTENDEES: | Community Reference Group (CRG) members<br><br>New Hope Representatives:<br>- Jim Randell (Executive General Manager - Mining)<br>- Helen Braithwaite (Community Liaison Officer)<br>- Jennifer Wilson (CRG Administrative Support), Secretariat<br>- Andre DuPreez (Project Manager) |

| Time: | Item: | Reference Material: |
|---|---|---|
| 5.30pm | Welcome and Sign In | Sign In Form |
| | Safety Share | N/A |
| 5.40pm | Community Investment Fund Update | N/A |
| 5.50pm | New Acland & Acland Pastoral Update | N/A |
| 6.00pm | NACP Update | N/A |
| 6.20pm | Community Group Updates | N/A |
| 6.45pm | Next Meeting<br>▪ Future topics | N/A |

NEW HOPE GROUP

# AGENDA

| | |
|---|---|
| TITLE: | **New Acland Community Reference Group** |
| DATE: | Monday, 17 March 2014 |
| VENUE: | Oakey RSL – Function Room |
| START TIME: | 5.30pm |
| ATTENDEES: | Community Reference Group (CRG) members<br><br>New Hope Representatives:<br>- Jim Randell (Executive General Manager - Mining)<br>- Helen Braithwaite (Community Liaison Officer)<br>- Jennifer Wilson (CRG Administrative Support), Secretariat |

| Time: | Item: | Reference Material: |
|---|---|---|
| 5.30pm | Welcome and Sign In | Sign In Form |
| | Safety Share | N/A |
| 5.40pm | Jondaryan Community Update | N/A |
| 5.50pm | New Acland & Acland Pastoral Update | N/A |
| 6.00pm | Community Group Updates | N/A |
| 6.30pm | Next Meeting<br>▪ Future topics | N/A |

NEW HOPE GROUP

# AGENDA

| | |
|---|---|
| TITLE: | **New Acland Community Reference Group** |
| DATE: | Monday, 28 April 2014 |
| VENUE: | **Bar Lounge** at the **Oakey Cultural Centre** |
| START TIME: | 5.30pm |
| ATTENDEES: | Community Reference Group (CRG) members<br><br>New Hope Representatives:<br>- Jim Randell (Executive General Manager - Mining)<br>- Helen Braithwaite (Community Liaison Officer)<br>- Jennifer Wilson (CRG Administrative Support), Secretariat |

| Time: | Item: | Reference Material: |
|---|---|---|
| 5.30pm | Welcome and Sign In | Sign In Form |
| | Safety Share | |
| 5.35pm | Update on South Myall Landcare activities | |
| 5.50pm | Community Group Updates | |
| 6.15pm | Community Investment Fund Update | |
| 6.30pm | New Hope & Acland Pastoral Update | |
| 6.40pm | Next Meeting<br>▪ Future topics | |

NEW HOPE GROUP

# AGENDA

| | |
|---|---|
| TITLE: | **New Acland Community Reference Group** |
| DATE: | Monday, 26 May 2014 |
| VENUE: | **Bar Lounge** at the **Oakey Cultural Centre** |
| START TIME: | 5.30pm |
| ATTENDEES: | Community Reference Group (CRG) members<br><br>New Hope Representatives:<br>- Jim Randell (Executive General Manager - Mining)<br>- Helen Braithwaite (Senior Community Advisor)<br>- Jennifer Wilson (CRG Administrative Support), Secretariat |

| Time: | Item: | Reference Material: |
|---|---|---|
| 5.30pm | Welcome and Sign In | Sign In Form |
| | Safety Share | |
| 5:35pm | Presentation from Condamine Alliance regarding planned Oakey project | |
| 5.55pm | Update on Jondaryan Rail Loading Facility | |
| 6.15pm | Community Investment Fund Update | |
| 6.30pm | Next Meeting<br>▪ Future topics | |

NEW HOPE GROUP

# AGENDA

| | |
|---|---|
| TITLE: | **New Acland Community Reference Group** |
| DATE: | Monday 14 July 2014 |
| VENUE: | **Oakey State High School** |
| START TIME: | 5.30pm |
| ATTENDEES: | Community Reference Group (CRG) members<br><br>New Hope Representatives:<br>- Jim Randell (Executive General Manager - Mining)<br>- Helen Braithwaite (Senior Community Advisor)<br>- Jennifer Wilson (CRG Administrative Support), Secretariat |

| Time: | Item: | Reference Material: |
|---|---|---|
| 5.30pm | Welcome and Sign In | Sign In Form |
| | Safety Share | |
| 5:45pm | Update from Community Groups | |
| 6.15pm | Update from New Acland | |
| 6.25pm | Community Investment Fund Update | |
| 6.30pm | Next Meeting<br>▪ Future topics | |

NEW HOPE GROUP

# AGENDA

| | |
|---|---|
| TITLE: | **New Acland Community Reference Group** |
| DATE: | Monday 15 September 2014 |
| VENUE: | **Oakey State High School** |
| START TIME: | 5.30pm |
| ATTENDEES: | Community Reference Group (CRG) members<br><br>New Hope Representatives:<br>- Jim Randell (Executive General Manager - Mining)<br>- Helen Braithwaite (Senior Community Advisor)<br>- Jennifer Wilson (CRG Administrative Support), Secretariat |

| Time: | Item: | Reference Material: |
|---|---|---|
| 5.30pm | Welcome and Sign In | Sign In Form |
| | Safety Share | |
| 5:45pm | Update from Community Groups | |
| 6.15pm | Update on Acland Stage III and AEIS | |
| 6.25pm | Community Investment Fund Update | |
| 6.30pm | New Acland Update | |
| 6.40pm | Next Meeting<br>▪ Future topics | |

NEW HOPE GROUP

# AGENDA

| | |
|---|---|
| TITLE: | **New Acland Community Reference Group** |
| DATE: | Monday 20 October 2014 |
| VENUE: | **Oakey RSL** |
| START TIME: | 5.30pm |
| ATTENDEES: | Community Reference Group (CRG) members<br><br>New Hope Representatives:<br>- Jim Randell (Executive General Manager - Mining)<br>- Helen Braithwaite (Senior Community Advisor)<br>- Jennifer Wilson (CRG Administrative Support), Secretariat |

| Time: | Item: | Reference Material: |
|---|---|---|
| 5.30pm | Welcome and Sign In | Sign In Form |
| | Safety Share | |
| | Acceptance of members to Community Reference Group - 2015 | |
| 5:45pm | Update from Community Groups | |
| 6.00pm | Community Investment Fund – Review of Applications | |
| 6.50pm | New Acland Update | |
| 7.00pm | Next Meeting<br>▪ Dinner | |

# Appendix F. CRG Meeting Minutes

New Hope Group

Minutes of meeting

# New Acland Community Reference Group

CRG meeting number: 2

| | |
|---|---|
| Date: | 26 November 2012 |
| Time: | 3.00pm |
| Location: | Oakey State School (Primary) |
| Apologies: | Matthew Boyd – Queensland Health<br>Andrew Langton – Oakey Chamber of Commerce<br>Helen Montgomery – Lifeline Darling Downs |
| Facilitator: | Michael Cuthill – Australian Centre for sustainable Business and Development, USQ |
| Attendees: | Dave Bosworth – Oakey State School<br>Shane Charles – Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise<br>Sarah Due – AgForce Queensland<br>Bryan Gray – RDA Darling Downs and SW Qld<br>Catherine Hull – Downs Group Training<br>Greg Johnson – Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce<br>Barry Mason – Local Landholder<br>Chris McNally – Oakey State High School<br>Nancy Sommerfield – Toowoomba Regional Council |
| New Hope Group Representatives: | Jim Randell – New Acland General Manager<br>Helen Braithwaite – Community Liaison Officer<br>Andre du Preez – Project Manager<br>Jennifer Wilson – Secretariat |

| Agenda item | Discussion |
|---|---|
| Item 1 | Official Welcome to Oakey Primary School - Dave Bosworth<br>▪ David welcomed the group to Oakey Primary School and detailed the evacuation procedures and congratulated New Acland on their solid message of safety during the site visit. The focus for Oakey State School is also safety and the ability to read that will ultimately give options in life. |
| Item 2 | Safety Share – Michael Cuthill<br>Michael offered a way of removing a tick was to apply constant pressure while gently pulling, not to squeeze the body. |
| Item 3 | Housekeeping – Michael Cuthill<br>▪ Minutes from last meeting had been circulated. Chris McNally suggested that more detail be included on the discussion items.<br>▪ Carryover Items :<br>1. Conflict of Interest. Michael offered by way of a guideline in declaring any conflicts of interest if anyone has any commercial interest or any advantage could be gained by way of tender or other means then it should be disclosed. Helen advised the group that New Hope has a relationship with most of the groups through the community. On a personal level Helen disclosed that she is a Director of Lifeline.<br>2. There has been a member suggested as a Jondaryan representative on the CRG. At this stage no direct approach has been made however the person is well considered and has good connections within the community. (NB: person's details no disclosed due to privacy at this stage). After discussion on changes required to the Terms of Reference, CRG members felt that it would be beneficial to have a Jondaryan representative in the group. Comments were made that should a Jondaryan representative be accepted, the position should be made available for application from all interested Jondaryan representatives. Jim Randell suggested that the Jondaryan Residents Association meeting on Friday night (30 November) would be a good opportunity to gauge interest. |
| Actions: | Helen to make contact with the suggested representative and interested parties from the Jondaryan District Residents Association meeting. |
| Item 4 | Michael requested any feedback from concerns or issues from their own committees or groups.<br>1. The feedback Chris McNally has received from community members is that the people that work locally for New Acland are good to work with, however members of the community are frustrated as theyfeel the parent company (perceived as Ipswich) is not responsive and their decisions do not meet their concerns.<br>2. Greg Johnson published photos and media release in his Chamber E News with positive feedback. On 6-8 March Bruce Denney (New Hope - COO) will speak to a group at the Infrastructure and Energy Summit.<br>3. Bryan Gray has included CRG details in their newsletter with no negative comments.<br>4. Shane Charles included CRG details in newsletters and the business community is generally supportive of New Hope. TSBE are currently organising a tour of New Acland for their Board members.<br>5. Nancy Sommerfield circulated photos that were taken during the New Acland site visit and waiting for feedback. It was suggested that on the New Hope website an employment step process be available that allows for opportunity to process applicants and with elimination as it steps through.<br>6. Barry Mason as a farmer has had discussions with the grass roots i.e. the farmers and has concerns with prime agricultural land taken up by mining in the continuation plan. Discussions on options |

| Agenda item | Discussion |
|---|---|
| | available not to mine the land should continue with mining engineers and looking at opportunities and options that might be would be beneficial. This topic would be carried over and discussed at a full session of the CRG.<br>7. Dave Bosworth as Principal of Oakey State School is keen to understand the skill set and opportunities there would be for working with the mine, and how he gives the notion and dreams for the young people that can become reality. Discussions on key requirements and the importance to socially invest funds in this area.<br>8. Sarah Due advised that she has had contact from landholders surrounding the mine that have concerns over health, sleep, peace and have been disturbed in the past. The group discussed other landholders contributing to the CRG would offer a different perspective. Further consideration by New Hope on involvement from other landholders at some meetings will be given.<br>9. Catherine Hull has only had positive comments from businesses. |
| Action: | Media Release to be forwarded to Catherine Hull |
| Item 5 | Continuation Plan Update – Andre du Preez (Project Manager)<br>▪ The group had detailed discussion on the continuation plan including the process going forward from the Coordinator General's announcement. The issue of the Terms of Reference will be released the first week of December and give the public opportunity to review and offer input. This will be open for public comment for a period of 9 weeks (usually 4 weeks). New Hope intends to host to Open Days to the public in Oakey, the first will be held on the 11th of December and the second on the 30th of January. Jim and Andre outlined the monitoring that is currently conducted at Jondaryan. |
| Item 5 | Future Meeting Dates – Michael Cuthill<br>▪ No meeting in December<br>▪ Invitation to be sent for next meeting 4 February 2013. |
| Item 6 | Topics for future meetings<br>• GJ suggested Communication Strategy – information from CRG to a wider group to gain a better understanding of the debate from opponents and employees. People's ability to interpret and make judgement and opportunity to see if they are linked.<br>• Strategic Cropping Land |
| Next meeting | Next meeting:<br>• 3.00 pm Monday 4 February 2013 – Oakey Primary School. |
| Meeting close | Meeting closed at: 5.10pm |

*The minutes of all New Acland CRG meetings will be recorded and published within 30 days of a meeting. All CRG members are required to review and comment on minutes within one week prior to publishing.*

NEW HOPE GROUP

## Minutes of meeting

# New Acland Community Reference Group

CRG meeting number: 3

| | |
|---|---|
| Date: | 4 February 2013 |
| Time: | 3.00pm |
| Location: | Oakey State School (Primary) |
| Apologies: | Helen Montgomery – Lifeline Darling Downs<br>Nancy Sommerfield – Toowoomba Regional Council<br>Sarah Due – AgForce Queensland<br>Dave Bosworth – Oakey State School |
| Facilitator: | Michael Cuthill – Australian Centre for Sustainable Business and Development, USQ |
| Attendees: | Shane Charles – Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise<br>Bryan Gray – RDA Darling Downs and SW Qld<br>Catherine Hull – Downs Group Training<br>Greg Johnson – Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce<br>Barry Mason – Local Landholder<br>Chris McNally – Oakey State High School<br>Matthew Boyd – Queensland Health<br>Andrew Langton – Oakey Chamber of Commerce |
| New Hope Group Representatives: | Jim Randell – New Acland General Manager<br>Helen Braithwaite – Community Liaison Officer<br>Jennifer Wilson – Secretariat |

| Agenda item | Discussion |
|---|---|
| Item 1 | Michael welcomed the group<br>Greg Johnson informed the group on the Infrastructure & Energy Summit to be held 6-8 March 2013 hosted by Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce & Industry. |
| Item 2 | Safety Share – Jim Randell<br>Jim Randell advised the Group of an employee that had received damage to his house in Burrum Heads from a tornado and the damage that can be caused by flying debris during the storms. |
| Item 3 | Community feedback and input<br>○ Michael Cuthill referred to the email circulated by Helen Montgomery and the issues that have been raised with Lifeline. These include:<br>○ Perceived negative impact to health. Discussion in the Group saying they felt they understood there was no impact, however, could see that there is still a feeling in parts of the community that coal dust could be harmful. The Group said there was a need for the mine to allay these concerns<br>Jim Randell advised that his personal approach is to have the opportunity to give information from New Hope's perspective and if organising an independent view would be beneficial, he would do so in some cases.<br>Michael Cuthill suggested that the company respond to Lifeline's concerns offering to speak with the stakeholders in person if appropriate.<br>The group also requested one page of information regarding coal dust. Helen Braithwaite offered New Hope fact sheets for reference for members.<br>○ Another point raised by Helen Montgomery was in relation to rehabilitation and promoting this through the community. Barry Mason suggested that New Hope organise an independent group to review current practices and then speak to the community about the rehabilitation<br>○ Helen Montgomery also suggested extending New Hope social initiatives with particular reference to education and training. Chris McNally spoke about the need for real pathways to careers for the Oakey and surrounding communities.<br>Jim Randell said that New Acland regularly had trainees and apprentices from the local area on site and made genuine attempts to hire locals where ever possible.<br>Chris McNally said that he has had initial discussions with Helen Braithwaite regarding further opportunities in the area and was keen to continue discussing options.<br>Helen Braithwaite advised the group that New Hope is continuing to look at a possible Community Development Fund and this could be used to support some of the bigger projects that are community driven.<br>○ Shane Charles advised of the TSBE and TRC visit to New Acland that was warmly received. Discussions on local content are planned with Lisa Backhouse. No feedback from membership base to date.<br>○ Greg Johnson develops a weekly article in the Chronicle and has received no feedback. |
| Actions: | ▪ HB/CMcN discuss further on a possible process that will offer benefits to both the company and the community<br>▪ HB - New Hope's response to Lifeline's concerns |

| Agenda item | Discussion |
|---|---|
| | ▪ HB- New Hope to review communications on perceived health impacts of coal dust |
| Item 4 | New Hope Update<br>▪ Jim Randell gave an update on New Hope including:<br>o New Acland had no impact from the floods however two shifts were sent home to be with families during the event. The flood did impact the rail and repairs will not be completed until end of February which may impact the stockpiles at Jondaryan and at site.<br>o New Acland has replaced air horns on the large trucks with electric horns which have a lower noise impact on surroundings.<br>o Rehabilitation of the tailings project will be complete by end of July.<br>o Acland Pastoral Company will be working with Agforce to facilitate a feral pest program, involving locals for a combined effort.<br>o The veneering project will be completed by the end of March at the Jondaryan Loading facility using a vegetable type veneer to seal.<br>o A new trainee has started at Acland Pastoral, with the aim of having two trainees employed.<br>o The independent group Outcross is progressing a partnership with USQ to assist APC in trial grazing on rehabilitated land.<br>o Neighbour briefings on the Revised New Acland Coal Mine Stage 3 Project proposal have continued. Two community information sessions for the Terms of Reference have been held in Oakey. Further information on the Project is available at the New Hope Community Information Centre in Campbell Street, Oakey. |
| Action: | |
| Item 5 | Jondaryan CRG Member update:<br>▪ Helen Braithwaite updated the group on the application process for the Jondaryan CRG representative. One application has been received – formal offer to be extended before the next meeting.<br>The Amendment to the ToR had been circulated and there was no one with comment or concerns. All members present initialled the ToR amendment to show their support. Helen will now approach the applicant and invite them to the next meeting and a visit to New Acland. |
| Item 5 | CRG Communication<br>▪ Helen clarified that the Group is entitled to comment on the ToR and if any member requires information by way of Fact Sheets these are available. Helen provided attending members with a copy of New Hope's factsheets and gave an overview of places information is available.<br>If CRG members come across stakeholder groups who are looking for more information about the mine or the expansion, New Hope would be more than happy to meet with these groups. CRG members can organise this through Jen or Helen.<br>Media enquiries should be referred to New Hope Senior Communications Advisor Justin Coomber. |
| Item 6 | Housekeeping<br>Topics for future meetings carried over<br>• Strategic Cropping Land – will await the DDRP release (end February).<br>Suggested topics |

| Agenda item | Discussion |
|---|---|
| | ▪ Education<br>▪ Social Enterprise<br><br>Jim Randell commended the group on the discussion at the beginning of the meeting and suggested that robust discussion continues to be a focus point of all meetings. |
| | |
| Next meeting | Next meeting:<br>• 3.30 pm Monday 25 March 2013 – Oakey State School.<br>• Please note that the meeting time has been pushed back to 3:30pm so as to miss the after school rush. |
| | |
| Meeting close | Meeting closed at: 4.45pm |

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New Hope Group

Minutes of meeting

# New Acland Community Reference Group

| | |
|---|---|
| CRG meeting number: | 4 |
| Date: | 8 April 2013 |
| Time: | 3.30pm |
| Location: | Oakey RSL |
| Apologies: | Nancy Sommerfield – Toowoomba Regional Council<br>Dave Bosworth – Oakey State School<br>Chris McNally – Oakey State High School<br>Andrew Langton – Oakey Chamber of Commerce |
| Facilitator: | Michael Cuthill – Australian Centre for sustainable Business and Development, USQ |
| Attendees: | Sarah Due – AgForce Queensland<br>Shane Charles – Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise<br>Bryan Gray – RDA Darling Downs and SW Qld<br>Catherine Hull – Downs Group Training<br>Greg Johnson – Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce<br>Barry Mason – Local Landholder<br>Matthew Boyd – Queensland Health |
| New Hope Group Representatives: | Jim Randell – New Acland General Manager<br>Helen Braithwaite – Community Liaison Officer<br>Jennifer Wilson – Secretariat |

| Agenda item | Discussion |
|---|---|
| Item 1 | Michael Cuthill welcomed the group. |
| Item 2 | Safety Share – Helen Braithwaite<br>Caution travelling on roads and manage fatigue on long distances. |
| Item 3 | Community feedback and input<br>▪ Greg Johnson has had requests for Fact Sheets which have been supplied. Helen reminded the group that the Fact Sheets are just a starting point for discussion and if more information is required don't hesitate to request.<br>▪ Greg Johnson provided feedback on the success of the Infrastructure and Energy Summit that was held in March, with positive feedback to the Chamber in relation to Peter Andrew's presentation.<br>▪ Matt Boyd presented correspondence he has received from Oakey Coal Action Alliance Group outlining concerns for health, noise, pollution and requesting individual meetings with members of the Community Reference Group. Matt recommended that an offer be given to Oakey Coal Action Alliance Group to give a presentation to the CRG at the next meeting. All agreed that a 20min presentation should be offered with extra time for questions afterward.<br>▪ Helen Braithwaite gave an update on Jondaryan CRG Member. The interested person has current work commitments that would not permit attending during the week. Members suggested that NHG continue to talk with the representative before each meeting to discuss any issues they would like brought to the CRG meeting. It was agreed that an open position be offered to the Jondaryan representative for future meetings if he is available. |
| Actions: | ▪ An invitation to Oakey Coal Action Alliance Group to present at next meeting. |
| Item 4 | New Hope Update<br>▪ Jim Randell gave an update on New Hope including:<br>o Terms of Reference(ToR) released which is not an approval of project but an index for the Environmental Impact Study (EIS) which will now be put together. It is a milestone and part of the approval process that needs to be followed. If members have any comments regarding the EIS, please let NHG representative know.<br>o New Acland has just had a two week site closure to reduce coal stocks which had increased due to the loss of rail during recent rains. Time off over the Easter period gave employees an opportunity to spend time with families.<br>o New Hope is installing a veneering and profiling system at the Jondaryan Loading Facility. . The veneering process has been operational since 1 April however government has requested it not operate until early May so that monitoring without it can be completed. The veneering is completed with a vegetable matter material and is currently used in the Bowen Basin. MSDS available on the material.<br>o Anti-graffiti wagons are operational on our rail line. These wagons have been painted with a material that will allow for graffiti to be washed off.<br>o Some New Acland employees will attend Anzac Day again this year at Acland and pay their respect. Once again the operation will shut down during the service.<br>o Peter Andrew's visited site during the Summit and while his work is very interesting NHG will not be adopting all of his suggestions. If anyone is interested in learning more from Peter we could request him to attend a presentation.<br>o A university professor with expertise in the coal industry may become available to give a |

| Agenda item | Discussion |
|---|---|
| | presentation to the CRG. It is an opportunity to hear an expert speak about coal, so if interested please advise.<br>○ Queensland Police Service is currently working with the mining industry and giving presentation on synthetic drugs. New Acland extend the offer to include any groups which may be interested as this is a community issue. |
| Action: | |
| Item 6 | Housekeeping<br>▪ Topic of Education held over until Chris McNally and Dave Bosworth return.<br>▪ Shane Charles advised the new Strategic Cropping Land report will still be approximately 6-8 months before being released. |
| | |
| Next meeting | Next meeting:<br>• 3.30 pm - 27 May 2013 Oakey Primary School. |
| | |
| Meeting close | Meeting closed at: 5.00pm. |

Minutes of meeting

# New Acland Community Reference Group

CRG meeting number: 5

| | |
|---|---|
| Date: | 27 May 2013 |
| Time: | 3.30pm |
| Location: | Oakey Primary School |
| Apologies: | Sarah Due – AgForce Queensland<br>Shane Charles – Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise<br>Catherine Hull – Downs Group Training<br>Greg Johnson – Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce<br>Matthew Boyd – Queensland Health |
| Facilitator: | Michael Cuthill – Australian Centre for sustainable Business and Development, USQ |
| Attendees: | Bryan Gray – RDA Darling Downs and SW Qld<br>Barry Mason – Local Landholder<br>Nancy Sommerfield – Toowoomba Regional Council<br>Dave Bosworth – Oakey State School<br>Chris McNally – Oakey State High School<br>Andrew Langton – Oakey Chamber of Commerce |
| New Hope Group Representatives: | Jim Randell – New Acland General Manager<br>Helen Braithwaite – Community Liaison Officer<br>Jennifer Wilson – Secretariat |

| Agenda item | Discussion |
|---|---|
| Item 1 | Michael welcomed the group |
| Item 2 | Safety Share<br>Dave Bosworth advised of a recent fire drill at St Monica's School also included the Primary School due to location.<br>Jim Randell advised of a dozer roll over at New Acland this week. No injuries to any employees |
| Item 3 | Community feedback and input<br>▪ Barry Mason attended the recent Anzac Day celebration at Acland.<br>▪ Barry Mason advised the group of the continuing dingo problem in the area. Toowoomba Regional Council have completed a baiting program over the past two weeks and has plans to increase to four programs a year. Jim Randell offered to follow up on organising a program for the Acland area working with TRC and Agforce.<br>▪ Nancy Sommerfield enquired to re-use of the water at New Acland. Jim Randell advised that the only water to leave site was in evaporation or in the coal after washing.<br>▪ Nancy Sommerfield advised that the TRC had a meeting organised with a Jondaryan resident. Jim Randell extended an invitation to inspect the veneering process at the Jondaryan Loading Facility during their visit to Jondaryan.<br>▪ Helen Braithwaite advised the group of the status of the Jondaryan member. He will attend when possible and will continue engagement. The public testing results are sent to the Jondaryan Residents Association and placed on the noticeboard located at the Jondaryan Service Station.<br>▪ Michael Cuthill tabled an email received from the Oakey Coal Action Alliance(OCAA) President in response to the invitation extended to attend a CRG meeting. OCAA advised they would not be attending a CRG meeting however would like to meet with CRG members privately. Group discussion agreed that Michael should respond that the Oakey members would meet with the OCAA not representing the CRG and leave an open invitation to the OCAA to present to the group. |
| Actions: | ▪ MC – respond to the Oakey Coal Alliance Group and advised Oakey members are willing to meet. |
| Item 4 | New Hope Update<br>▪ Jim gave an update on New Hope including<br>o New Acland will be present at Farmfest and everyone welcome to visit. Tickets have been organised for CRG members to distribute to their organisation members.<br>o New Acland employees will be attending a QPS Drug Seminar on 13 June and wants to gauge the interest in opening a session up to the wider community in Oakey.<br>o Although the mining industry is going through tough times, New Acland is maintaining a constant workforce.<br>o A number of community groups have been to visit the New Acland operations.<br>o Consideration is being given to maintaining the stockpile at Jondaryan down to one week's supply and an update will be given next meeting. |
| Action: | |
| Item 6 | Social Impact Assessment Presentation<br>▪ Representatives from SKM gave an overview of the purpose of the SIA report and asked for comments from the group on any potential social impacts that could be associated with the revised New Acland Coal Mine Stage 3 Project plan. The group's contribution is also important to |

| Agenda item | Discussion |
|---|---|
| | assist understanding of what is happening within the community as a whole.<br>▪ Any individual follow up is welcomed |
| Next meeting | Next meeting:<br>• 3.30 pm – 29 July 2013 Oakey Primary School. |
| Meeting close | Meeting closed at: 5.20pm |

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Minutes of meeting

# New Acland Community Reference Group

| | |
|---|---|
| CRG meeting number: | 6 |
| Date: | 29 July 2013 |
| Time: | 3.30pm |
| Location: | Oakey Primary School |
| Apologies: | Matthew Boyd – Queensland Health<br>Andrew Langton – Oakey Chamber of Commerce<br>Bryan Gray – RDA Darling Downs and SW Qld |
| Facilitator: | Michael Cuthill – Australian Centre for Sustainable Business and Development, USQ |
| Attendees: | Barry Mason – Local Landholder<br>Nancy Sommerfield – Toowoomba Regional Council<br>Dave Bosworth – Oakey State School<br>Chris McNally – Oakey State High School<br>Sarah Due – AgForce Queensland<br>Shane Charles – Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise<br>Catherine Hull – Downs Group Training<br>Greg Johnson – Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce |
| New Hope Group Representatives: | Jim Randell – New Acland General Manager<br>Helen Braithwaite – Community Liaison Officer<br>Jennifer Wilson – Secretariat |

| Agenda item | Discussion |
|---|---|
| Item 1 | Michael welcomed the group |
| | |
| Item 2 | Safety Share<br>Discussion on driving safely in the fog conditions. |
| | |
| Item 3 | Community feedback and input<br>▪ Dave Bosworth has received comments on the stockpiles at Jondaryan. Upon further conversation with the person, he felt that not all the information that they had was accurate.<br>▪ Greg Johnson advised that with the lead up to the election there was a great opportunity to highlight the significance of the Toowoomba region in relation to the mining, energy infrastructure and diversity of industries.<br>▪ Catherine Hull had heard of concerns of pay cuts to New Acland employees. Jim advised that this was not a fact, however West Moreton 0perations had a shift restructure due to pressure to reduce costs.<br>▪ Sarah Due received a request to meet with the Jimbour Action Group. The CRG would like to extend an invitation to attend a meeting if they have any particular concerns. Sarah has also received concerns in relation to the water levels if Stage III goes ahead. Jim Randell advised that NHG has been monitoring bores from the beginning of mining at New Acland with no major reductions. He informed the group that New Hope has recently undertaken more monitoring after permission was sought from neighbours as part of the EIS for Stage III. If anyone knew of landholders with specific concerns he was happy to discuss further with the landowner. Sarah requested an update on dust monitoring results for a member's property.<br>▪ Barry Mason attended the fundraising breakfast that New Acland held for the St Vinnie's Sleep-out. Barry also questioned TRC in relation to the lighting in Acland Township.<br>▪ Nancy Sommerfield briefly discussed the dust monitoring study at Jondaryan. NHG welcomed the study by an external group and was confident of the outcome.<br>▪ Chris McNally discussed a meeting between New Acland and the Oakey High School regarding a partnership opportunity. He expressed that he was getting frustrated with some of the processes; however, things were back on track after the meeting. The school and the mine have come to an agreement on employment related opportunities for the High School. Michael Cuthill suggested contacting other schools that had similar relationships.<br>▪ Shane Charles advised that the TSBE had published an investment magazine for the region.<br>▪ No response from the Oakey Coal Action Alliance (OCAA) on meeting with members. Jim stated that he would welcome the opportunity to show the OCAA the mine and engage in conversation. |
| Actions: | ▪ |
| Item 4 | New Hope Update<br>▪ Activity is continuing on the Stage III EIS submission. This includes the Social Impact Assessment which members contributed to at the previous meeting.<br>▪ Prices have dropped for coal however the New Hope Group is confident it will be able to keep costs down and maintain current employees.<br>▪ New Acland Information Campaign is about to be launched. This campaign aims to share information with the community regarding New Acland's land rehabilitation practices, employment and economic contribution, and community benefits. |

| Agenda item | Discussion |
|---|---|
| | ▪ Public tours will start in August. These tours are open to local residents interested in seeing the mine. People on the tour will be given a presentation in the Acland Hall about New Hope and the mine, before going on a bus to see the current operations.<br>▪ Stage 2 of the grazing trials about to commence. The trials are conducted by Outcross in conjunction with USQ.<br>▪ A five year plan for the Acland Pastoral Company is under development. The plan will look at the resources and opportunities for the 10,000 ha which is owned by the company.<br>▪ Jim advised of a change of his role to include all of the New Hope Operations. Andrew McDonald will be New Acland General Manager. |
| Action: | |
| Item 6 | Community Investment Fund<br>▪ Helen requested feedback on the recently circulated Draft Community Investment Fund.<br>▪ The Fund will concentrate on community development projects that deliver long term, sustainable outcomes for the communities surrounding the New Acland Coal Mine.<br>▪ The group made a range of suggestions which are going to be considered by New Hope. These included:<br>o Michael mentioned that indigenous had not been specifically mentioned.<br>o Some clarity required in documents including criteria, Darling Downs Community includes a broader area, business community and chambers should be included.<br>o Suggested a community planning session could assist in identifying needs.<br>▪ Helen reiterated that the CRG was an important part of the Fund. In particular, their recommendations for projects which will be beneficial for the community. The group discussed the process for assessing applications which will be recommended.<br>▪ A decision was made that a sub-committee of the CRG would be established to review and short list applications. Final recommendations would then be decided upon by the group.<br>▪ Time is to be allocated at the next meeting for an update on the fund |
| Next meeting | Next meeting:<br>• 3.30 pm – 9 September. New venue needed, CRG members will be notified of location.<br>• Consideration to be given to alternate attendees.<br>• Darling Downs Regional Plan consultation will be finalised at the end of September. |
| Meeting close | Meeting closed at: 5.30pm |

Minutes of meeting

# New Acland Community Reference Group

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|---|---|
| CRG meeting number: | 7 |
| Date: | 9 September 2013 |
| Time: | 3.30pm |
| Location: | Oakey RSL |
| Apologies: | Matthew Boyd – Queensland Health<br>Bryan Gray – RDA Darling Downs and SW Qld<br>Sarah Due – AgForce Queensland |
| Facilitator: | Michael Cuthill – Australian Centre for sustainable Business and Development, USQ |
| Attendees: | Andrew Langton – Oakey Chamber of Commerce<br>Barry Mason – Local Landholder<br>Nancy Sommerfield – Toowoomba Regional Council<br>Chris McNally – Oakey State High School<br>Shane Charles – Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise<br>Catherine Hull – Downs Group Training<br>Greg Johnson – Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce |
| New Hope Group Representatives: | Andrew McDonald – New Acland General Manager<br>Helen Braithwaite – Community Liaison Officer<br>Jennifer Wilson – Secretariat |

| Agenda item | Discussion |
|---|---|
| Item 1 | Michael welcomed the group |
| Item 2 | Safety Share<br>Not to use mobile phone when driving and general awareness when operating equipment |
| Item 3 | Community feedback and input<br>▪ Barry Mason gave some feedback on the recent New Hope media campaign and felt that the impact was lost due to the timing during the election. He has received some very positive feedback about the public tours and the presentation of information during the visit.<br>Barry recently participated in the wild dog baiting program that Acland Pastoral had organised with the Toowoomba Regional Council. He said it was disappointing that more neighbours hadn't taken the opportunity to participate.<br>▪ Andrew Langton stated that he felt many people in the community didn't have enough information about the New Acland Stage 3 project. He has heard concerns from some in the community about aspects of Stage 3. The major concern seems to be proximity to Oakey. He stated that there is still a misunderstanding as to the distance between the mine and Oakey. Chris McNally suggested that a sign on the road indicating the boundaries of the proposed expansion may assist with informing the community.<br>▪ Greg Johnson advised that the Toowoomba Chamber would be participating in the Carnival of Flowers parade with over 30 members participating and New Acland would be involved.<br>▪ Shane Charles advised that a member of Toowoomba & Surat Basin Enterprise had recently visited New Acland and found the tour very information. Later in the year, they are planning a group visit to the mine.<br>▪ Nancy Somerfield advised that the TRC dust monitoring at Jondaryan had not yet started, however, was still being investigated<br>▪ Michael Cuthill advised the he had received correspondence from the Oakey Coal Action Alliance in response to the minutes from a previous CRG meeting claiming that no water leaves the New Acland site. This included a photo. The group requested further information from New Hope.<br>Michael reported that he attended the recent Regional Land Use Plan conference held in Toowoomba |
| Actions: | ▪ New Hope to provide more information about water management on site<br>▪ New Hope to investigate the possibility of a sign indicating the most southern point of the revised Stage 3 project. |
| Item 4 | New Hope Update<br>• Successful wild dog baiting program organised by Acland Pastoral and if required by the area would organise a follow up.<br>• The second trial on the rehab land has begun in conjunction with the University of Southern Queensland. This trial includes soil management and improvement, changes through grazing process of pastures and pasture recovery.<br>• The veneering of coal trains at Jondaryan is underway and progressing well. There have been some issues with the profiling equipment due to the irregularities in wagon heights. Aurizon inspected last week and is working with us in getting consistent wagons through. Sill sweeping is improving.<br>• New Acland had organised two Public Tours for the month with a good response. These have been |

| Agenda item | Discussion |
|---|---|
| | promoted to local communities (i.e. Oakey, Jondaryan, Goombungee etc.) initially. The tours provide the public with facts about the mine and give the public an opportunity to see the site and rehabilitation themselves.<br>• The Stage 3 EIS is due to be submitted to the government this month and is expected to be available for public comment towards the end of the year. |
| Action: | |
| Item 6 | Community Investment Fund<br>▪ The Community Investment Fund has been launched and the first round will close at the end of September. It is acknowledged that this is a short period to put an application forward and Helen will work with any group interested in putting in an application. There will be another application round closing at the end of March 2014. Applications are able to be submitted anytime throughout the year.<br>▪ As discussed in previous meetings, the Community Reference Group has a critical role in identifying projects that benefit the community. A sub-committee of CRG members has been appointed to work through the recommendations and report back to the whole CRG. |
| Item 7 | Community Reference Group Applications<br>▪ The first 12 month term of the CRG will end in October. The group discussed the past 12 months and plans going forward.<br>▪ The second term of the CRG will start in early November. New Hope will call for nominations from the public. All current members are required to reapply should they wish to continue.<br>▪ Members are also encouraged to distribute to their contacts and throughout the community. |
| Action: | • New Hope to send CRG nomination information to CRG members. |
| Item 8 | Discussion Topics<br>▪ The group discussed the Darling Downs Regional Plan (DDRP). When the DDRP is finalised, members requested that New Hope provide information regarding the DDRP and the Stage 3 project. An update will be provided at the next meeting.<br>▪ Education should remain a priority with the group.<br>Currently New Hope is involved in the B.O.Y.S Program at the Oakey primary and will continue to work to support education and development initiatives. Indigenous opportunities need to be captured. New Acland and the Oakey State High School are working on a staged program offering opportunities for work experience and development opportunities. |
| Next meeting | Next meeting:<br>• 3.30pm – 21 October – venue to be advised.<br>• Shane Charles offered his apology for the next meeting and was thanked for his contribution during the 12 months. |
| Meeting close | Meeting closed at: 5.00pm |

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Minutes of meeting

# New Acland Community Reference Group

| | |
|---|---|
| CRG meeting number: | 8 |
| Date: | 21 October 2013 |
| Time: | 3.30pm |
| Location: | Oakey RSL Function Room |
| Apologies: | Sarah Due – AgForce Queensland<br>Shane Charles – Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise<br>Greg Johnson – Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce<br>Nancy Sommerfield – Toowoomba Regional Council<br>Chris McNally – Oakey State High School |
| Facilitator: | Michael Cuthill – Australian Centre for sustainable Business and Development, USQ |
| Attendees: | Matthew Boyd – Queensland Health<br>Catherine Hull – Downs Group Training<br>Andrew Langton – Oakey Chamber of Commerce |
| New Hope Group Representatives: | Bruce Denney – Observer<br>Jim Randell – Executive General Manager Mining<br>Helen Braithwaite – Community Liaison Officer<br>Jennifer Wilson – Secretariat |

| Agenda item | Discussion |
|---|---|
| Item 1 | Michael welcomed the group<br>Continue meeting however limited numbers were able to attend |
| Item 2 | Safety Share<br>Bruce Denney reminded everyone of being aware of snakes when gardening.<br>Jim Randell advised that during a routine inspection a truck that came onto site had a cracked rim and that it is important to take the time to inspect rims on vehicles. |
| Item 3 | Community feedback and input<br>▪ Community Investment Fund had received a large number of applications and is being well supported in the community.<br>▪ Jim advised the group that despite recent media, New Hope has every intention of moving the Jondaryan Rail Loading Facility should the New Acland project be approved. If members of the public have concerns, please feel free to contact New Hope for further detail.<br>▪ The Oakey Hospital new garden was recently opened with support from the community, Rotary, local business and New Hope. Everyone is encouraged to wander through the gardens if visiting. |
| Actions: | |
| Item 4 | New Hope Update<br>• Coal prices continue to fall or remain flat while the US$ has been going in the wrong direction. Our response is to continue to address costs in our business. Despite these pressures, at this time we are still able to offer security to our employees.<br>• One of the ways we are addressing costs is to trial a new piece of mining equipment called a Wirtgen Miner. The Wirtgen Miner is a larger version of the machines used in road work. At this stage, New Hope is still trialling the machine, however, we expect that the machine will allow more efficient recovery of the thin seams.<br>• The mine also has some new Caterpillar 793 trucks. These trucks carry approximately 230 tonnes. The trucks will assist in reducing operational costs and noise.<br>• New Hope is continuing to look at ways to minimise noise. In particular, addressing the noise inversions that occur in colder months. Some of the mitigation measures that the company is currently doing or planning to do include:<br>○ Moving M1 Road and installing earth berms<br>○ Planting trees screens around the mine<br>○ Management of noise level through the design of the mining sequence<br>○ Installing noise suppression on mining equipment<br>○ Using 'cricket' reversing alarms, which use a frequency of sound that is loud when in close proximity, however, doesn't travel long distances.<br>○ Installing track slaps to dozers.<br>• As with the 2012 Christmas, New Hope intends to close the mine over the Christmas period.<br>• Rehabilitation has commenced in south pit of the mine. This is the area that can be seen from the Oakey Cooyar Road.<br>• The New Acland Project EIS has been submitted to the State Government. It is expected that it will be released for public comment by the end of the year. Over the coming month, New Hope will be engaging with potentially impacted neighbours and landholders in the area.<br>• Clarification was given in regard to the Jondaryan Rail Loading Facility (JRLF) and recent stories in |

| Agenda item | Discussion |
|---|---|
| | the paper. New Hope is still committed to moving the JRLF should the New Acland Project be approved. The withdrawn development authority was in relation to some smaller changes planned at the facility, which will no longer take place due to current economic pressures.<br>• NHG tabled a letter that was forwarded to NHG. The letter, from local activist groups, has been sent to schools in the area and raised concerns around dust. As discussed at previous meetings NHG continues to remain open for discussions with the activist group and previously an invitation to present at the CRG was made.<br>• There have been some concerns regarding tenants in New Hope rental properties. NHG is investigating the concerns and will take appropriate actions to remedy any issues.<br>• Security around site on weekends has been organised.<br>• Public tours at New Acland are continuing with great success. Between the public tours and group tours, there have been approximately 1500 visitors to mine in the last twelve months. We will be slowing down the number of tours over the hotter summer months, as rainfall can cancel tours at short notice.<br>• Acland Pastoral Company (APC) recently donated a few hundred cattle to the Brymaroo camp draft. All accounts report that the event was very successful.<br>• As previously mentioned, a feral animal baiting program recently occurred. The program was initiated with TRC and included local landholders, including APC. Further feral animal programs are now being investigated with Agforce.<br>• New Hope will be continuing to discuss work experience opportunities with the Oakey State High School<br>• CRG Applications closed on 18 October with 23 nominations received from a cross section of the community. Representation of numbers within the community and the relevance to the local community will be considered. All selection will be done through a fair and reasonable process. |
| Action: | |
| Item 6 | Community Investment Fund (CIF)<br>▪ The CRG CIF Subcommittee has reviewed a large number of strong applications. A short list of projects has been developed based on criteria such as, project location and community needs addressed.<br>▪ The short listed projects will be discussed at the first meeting of the new CRG term. At this meeting recommended projects will be finalised for New Hope's final decision.<br>▪ Prior to this meeting, a summary of project applications will be forwarded to CRG members for review.<br>▪ The next round for the New Acland Community Investment Fund will close on 30 March 2014. Applications can be submitted at any time between now and 30 March 2014 |
| | |
| Item 7 | Bruce Denney thanked all the Community Reference Group members for their contribution and the opportunity to be a conduit for two way communication between the mine and community. Bruce explained that the previous year had been a good first step, however, going forward NHG would like the CRG to move from being a mine centric group to more community focused group with NHG involvement. NHG will continue to provide secretariat and organising services.<br>Bruce recognised that members have been lobbied by external groups and NHG understands and respects the way it has been handled.<br>The Community Investment Fund will allow investment in projects that will deliver long term, sustainable outcomes for the community. The NHG Sponsorship and Donation program will continue to operate alongside the CIF. |

| Agenda item | Discussion |
|---|---|
| | New Hope stated that the company would be very interested to hear input from the group, as to where the CRG moved to from here.<br>Bruce presented the members with a gift in appreciation of the CRG process. |
| Next meeting | Next meeting:<br>• Date for next meeting dependent on finalising the new CRG nominations. |
| Meeting close | Meeting closed at: 4.45pm |

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New Hope Group

# Minutes of meeting

## New Acland Community Reference Group

CRG meeting number: 8

| | |
|---|---|
| Date: | 11 November 2013 |
| Time: | 4.30pm |
| Location: | New Acland |
| Apologies: | Michael Cuthill<br>Andrew Langton |
| Attendees: | Matthew Boyd<br>Jodie Collins<br>Graham Cooke<br>Sarah Due<br>Andrew Langton<br>Barry Mason<br>Nancy Sommerfield<br>Victoria Menkins<br>Glenys Bowtell<br>Greg Jones<br>Lindsay Evans |
| New Hope Group Representatives: | Bruce Denney – Observer ( Video Conference)<br>Jim Randell – Executive General Manager Mining<br>Helen Braithwaite – Community Liaison Officer<br>Jennifer Wilson – Secretariat |

New Hope Group

| Agenda item | Discussion |
|---|---|
| Welcome | Introductions and welcome – Jim Randell welcomed the group and introduced Bruce Denney (New Hope COO) via video conference. Bruce gave his apologies for not attending in person to welcome the group and thanked returning members for continuing and new members for their interest and their time, acknowledging the representation of their groups for the overall benefit of the community.<br><br>The CRG is a two way conduit for information to identify joint programs, and interests to the betterment of the community at large. During the first year, a foundation year, CRG was "mine centred". Going forward it is important to get two way information flow, with the mine meeting the needs and interests of the community with the assistance of the group.<br><br>One of the key actions for the CRG will be the Community Investment Fund (CIF) and one avenue to interact with the community. NHG make a significant contribution through sponsorships and donations each year, ranging from major sponsorship of Careflight through to donations to local sporting clubs and community groups. |
| New Hope Update | Jim Randell gave an update on the following topics:<br>▪ New Acland will have a site closure over the Christmas period (23/12/2013 6am through to 2/1/2014 6pm).<br>▪ Continuing with the program of supporting the Oakey State High School and opportunities for students to undertake work experience.<br>▪ EIS has been submitted and with the Coordinator General's Office.<br>▪ Construction and implementation of veneering on the coal trains has been successful. The profiling of the wagons is not working as well as predicted due to graffiti on the wagon (sensors pick it up) so looking at working on different sensors. Front end loaders tamping the top of the wagons to give an even profile at the moment, and brushes and water sprays removing coal from sills.<br>▪ There have had several media groups visit the mine in recent weeks with some good stories being released.<br>▪ New Acland will trial a Wirtgen miner in February 2014 which has the ability to mine coal cleaner, and assist with reducing production costs.<br>▪ NAC continue to work with residents at Jondaryan in relation to the dust issue and have been testing tanks etc. |
| General Business | ▪ Toowoomba Regional Council will conduct coal dust monitoring in Jondaryan in the future and have done some in Toowoomba. Testing done in Toowoomba showed rubber and normal dust on roads.<br>▪ Discussion on water monitoring carried out by the mine. NAC send results to the DEHP who also complete audits on a random basis. A formal response on the process will be given next meeting.<br>▪ A discussion was had regarding access to defibrillators in the local area. The on-going testing, maintenance and training would require careful consideration on the installation location. Member suggestions on location of where equipment may be required and how to manage the ongoing maintenance would be appreciated.<br>▪ A dam will be installed using Wetalla water to feed a centre pivot for Acland Pastoral use. The take and pay arrangement with the Toowoomba Regional Council makes it cost effective for Acland Pastoral Company. |

| Agenda item | Discussion |
|---|---|
| Action: | 1. Jim to present formal response on water monitoring conducted by NAC.<br>2. Helen to investigate interest in supply of defibrillators to local Community areas. |
| Community Investment Fund | ▪ Community Investment Funding closed 30 September with 20 submissions. A subcommittee of the Community Reference Group shortlisted the applications for final review. Priority to local communities including communities surrounding the mine. The CRG will make recommendations to New Hope based on projects that will benefit the community and address priority areas. In reviewing the applications if there is a conflict of interest, the involved parties will leave the room during discussion on the particular topic.<br>▪ The group discussed shortlisted applications. It was suggested that for future rounds a representative from the community body could be invited to present on their submission. Helen will circulate summary. |
| Action: | 1. Helen will circulate summary of CIF submissions that were agreed on. |
| Next Meeting | It was suggested that Monday's 5.30pm will be suitable. Date set meeting to meeting.<br>Next meeting will include Christmas get together -Monday 16 December- location to be confirmed. |
| Chairperson | Discussion on having a Chairperson from the group rather than a Facilitator. Nomination of the Chairperson will be at next meeting. Michael Cuthill will assist with transition. |
| Meeting close | Meeting closed at 8.40pm |

New Hope Group

Minutes of meeting

# New Acland Community Reference Group

CRG meeting number: 2/2014

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|---|---|
| Date: | 16 December 2013 |
| Time: | 6.00pm |
| Location: | Oakey RSL |
| Attendees: | Jodie Collins, Graham Cooke, Barry Mason, Nancy Sommerfield, Victoria Menkins, Lindsay Evans, Michael Cuthill |
| New Hope Group Representatives: | Jim Randell – Executive General Manager Mining<br>Helen Braithwaite – Community Liaison Officer<br>Jennifer Wilson – Secretariat |
| Apologies | Glenys Bowtell<br>Greg Jones<br>Sarah Due |

| Agenda item | Discussion |
|---|---|
| Welcome | Michael Cuthill welcomed everyone.<br>Safety Share - Be prepared during the summer months and the storm season. Driving during festive season and caution on using mobile devices while driving, pull over if required to use them, unless the technology is available in the vehicle to voice activate. |
| Community Investment Fund discussion and final recommendations | ▪ Helen presented the project recommend for support by the CRG from the previous meeting. These require endorsement to finalise the recommended list. Support documentation is available on recommendations if more information is required. If a member has a conflict of interest they will be required to step out of room.<br>▪ Discussions on the CIF Applications with the following endorsed:<br>o Show Society – Power supply upgrade<br>o Oakey State High School – Operational Audio Visual<br>o South Myall Landcare –Rural Capacity building – Computer Up skilling Program for Quinalow area. Recommend to focus on local area residents with geographic limitations.<br>o Steps into Prep (Yumba) – Pre-Prep Program. Recommended to report on outcomes of the program. One year program endorsed.<br>▪ Further details on equipment are required for the Toowoomba Club House application and if not available by end of this round recommend for next round of applications. |
| Chairperson discussion | ▪ Michael Cuthill was engaged as independent facilitator for first round. With the intention to take more local approach it has been suggested to have a Community Member as the Chairperson. Michael advised that he will stand aside for the community member however would be available for support.<br>▪ Helen opened the discussion of Chairperson and called for nominations. Discussions have been with Graham Cooke taking on the role of Chairperson and Graham accepted the nomination<br>▪ Committee endorsed Graham Cooke as Chairperson. |
| General Business | ▪ Jim advised that the EIS may be released after mid-January.<br>▪ Jim thanked Michael for his assistance with the CRG and the continuing members for their support. |
| Next Meeting | ▪ 3 February – location to be advised. |
| Meeting close | ▪ Meeting closed at 7.15pm |

NEW HOPE GROUP

Minutes of meeting

# New Acland Community Reference Group

CRG meeting number: 3/2014

| | |
|---|---|
| Date: | 10 February 2014 |
| Time: | 5.30om |
| Location: | Oakey RSL, Campbell Street, Oakey |
| Attendees: | Chairperson – Graham Cooke<br>Jodie Collins, Nancy Sommerfield, Lindsay Evans, Matthew Boyd, Glenys Bowtell, Sarah Due, Greg Jones |
| New Hope Group Representatives: | Jim Randell – Executive General Manager Mining<br>Helen Braithwaite – Community Liaison Officer<br>Jennifer Wilson – Secretariat<br>Andre DuPreez – Project Manager |
| Apologies | Andrew Langton<br>Barry Mason |

| Agenda item | Discussion |
|---|---|
| Welcome | Graham Cooke welcomed everyone.<br>Safety Share – Vehicle travelling on highway and passed a truck carrying steel. Driver lost steering. A piece of steel had fallen off the truck and went through the windscreen and hit the steering wheel and snapped it. Reminder to secure loads when travelling.<br>Recent accident during Winter Olympics reinforces the fact that helmets do add protection.<br>Reminder that everyone should have water in the vehicle when travelling. |
| Community Investment Fund discussion and final recommendations | ▪ Helen feedback the updated quote from the Toowoomba Clubhouse that included IT equipment for staff and client use. Group suggested that a visit to the Clubhouse would answer remaining questions. Helen to organise a visit for Matt, Jodie and Greg.<br>▪ Other submissions will be announced:<br>o Show Society – Power supply upgrade<br>o Oakey State High School – Operational Audio Visual<br>o South Myall Landcare –Rural Capacity building – Computer Up skilling Program for Quinalow area.<br>o Steps into Prep (Yumba) – Pre-Prep Program.<br>▪ Next grant closes 30 March 2014. Encourage groups to submit applications. Toowoomba Council delivery Grant Writing workshop in Oakey. |
| **Action:** | **Helen to organise visit to Toowoomba Club House (Oakey)** |
| New Acland and Acland Pastoral Update | ▪ New Acland trialling a Wirtgen miner for four months from June 2014. Benefits will reduce cost and noise as it will remove the need for a dozer and front end loader.<br>▪ New Acland has introduced a noise TARP (Trigger Action Response Plan). The noise monitoring equipment in Acland continuously monitors 'mining' noise and if it goes over our limit will trigger and action plan to shut particular equipment or move equipment. DEHP have inspected and have been advised of TARP.<br>▪ Public tours will start again this month. Stopped during the hotter months. The tours will be advertised and can be booked by contacting Jen at New Acland.<br>▪ New Acland will host a Business Breakfast for local businesses to update on New Hope activities. Guest Speaker will be Shane Charles from TSBE.<br>▪ Stage II of the grazing trials has begun with cattle in the control paddock and the rehab paddock. Copies of the results of Stage 1 are available. Stage II will look at soil biology, structure and chemistry in addition to growth of cattle.<br>▪ Acland Pastoral has conducted some pest control, both feral animals and boxthorn and pear. New Acland also carrying out control in three areas of the lease.<br>▪ Jondaryan Loading Facility has run out of water and is being carted for the dust suppression on the roads. A surfactant has been added to the water to bind the dust on the roads. The stock pile has been reduced to a working level and requires very little dozer activity. Consideration is being given to other noise and dust mitigation. |
| Stage III EIS | ▪ A milestone was reached on 20 January with the release of the EIS |

| Agenda item | Discussion |
|---|---|
| | (Environmental Impact Study) by the Coordinator General. Encourage everyone to put a submission in with this period closing 3 March 2014.<br>▪ Community Information Days were held last week at Jondaryan, Goombungee, Acland and Oakey. Positive feedback and good interaction with members of the community. They offered a good opportunity for clarification on any issue during the EIS period.<br>▪ Coordinator General will review the submissions after this period and will then issue a report for support or reasons not to proceed. Approval from the Department Environment Heritage Protection for the Environment Authority. Approval from the Department Natural Resources and Mines for the mining lease is then sought.<br>▪ Andre presented a 3D model of the proposed Stage III. This tool is available if anyone is interested in viewing a particular area. |
| | |
| Community Group Updates | ▪ Invitation to Public Meeting at Jondaryan on Health Effects from Coal Dust on 13 February was discussed.<br>▪ Public belief that the Oakey School Bus would need to travel additional 30 km if roads were closed in the expansion. Andre will check this distance.<br>▪ Footprint size of the Stage III is smaller, surface rights are required for any area that will be mined.<br>▪ Feedback from the community on the location of the Telstra hut has resulted in an alternative location. Change in location of the hut only, no change to the numbers or dialling costs for those connected.<br>▪ Flexibility on New Acland take or pay arrangement of the Wetalla water from Oakey Creek to assist some irrigators in the short term. Jim to discuss further.<br>▪ Public belief that the road closure to Acland would be the demise of Acland Anzac Day Services. If this is a real concern New Hope are willing to discuss how assistance could be given.<br>▪ New Acland is hosting an Emergency Response Development day with local mines and power stations on 22 February. |
| **Action:** | ▪ **Andre to check distance of School bus travel.**<br>▪ **Jim to discuss Wetalla water agreement with Lindsay Evans.** |
| Next Meeting<br>Meeting close | ▪ Next meeting Monday 17 March at the Oakey State High School. Location to be circulated.<br>▪ Meeting closed 7.35pm |

NEW HOPE GROUP

Minutes of meeting

# New Acland Community Reference Group

CRG meeting number: 4/2014

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|---|---|
| Date: | 17 March 2014 |
| Time: | 5.30pm |
| Location: | Oakey RSL, Campbell Street, Oakey |
| Attendees: | Chairperson – Graham Cooke<br>Nancy Sommerfield, Lindsay Evans, Matthew Boyd, Glenys Bowtell, Andrew Langton, Barry Mason |
| New Hope Group Representatives: | Jim Randell – Executive General Manager Mining<br>Jennifer Wilson – Secretariat |
| Apologies | Helen Braithwaite<br>Victoria Menkins<br>Greg Jones |

| Agenda item | Discussion |
|---|---|
| Welcome | Graham Cooke welcomed everyone.<br>The minutes of the previous meeting, presented and reviewed. Moved – Nancy Somerfield. Seconded – Glenys Bowtell.<br>Actions Arising from Minutes:<br>▪ Update on Wirtgen and TARP to be included in NAC update.<br>▪ Toowoomba Club House CIF application – members visited and discussed the application with the CEO of the Toowoomba Club House. After the discussions, they have requested that their application be withdrawn. The group would like to put in another application for the next CIF round which is Service Delivery focused, rather than the IT system.<br>▪ All CIF Funding Agreements have been signed by organisations and the successful applicants have been announced in the Oakey Champion. Payments are working through the New Hope accounts process and should be made shortly. Next round will close 30 March with full list of applications and summaries available at next meeting.<br>▪ School Bus Travel – Jim will provide more detail at next meeting.<br>▪ Gowrie Creek Irrigators have met with staff at New Acland. A process is in place to liaise with the environmental group to adjust the plan of drawing water where possible to meet the needs of the group. |
| Safety Share | Matt stated it has been noted that the flu is impacting already. Matt encouraged everyone in the high risk group to vaccinate.<br>Jim presented short video that highlights the need to recognise fatigue signs when driving. |
| Jondaryan Community Update | ▪ Local Emergency Groups are activated when there is a significant natural event in the area. The Jondaryan hall is an evacuation centre and was used in the 2011 floods. Bedding is stored at the Jondaryan Fire station. The group has not been activated during the summer of 2013-14.<br>▪ Local Rural Fire Brigades have been busy over December and January. This group have been deployed to Millmerran and below Killarney to assist where required. A recent fire at Spring Bluff also saw them deployed. This group are all volunteers. The Jondaryan Hall Committee will host the Anzac Day Service from 8.00am. Everyone welcome to attend. The Jondaryan Hall Committee will hold a Theatre Restaurant 'Funny Money' with six performances. (1,6,7,8,13,14 June) Flyer to be circulated.<br>▪ Local Jondaryan community has recognised the reduction in the Loading Facility stockpiles. There still appears to be significant dust from the roads.<br>▪ The access to the refuge tip on Grants Road is breaking up with the extra traffic and dry conditions.<br>▪ Numbers of police reports have identified guns being stolen from properties in the area. Jondaryan Police Officer working well within the community.<br>▪ With the dry conditions and shortage of fodder it is becoming a real concern for property owners and the major human issue of stress increasing. Jim advised that NHG is looking at options for water removal from West Moreton pits and keen to discuss any suggestions. |

| Agenda item | Discussion |
|---|---|
| New Acland and Acland Pastoral Update | ▪ ERT Development Day well attended with six groups participating.<br>▪ Centre Pivot being installed at Balgowan is progressing. This irrigator will use part of the current water purchased from Wetalla.<br>▪ Acland Pastoral is continuing to clean up areas of box thorn and pear.<br>▪ New Acland will host a Business Breakfast for Oakey businesses Friday 21 March with guest speaker Shane Charles from Toowoomba and Surat Business Enterprise.<br>▪ NHG have employed a new Community Liaison Officer – Naomi Tonscheck.<br>▪ NHG is continuing to clean up the debris within Acland. The concrete heaps will be removed within the next couple of weeks. A couple of the old buildings will be demolished after removing asbestos. The remaining Church will not be moved at this stage. Three areas of contaminated land have been identified and will be cleaned appropriately. Tree planting will start to develop fauna corridors. The Ag Department at the Oakey High School have propagated seeds for use the in the plantings.<br>▪ Site tours continue again with a good interest for the Public tours.<br>▪ Jondaryan stockpiles have been reduced and will continue to remain low as we move stocks to the port.<br>▪ Doctors Creek catchment area has no impact from the mine. The misconception that NHG would divert Lagoon Creek to Doctors Creek in the first Stage 3 EIS have not assisted. It is a perception that flooding in Jondaryan is increased by the mine, there would be in effect less flooding as no release off the land. 150 m buffer will be built along Lagoon Creek. The rail crossings that will need to be constructed across Lagoon Creek to the 2011 flood benchmark<br>▪ Wirtgen miner will arrive in May and will require assembly and ready for testing June 2014. NAC is currently looking at training exchange opportunities.<br>▪ Noise TARP has required machinery to be shut down when over the limit in Acland. The impact from noise is also dependent on weather conditions. A 10m bund has been built along the main haul road and will include some planting to assist as a sound screen. |
| | ▪ |
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| Community Group Updates | ▪ CRG will have an important role to play when discussions on the offset of the Strategic Cropping Land and should be discussed at future meetings.<br>▪ South Myall Landcare group had some initial concerns with the stockpile that will be built at Muldu within the Stage 3 application.<br>▪ NAC is looking at options for water for Jondaryan Rail Loading Facility.<br>▪ NHG has been approached by the Condamine Alliance for support to reinvigorate fish in the Oakey Creek. Group would like to see more detail on what is proposed. |
| | ▪ |
| Next Meeting<br>Meeting close | ▪ Suggestions for next meeting:<br>o Update on South Myall Landcare activities or |

| Agenda item | Discussion |
|---|---|
| | ○ Acland Precinct Group. The minutes were handed back to Toowoomba Regional Council and could offer suggestions for the group to look at. Jim and Nancy will follow up.<br>○ Update on the broader activities within the council (Wagner airport, Rail update)<br>▪ Venue to be reviewed looking at options. Next meeting Monday 28 April 2014<br>▪ Meeting closed 7.18pm |

NEW HOPE GROUP

Minutes of meeting

# New Acland Community Reference Group

CRG meeting number: 5/2014

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|---|---|
| Date: | 28 April 2014 |
| Time: | 5.30pm |
| Location: | Cultural Centre, Oakey |
| Attendees: | Chairperson – Graham Cooke<br>Lindsay Evans, Glenys Bowtell, Andrew Langton, Barry Mason, Victoria Menkins, Jodie Collins |
| New Hope Group Representatives: | Jim Randell – Executive General Manager Mining<br>Jennifer Wilson – Secretariat<br>Helen Braithwaite – Community Liaison Officer<br>Naomi Tonscheck – Community Liaison Officer |
| Apologies | Greg Jones, Nancy Sommerfield, Matthew Boyd |

| Agenda item | Discussion |
|---|---|
| Welcome | Graham Cooke welcomed everyone.<br>Naomi Tonscheck introduced herself to the group. Naomi has been appointed as the Community Liaison Officer in Oakey for New Hope Group. Naomi lives locally on a family farm and previously worked for Heritage Bank.<br>The minutes of the previous meeting, presented and reviewed. Moved – Barry Mason. Seconded – Andrew Langton.<br>Actions Arising from Minutes:<br>▪ School Bus Travel – to be resolved by the end of May. |
| Safety Share | Helen updated everyone with the emergency procedures as this was a new venue for the meeting.<br>Jim advised that a number of employees have had symptoms of heart attack at New Acland but not diagnosed as a heart attack. Following up with Nominated Medical Authority if it is a virus.<br>Caravans do not always select appropriate areas to pull off and stop. Glenys came across one that was parked across to a gravel road access. |
| South Myall Landcare Group Update | ▪ Glenys updated the group on the history and activities of the South Myall Landcare Group:<br>▪ North East Downs (NED) was formed in 1994 and is the parent group to 12 subgroups with South Myall Group included.<br>▪ South Myall Group has 200 members and was established in 1997. A number of large projects have been undertaken with funding from the Telstra sale and Caring for Country funding. One of the projects was the utilisation of Prison Crews from Westbrook Prison. This finished when Westbrook was closed in September 2012. A Work camp has been proposed for Jondaryan.<br>▪ South Myall Group ran a nursery for a number of years, propagating trees for corridors in the area. A number of training workshops have been run and included training for tickets on backhoe and dozers. Many of the participants were able to obtain work at the New Acland mine. These workshops were completed without funding. Other activities include bus trips, photo competitions.<br>▪ Funding is scarce and the group is hopeful that in the new budget year money may be made available. They currently have Biodiversity program which finished at the end of June. A partnership with Condamine Alliance in Sustainable Agriculture ran workshops in the past.<br>▪ Currently running computer workshops with 32 booked to attend. Two programs – Learners and Advanced with a series of three workshops. An issue with the internet during the last workshop needs to be addressed. Everyone very enthusiastic to attend.<br>▪ South Myall Group represents approximately 50% of the NED membership and is one of the most active groups. |
| Community Group Updates | ▪ Jodie Collins advised that there will be activities around Reconciliation week and Sorry Day. They are trying a different approach to NAIDOC to gain more community involvement and tie with in Toowoomba support<br>▪ Lindsay Evans advised that approximately 100 attended the Anzac Day |

| Agenda item | Discussion |
|---|---|
| | Service at Jondaryan.<br>▪ Barry Mason attended the Acland Anzac Day service with approximately 260 attending. Different group including campers and caravans travelling long distance to enjoy the country atmosphere. Feral pigs have become an issue in the crops and have been sighted in large groups.<br>▪ The Oakey Anzac Day Dawn Service was one of the largest on record that Andrew Langton could recall. The Oakey Chamber of Commerce is releasing a 'Buy Locally' campaign from 1 May. This will involve receiving vouchers from the businesses involved and then go into a lucky draw. The Chamber is looking to expand and encourage membership.<br>▪ TRC are funding a consultant to do an economic development strategy for six of the regional towns in the area, Oakey is one of them. This will include completing an Economic Survey in the area, for ideas to gain involvement in the Charlton Industrial Park. Andrew and Helen will be involved to work with the consultants.<br>▪ Jodie Collins suggested that Oakey could organise a Multi-Cultural function as there are a number of different cultures within the area. Andrew will take this on board to see if there is any interest. |
| Community Investment Fund – Round 2 - 2014 | ▪ Helen advised there were some learning's from the previous round and suggested that the closing date be brought forward to 30 August to ensure the decision was finalised before the end of the year. Everyone agreed.<br>▪ The group reviewed the applications and requested follow up on information from two of the groups and will circulate comments back when confirmed. |
| Action: | Helen to advise if GST has been considered in total fund. |
| New Acland/Acland Pastoral Update | ▪ Acland Precinct Group minutes were received from Toowoomba Regional Council and can be reviewed as Stage 3 is progressed. Miner's Cottage is of cultural significance.<br>▪ Conducting a clean-up of the rubble and concrete pads in the Acland town. A hygienist has been engaged to ensure areas are clean of asbestos and will be signed off when complete. This will continue with the buildings being fenced off that contain asbestos. NAC has organised a permit to demolish and remove the asbestos for the shop on the corner. The local bus has been stopping on this corner so we are looking at creating another area for the bus to pull off safely. The area to the west of the Park has already been cleaned and will offer Kulpi State School students the opportunity to plant trees. The miner's cottage and the old exchange will remain however any asbestos removed.<br>▪ Acland Pastoral are involved in Toowoomba Regional Council dog baiting program and would appreciate any feedback on the feral pig problem at next meeting.<br>▪ Continue to clean up the box thorn and pear on Spies Hill, Muldu road and Balgowan.<br>▪ Coal prices are extremely low and New Hope is currently reviewing the operations at West Moreton to arrest the low profits and until the turn around.<br>▪ Part two of the Stage II rehab grazing trials has started with USQ doing soil work. Initial results identified extremely good weight gain however will wait |

| Agenda item | Discussion |
|---|---|
| | until the four parts have been completed.<br>▪ Discussions with Gowrie irrigators on the timing of pumping program have been positive.<br>▪ Wirtgen miner arrives next week and will be operating by end of May. Invitation to view is extended.<br>▪ Centre pivot irrigator has been commissioned. Problem with the pumps has been resolved.<br>▪ Glenys advised that there was concern from some South Myall Landcare members on the future water supplies and effects from Stage 3. Jim advised that the model has been calibrated against Stage 2 use. Any residents that have been identified as having impacts have been contacted however if anyone with a concern he is happy to discuss their particular issue.<br>▪ Stockpile at Jondaryan remains low and it is the intention not to increase providing the trains continue to operate as scheduled. |
| | ▪ |
| General Business | ▪ Oakey High School 50 year celebration on 17 May. |
| Next Meeting<br>Meeting close | ▪ Next meeting Monday 26 May 2014<br>▪ Meeting closed 7.25 pm |

Minutes of meeting

# New Acland Community Reference Group

CRG meeting number: 5/2014

| | |
|---|---|
| Date: | 26 May 2014 |
| Time: | 5.30pm |
| Location: | Cultural Centre, Oakey |
| Attendees: | Chairperson – Graham Cooke<br>Lindsay Evans, Barry Mason, Greg Jones, Nancy Sommerfield, Matthew Boyd |
| New Hope Group Representatives: | Jim Randell – Executive General Manager Mining<br>Jennifer Wilson – Secretariat<br>Helen Braithwaite – Senior Community Advisor<br>Tom Sheppard – Senior Environmental Officer |
| Apologies | Glenys Bowtell, Jodie Collins |
| Visitors | Kevin Graham, Katie Ferguson – Condamine Alliance |

**Registered Office:** **3/22 Magnolia Drive, Brookwater, Queensland 4300**

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| Agenda item | Discussion |
|---|---|
| Welcome | Graham Cooke welcomed everyone and introduced Kevin and Katie from Condamine Alliance. |
| Presentation | Kevin and Katie presented an update on the Condamine Alliance - Health Management River Program which is a designated management group to protect land air and water wildlife. It is a not for profit partnership to deliver on the ground work. Over 80 partners involved in local groups and business which has seen an increase in the native fish numbers and improved river health. The group is keen to include Oakey area in the partnership and to develop the science to work hand in hand with restocking of the creeks. The scope includes engagement, education and monitoring and evaluation to increase the stream habitat. The group has approached New Hope Group who are interested in the CRG thoughts and opinions to assist with decision. |
| Previous Minutes | The minutes of the previous meeting, presented and reviewed. Moved – Jim Randell. Seconded – Barry Mason.<br>Actions Arising from Minutes:<br>School Bus Travel – outcome to be advised to group. |
| Safety Share | Even when buying new equipment it is important to check prior to use.<br>Recent fatality at Underground mine was due to gases released once bolts were undone on a seal. Always take caution when entering confined spaces due to gases. |
| New Hope Update | ▪ Recent review of West Moreton operations resulted in 24 redundancies with potential for 4-5 more in the future. These were due to the state of the coal industry.<br>▪ Wirtgen is currently being constructed and will be ready to begin trial next week.<br>▪ New Hope will be attending Farmfest again this year.<br>▪ Preliminary results of the grazing trial indicate the grass roots are into the subsoil.<br>▪ Acland Township clean-up is currently underway, including removal of old concrete and planting of trees and removal of asbestos. Pivot irrigator on Acland pastoral land has been commissioned.<br>▪ Jim introduced Tom Sheppard to give feedback on the Department of Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts (DSITIA) testing results at Jondaryan. The key difference is that it provides live invalidated data on the web. Data on the website needs to be understood in context. We are working with the DSITIA and EHP to convey what this testing means and identify particular zones from the results. We will continue to update at future meetings.<br>▪ Update given on two of the community investment fund applications. Final project recommendations provided to New Hope for consideration. |
| Next Meeting | ▪ Next meeting Monday 14 July 5.30pm – Oakey State High School |

Minutes of meeting

# New Acland Community Reference Group

CRG meeting number: 6/2014

| | |
|---|---|
| Date: | 14 July 2014 |
| Time: | 5.30pm |
| Location: | Oakey State High School |
| Attendees: | Chairperson – Graham Cooke<br>Lindsay Evans, Barry Mason, Greg Jones, Nancy Sommerfield, Glenys Bowtell, Jodie Collins |
| New Hope Group Representatives: | Jim Randell – Executive General Manager Mining<br>Jennifer Wilson – Secretariat<br>Helen Braithwaite – Senior Community Advisor |
| Apologies | |

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**Phone number:** +61 7 3418 0500

| Agenda item | Discussion |
|---|---|
| Welcome | Graham Cooke welcomed everyone and thanked Greg Jones for organising to have the School available for the meeting. Greg suggested that the next meeting be held at the Trade Training Centre. |
| Previous Minutes | The minutes of the previous meeting, presented and reviewed. Moved – Lindsay Evans. Seconded – Greg Jones.<br>Actions Arising from Minutes:<br>▪ A meeting is being organised with the School Bus Company to provide information and plans on the Stage III expansion. Helen will continue to feedback updates.<br>▪ Update on DSITIA testing results at next meeting.<br>▪ Condamine Alliance project still being reviewed by New Hope.<br>▪ Acland clean up stage two completed. All asbestos has been removed, slabs removed and ready for seeding. The windmill has been erected again. Quotes are being obtained for removal of St Jude's Church to Jondaryan Woolshed. The old exchange will be moved to the old mine precinct and a plan to maintain the miner's cottage to be developed. Stage three of the clean-up will be removing contamination from three sites (e.g. underground bowsers). Trees are being planted by external company. The Hall will remain for company business and not for community groups at this stage. Over $1M has been budgeted for the management of the old mine precinct. |
| Safety Share | Take caution when releasing the stretch covers that are used to cover loads.<br>Tightly secure coiled pipe when using.<br>Don't leave animals in a vehicle with keys left in the ignition – potential to lock the doors.<br>With the recent frost fires could become an issue.<br>Use correct protective equipment when using chainsaws. |
| Community Group Updates | ▪ Jondaryan Residents group will be folding with insufficient numbers.<br>▪ Thanks to NHG for support at recent Theatre Restaurant in Jondaryan. Good support from the local community in attendance.<br>▪ Follow up required on recent testing for private house to ensure all details have been communicated.<br>▪ Computer courses organised by Landcare are finished with some revision at the end of the month. A good project and well received at grass roots level.<br>▪ Some of the artefacts that were held at the mine will go on display in the Information Centre. Confirmation of location of all the remaining artefacts at the next meeting.<br>▪ NAIDOC week did not occur this year due to a decrease in support by community, with numbers reducing over the recent years. Suggest that the Oakey Champion be approached to run an article looking for improvement suggestions.<br>▪ Tracey Tully has taken on the role of Principal at the Oakey State High School. |
| New Acland | ▪ Another public tour is scheduled for 23 July. |

| Agenda item | Discussion |
|---|---|
| Update | ▪ New Hope received good support at Farmfest.<br>▪ Wirtgen trial ongoing and is cutting in over burden and interburden.<br>▪ Finalised the restructure at West Moreton and moral is good.<br>▪ Roster changes will take effect from 4 August at New Acland. This is to reduce noise and address costs. There will be no mining operation from 1am to 6 am Monday to Friday and no night shift on Saturday and Sunday. The plant will continue to run. Noise monitoring continues at Acland with TARPs.<br>▪ Discussions on soil rehab research at Rosewood and Acland with independent groups have been undertaken. Jim will continue to update. |
| | |
| Community Investment Fund | ▪ Recommendations by CRG have been approved by New Hope. Funding agreements will be forwarded to the groups this week. |
| | |
| General Business | ▪ Oakey Sprints to be held this week end. Great event for the Oakey community.<br>▪ Suggest publicizing the Acland Township clean-up. |
| | |
| Next Meeting | ▪ Next meeting Monday 15 September 5.15pm – Oakey State High School – Trade Training Centre – Cooper Avenue.<br>▪ Meeting closed 7.05pm. |

Minutes of meeting

# New Acland Community Reference Group

CRG meeting number: 6/2014

| | |
|---|---|
| Date: | 15 September 2014 |
| Time: | 5.30pm |
| Location: | Oakey High school Trade Centre, Oakey |
| Attendees: | Chairperson – Graham Cooke<br>Barry Mason, Greg Jones, Nancy Sommerfield, Glenys Bowtell, Victoria Menkins, Andrew Langton, Lindsay Evans |
| New Hope Group Representatives: | Jim Randell – Executive General Manager Mining<br>Jennifer Wilson – Secretariat<br>Helen Braithwaite – Senior Community Advisor |
| Apologies | Matthew Boyd, Sarah Due, Jodie Collins |
| Visitors | Roberta Vaughan - Acting D.O.N Oakey Hospital – Matthew Boyd Proxy |

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| Agenda item | Discussion |
|---|---|
| Welcome | Graham Cooke welcomed everyone |
| | Greg Jones gave the group an opportunity to tour the Trade Centre facilities.<br>Introductions and background of members to Roberta Vaughan |
| Previous Minutes | The minutes of the previous meeting, presented and reviewed. Moved – Barry Mason. Seconded –Greg Jones<br>Actions Arising from Minutes:<br>▪ Helen advised there was no further update on Condamine Alliance project<br>▪ School Bus route decision will not be finalised by Department of Transport until the Acland Stage III is approved. |
| Safety Share | ▪ Mother of Millions is a poisonous plant and caution should be taken when handling.<br>▪ Power tools should be used with extreme caution especially if not used often.<br>▪ Focus on safety and Standard Operating Procedures within the Trade Centre and proper PPE must be worn by all students and visitors. |
| Community Group Updates | ▪ Push on more development within Oakey to coincide with the Brisbane West airport and second range crossing, bigger opportunities for growth.<br>▪ Oakey Santa Fair being organised for 10 December.<br>▪ Positive outcomes from the Economic strategy which identified areas to work with the Council.<br>▪ Dog baiting program around the mining completed.<br>▪ Neighbouring property still has an issue with a fungus on the roof. Samples have been taken and did not identify coal.<br>▪ Submissions to the EIS clarified.<br>▪ Goondir van offers culturally appropriate health services and will be located in the main street in Oakey.<br>▪ Toowoomba Council preparing submission for AEIS and update from DEHP on dust sampling has been organised.<br>▪ Moorlands opening up for Australian Open Gardens, stalls available for local craft and businesses – 18/19 October. Victoria will circulate details.<br>▪ Presentation to Careflight of funds raised at the recent Jondaryan theatre restaurant.<br>▪ Rural fire activity has been low.<br>▪ Nancy Somerfield was guest speaker at the Landcare AGM<br>▪ Jondaryan Woolshed coffee shop has opened.<br>▪ No update on the Jondaryan Residents group.<br>▪ Oakey State School appreciate the assistance given by New Hope with attending the agriculture shows.<br>▪ Oakey high School students have had success in the equestrian events.<br>▪ Local aboriginal football team playing Redcliffe next week and will be televised, local players part of the team.<br>▪ Acland church has been accepted by the Jondaryan Woolshed with further discussions to finalise. It will be re-located and placed on stumps. |

| Agenda item | Discussion |
|---|---|
| | |
| AEIS Update | ▪ Helen provided update on the AEIS and advised that the Coordinator General reviewed EIS and requested update on some topics or specific concerns. This information is now available for the general public to view and comment on. Submissions close on 29 September with copies and fact sheets available for Oakey Office. Community members are encouraged to make submissions.<br>▪ A CRG member comment suggested some visible Acland Pastoral properties were identified as having incomplete work and wild turnip growth. Also belief that the formula for compensation of SCL and after use mining was not available.<br>▪ The Camp being advertised in Oakey is related to Wellcamp and the second range crossing. |
| New Acland update | ▪ Public tours continue and next one scheduled for 1 October.<br>▪ Wirtgen miner showing positive results. Trial will finish end September.<br>▪ Coal prices dropped down to $65 per tonne, A$ has been decreasing. Market impacts are from China making moves to outlaw imports of high ash coal, possibly Indonesian coal. This will put 40-50MT back on the market and will affect the price further.<br>▪ NHG will start utilising a pivot irrigator on pastures at West Moreton operations<br>▪ Stage II Grazing trial is finished with the report being finalised. Draft report identifies penetration of roots to depth of 900mm. Meat results not available for 70-80 days.<br>▪ Tree planting completed at Lutheran church. Screen planting of bamboo at JRLF will start by end of year.<br>▪ Stocks remain under 200Ktonnes at JRLF.<br>▪ Acland Pastoral has engaged RCS to develop fencing and watering program under a five year plan. Still some challenges with weeds however it is important to look at the positive work done on the pear and boxthorn. Commitments of five year plan have been given to provide long term approach to management of pastoral land.<br>▪ NAC provided all TEOM data to DSITIA for their reference and understand the interim six month report will be finalised. NAC are regulated by the rolling 24 hour average and doesn't look at the origin at where the dust comes from. No elevated results during the DSITIA program. |
| Community Investment Fund | ▪ Helen thanked the group for attending the launch of the program. Some of the projects have started. Next round will close 30 September; encourage any community groups to complete submissions.<br>▪ Helen will circulate application details as soon as possible. |
| Next Meeting | ▪ The next meeting will be last for this term. A separate visit to be organised to inspect the Wirtgen.<br>▪ Monday 20 October 2014 venue to be confirmed.<br>▪ Meeting closed 7.00pm. |

# Appendix G. Updated CRG ToR

# Terms of Reference

## New Acland Community Reference Group

**Updated October 2014**

The New Acland Community Reference Group (CRG) is integral to providing a forum for ongoing engagement between local community groups and stakeholders including New Hope Group's New Acland operations.

The consultative forum facilitates community input and disseminates information on issues of relevance relating to the local community including New Acland's operational, development and planning activities.

### 1.0 Role of the CRG

The CRG functions as a reference body and is designed to ensure a cross-section of community concerns and interests are balanced from a social, economic and environmental perspective. Its role is critical in:

- Providing a local perspective on community topics, particularly in relation to potential impacts and opportunities presented by the New Acland operations
- Acting as a conduit to the local community by accurately communicating information about key milestones and outcomes arising from the CRG.

### 2.0 Objectives

The objectives of the New Acland CRG are to:

- Provide a regular and formal link between the New Hope Group, the New Acland operations and community stakeholders within its operational area.
- Provide a feedback forum that facilitates information flow between the New Hope Group's New Acland operations and community stakeholders
- Inform decision-making at New Hope Group by ensuring broader community interests are taken into consideration.

### 3.0 Membership

One of the main aims of establishing the CRG is to represent a diversity of viewpoints and stakeholder interests. It is anticipated there will be a broad range of community representatives including business owners, community organisations, residents and service providers.

A total CRG membership of no more than 12 members will be selected to achieve this diverse representation. Membership of the CRG is on a voluntary basis and no payment is made for participation.

The CRG will be chaired by an elected CRG member to ensure that all members are heard equally and information is captured and distributed to all members.

Three representatives from the New Hope Group will attend all CRG meetings and provide information and support as needed. Technical and/or subject experts from New Hope Group or the community may be invited to attend meetings where appropriate.

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### Terms of membership

The term of appointment for CRG members elected to represent the community is for 12 months. After this, the selection process (including the nomination period and member selection) will be repeated. Past CRG members will be eligible for re-election.

Non-attendance at three (3) meetings without a reasonable excuse will result in the member being replaced.

Where a member, or a close relative of a member, has any vested interest that could conflict with the proper performance of the member's functions, the member must, as soon as possible, disclose the interest to the chairperson. The chairperson will determine the appropriate course of action (e.g. the member may not be able to participate in discussions relating to that topic).

If a member wishes to resign, they must do so in writing.

### Dismissal

Individual members of the CRG are not authorised to speak to the media on behalf of the CRG. A breach in this condition will result in instant dismissal from the Group.

Those members who do not abide by the New Acland CRG Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct will be dismissed.

## 4.0 Operational Principles

### CRG Members

Members of the New Acland CRG agree to the following principles to facilitate and support successful functioning of the group:

- Respect the rights and views of other members
- Actively participate in the forum
- Agree to share relevant information with CRG members, where appropriate
- Agree to disseminate relevant information, where appropriate, from the CRG meetings accurately and in good faith through community interaction (excluding the use of media)
- Agree to maintain any reasonable confidentiality requirements (i.e. matters of a commercial in confidence nature).

### CRG Recommendations

The CRG is not a decision-making body. Issues, opportunities and suggestions raised by the CRG will be provided to the New Hope Group and recommendations will be considered in an advisory capacity. New Hope Group management has the right to accept or reject advice and/or recommendations made by the CRG, however shall provide feedback of its consideration.

## Topics for Discussion

Topics for discussion will be tabled prior to CRG meetings by chairperson and the New Hope Group. Individual CRG members may nominate topics to be discussed at the preceding meeting or period leading up to meetings and must provide at least one week notice for new agenda items.

The number of topics placed on the agenda will be limited to allow for an appropriate level of discussion. It is anticipated that the scope of topics raised will fall under four categories and include content matter that can be realistically addressed by the CRG, including:

- Reports on key community issues or opportunities from each of the CRG members
- New Acland operations – key milestones, project updates and legislative requirements
- Environment – management plans, monitoring programs and rehabilitation trials
- Social and cultural aspects – local participation, sponsorships programs and consultation
- Economic – employment, training and development and business opportunities.

Issues and ideas that arise during CRG meetings which fall outside its Terms of Reference will, where possible, be referred to the New Hope Group.

## Conflict of Interest

All representatives, community and organisation, should declare any conflict of interest on issues discussed.

## Chairperson

A chairperson for the CRG will be elected by the group members during the first official meeting of each CRG term. The chairperson of the group will be re-elected each 12 months in line with the term of appointment of CRG members.

## Guest Speakers

At the discretion of the CRG members, representatives from local and state government and other groups including peak bodies, industry groups, trade associations and other stakeholders may be invited to attend or present at specific CRG meetings.

## Dissolution of the CRG

If it is deemed by the New Hope Group that the role of the CRG is no longer required or deemed to be ineffective, the New Hope Group may dissolve or withdraw from the CRG.

## 5.0 Operational Procedures

### Meeting Frequency

The New Acland CRG is expected to meet monthly for a 12 month period, however, CRG members will set the next meeting date at the end of each meeting. The frequency of meetings will be reviewed periodically to ensure continued effectiveness.

The timing of meetings will be determined in consultation with CRG members and will be advised by the chairperson. It is anticipated the duration will normally be restricted to two hours, unless otherwise agreed by CRG members.

### Meeting Venues

A meeting venue will be selected in Oakey, however CRG members may be asked to travel to alternate locations in the Toowoomba region at times.

### Meeting Notes

- Agendas and support material will be forwarded to CRG members the week prior to a scheduled meeting
- A New Hope Group representative will take a record of the issues, actions and responsibilities arising from the CRG meeting. This record shall be endorsed at the following meeting through the minutes, to authenticate its accuracy
- Minutes of the meeting will be distributed to members within 30 days and published on the New Hope Group website www.newhopegroup.com.au following endorsement at the following CRG meeting
- Where possible, the New Hope Group will provide further information to specific member questions at the following meeting if required
- The New Hope Group will provide secretarial support to the CRG.

### Dispute Resolution

It is not a requirement that consensus be reached among members on the topics discussed. If a member believes he or she may have a conflict of interest in relation to a particular topic, the member should make this position clear to the chairperson. The CRG will then make a determination on an appropriate code of conduct during that particular item of discussion.

### Expenses

No wages or salaries will be paid to New Acland CRG members. The intention is the CRG be an independent, voluntary, advisory committee.

# Appendix 1. Code of Conduct

All members of the New Acland CRG must agree to abide by the Code of Conduct and act in a manner that supports equal opportunities for all.

### Responsibility of members

All community representatives of the New Acland CRG are required and agree to:

- Abide by, and commit to, the New Acland CRG Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct
- Attend meetings and present a representative view
- Review briefing documents and papers prior to meetings
- Suggest relevant and constructive CRG agenda items
- Allow all CRG members to present their views
- Respect others' opinions and not discuss representations made by other members of the CRG without their prior knowledge or consent
- Provide advice on issues and opportunities raised through wider community feedback in relation to the New Acland project and operations
- Ensure a broad range of community perspectives is considered and understood by the New Hope Group
- Ensure that no individual or personal vested interests are conveyed
- Disseminate accurate and timely information from the meetings to the wider community (NOT through the use of media)
- Refer all media enquiries to the New Hope Group Corporate Affairs Team
- Respect confidentiality as advised
- Enable contact details to be shared and circulated among CRG representatives.

### Responsibility of the New Hope Group

The members of the New Acland CRG representing the New Hope Group are required and agree to:

- Abide by, and commit to, the New Acland CRG Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct
- Welcome suggestions and opinions from community members of the CRG in relation to the operational, development and planning activities associated with the New Acland project and operations
- Support the smooth operation of the CRG by providing administrative support
- Provide members with feedback on how CRG recommendations have been considered
- Encourage all members of the CRG to present their views
- Respond within agreed timeframes to requests for information
- Assist in promoting the CRG, its objectives and meeting outcomes to the community.

# Appendix 2. Selection Criteria

Community representative on the New Acland CRG will be assessed and selected on the criteria outlined below:

Community members will live and/or work within the Toowoomba Regional Council area. Members will represent communities within the TRC area including, but not limited to, Oakey, Jondaryan, Goombungee and Toowoomba.

Community members will meet the following selection criteria:

- ☐ Demonstrated intention and ability to proactively represent broad community interests
- ☐ Comfortable, confident and able to update the community on CRG meeting actions and outcomes
- ☐ Willingness to work cooperatively and constructively in an advisory capacity with the New Hope Group in accordance with set Terms of Reference
- ☐ Ability to volunteer time to attend CRG meetings

Application received within the nomination period :

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No.

# Appendix H. Updated Commitments Register

| NEW ACLAND COAL MINE STAGE 3 PROJECT COMMITMENTS REGISTER | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| No. | CHAPTER | TITLE | Commitment |
| | CHAPTER 1 | *Introduction* | |
| | Existing Commitments - draft EIS | | |
| 1 | | | NAC will work closely with the TRC to ensure that benefits to the region are maximised and potentially adverse impacts are prevented or mitigated. |
| 2 | | | A comprehensive list of the relevant legislation and regulatory approvals plan for the revised Project is provided in Appendix C. |
| | Additional Commitmnets - AEIS | | |
| 3 | 4 | *Project Approvals* | The development of the rail spur and balloon loop may proceed by way of application for development approvals under the SPA (including for a Material Change of Use) or an application for an Infrastructure ML under the MRA. At this stage, a decision has not been made to rule out either option. |
| 4 | 4 | *Project Approvals* | If the development of the rail spur and balloon loop proceeds by way of an Infrastructure ML under the MRA, NAC will seek a complete list of draft EA conditions to be stated within the CG's Evaluation Report for the EA associated with the Infrastructure ML. |
| 5 | 4 | *Project Approvals* | If the development of the rail spur and balloon loop is to be authorised under SPA, rather than under an Infrastructure ML, NAC will seek development approval conditions to be stated within the CG's Evaluation Report. |
| | | | |
| | CHAPTER 2 | *Project justification and sustainability* | |
| | Existing Commitments - draft EIS | | |
| | | | NA |
| | Additional Commitmnets - AEIS | | |
| | | | NA |
| | | | |
| | CHAPTER 3 | *Project description* | |
| | Existing Commitments - draft EIS | | |
| 6 | | | NAC will conduct the revised Project within MLA 50232 by only seeking 'surface rights' for mining over the proposed new operational footprint. NAC will not possess the legal right to conduct mining activities within all other areas of MLA 50232 without obtaining further statutory approval under the MR Act. |
| 7 | | | All mining and construction activities will be conducted in compliance with the *Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999* (CMSH Act). |
| 8 | | | The increase of capacity to 7.5 Mtpa will not occur until:<br>- all approvals are acquired, including:<br>– the successful completion of this EIS process, including a comprehensive community and stakeholder engagement program;<br>– the issuance of an approval for EPBC 2007/3423 from the Commonwealth government;<br>– the issuance of an amended EA to address the additional requirements of the revised Project by the DEHP;<br>– the granting of MLA 50232 (for the proposed extent of 'surface rights' to conduct mining activities); and<br>– receipt of ancillary approvals, for example road closures.<br>- construction of associated infrastructure required to produce and transport coal off-site at a production rate up to 7.5 Mtpa. |
| 9 | | | Mining activities will be conducted at the Manning Vale West and Willeroo mine pits either on a six day, 24 hr basis or a seven day, 24 hr basis depending on the mining schedule and the type of mining equipment utilised. |
| 10 | | | NAC will ensure the necessary approvals under the Explosives Act 1999 are obtained from the NRM for the proposed changes in explosive management for the revised Project. The safety aspects of blasting activities will continue to be conducted in compliance with the CMSH Act. NAC will also ensure that its current blast notification protocol for near neighbours, blast monitoring regime and fume management procedures are updated at a rate commensurate with the proposed mining activities. |
| 11 | | | NAC will consult with the relevant agencies to ensure the regulatory requirements for the road closures are completed to coincide with the grant of MLA 50232. |
| 12 | | | Appropriate signage and infrastructure will be in place when these closures are implemented to warn public of the restricted access. NAC will also ensure that the public are appropriately advised via its various public communication tools (e.g. newsletter) in use throughout the region. |
| 13 | | | Directional signage to Acland will be provided at key locations to ensure the surrounding community are aware of the changes. The Acland-Sabine Road will be upgraded to an appropriate standard to support its role as the main access to Acland. |
| 14 | | | Licensed waste contractors will be utilised for general and regulated waste removal. NAC will ensure all construction sites are left in an appropriate manner. |
| 15 | | | NAC will continue to consult with Telstra in relation to these matters to determine a suitable strategy to prevent and minimise any disruptions. |
| 16 | | | All current and future fuel strorage sites will be listed on the Environmental Management Register (EMR) under the EP Act. |
| 17 | | | NAC will continue to recycle water from its ITSFs to supplement the CHPP Precinct's water requirements and will implement improvements in tailings processing to reduce water use by the CHPP Precinct. |
| 18 | | | As a minimum, the surface water management philosophy for the revised Project will involve the:<br>- diversion of clean water away from disturbed areas;<br>- capture and adequate treatment of water that may be potentially discharged off site to ensure it complies with the current Mine's water discharge limits;<br>- protection of infrastructure and mining areas from flooding using flood bunding;<br>- design and construction of all water management structures using practical hydraulic parameters based on an appropriate risk based rainfall event, catchment size, slopes, discharge design and soil types;<br>- preferential use of water stored in on site storages as a supplemental water source for coal washing and other activities to minimise the likelihood of offsite water discharges;<br>- beneficial recycling of water for activities, such as dust suppression;<br>- recycling of water from the ITSFs to reduce water consumption for coal washing purposes;<br>- temporary or permanent bunding of all significant quantities of hydrocarbon and chemical products stored on site;<br>- use of spill capture and retention devices for refuelling and similar areas;<br>- treatment of oily water areas using an oil-water separator;<br>- minimisation of disturbance to an operational minimum for safe operation;<br>- revegetation of disturbed areas no longer required for operational use to promote progressive rehabilitation; and<br>- sealing of high use areas to reduce degradation. |
| 19 | | | NAC has prepared a Water Resource Management Plan (WRMP) to include the management of the mining activities and infrastructure within MLA 50232. The WRMP will be implemented as part of the revised Project's future Plan of Operations and is presented in Appendix J.4. |
| 20 | | | Specialised water management systems will be implemented in all areas storing significant quantities of hydrocarbons and chemicals to minimise the potential for downstream impacts. |
| 21 | | | A flood levee will be constructed to protect the new infrastructure and all active mine areas on MLA 50232 from Lagoon Creek flood events and will be designed and constructed to manage a Probable Maximum Flood (PMF) rainfall event. |
| 22 | | | NAC will decomission the JRLF in accordance with the JRLF Decommissioing Management Strategy, presented in Table 3–27. The corresponding JRLF Item Number is depicted in Figure 3–29. |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 23 | | | To ensure the decommissioning of the site's infrastructure is rehabilitated to a safe and acceptable standard the following will be completed.<br>1) Removal of infrastructure and unused or unwanted equipment. This removal phase will include all structural steel from the CHPP area, conveyor belts and frames, CHPP processing equipment, electrical cabling and associated instrumentation, portable administration buildings, mobile equipment, workshops and storage facilities. Any permanent buildings that cannot be removed intact will be demolished and removed or used for backfilling.<br>2) Collection and removal of all residual hazardous substances by a licensed regulated waste transporter. This collection phase will include contaminated packaging and containers, oils, tyres, paints and resins, recyclables and general waste. Radiation density sources will be isolated and removed by the appropriate licensed contractors.<br>3) Removal of all service infrastructure inclusive of power, water, and sewerage. Special attention will be given to the removal of fuelling facilities, workshops and vehicle service/parking areas.<br>4) Protective or supporting bunds and pads for pipelines and vehicle service/parking areas will be removed. The material will be tested for contamination before being used as general fill material.<br>5) Remove, recycle or bury of all concrete slabs, footings, associated with the CHPP processing equipment, administration buildings and workshops. This material will be used in backfilling operations where it will be covered with inert material before topsoiling and rehabilitation. Concrete that has been removed from areas where there have been fuels, greases, chemicals, and other hazardous substances stored, used and handled will be treated as contaminated material.<br>6) Preventing public access by removal or closure of access roads and tracks. Access tracks no longer required by the landowner or occupier will be rehabilitated to a beneficial end use.<br>7) Tailings storage facilities will have appropriate fencing, bunding or other protection measures provided. Warning signs will be provided as required for public safety purposes. It is envisaged these facilities as 'notifiable activities' and due to their physical characteristics (size and nature) will remain on the DEHP's EMR. NAC will ensure that it addresses its statutory obligations under the EP Act for all sites that remain on the EMR.<br>8) The stability of the dams will be enhanced (where necessary) by buttressing with inert rock material to create safe final slopes that are resistant to erosion and which may then be rehabilitated in accordance with the post-mine land use agreement.<br>9) A self-sustaining vegetation cover will be grown to provide long term stabilisation. Appropriate measures to assist vegetation growth may include topsoil covering, correction of pH, incorporation of organic mulches and fertilisers to encourage plant growth, irrigation, and protection of the vegetation area by utilising wind-breaks and other suitable means. |
| 24 | | | Rehabilitated land will be monitored until monitoring data confirms successful achievement of the agreed rehabilitation performance criteria. NAC will continue this monitoring regime until the total disturbed area is fully rehabilitated and relinquishment of the revised Project's MLs can be completed. Over the revised Project's life, NAC may also seek progressive 'sign-off' on successfully rehabilitated parcels of land from the DEHP. NAC's rehabilitation activities will be designed to ensure the final agreed post mining land use and surrender of the revised Project's MLs are achieved. NAC will transfer the overall management of the revised Project site to the APC.<br>During the decommissioning phase, NAC will ensure all 'notifiable activities' conducted within the revised Project site will be investigated for in-situ soil contamination and as required under the EP Act, will either:<br>- be released from the DEHP's EMR;<br>- be remediated, confirmed by follow-up investigation(s), and released from the DEHP's EMR; or<br>- remain on the DEHP's 'EMR' with an agreed 'site management plan'. |
| 25 | | | At the appropriate time, NAC will prepare a comprehensive mine closure plan. The mine closure will take into account the baseline environmental data that has been capture throughout the life of the revised Project, legal and cost implications, stakeholder involvement, closure criteria and costs and will document a closure action planning process. |
| 26 | | | A summary of proposed management plans for each of the property types and structures in Acland currently owned by the NHG is provided in Table 3–28. The corresponding Acland Item Number is depicted in Figure 3–30. A comprehensive Acland No.2 Colliery Conservation Plan is located in Appendix J.12. |
| | Additional Commitmnets - AEIS | | |
| 27 | 3 | *Revised Project Ammendments* | The internal haul road from the Materials Handling Facility (MHF) to the new TLF will remain in place for the duration of the revised Project. Other internal haul roads used for the transportation and raw coal from the mine pit to the Run-of-Mine Pad and light vehicle access will be periodically constructed in front of the mine path to allow for access and transportation of raw coal. These minor changes will not result in an increase in environmental nuisance or harm. |
| 28 | 3 | *Revised Project Ammendments* | The original main access to the revised Project was along Cherry's Road to the north of the revised Project site. NAC revised this access and propose to construct a new road off the Peachey-Maclagan Road which will enter into the new Mine Industrial Area (MIA). The new road will be designed to the appropriate standards to transport light vehicles into the revised Project site. |
| 29 | 5.1.2 | Land | NAC has given notice in writing to the Chief Executive under Section 307 of the Mineral Resources Act 1989 (MR Act) to partially abandon Mining Lease (ML) 50232 to include only the area depicted in Figure 3-1 of the draft EIS. Due to the legislative requirement under Section 232 of the MR Act where an ML can only be granted in respect of contiguous land, the partial abandonment covers an area shown in Figure 5.1.2 A of the AEIS. |
| 30 | 5.1.4.1 | Jondaryan Rail Loadout Facility | NAC commits not to increase throughput at the existing rail-load out facility at Jondaryan above 5.2 Mtpa. |
| 31 | 5.1.4.2 | Jondaryan Rail Loadout Facility | The JRLF will be closed within 24 months from obtaining grant of the Mining Lease and all other relevant approvals for the revised Project, including the Company's final investment decision. |
| 32 | 5.1.4.2 | Jondaryan Rail Loadout Facility | The JRLF Decommissioning Management Strategy is presented below in Table 5-1 of the AEIS. NAC will develop a dedicated management plan for the decommissioning and rehabilitation of the JLRF site (including a monitoring regime to determine rehabilitation success). |
| 33 | 5.1.4.3 | Jondaryan Rail Loadout Facility | NAC intends to rehabilitate the JRLF site to the post mine land use of grazing. |
| 34 | 5.1.4.3 | Jondaryan Rail Loadout Facility | NAC will undertake further consultation with the Jondaryan community to ensure information is available regarding activities specific to the Jondaryan community e.g. JRLF decommissioning, rail construction and ongoing monitoring activities. |
| 35 | 5.1.4.4 | Jondaryan Rail Loadout Facility | Table 5.1.4 – B of the AEIS provides an outline of planned community consultation and engagement in the Jondaryan area, including consultation around environment and relocation of the JRLF. |
| 36 | 5.1.7 | *Acland Township* | The management of Acland is documented in the Acland Management Plan (AMP) located in Appendix I of the AEIS and is guided by the unique historical context of Acland, and the safety, security and environmental objectives which stakeholders have raised during community consultation activities conducted by NAC over a number of years. In order to achieve the outcomes documented in the AMP, Acland has been excised from the area of Mining Lease (ML) Application 50232. |
| 37 | 5.1.7 | *Acland Township* | A range of community consultation and engagement commitments are detailed in Section 5.1.10 of the AEIS. Consultation activities specific to Acland are also outlined in Table 5.1.7 A of the AEIS. |
| 38 | 5.2.2.2 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | NAC will seek assessment and approval for any tall structures that is above 30m above ground level within 30km of the AAC Oakey, and any tall structures that is above 45m above ground level elsewhere as depicted in Figure 5.2 A of the AEIS. |
| 39 | 5.2.9.3 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | NAC will consult with the DNRM in relation to the realignment of the Jondaryan Muldu Road and proposed road closure/alterations and will ensure continuity and operability of the stock route. |
| 40 | 5.3.15.5 | *Responses to Submissions* | NAC commits to raising the Private Submitter's (Private Submitter 269) concern with Ergon Energy. |
| 41 | 5.3.24.4 | *Responses to Submissions* | The MHF possesses four operational stockpile areas and two emergency stockpile areas. Under normal operating conditions, the four stockpile areas will be used, but will never be completely full due to the dynamic continuous nature of the coal handling process. The two emergency stockpile areas will only be operated in exceptional circumstances, for example, if the main railway line stops operation for an extended period. If used, the two emergency stockpile areas will require manual reclaiming by mobile equipment (e.g. front end loaders). |
| 42 | 5.3.24.6 | *Responses to Submissions* | NAC will continue to ensure that product coal is not stored for extended periods at the site over the life of the revised Project, apart from during exceptional circumstances. |
| 43 | 5.3.44.7 | *Responses to Submissions* | NAC will continue to work closely with Ergon Energy to confirm the most suitable option to supply power to the revised Project and Acland and to finalise the overall design proposal. As part of these works, NAC will ensure an uninterrupted power supply through the 11 KV line is maintained to Acland. |
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| | CHAPTER 4 | *Land resources* | |
| | Existing Commitments - draft EIS | | |
| 44 | | | NAC will consult with the relevant stakeholders, including DEHP, in relation to the realignment of the Jondaryan Muldu Road and will ensure continuity and operability of the stock route. |
| 45 | | | NAC will liaise with the DEHP and other relevant government agencies to gain all relevant approvals in relation to the opening and closing of roads (including roads which are stock routes) and in land dealings relating to changes in land tenure. |
| 46 | | | As the revised Project site is located within the TRC, development applications for assessable development off the mining lease (e.g. roads, powerlines) will be made where required to the TRC. Applications will be in accordance with the relevant provisions of the SP Act and the Toowoomba Regional Planning Scheme (the Planning Scheme) adopted on 20 March 2012 and enacted on 1 July 2012. |

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| 47 | | | Furthermore, as discussed in Chapter 18, the following proposed controls will assist in minimising the risk of fire:<br>- Relevant site staff will complete fire safety training during induction.<br>- Approved fire alarm, detection, suppression and fighting system will be installed in consultation with fire control authorities.<br>- NAC will liaise with landowners and local authorities with respect to fire breaks and on-going maintenance programs.<br>- Limit ignition sources around refuelling and fuel storage areas.<br>- Emergency response procedures.<br>- Coordination with external emergency services.<br>- Provision of adequate fire fighting equipment and water.<br>- The Mine currently sources potable water for the site from basalt aquifers and is sourced from licensed groundwater bores on-site and treated by a Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment Plant. In the event that this water supply becomes contaminated, the system can be isolated and water will be sourced from Toowoomba or Dalby and trucked to site for consumption.<br>- Implementation of the Emergency Management Plan located in Appendix J.15. |
| 48 | | | NAC proposes to develop with the Western Wakka Wakka People Aboriginal party, and have approved, a replacement CHMP under Part 7 of the ACH Act for the revised Project (including the rail spur). NAC's intention is for this CHMP to be the sole instrument governing the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage that may be affected by activities carried out both for the revised Project within the boundaries of MDL 244 and for the proposed rail spur. |
| 49 | | | NAC acknowledges the requirements of the SC Act. NAC has addressed the revocation of Approved Property Plans under the SC Act during the development of Stage 1 and 2 of the Mine, and therefore, will ensure that the same process is undertaken for the revised Project. |
| 50 | | | NAC will assess the potential impacts of the revised Project's water management on surrounding Approved Property Plans as part of the revocation process. |
| 51 | | | NAC is aware from exploration activities within the Study area that a potential extractive resource, comprising basalt, may be available on a suitable scale to facilitate commercial development. NAC will undertake further investigations into the feasibility of developing this extractive resource, and if viable, will consult with the local administering authority and initiate the required approval process under the SP Act. |
| 52 | | | The revised Project's elevated landforms will be rehabilitated to a safe, stable and non polluting landform that is able to support the proposed final land use of grazing in a sustainable manner. |
| 53 | | | The vegetation rehabilitation success criteria for the revised Project's depressed and elevated landforms are defined in the Final Land Use and Rehabilitation Management Plan (FLURP). |
| 54 | | | For the revised Project's elevated landforms, NAC will expand its current monitoring programs and grazing trials to incorporate the applicable rehabilitation success criteria to guide its rehabilitation management and to collect the necessary data to demonstrate:<br>- the geotechnical stability of the constructed landform;<br>- the successful establishment of a suitable vegetative cover to support the final land use and minimise the potential for erosion; and<br>- the productivity of the vegetative cover for grazing (beef production). |
| 55 | | | NAC will be required to demonstrate compliance with the legislative requirements associated with the the Project's rehabilitation before the surrender of mining leases and associated EA. In addition, NAC will consult with government and community on a regular basis over the life of the revised Project to report on the progress of rehabilitation and other matters. |
| 56 | | | NAC is committed to maximising the revised Project's rehabilitation success to ensure the APC can function as a competitive agribusiness. NAC will also continue to draw on the APC's expertise to assist and enhance rehabilitation management. |
| 57 | | | The existing conservation zone along Lagoon Creek will be extended into the area of the revised Project site. |
| 58 | | | The investigated sites are in a secure state and are not considered to pose an unacceptable environmental or human health risk. NAC will undertake further management of these sites as the revised Project progresses. |
| 59 | | | Potential for land contamination from the spilling of hydrocarbons will be minimised through the use of the existing standard operating procedures for the transport, handling and storage of hydrocarbons. All hydrocarbons will be stored and handled in accordance with the bunding requirements (Section 5.8 Bunds and Compounds) of AS 1940:2004: 'The Storage and handling of combustible and flammable liquids'. Chemical storage areas will be suitably bunded and constructed to minimise the potential for leaks to occur. All chemicals will be stored, handled and used according to provisions in their Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS). |
| 60 | | | To minimise the risk associated with fuel oil leaking during tanker unloading, the following measures will be implemented:<br>- a program of regular equipment inspection and testing will be implemented to ensure reliable performance;<br>- operators will be trained in the safe operation of the system and emergency procedures in the event of fuel oil leakage;<br>- spill containment equipment will be available at the unloading pad for use in the event of spillage;<br>- a sump will be provided to collect any spillage and allow recovery;<br>- ignition sources will be strictly controlled and limited to avoid a fire;<br>- appropriate fire fighting materials and equipment will be available to suppress fires; and<br>- an approved fire protection system will be installed around hydrocarbon storage areas. |
| 61 | | | The following measures will be taken to minimise the potential for the leakage of fuel oil from storage tanks:<br>- adequate bunding will be constructed to contain potential spills, in accordance with AS 1940:2004;<br>- tank level indicators will be installed on fuel oil tanks for monitoring of fuel oil levels;<br>- maintenance of fuel oil tanks will be undertaken, to ensure safe and effective operation of all components; and<br>- tanks will be designed in accordance with AS 1692:2006: 'Steel tanks for flammable and combustible liquids' to minimise the potential for failure. |
| 62 | | | Tailings will be disposed of in in-pit tailings disposal facilities. Coarse rejects will be disposed of within the in-pit mine waste dumps. |
| 63 | | | Approximately 396 Mbcm of mine waste material will be disposed of in-pit (below pit crest) and approximately 50 Mbcm will be placed external to the mine pits. The revised Project's out-of-pit dumps will be constructed using 10 m lifts on external dump faces, with a maximum working dump lift height of 30 m. The landform will be recontoured from angle of repose slopes to a slope angle of 8.5 degrees to 17 degrees. |
| 64 | | | Although the overall indication is that little to no acid generation will occur from the oxidation of sulphide minerals contained within the mine waste, this material will be evaluated regularly during mining operations to assess its acid generating capacity. The revised Project's surface water monitoring program will continue to be used to help identify occurrences of acid generation. |
| 65 | | | The following measures will be implemented to manage mine waste. Low capacity PAF (PAF-LC) and PAF mine waste will be:<br>- progressively backfilled into pit voids and placed below the pre-mining groundwater level; and<br>- co-mingled with non-acid forming (NAF) materials in out of pit dumps during construction. |
| 66 | | | Highly sodic soils have a tendency to lose aggregation and to develop clay dispersion, impermeable layers, surface crusting, and poor aeration (Baker and Eldershaw, 1993). To minimise these effects, ex-pit mine waste dumps will be managed by:<br>- stripping topsoil ahead of mining operations and directly placing topsoil on rehabilitation where possible, otherwise the topsoil will be stockpiled for later use;<br>- application of fertilisers and other soil treatments as required; and<br>- monitoring the rehabilitation to demonstrate success and identify areas requiring maintenance. |
| 67 | | | During the initial phases of operation, and continuing routinely throughout the life of the revised Project, it is proposed to carry out analysis of overburden and tailings material to confirm its geochemical characteristics, and if necessary, implement a series of mitigation measures as outlined above. |
| 68 | | | Topsoil will also be used as a surface treatment prior to revegetation to minimise any effects from sodic spoil. Additionally and as required, consideration may be given to incorporating calcium into the surface horizon of the final spoil dump to reduce issues related to high sodicity. |
| 69 | | | It is proposed the main post-mine land use at the revised Project will be grazing based on a self-sustaining vegetation community using appropriate pasture grasses and scattered plantings of native tree and shrub species. A discrete area of the revised Project site will be dedicated for conversation purposes and will involve enhancing Lagoon Creek's riparian zone using the appropriate native plant species. |
| 70 | | | Stable landforms will be established following mining, using soils capable of supporting vegetation communities adapted to the local environment. The stability of the post-mine landform will be achieved by applying sound rehabilitation practices. The disturbed land will be rehabilitated to a condition that is self-sustaining or to a condition where the maintenance requirements are consistent with the post mining land use. |
| 71 | | | The remaining final voids created during the revised Project will be rehabilitated to depressed landforms by battering down the high walls and low walls to a lesser slope of 8.5 to 17 degrees. The depressed landforms will be geotechnically stable and due to the rehabilitated slope angles are expected to support sustainable grazing practices. |
| 72 | | | Contour banks will be constructed after profiling of the final landform to control run off. The contour banks will be designed and constructed to control the run off from a 1:20 year ARI 'time of concentration' flow from the catchment. |
| 73 | | | Diversion bunds will be strategically constructed around each depressed landform to prevent the ingress of surface water from either overland flow during significant rainfall events or flooding within the Lagoon Creek floodplain. |

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| 74 | | | NAC's proposed biodiversity offset will involve establishing a new area of *Dichanthium sericeum* grassland community within several parcels of land adjacent the revised Project site. |
| 75 | | | NAC will establish a suitable legal mechanism connected to the underlying land title to protect the Dichanthium sericeum based grassland offset in perpetuity. This legal agreement will also include a long term management plan for preservation of the Dichanthium sericeum based grassland offset. |
| 76 | | | The main features of the progressive rehabilitation process are:<br>- construction of waste dumps in 10 m lifts on external dump faces, with a maximum working dump lift height of 30 m. Angle of repose slopes will be recontoured to a slope angle of 8.5 degrees to 17 degrees with drainage contours being constructed as required;<br>- use of suitable topsoil, which will either be stockpiled until suitable recontoured areas are available, or respread immediately across available recontoured areas;<br>- contour ripping as an erosion control measure;<br>- seeding with an appropriate seed mix (grass, shrub and tree species) prior to the commencement of the wet season to maximise the benefits of subsequent rainfall; and<br>- application of appropriate fertiliser for plant establishment if required. |
| 77 | | | The timetable for rehabilitation activities will be outlined in the Plan of Operations. Changes and updates to the mine plan and rehabilitation schedule will be made to the Plan of Operations at the appropriate times. |
| 78 | | | The site-specific criteria for achieving a self-sustaining vegetation community will be developed during the operation based on current practices and the monitoring of progressive rehabilitation. Rehabilitated areas will be monitored using the selected parameters (as described below) and trends tracked to demonstrate establishment. |
| 79 | | | This grazing trial program will be a continuous process with new areas progressively added to the original trial area each year. The grazing trial program will be expanded to include the revised Project's rehabilitation areas designated for grazing. |
| 80 | | | The conservation zone for the revised Project will comprise the riparian zone of Lagoon Creek, Bottle Tree Hill and proposed offset areas. The conservation zone is to be expanded to include the full length of Lagoon Creek within the Study area with a buffer distance of 50 m either side of the channel. |
| 81 | | | Mine infrastructure areas will generally not require spoil placement or capping but will receive topsoil and seeding treatments similar to the solid waste disposal and capped tailings dams. Waste removal and recycling, dismantling of structures and other similar activities will be associated with the decommissioning of Mine infrastructure areas. As a result, drainage within these rehabilitated areas will be re-established with a level of design that ensures long term stability. As discussed above, decommissioning and rehabilitation of infrastructure areas will be managed by the mine closure planning process and will encompass contaminated land management matters. |
| 82 | | | At the commencement of rehabilitation works in a new area, permanent photograph points will be established and delineated with a star picket or similar. The geographic location and bearing of the photograph will be recorded using GPS. This point will form the start of a permanent monitoring site. |
| 83 | | | Revegetation monitoring, conducted by a competent person, will occur every year after initial seeding activities dependent on rainfall, seedling establishment and seasonal factors. |
| 84 | | | The rehabilitation areas will be monitored every year until success has been achieved. During this monitoring the revegetation will be compared against the specific success criteria. |
| 85 | | | Suitable topsoil will be stripped for use in the rehabilitation program. The topsoil will either be stockpiled until suitable re-contoured areas are available, or directly returned immediately across the areas to be rehabilitated. |
| 86 | | | Stockpiles will be managed so that:<br>-storage time is minimised;<br>- soil types with significantly different properties will be stockpiled separately;<br>- locations are recorded using GPS and data recorded relating to the soil type and volume;<br>- storage sites are clearly identified and away from heavy vehicle routes; and<br>-stockpile surfaces are ripped and seeded (if natural revegetation does not provide adequate cover). |
| 87 | | | Progressive rehabilitation will be undertaken to stabilise disturbed areas as quickly as practical and to limit erosion. Erosion and sediment control measures will be employed, which are consistent with the practices described in the then Department of Minerals and Energy's, Technical Guidelines for the Environmental Management of Exploration and Mining in Queensland, (DME, 1995). |
| 88 | | | The erosion control measures to be employed throughout the life of the revised Project are summarised in Table 4-46. |
| 89 | | | In the event of a significant fossil find, NAC will liaise with the Queensland Museum about strategies to protect the find. |
| 90 | | | Over the life of the revised Project, this LoM Plan will be continuously revised based on economic, geological and engineering factors. In addition, this LoM Plan will be used to guide the day-to-day operational activities for the revised Project. |
| 91 | | | The Mine Closure Plan will be submitted to the DEHP at least five years prior to the surrender of the EA. The decommissioning and final rehabilitation of the Project will occur on a staged basis over several years. |
| 92 | | | On the completion of mining, infrastructure will be treated as follows:<br>- mine roads will be left behind for use as farm roads or rehabilitated if not required;<br>- water dams will remain if required by the relevant landowner and approved by regulators; otherwise they will be rehabilitated;<br>- buildings, plant and equipment will be removed and the surface rehabilitated, including the CHPP, workshop, offices, storage tanks and coal handling facilities;<br>- concrete pads will be covered with benign waste rock, topsoiled and revegetated or removed and disposed to the nearest landfill;<br>- installation of a final cover system to the all TSFs; and<br>- the final voids remaining at the end of the mine life will be battered down to form depressed landforms. |
| 93 | | | Once completed, road diversions will remain permanently in place as a public asset. |
| 94 | | | Decommissioning and rehabilitation of disturbance associated with the Rail Corridor will initially involve a decision on the value of retaining the asset for the future benefit of the community. Should it be considered preferable for the rail line to be removed and rehabilitated then the overall rehabilitation objective will be the return of the rail corridor to a land use which supports grazing where practicable. |
| 95 | | | The revised Projects mitigations measures and commitments for land resources are presented in Table 4-34. |
| | Additional Commitmnets - AEIS | | |
| 96 | 5.1.2 | *Land* | Except to the extent exemptions apply to the revised Project, a regional interests development approval (RIDA) will be required under the RPI Act and will be applied for in accordance with the RPI Act and RPI Regulation.<br>NAC has engaged a consultant to assess the impacts of the revised Project in the context of the RPI Act and PRI Regulations requirements. |
| 97 | 5.1.2 | *Land* | NAC will continue to make the results of its grazing trials project at the Mine publically available in the future (i.e. as each new stage is completed and verified). This information will be provided on written or verbal request to the APC or NAC. |
| 98 | 5.2.9.11 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | NAC is committed to undertaking further soil surveys to update the Topsoil Management Plan (TMP) and the Final Land Use and Rehabilitation Plan (FLURP), located in Appendix J.3 and J.2 of the draft EIS respectively. The further soil surveys will be undertaken based on the requirements of the RP Act and with consideration to the Guidelines for Agricultural Land Evaluation in Queensland (DNRM, 1994), the Australian Soil and Survey Field Handbook (NCST, 2009), and the Guidelines for Surveying Soil and Land Resources (McKenzie et al, 2008). Further soil surveys to update the TMP will be undertaken prior to the commencement of topsoil stripping, and may be undertaken in stages commensurate with the staging of the revised Project. |
| 99 | 5.2.9.11 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | Following completion of further the further soil surveys proposed in Section 5.2.9.11 of the AEIS, the TMP and FLURP will be updated to include specific management strategies for return of backfilled mine pit areas to Class 2 land suitability (grazing). It is important to note that post-mine land use suitability is rarely achieved immediately following landform construction and revegetation. Rehabilitation will be monitored over time, and there will be opportunity for improvement as the rehabilitation program progresses. |
| 100 | 5.2.9.13 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | Future revisions to the water quality modelling in depressed landforms model will be undertaken if required once further characterisation of soil materials and mine wastes (overburden) has been completed as the mine progresses. |
| 101 | 5.3.22.29 | *Responses to Submissions* | NAC will comply with the RPI Act with regard to the revised Project's impacts on cropping land. |
| 102 | 5.3.24.36 | *Responses to Submissions* | The grazing trials project will continue over the life of the revised Project and will involve the ongoing incorporation of new grazing trial sites as rehabilitated land becomes available. The grazing trials project will be modified as required to achieve the best possible scientific outputs to guide future rehabilitation management strategies. |
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| | CHAPTER 5 | *Surface water resources* | |
| | Existing Commitments - draft EIS | | |
| 103 | | | Where relevant the NHG will seek permits for minor works within the Lagoon Creek watercourse, e.g. road access tracks under the revised Project's environmental authority. These minor works will be established through detailed mine planning. |
| 104 | | | The revised Project includes an operational separation distance of approximately 150 m from the banks of Lagoon Creek to the edge of the mining pits, which includes a 50 m buffer adjacent the creek for conservation purposes. This buffer distance is consistent with the requirements of the Vegetation Management Act 1999, which protects remnant vegetation growing within 50m of a watercourse. |

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| 105 | | | NAC have committed to design the revised Project's final landform so that any depressions and or hills are located outside the PMF flood extent. |
| 106 | | | Further refinement of the depressed landform locations through detailed design and mine planning will ensure that the depressed landform locations are not affected by the predicted PMF. As a result, there are no flood impacts predicted for the revised Project's final landform. |
| 107 | | | The Mine's water management system is based on the following key principles:<br>- where possible, stormwater runoff from undisturbed areas both on and surrounding the revised Project site will be diverted away from disturbed areas and released directly into adjacent waterways.<br>- disturbed area runoff will be captured in sediment dams and used preferentially for dust suppression or as process water in the CHPP.<br>- water will be recycled from the IPTSFs to supplement the water supply for coal washing.<br>- mine-affected water will be treated through settling in sedimentation basins and/or oil-water separators to allow as required discharges off-site that comply with the revised Project's EA.<br>- recycled water from the TRC's WWRF is pumped to the site as the main operational water supply.<br>- Shallow groundwater bores will be treated to supply potable water for human use.<br>- infrastructure and mining areas will be protected from flooding using flood levees.<br>- all significant quantities of hydrocarbon and chemical products stored on site will be stored in temporary or permanent bunding.<br>- spill capture and retention devices will be used for refuelling and similar areas.<br>- oily water areas will be captured and treated using an oil-water separator.<br>- progressive rehabilitation will be employed to revegetate disturbed areas no longer required for operational use. . |
| 108 | | | Where practical, the stormwater runoff from clean, undisturbed catchments will be diverted around disturbed areas using bunds and channels and released directly into adjacent gullies and waterways. Rainfall runoff from disturbed areas including un-rehabilitated spoil areas will be collected. Spoil area runoff will report to sediment and environmental water dams for treatment before potential release off site. Water that reports to a mine pit floor will be pumped to environment dams and stored for use to supplement the revised Project's water demands for activities, such as dust suppression. |
| 109 | | | The Environment Dams will receive pit water, and therefore, are likely to contain contaminant concentrations (salinity) that will exceed the guidelines. As a result, it is anticipated that the three new Environment Dams will be classified as regulated structures and will need to be designed and licensed accordingly. The proposed Lagoon Creek flood protection levee will also require licencing as a regulated structure. |
| 110 | | | During the development of the revised Project, should a referable dam be required, appropriate assessment and approvals will be sought. |
| 111 | | | A licensed release point will be required from the Environment Dams for controlled releases to Lagoon Creek. Conditions for these controlled releases will be incorporated into the Project's EA. |
| 112 | | | The revised Project will not require additional licensing for waterway diversions as there are no diversions planned. |
| 113 | | | The water quality values are presented in Table 5-20. Actual releases will be made based on sampling and monitoring of a number of water quality parameters. |
| 114 | | | The revised Project proposes that controlled releases be made to Lagoon Creek on the Mine. Releases will be made in accordance with the principles outlined in the Final Model Water Conditions for Coal Mines in the Fitzroy Basin (EHP, 2013). The release conditions were developed to only allow discharges that are less than 1,000 µs/cm downstream of the point of discharge. |
| 115 | | | The key activities that will require mitigation measures to prevent or minimise adverse water quality impacts during construction are:<br>- hydrocarbon spills from the CHPP area, vehicles and other plant and equipment contaminating surrounding water with chemicals, hydrocarbons, oil and grease;<br>- clearing of vegetation and stripping of top soils;<br>- handling and storage of fuels during construction and operation and;<br>- any releases of water from the site and site sedimentation dams. |
| 116 | | | Work methods will be developed and included in the Contractor Environmental Management Plans. These methods will detail appropriate control and mitigation measures for the revised Project. In addition to these measures, the specific environmental management conditions will be implemented to mitigate the impacts of the construction of the railway line crossing of Lagoon Creek. |
| 117 | | | The following outlines the major mitigation measures that will be implemented where practicable during the construction phase. Importantly, current good practice erosion and sediment control measures will be provided as outlined in the EPA Urban Stormwater Management Erosion and Sediment Control (2008) and the Institution of Engineers publication IECA Best Practice Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines (2008) to comply with the EPP (Water). These measures include:<br>- construction work in creeks will be undertaken in dry weather and conditions of minimal or no flow;<br>- weather conditions will be monitored so that work in creek crossings and erosion prone areas will not take place if rain and/or extreme weather (e.g. storms) are forecast;<br>- sedimentation fences and bunds will be used to contain fill or excavated material during construction;<br>- fill and excavated material will be stockpiled away from gully heads, active creek banks, bank erosion or other unstable areas;<br>- local runoff from disturbed areas will be routed clear of disturbed areas;<br>- assessment of the integrity and effectiveness of erosion control measures will be undertaken at regular periods and following significant rainfall events; and<br>- if required the erection of temporary waterway barriers during construction will include the provision to transfer flows from upstream of the works to the downstream channel without passing though the disturbed construction site. |
| 118 | | | The following management strategies will be implemented by the revised Project to protect surface water quality and the downstream receiving environment.<br>- An operational separation distance of approximately 150 m will be maintained from the edge of the mining pits to Lagoon Creek, which will include a 50 m conservation buffer where no mining activities will be undertaken.<br>- The current conservation zone, 50 m either side of Lagoon Creek, from the Mine will be extended into the revised Project area to promote the re-establishment of the riparian zone. No mining activities will occur within the proposed conservation zone.<br>- Sediment dams, environmental dams, pit water storage and other water management structures (e.g. bunds and drains) will be used appropriately by the revised Project as per the Water Resource Management Plan (WRMP).<br>- The revised Project's water management will be based on the separation and management of clean and dirty water catchments.<br>- Water capture within the revised Project's clean areas will be diverted around operational areas and where practical, allowed to discharge off site as part of normal overland flow.<br>- Water from disturbed areas within the revised Project site will be diverted to sediment dams for treatment and possible reuse as a supplementary supply for the revised Project's water requirement.<br>- Surface runoff from the revised Project's potentially contaminated areas, such as infrastructure areas, will receive additional levels of treatment (e.g. oil-water separators and bunding). Water captured by these devices will be preferentially reused on site, while captured oil will collected for recycling by a licensed contractor.<br>- Progressive rehabilitation will be undertaken as the revised Project's operational areas become available to reduce the amount of disturbed areas.<br>- Fuel, dangerous goods and hazardous chemicals will be managed as outlined by current standards, guidelines and in compliance with statutory requirements.<br>- Refuelling locations and handling of fuels will be undertaken away from all waterways including creeks and drainage paths.<br>- NAC's existing SOP for spills and emergency response procedures will be expanded to incorporate the revised Project. Spill recovery and containment equipment will be available when working adjacent to sensitive drainage paths and within other areas, such as workshops.<br>- NAC will continue to commit to investigating all legitimate surface water complaints, and if a genuine problem is identified, conduct immediate remediation measures and establish standard operating procedures to minimise the possibility of a reoccurrence of the original issue.<br>- NAC's current water quality monitoring program will be expanded to incorporate the operational and decommissioning phases of the revised Project. The program is designed to ensure the WRMP is effective, to demonstrate compliance with the Mine's strict discharge limits, and to ensure the downstream water quality (physico-chemical parameters, at a minimum) is not being adversely impacted. In general, the monitoring program will include the following actions.<br>- Water quality will be measured upstream and downstream of the revised Project site. Basic water quality indicators (i.e. Salinity, pH, DO, EC, temperature) will continue to be monitored on a monthly basis, or when water is present, and heavy metals, nutrients, anions and cations monitored twice annually.<br>- During any release event, the receiving water will be monitored upstream (50 m to 100 m upstream of the release point) and downstream (200 m downstream of the release point) locations. Water quality variables will include basic water quality indicators, suspended solids, heavy metals, nutrients, anions and cations.<br>- Progressive rehabilitation of areas impacted by operational activities will be undertaken as soon as practical in order to reduce the amount of exposed soil.<br>- Fuel, dangerous goods, hazardous chemicals and work shop wastes will be managed to ensure compliance with current industry standards and guidelines for safety and environmental protection. These management actions will focus on handling, storage, spill containment, emergency response, establishment of 'standard operating procedures' for key operational aspects, and development of a responsibility matrix for operational and reporting matters. |
| 119 | | | A WRMP will be developed for the revised Project to ensure the protection of surrounding waterways (downstream receiving environment). A draft of WRMP is provided in Appendix J.4. |

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| 120 | | | NAC is not proposing to divert or alter the Lagoon Creek channel and has offset the revised Project's resource areas from the creek bank by approximately 150 m. Importantly, the 150 m operational offset includes a commitment by NAC to a 50 m 'no mining' buffer to promote the re-establishment of the creek's riparian zone. The buffer distance either side of Lagoon Creek within the revised Project area will be incorporated into the Mine's current conservation zone |
| 121 | | | NAC will expand the existing Lagoon Creek monitoring program as part of the WRMP for the revised Project. The WRMP is located in Appendix J.4. |
| 122 | | | Flood protection for the revised Project's resource areas will be provided through two flood levees designed to provide protection from a PMF flood event, which is well in excess of the current legislative requirements. In addition, NAC has committed to ensuring the revised Project's final landform is outside the existing PMF flood extent, and as a result, there are no flooding impacts on the key aspects of the proposed final landform (i.e. the depressed and elevated landforms). |
| 123 | | | In line with current industry guidelines, NAC's water management system will include a controlled release system to manage rainfall events and minimise adverse impacts to the downstream receiving environment. |
| 124 | | | Engineering controls within the Mine water management system will provide mitigation to preclude adverse effects on terrestrial and aquatic freshwater flora and fauna. This will be achieved through a controlled release strategy whereby the concentration of salt that is released to the rivers will not exceed the assimilative capacity of the receiving environment, as depicted in Table 5-20. |
| | Additional Commitmnets - AEIS | | |
| 125 | 5.1.5.1 | *Water Resources* | The design of the rail spur will be in accordance with Aurizon standards. The release of mine water will be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the conditions of the environmental authority from DEHP. |
| 126 | 5.1.5.2 | *Water Resources* | . In consultation with affected landholders, NAC is committed to sampling of water quality sampling in rainwater tanks should air quality monitoring exceed the air quality objectives in the EPP (Air) or the dust nuisance goals. NSW Health (2007) Options to protect water quality in rainwater tanks include:<br>- use drinking water grade PVC for fittings;<br>- inlet and overflow of the tank should incorporate a mesh cover and a strainer to keep out materials;<br>- such as leaves;<br>- cover the tank to prevent light reaching the water;<br>- discharge pipes from roof mounted appliances such as air conditioners should not be allowed to discharge onto the roof catchment;<br>clean roof catchments and gutters of leaves and other debris every three or four months; and<br>- installation of first flush devices to prevent bird droppings and dust entering the rainwater tank after first rains. |
| 127 | 5.1.5.2 | *Water Resources* | NAC will undertake immediate actions to resolve these issues in consultation with affected residents if any future testing demonstrates non-compliance with the above guidelines. |
| 128 | 5.2.4.29 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | Where Lagoon Creek is clearly braided into multiple waterways, the operational offset zone will be determined from the edge or banks of the network of channels, to avoid the boundary of the 'no disturbance' buffer being located within the creek itself. Where the channel is indistinct, a line of best fit for the bank habitat will be determined by environmental staff, which defines the area of aquatic ecology habitat values. This approach of commencing the buffer zone at the creek bank will avoid the boundary of the buffer zone being located within the creek itself. |
| 129 | 5.2.4.30 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | The cross section in Figure 5.2 O depicts a 50 m offset buffer that extends from the high bank of Lagoon Creek and will not be disturbed or utilised for any mining activity. This undisturbed buffer extending from 0 m to 50 m will extend along the length of Lagoon Creek within the mine lease. The area that extends from outside the 50 m buffer to the mine pit will be disturbed and utilised for various mine infrastructure and activities as follows (note that distances are metres from the high bank of Lagoon Creek):<br>- 50 m up to 100 m – a 50 m corridor for a light vehicle access road and associated infrastructure;<br>- 100 m up to 125 m – a 25 m allowance for a flood levee to protect the mine pit and associated infrastructure from potential flooding from Lagoon Creek;<br>- 125 m up to 140 m – a 15 m corridor for additional mine roads and surface water drainage infrastructure; and<br>- 140 m up to 150 m – a 10 m corridor is to be utilised for the construction of a pit crest safety bund to protect vehicles from accidentally driving into the mine pit.<br>Each of the nominated corridor widths will be minimised where possible during detailed design. |
| 130 | 5.2.4.58 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | The NHG will commit to monthly monitoring of basic water quality parameters (EC, pH, Suspended Solids and Sulphate) within the proposed sedimentation and environment dams. In addition to this, annual pre wet season monitoring will be undertaken for storages with proposed release conditions, unless they are dry, to test for a broader range of water quality parameters, including metals and metalloids, nutrients and hydrocarbons. The objective of monitoring, location of sampling sites and monitoring parameters will be described in a REMP, which will be developed in consultation with DEHP. |
| 131 | 5.2.4.63 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | NHG will develop a detailed REMP for approval by DEHP after the EIS process. The REMP will include upstream control sites, sites within the mine site and sites located downstream of mining activities. It is recognised that Sites LCD1 and LCD2 would not be appropriate control sites for the purposes of assessing the environmental impacts of mining activities, as described in an REMP. |
| 132 | 5.3.20.4 | *Responses to Submissions* | NAC will expand its already extensive surface water monitoring regime as a critical tool for the purposes of impact identification, compliance assessment and complaints management. |
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| | CHAPTER 6 | *Groundwater resources* | |
| | Existing Commitments - draft EIS | | |
| 133 | | | The conceptual hydrogeological model will continue to be updated and refined based on the results of a targeted groundwater monitoring program and further investigations into local bore information (e.g. landholder bore surveys). |
| 134 | | | The model will continue to be updated and refined based on the results of a targeted groundwater monitoring program and further investigations into local bore information (e.g. landholder bore surveys) as described in Section 6.3.4. |
| 135 | | | Potential sources of contamination to groundwater may include incidents involving significant fuel or oil spills. In the event of this type of incident occurring, potential effects would be contained on the surface and unlikely to effect on groundwater resources. Depending on their size and volume, smaller oil spills will be treated in-situ and larger spills will be excavated and treated under a temporary land farm arrangement, which will include an impermeable base. |
| 136 | | | Groundwater quality will continue to be monitored throughout the life of the revised Project to confirm that potential effects are not occurring. |
| 137 | | | The groundwater monitoring program for the revised Project combines the current monitoring program for the existing Mine with an extended network of monitoring bores enclosing the revised Project site. Data collected from the groundwater monitoring program will:<br>- be operated in accordance with the revised Project's approved EA, including adoption of suitable guideline criteria and temporal investigation;<br>- be used in the continued development and refinement of groundwater impact assessment criteria and investigation triggers;<br>- enable verification and refinement (where necessary) of the groundwater modelling predictions presented in this EIS; and<br>- be collated into a database that will be made available to the administering authority on request. |
| 138 | | | Table 6-18 summarises the bores that will be monitored, monitoring parameters, and frequency. The groundwater monitoring program combines the existing Mine monitoring bores together with the seven additional bores already installed around the revised Project site. |
| 139 | | | Installation of nested monitoring bores in these locations will allow early detection of impacts from mining in the Tertiary Basalt, Walloon Coal Measures and Marburg Sandstone aquifers, and also provide information on the degree of interconnectivity of these aquifers as mining progresses. In the southeast of the revised Project site, nested monitoring bores will be installed into the Oakey Creek Alluvium and the Walloon Coal Measures aquifer, to confirm model predictions of limited groundwater impact in those areas. |
| 140 | | | In addition, a single monitoring bore is proposed to be installed within the Mine's existing worked pit backfill area, given the apparent presence of a developing groundwater mound in this area. The final location of the proposed additional bores may vary slightly depending on land access and proximity to local groundwater users. These bores will be individually identified in accordance with the bore naming convention at the revised Project site. |
| 141 | | | The groundwater monitoring network will:<br>- be installed and maintained by a person possessing appropriate qualifications and experience in the fields of hydrogeology and groundwater monitoring program design to be able to competently make recommendations about these matters;<br>- be constructed in accordance with methods prescribed in the "Minimum Construction Requirements for Water Bores in Australia" (National Uniform Drillers Licensing Committee, 2012) by an appropriately qualified driller; and<br>- include a sufficient number of 'bores of compliance' that are located at an appropriate distance from potential sources of impact from mining activities and provide the following:<br>- representative groundwater samples from the uppermost aquifer;<br>- background water quality in hydraulically up-gradient or background bore(s) that have not been affected by any mining activities conducted by NAC; and<br>- the quality of groundwater down gradient of potential sources of contamination. |
| 142 | | | Groundwater monitoring will be undertaken by appropriately qualified personnel. Groundwater level measurements, sample collection, storage and transportation will be undertaken in accordance with procedures conforming to the current industry standard: AS/NZS 5667.1, .11 1998. |

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| 143 | | | The data gathered from the groundwater monitoring program will be collated into a database which will include:<br>- a site plan showing sample locations;<br>- tabulated results of the monitoring compared with applicable background/trigger levels;<br>- all data collected during each monitoring round;<br>- a record of chain of custody of the samples from sampling through to analysis;<br>- laboratory analysis certificates;<br>- groundwater monitoring program reports, and<br>- a description of the procedures, methods and calculations used. |
| 144 | | | Groundwater sample analysis will continue to be undertaken by a laboratory accredited by the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA). Field measurement of water quality parameters will continue to be undertaken using appropriate field equipment that is maintained and calibrated in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. |
| 145 | | | Data collected from landholder bores, wells, and waterholes will be used in conjunction with the groundwater impact investigation procedure to determine if contingency measures are required. |
| 146 | | | Groundwater levels will be monitored on a monthly basis and samples will be collected and submitted for the analytical suite set out in Table 6 18 every six months. |
| 147 | | | The existing Mine EA reference bores (BMH1 and CSMH1) are located within the predicted zone of groundwater drawdown from operation of the revised Project. NAC will accordingly re-assess the location of these reference bores and if necessary install new reference bores outside the revised Project's predicted zone of groundwater drawdown. |
| 148 | | | The nearest alluvium with significant groundwater supplies is associated with Oakey Creek south of the revised Project site. A new monitoring bore installed at location 5A (Table 6 18 and shown on Figure 6 37) will monitor groundwater levels and quality in the Oakey Creek Alluvium within the Project's southern boundary. |
| 149 | | | Eight basalt bores will be monitored, including five new bores (Table 6 18 and shown on Figure 6 37). |
| 150 | | | Due to the lack of predicted impacts on the Marburg Sandstone aquifer arising from the revised Project, a single additional monitoring bore is proposed for this aquifer to confirm those predictions. This bore is located west of the revised Project site and is located in a nested configuration adjacent proposed monitoring bores in the Tertiary basalt and Walloon Coal Measures aquifers (Table 6 18 and shown on Figure 6 37). |
| 151 | | | Due to the apparent presence of a developing groundwater mound in the existing Mine's backfilled pit area, a groundwater monitoring bore (Table 6 18 and shown on Figure 6 37) will be installed in the mound area to directly test for its presence and monitor its development over time. |
| 152 | | | Groundwater monitoring will be undertaken at selected landholder bores surrounding the revised Project site, following consultation with relevant landholders. Primarily this will include monitoring of groundwater levels and groundwater quality in conjunction with metering groundwater abstraction rates at suitable bores in order to assess potential groundwater level impacts from mine dewatering in the context of any variations to bore pumping rates. Landholder bores targeted for monitoring will be selected based on a thorough review of bores within the predicted drawdown impact zone. |
| 153 | | | During the life of the revised Project, data collected through the groundwater monitoring program, will be used to update and refine the revised Project's groundwater model and it's predictions to reflect the actual activities undertaken on site (e.g. mine development and sump locations). |
| 154 | | | Table 6-19 presents the proposed schedule for groundwater impact prediction, validation and review. |
| 155 | | | The results of the groundwater model verification and refinement, or the justification that this action is not necessary, will be documented, and as required, presented to the DNRM (regulatory authority). |
| 156 | | | NAC will undertake a program of works to characterise and assess predicted impacts on individual groundwater users within the predicted drawdown area. The work program will have the primary outcome of determining the most appropriate means of 'Make Good' for individual users should groundwater monitoring validate model predictions of groundwater effects on those users. Results of this characterisation work will also feed into the first revision of the groundwater model where possible. |
| 157 | | | If required in these circumstances, NAC will provide an alternative water supply arrangement to affected third parties. Due to the progressive nature of drawdown within aquifers, the provision of alternative supplies may be staged. Options for possible alternative supplies include:<br>- the deepening and / or refurbishment of existing bores;<br>- the installation of new pumps capable of extracting groundwater from greater depths within existing bores;<br>- the installation of a new bores at other locations on the affected landholder's property; and<br>- the installation of a new high yielding 'community bore' and subsequent pipeline to multiple affected landholders. |
| 158 | | | NAC will ensure its groundwater monitoring regime is adequate to identify possible effects to neighbouring groundwater users from the revised Project's operations (i.e., in relation to drawdown levels and water quality). NAC will review its groundwater monitoring regime on a regular basis in line with the progression of mining over the life of the revised Project. The revised Project's groundwater monitoring regime will be periodically updated in NAC's current Environmental Monitoring Plan, which forms a supporting document to the NAC Plan of Operations. |
| 159 | | | NAC will investigate all groundwater complaints related to the revised Project both during the operational phase and following mine closure. NAC will ensure all legitimate groundwater complaints are addressed in an expedient manner. |
| 160 | | | NAC has developed a Groundwater Monitoring and Impact Management Plan (GMIMP) to formalise the management of the revised Project's potential impacts on the surrounding groundwater environment. The GMIMP is based on the groundwater impact assessment work completed for the revised Project's EIS. The GMIMP will be regularly reviewed over the life of the revised Project, and as required, will be updated based on monitoring results, new outputs from revisions to the groundwater modelling and any other applicable groundwater management matters that relate to operation of the revised Project. The GMIMP will form a supporting document to NAC's Plan of Operations for the revised Project and is provided in Appendix J.5. |
| 161 | | | The groundwater monitoring program currently being undertaken by the Mine will be extended to include additional locations within and outside the revised Project site, with new monitoring installations located in areas where drawdown impacts, and receptors sensitive to those impacts, are predicted to occur. Groundwater monitoring will be conducted on a regular basis and will provide information to detect any significant variations to the existing groundwater system over the life of the revised Project. The primary aim of undertaking groundwater monitoring on site is to ensure sufficient data is gathered for consideration of the following hydrogeological aspects:<br>- temporal and spatial variations in groundwater levels;<br>- temporal and spatial variation in groundwater quality; and<br>- groundwater level or quality effects including early detection of groundwater drawdown caused by dewatering of the mine pits. |
| 162 | | | The results of the groundwater monitoring program will be used to further inform and refine the groundwater impact assessment for the revised Project, with model refinement occurring on a regular basis. |
| 163 | | | Mitigation measures can be put into place should the effects of dewatering require alternative water supplies for affected users, such as installation of new pumps, deepening of existing bores or installation of a new bore at another location on the property. NAC will undertake a comprehensive bore characterisation program for third party groundwater users in the predicted impact area, to identify the exact requirements for 'Make Good' for those affected users. |
| 164 | | | NAC will manage the potential groundwater impacts from the revised Project using a dedicated GMIMP. The GMIMP is based on the groundwater impact assessment work completed for the revised Project's EIS. The GMIMP will be regularly reviewed over the life of the revised Project, and as required, will be updated based on monitoring results, new outputs from revisions to the groundwater modelling and any other applicable groundwater management matters that relate to operation of the revised Project. The GMIMP will form a supporting document to NAC's Plan of Operations for the revised Project. |
| 165 | | | NAC will discuss and agree with the administering authority, the need for on-going groundwater management, including monitoring during the decommissioning phase of the revised Project. |
| | Additional Commitmnets - AEIS | | |
| 166 | 5.1.5.3 | *Water Resources* | NAC is committed to dedicated void lake studies as part of mine closure planning in the future, and the management strategies for the lakes will be developed in conjunction with the relevant regulators to ensure no long term water quality impacts on the groundwater system. |
| 167 | 5.1.5.3 | *Water Resources* | In all cases relating to the bores identified in Table 5.1.5-A and Table 5.1.5-B, NAC will seek to establish legally binding Landholder Agreements with the potentially affected landholders prior to operation of the revised Project. The Landholder Agreements will include reference to any negotiated Make Good measures. |
| 168 | 5.1.5.3 | *Water Resources* | NAC acknowledges that Table 5.1.5-A and Table 5.1.5-B do not identify bores within the predicted drawdown zone that do not have a source aquifer denoted in the DNRM database, as there is no way to assign these bores to a predicted drawdown level. NAC will seek to further characterise these bores and liaise with potentially affected landholders as part of ongoing baseline assessment works as outlined below. |

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| 169 | 5.1.5.3 | *Water Resources* | NAC remains committed to undertaking baseline groundwater bore assessments in its area of potential impact, including all bores identified in Table 5.1.5-A and Table 5.1.5-B. The baseline assessment will comprise:<br>- Consultation with the landholder regarding their bores, including their operational history<br>- Review of any landholder supplied information related to the bores<br>- Engagement of a groundwater specialist third party contractor to undertake on-ground assessment of the bore(s) in question to undertake:<br>– Water quality testing.<br>– Groundwater level measurement.<br>– Assessment of the bore and infrastructure condition. |
| 170 | 5.1.5.3 | *Water Resources* | Within the draft EIS, commitments were made to undertake groundwater monitoring at selected landholder bores surrounding the revised Project site, following consultation with relevant landholders and the development of legally binding Landholder Agreements. Landholder bores targeted for monitoring were proposed to be selected based on a thorough review of bores within the predicted drawdown impact zone. Following the baseline assessment process, NAC remains committed to selecting appropriate and suitable private bores in conjunction with landholders for ongoing monitoring prior to any real or perceived impact occurring. Bores selected for ongoing monitoring on the basis of suitability will be added to NAC's routine groundwater monitoring program, with monitoring of water levels undertaken monthly and monitoring of water quality undertaken every 6 months. The data collected will be provided to the landholder following collection. |
| 171 | 5.1.5.3 | *Water Resources* | NAC will undertake investigations and bore assessments if private bore complaints are received from landholders without Landholder Agreements with NAC, as outlined in the revised Project's revised GMIMP (Appendix H of the draft EIS) and in accordance with the *Water Act 2000.* These investigations and bore assessments will involve:<br>- Consultation with the landholder regarding the details of the complaint<br>- Review of any landholder supplied information related to the complaint<br>- Engagement of a groundwater specialist third party contractor to undertake on-ground assessment of the bore(s) in question to undertake:<br>– Water quality testing.<br>– Groundwater level measurement.<br>– Assessment of the bore and infrastructure condition. |
| 172 | 5.1.5.3 | *Water Resources* | Following a thorough review of the available information, NAC will make an informed assessment of the information and provide the landholder with written correspondence detailing the testing results and information review that has been undertaken. Comparison to NAC's groundwater model predictions will be made. Negotiation with the affected landholder will then be undertaken to determine the nature of any Make Good measures. |
| 173 | 5.1.5.4 | *Water Resources* | Community consultation and engagement activities addressing environmental concerns, including air quality, noise and vibration and groundwater are provided in Table 5.1.5 D of the AEIS. |
| 174 | Appendix H | *Revised GMIMP* | The groundwater monitoring program conforms to Conditions C21 to C33 of the current EA EMPL00335713 for New Acland Coal Mine. Table 3-1 summarises the bores that will be monitored, monitoring parameters, and frequency. The groundwater monitoring program combines the existing monitoring bores together with an additional 15 bores that have been installed around the revised Project area. In addition, a further 15 bores will be added to the monitoring network which brings the total number of bores included in the groundwater monitoring program to 45. Proposed additional monitoring bore locations have been chosen based on model drawdown predictions and presence of aquifers and receptors of interest. The monitoring program for new bores will be established prior to the commencement of the revised Project's mining schedule to ensure there is sufficient baseline information on groundwater levels and quality for those bores. |
| 175 | Appendix H | *Revised GMIMP* | The locations of the monitoring bores in Table 3-1 are presented in Figure 3-1. The final location of the proposed additional bores may vary slightly depending on land access and proximity to local groundwater users. These bores will be individually identified in accordance with the bore naming convention at the revised Project site. |
| 176 | Appendix H | *Revised GMIMP* | The nearest alluvium with significant groundwater supplies is associated with Oakey Creek in the south-west of the revised Project site. A new monitoring bore installed at location 5A (Figure 3-1) will monitor groundwater levels and quality in the Oakey Creek Alluvium. Groundwater levels in the coal measures between the active mine pits and the Oakey Creek Alluvium will be monitored at bores 119PGC and 116P and directly beneath the alluvium at Location 5B. |
| 177 | Appendix H | *Revised GMIMP* | Eight basalt bores will be monitored, including five new bores strategically located in areas of predicted drawdown and/or sensitive receptors (Figure 3-1). Groundwater levels will be monitored on a monthly basis and samples will be collected and submitted for the analytical suite set out in Table 3-1 every six months. |
| 178 | Appendix H | *Revised GMIMP* | The groundwater monitoring program includes 22 coal measures bores of which seven are new, strategically located in areas of predicted drawdown and/or sensitive receptors (Table 3-1 and Figure 3-1). Groundwater levels will be monitored on a monthly basis and samples will be collected and submitted for the analytical suite set out in Table 3-1 every six months. |
| 179 | 5.2.9.24 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | NAC will undertake investigations and bore assessments if private bore complaints are received, as outlined in the revised Project's updated GMIMP (Appendix H) and in accordance with the Water Act 2000. Additionally, and separate from any complaints process, NAC remains committed to undertaking baseline groundwater bore assessments in its area of potential impact, and selecting appropriate and suitable private bores in conjunction with landholders for ongoing monitoring prior to any real or perceived impact occurring. In the time since the draft EIS release, NAC has undertaken additional landholder bore surveys in the area surrounding the revised Project site. The results of these additional surveys are presented in Appendix G. NAC remains committed to reaching Make Good agreements with potentially affected landholders (as shown by the AEIS groundwater modelling) prior to the operation of the revised Project. |
| 180 | 5.3.1.1 | *Responses to Submissions* | NAC will undertake further comprehensive bore characterisation surveys for third party groundwater users in the predicted impact area to identify the exact requirements for 'Make Good Provisions' for those affected users. NAC commit to entering into landholder agreements with potentially affected landholders. The options for groundwater mitigation will be detailed in the landholder agreements and may include, but not limited to, the installation of a new pump within the impacted bore, the lowering of the existing pump within the impacted bore, the deepening of the impacted bore or the construction of a new bore in the same aquifer at another location on the property. |
| 181 | 5.3.22.5 | *Responses to Submissions* | NAC will investigate all groundwater complaints related to the revised Project both during the operational phase and following mine closure. NAC will ensure all legitimate groundwater complaints are addressed in an expedient manner. |
| 182 | 5.3.22.5 | *Responses to Submissions* | NAC will negotiate all 'Make Good' measures with its neighbours and pay all costs associated with the agreed 'Make Good' measure(s). NAC will ensure a dispute resolution mechanism is available for neighbours if they feel aggrieved by the negotiation process for 'Make Good' measures. These components will be included in the proposed Landholder Agreements. |
| 183 | 5.3.41.1 | *Responses to Submissions* | NAC, through the landholder bore survey undertaken as part of the groundwater impact assessment, surveyed four bores on the submitter's property (Private Submitter 487.1). NAC will undertake baseline landholder bore survey at all groundwater bores within the predicted drawdown area, in accordance with the Water Act 2000. |
| 184 | 5.3.41.1 | *Responses to Submissions* | Mitigation measures will be put into place should the effects of dewatering affect existing users. Examples of mitigation include installation of new pumps, deepening of existing bores, installation of a new bore at another location on the property, or provision of an alternative supply of water. NAC will undertake a comprehensive bore characterisation program for third party groundwater users in the predicted impact area to identify the exact requirements for 'Make Good Provisions' for those affected users. NAC will formalise these provisions in specific landholder agreements. |
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| | CHAPTER 7 | Terrestrial Ecology | |
| | Existing Commitments - draft EIS | | |
| 185 | | | Koala habitat along Lagoon Creek will be retained, although small areas of the poplar box communities outside of the conservation zone will fall within the disturbance footprint. Habitat will continue to be available to the species along Lagoon Creek and the unhindered movement of Koalas will continue once the revised Project is constructed and operated. |
| 186 | | | Predictions from the dust forecasting system will allow operators to identify locations and times of potentially increased risk of dust generation and to facilitate appropriate planning to minimise or avoid potential impacts. An adaptive air quality management plan has been prepared for the revised Project. |
| 187 | | | The adaptive management measures will include the suspension or modification of operations in response to the following triggers:<br>- potential dust risk predictions from the dust forecasting system;<br>- warning or exceedance alarms from the strategic real time air quality monitoring system; and<br>- observation(s) of significant dust generation during visual monitoring of mining activities. |
| 188 | | | In summary, the adaptive management measures include:<br>- increase watering rate applied to haul roads in the Manning Vale West Pit, Manning Vale East Pit and Willeroo Pit;<br>- suspension of overburden/interburden blasting if meteorological conditions are unfavourable;<br>- suspension or modification of dozer operations on overburden dumps; and<br>- suspension or modification of all or selected overburden and/or coal handling activities (including excavation, loading, dumping and hauling). |
| 189 | | | NAC will undertake veneering and profiling of the loaded coal to minimise dust emissions during the transport of coal from the Train Loadout Facility. |
| 190 | | | Vegetation along Lagoon Creek will be retained and continue to provide habitat connectivity. Lagoon Creek's riparian vegetation will be protected by a conservation zone, 50 metres either side of the creek channel. The conservation zone possesses a dedicated management plan, the Conservation Zone Management Plan (Appendix J.6), which is designed to protect and enhance the condition of the riparian vegetation. |

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| 191 | | | Remnants of vegetation and habitat will be retained adjacent to the rail loop, along Acland-Sabine Road, in the north-western corner of the revised Project area and in the southern-eastern corner of revised Project area. These remnants will not be cleared by the revised Project and as a result, will not be further fragmented. |
| 192 | | | The BOMP is found in Appendix J.8. |
| 193 | | | For the Mine and revised Project, NAC has committed to a conservation zone over Bottle Tree Hill and 50 metres either side of Lagoon Creek, to protect and enhance ecologically significant areas of remnant vegetation not to be mined, and to promote the restoration of the Lagoon Creek riparian zone. NAC has produced a CZMP to manage these ecologically significant areas within the Mine and revised Project areas. |
| 194 | | | The CZMP is found in Appendix J.6. |
| 195 | | | A TSTP has been developed for the threatened flora species impacted by the revised Project. The TSTP aims ensure no net loss of individuals from the local population and will include:<br>- a discussion of known ecology and reproductive biology of the target species;<br>- a methodology for relocating the target species;<br>- a set of performance indicators to demonstrate successful relocation of the target species;<br>- a review of propagation potential for the target species;<br>- a methodology for the propagation of the target species;<br>- identification of suitable receiving sites for the propagated and/or relocated individuals of the target species; and<br>- a regime for long term monitoring and management of translocation sites. |
| 196 | | | A plan for dealing with fauna during clearing and construction will be prepared to outline protocols for dealing with injured wildlife and other necessary actions relating to fauna. This plan will be prepared by the construction contractor, to be implemented during the construction of the revised Project. |
| 197 | | | Contractors to construct telecommunications and electricity networks will also prepare construction management plans that will describe their commitments to managing fauna during construction. |
| 198 | | | All remnant vegetation that does not require clearing will be protected from further disturbance to enhance its potential for natural regeneration. |
| 199 | | | The PWMP is found in Appendix J.9. |
| 200 | | | NAC will continue to take reasonable steps to keep the Project site free of Class 1 and Class 2 declared animal pests, in accordance with the requirements of the LP Act. Management of animal pests will also be consistent with any pest management plans set by the Toowoomba Regional Council. |
| 201 | | | Removal of riparian vegetation at waterway crossings.<br>- Minimise areas of vegetation to be cleared by selecting crossing locations which require minimal clearing of established vegetation.<br>- Implementing the management measures described in the FLURP and the Conservation Zone Management Plan.<br>- Monitor riparian vegetation on banks to review and refine riparian management and rehabilitation strategies. |
| 202 | | | Minimise width of the rail and road crossing and locate workspace areas away from creek banks, so as to reduce the disturbance to riparian vegetation, bank and channel affected by construction.<br>Restrict construction within and around the creek channel to the dry periods and rehabilitate areas of disturbed channel bed and banks.<br>Design and construct temporary barriers in waterways to minimise disturbance to environmental flows.<br>Monitor the effectiveness of waterway crossing rehabilitation.<br>Minimise width of the rail and road crossing and locate workspace areas away from creek banks, so as to reduce the disturbance to riparian vegetation, bank and channel affected by construction.<br>Restrict construction within and around the creek channel to the dry periods and rehabilitate areas of disturbed channel bed and banks.<br>Design and construct temporary barriers in waterways to minimise disturbance to environmental flows.<br>Monitor the effectiveness of waterway crossing rehabilitation. |
| 203 | | | Earthworks and construction within the channel and banks for watercourse crossing:<br>- Minimise width of the rail and road crossing and locate workspace areas away from creek banks, so as to reduce the disturbance to riparian vegetation, bank and channel affected by construction.<br>- Restrict construction within and around the creek channel to the dry periods and rehabilitate areas of disturbed channel bed and banks.<br>- Design and construct temporary barriers in waterways to minimise disturbance to environmental flows.<br>- Monitor the effectiveness of waterway crossing rehabilitation. |
| 204 | | | Follow up reptile surveys<br>- Surveys of habitat suitable for small mammals, Brigalow reptiles, bats and birds will be conducted in October and November 2013. |
| 205 | | | Rail loop and spur<br>The location of the rail loop and spur will avoid areas of brigalow and poplar box woodland in the south-western corner of the mining lease. |
| 206 | | | Lagoon Creek vegetation and habitat retention<br>-Vegetation and habitat will be retained along the length of Lagoon Creek. Fauna movement will be able to continue unaffected by the revised Project. Areas of regional ecosystems and threatened ecological communities will be retained along Lagoon Cree, between the Willeroo and Manning Vale East pits. |
| 207 | | | Biodiversity Offsets:<br>The Biodiversity Offset Strategy will be implemented, to secure offsets for Brigalow and Bluegrass Dominant Grassland TECs, Bothriochloa biloba, Digitaria porrecta, Homopholis belsonii and poplar box woodland, mountain coolabah forest and gum-topped box woodland. |
| 208 | | | Bluegrass offset management:<br>- The Bluegrass Offset Management Plan will be implemented to manage the areas of bluegrass offset to be established on land owned by NAC |
| 209 | | | Lagoon Creek management:<br>The Conservation Zone Management Plan will be implemented to manage the Lagoon Creek riparian zone, to rehabilitate vegetation and habitat along the length of Lagoon Creek. |
| 210 | | | Threatened species translocation:<br>- The Threatened Species Translocation Management Plan will be implemented to relocate threatened species affected by the revised Project. The Plan describes the sites where the species will be relocated to, how the translocation will be completed and monitoring of the implementation of the Plan. |
| 211 | | | Vegetation clearance:<br>The Construction Phase Management Plan will be implemented to avoid impacts to areas of vegetation and habitat that are to be retained within the revised Project area. Vegetation that falls outside the revised Project disturbance footprint will not be cleared or impacted. |
| 212 | | | Pest and weed management:<br>The Pest and Weed Management Plan and the Pest and Domestic Animal Management Plan will be implemented to oversee the management of weeds and pest animals at the revised Project site. |
| | Additional Commitmnets - AEIS | | |
| 213 | 5.1.1 | *Nature Conservation* | An independent consultancy specialised in fauna protection has been engaged to prepare a Koala Species Management Plan (KSMP). This plan is located in Appendix B of the AEIS. The KSMP is to be implemented by NAC together with the Lagoon Creek Conservation Zone Management Plan (CZMP) which is presented in Appendix J.6 of the draft EIS. |

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| 214 | 5.2.4.16 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | NAC will prepare an Offset Area Management Plan (OAMP) that is consistent with the Commonwealth and Queensland governments' Biodiversity Offset policy requirements and describes how the revised Project's offsets will be managed. The OAMP will be a document that describes the location of the offsets, provides details on the ecological characteristics of the offset and sets out how the offsets will be managed to achieve the objectives of the OAMP.<br>Specifically, the OAMP will include:<br>- a detailed description of the vegetation and habitat that will be affected by the project and the extent of the impact including:<br>o the type of threatened species or ecosystem,<br>o the quality of habitat, population attributes such as recruitment or mortality, and landscape attributes such as habitat connectivity, and<br>o and likely duration of the impact;<br>- a map (preferably digital) that clearly identifies the proposed offset area with Global Positioning System (GPS) points, including any areas subject to specific management actions;<br>- the regional ecosystems and essential habitat within the proposed offset area;<br>- the ecological equivalence assessment of the offset area and the date it was undertaken;<br>- the offset area management objectives and outcomes;<br>- the activities that will be undertaken to achieve the offset management objectives and outcomes;<br>- restrictions imposed on the use of the offset area to achieve the offset management objectives and outcomes;<br>- an analysis of the risks to achieving the management objectives and outcomes, actions to minimise the risks and remedial action that will be undertaken if any of the risks occur;<br>- a yearly schedule of management actions, to ensure achievement of the management objectives and outcomes;<br>- a monitoring and reporting program; and<br>- the estimated time until the offset management objectives and outcomes will be achieved. |
| 215 | 5.2.4.16 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | NAC will consult regularly with DotE and DEHP during the development and implementation of the OAMP. |
| 216 | 5.2.4.16 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | In relation to a delivery line, NAC provides the following information that is based on gaining the necessary approvals during mid-2015. This timeline can be adjusted as required around the grant of the necessary approvals. The offset delivery timetable proposed by NAC is shown in Table 5.2-G. |
| 217 | 5.2.4.17 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | NAC will prepare a monitoring and evaluation program for the Bluegrass offset area, that will form a part of the OAMP.<br>The monitoring and evaluation program for the bluegrass offset areas will include a biocondition reference site, to be used as a standard site to compare the progress of the bluegrass offset site. NAC will endeavour to locate the biocondition reference site will be on land owned by NAC or in close proximity to the revised Project.<br>The monitoring and evaluation program will include an annual program of monitoring activities, objectives and targets that will be monitored and actions to be implemented following the review of the monitoring results. The monitoring and evaluation will also provide a reporting schedule to provide reports to both DotE and DEHP on the status of the offset and its progress to the achievement of objective of the offset. |
| 218 | 5.2.4.18 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | NAC will provide spatial data to DEHP of the offset locations once the offset sites have been confirmed. The spatial data will include lot on plan details and GPS coordinates of the offset site of both the areas to be cleared for the revised Project and the offset sites. |
| 219 | 5.2.4.19 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | With the translocation program for the revised Project, NAC will water the translocated plants twice a day during the first week following the translocation, then once a day for the second week. The plants will then been watered as required, based on local weather conditions. As part of the monitoring program, presented in Section 6 of the Threatened Species Translocation Plan (TSTP), the translocated plants will be inspected each week until the plants are successfully established. The need for watering of the translocated plants will be determined at each weekly inspection. The need for watering will be assessed by inspecting soil and ground conditions at each translocation site, plant health (presence of leaf wilt) and incidence of rain. |
| 220 | 5.2.4.21 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | NAC currently collect bluegrass seed and uses the species in the rehabilitation of disturbed areas within the New Acland mine. NAC will continue to collect bluegrass seed and make use of the species in mine rehabilitation. NAC will also collect the seed of other species from the bluegrass community and use this seed in rehabilitation. |
| 221 | 5.2.4.22 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | NAC will investigate the potential for the translocation of the identified threatened species to suitable habitat located in the conservation management zone along Lagoon Creek within the revised Project area. NAC believes there is merit in this suggestion from DEHP, particularly as the Lagoon Creek area will already be subject to suitable management protocol to protect and enhance the quality of vegetation and will be protected from direct disturbance by mining operations and other associated activities. As part of this approach, NAC will identify a suitable mechanism to protect the translocation sites in perpetuity. NAC will modify its Conservation Zone Management Plan and Threatened Species Translocation Management Plan to incorporate the translocation activities involving the conservation management zone along Lagoon Creek within the revised Project area. DEHP and DotE will be regularly consulted in relation to this matter and will receive new copies of any updated management plans. |
| 222 | 5.2.8.2 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | NAC will place a covenant over the offset sites, to provide long term protection of the offset area. NAC will select one of three options for protecting the offsets, these will be either:<br>- as a gazettal as a protected area (e.g. a nature refuge) under the *Queensland Nature Conservation Act 1992* ;<br>- as a voluntary declaration of an area of high nature conservation value under the *Queensland Vegetation Management Act 1999* ; or<br>- a covenant under the *Queensland Land Title Act 1994* or *Queensland Land Act 1994.* |
| 223 | 5.2.8.3 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | NAC is committed to the translocation of the three grass species that were listed as threatened species under the EPBC Act during the environmental assessment of impacts from the revised Project. However, two of the listed species, *Digitaria porrecta* and *Bothriochloa biloba* , were delisted on 14 December 2013. Despite the delisting of these two species, NAC will offset the impact of the revised Project on the delisted species, as well as *Homopholis belsonii.* |
| 224 | 5.2.10.78 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | NAC will fence and signpost the revised Project's conservation management zone to increase the level of protection and minimise the risk of accidental disturbance. |
| 225 | 5.2.10.90 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | NAC will consider the harvesting of timber from the vegetation to be cleared. However, the form and size of most of the trees from the areas to be cleared will present handling and logistic difficulties for the effective and efficient use of any timber that able to be harvested. |
| 226 | 5.3.19.13 | *Responses to Submissions* | No clearance of native vegetation will occur within the revised Project area without an appropriate wildlife inspection prior to clearance. NAC is currently in the process of developing a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for this requirement. This SOP will be administered as part of NAC's Environmental Management System. |
| 227 | 5.3.19.14 | *Responses to Submissions* | NAC is committed to the maintenance of a safe, all weather access to Acland for the local inhabitants and general public. |
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| | CHAPTER 8 | *Aquatic ecology* | |
| | Existing Commitments - draft EIS | | |
| 228 | | | Flood levees will be constructed between the Manning Vale East and Willaroo resource areas, that will contain up to the PMF rainfall event. Erosion management will be undertaken in the areas with infrastructure development that is potentially affected by run-off and flood plain indundation. |
| 229 | | | Erosion management will be undertaken in the areas with infrastructure development that is potentially affected by run-off and flood plain indundation. |
| 230 | | | The water managent principles of the revised Project that relate to potential impacts on aquatic vlaues due to waterway crossings include the following:<br>- diversion of clean water away from disturbed areas;<br>- revegetation of disturbed areas no longer required for operational use to promote progressive rehabilitation; and<br>- Appropriately designed crossings that consider the hydrualic behaviour of Lagoon Creek. |
| 231 | | | The principles of water management relating to vehicle and machinery and movement include the following:<br>- temporary or permanent bunding of all significant quantities of hydrocarbon and chemical products stored on-site;<br>- use of spill capture and retention devices for refuelling and similar areas; and<br>- revegetation of disturbed areas no longer required for operational use to promote progressive rehabilitation. |

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| 232 | | | Management of Cleared Vegetetation Zones<br>- Construction of flood levees to prevent floodwaters entering resource operation areas and to prevent run-off from resource operations entering Lagoon Creek. Flood levees to be constructed adjacent to the Manning Vale and Willaroo resource areas. Flood levees will be an average of 100 m from the top of the banks area and designed to control flood water up to a PMF rainfall event.<br>- The flood levee will be a fully engineered structure and will be constructed using compacted clay lifts, and top soiled and grass covered to minimise the potential for erosion. The flood levee will be constructed in accordance with the (formerly) DERM's Manual for Assessing Hazard Categories and Hydraulic Performance of Dams, 2012. Flood Levee sections that may be prone to erosion during flood events will be reinforced using appropriate stabilisation methods and materials (e.g. rip-rap).<br>- Riparian buffer zones maintained to a minimum of 50 m on either side of Lagoon Creek (which has a stream order of two). Buffer zones adopted are based on the Regional Vegetation Management Code for Brigalow Belt and New England Tablelands, which designate buffer widths based on stream order.<br>- Preparing and implementing an Erosion and Sediment Management Plan including installing and maintaining sediment control devices to be installed around exposed areas and earthworks adjacent to aquatic habitats and watercourses. This will be required for the development of all access roads and buildings where run-off could enter watercourses.<br>- Implementing the management measures described in the FLURP for areas no longer required for operational use to promote stabilisation and progressive rehabilitation. The FLURP for the revised Project is presented in Appendix J.2 |
| 233 | | | Water Management and Infrastructure:<br>- Development and operation of the integrated water management system to manage clean and dirty water transfer and storage, water reuse, and the controlled releases of water within approved water quality targets (e.g. Environmental Authorities and Final Model Water Conditions for Coal Mines in the Fitzroy Basin). The revised Project's WRMP is located in Appendix J.4.<br>- Release water from Environmental Dams during natural flow events in accordance with approved release strategies (e.g. Environmental Authorities and Final Model Water Conditions for Coal Mines in the Fitzroy Basin) to maintain seasonal flow regime and minimise potential disruption to aquatic values from increased flow magnitudes and extended tail flow following flow events.<br>- Management of potential for uncontrolled releases through the development and operation of the water management infrastructure which incorporates the design and construction of all water management structures using practical hydraulic parameters based on an appropriate risk based rainfall event, catchment size, slopes, discharge design and soil types.<br>- Monitoring and assessment of aquatic values in Lagoon Creek at sites upstream and downstream of the Mine and downstream of the revised Project site. Monitoring locations are required to evaluate condition of aquatic and riparian habitat, water quality, aquatic flora and fauna to account for seasonal variation and for assessing potential cumulative impacts. This can be incorporated into a Receiving Environment Management Plan (REMP) for the revised Project, as specified by DEHP (2012).<br>- Culverts to be constructed for the rail spur in the area of the Lagoon creek flood plain to allow for overland flow of run-off. |
| 234 | | | Construction of Waterway Crossings:<br>The following proposed mitigation measures will assist in protecting and where possible enhancing the aquatic ecology values potentially impacted by the rail and road crossings at Lagoon Creek.<br>- Construct the road and rail spur watercourse crossings in accordance with the Queensland code of environmental compliance for exploration and mineral development projects.<br>- Locate creek crossings at established road crossing sites where possible.<br>- Minimise the width of the rail and road crossings, associated infrastructure, and workspace areas, so as to reduce the length of bank and channel at the crossing of Lagoon Creek affected by the construction and operation activities.<br>- Restrict construction within and around the creek channel to the dry season where possible and complete stream bed and bank restoration before the onset of flow.<br>- Provide passage for aquatic fauna under the rail line and haul road where it crosses Lagoon Creek. The permanent structures will be in accordance with the minor waterway barrier works self-assessable code (DEEDI, 2010a) including the provision of appropriate hydraulic conditions across a range of low to high flow events, and appropriate levels of natural light. Temporary barriers will be in accordance with temporary waterway barrier works (DEEDI 2010b).<br>- Monitoring and maintaining water quality in accordance with Queensland Water Quality Guidelines (DERM 2009b) during and after construction.<br>- Monitoring of aquatic flora and fauna before, during and after construction to provide assessment of impacts on community structure.<br>- The Conservation Zone Management Plan located in Appendix J.6 describes the appropriate rehabilitation and bank stabilisation measures that will be implemented for the revised Project. Revegetation of riparian zones will use locally endemic species and include the identification and marking of exclusion areas to protect adjacent riparian communities where applicable. |
| 235 | | | Movement and Operation of Vehicles and Machinery:<br>- A Pest and Weed Management Plan is located in Appendix J.9 for the revised Project. The Plan outlines monitoring procedures for pests and weeds, and describes the application of appropriate control measures.<br>- Bunded fuel and chemical storage procedures will be applied to minimise risk of accidental chemical release or spillage. |
| 236 | | | Decommissioning:<br>- The stability of the dams will be enhanced (where necessary) by buttressing with inert rock material to create safe final slopes that are resistant to erosion and will be rehabilitated in accordance with the post-mine land use.<br>- A self-sustaining vegetation cover will be grown to provide long term stabilisation. Appropriate measures to assist vegetation growth will include, amongst other things, topsoil covering and appropriate erosion protection and drainage.<br>- Rehabilitated land will be monitored on a bi-annual basis until monitoring data confirms successful achievement of the agreed rehabilitation performance criteria. NAC will continue this monitoring regime until the total disturbed area is fully rehabilitated and relinquishment of the revised Project's MLs can be completed. A final landform assessment is presented in Chapter 4. The Final Landform Technical Report is located in Appendix G.1.10. |
| | Additional Commitmnets - AEIS | | |
| 237 | 5.2.4.23 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | NHG commits to conducting more detailed characterisation of baseline water quality conditions prior to the revised Project construction, as these additional data will be required for the purposes of monitoring compliance with EA conditions. However, as agreed at the meeting with advisory agencies on 16 April 2014, additional baseline data are not required at this time for the purpose of impact assessment. The ephemeral flow conditions of waterways within the revised Project site requires regular monitoring involving rapid responses to rain events in order to comprehensively describe water quality conditions. |
| 238 | 5.2.4.23 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | NHG commits to develop and implement a Receiving Environment Monitoring Program (REMP) in consultation with the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP), to achieve a more detailed characterisation of baseline water quality conditions. The REMP will describe the objectives of water quality monitoring, show the location of all monitoring sites, and describe the methods that will be implemented to determine water quality in upstream reference sites, within mine storages and downstream of mining activities. The REMP will be developed in accordance with the ANZECC/ARMCANZ (2000) water quality guidelines. |
| 239 | 5.2.4.33 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | NHG commits to conducting more detailed sampling of aquatic environmental values, including water quality prior to construction works commencing. The purpose of the monitoring will be to establish baseline environmental conditions, prior to any influence of the revised Project's activities. A Receiving Environment Monitoring Program (REMP) will be developed in consultation with DEHP, and will describe the objectives and methods of monitoring. NHG will give consideration to including seasonal macro-invertebrate assessments at relevant sites as part of the process of developing the REMP. |
| 240 | 5.2.4.39 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | Further manganese data will be collected following development of a REMP. |
| 241 | 5.2.4.40 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | The need for inclusion of pesticides in future monitoring activities will be further considered during development of the REMP. |
| 242 | 5.2.9.27 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | NAC will carry out all relevant activities such as haul roads, conveyer belts, outlet works or anything else that may result in activities such as excavating or placing fill that would interfere with the flow in Lagoon Creek in accordance with DNRM's Riverine Protection Permit Exemption Requirements. |
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| | CHAPTER 9 | *Air quality* | |
| | Existing Commitments - draft EIS | | |
| 243 | | | Dust control measures for operation of the revised Project |
| 244 | | | Material extraction and handling:<br>-Loading/dumping overburden<br>-The drop height of material from excavators will be minimised when loading trucks.<br>-Modification of operations will occur during adverse weather conditions (e.g. dust storms, gale force winds and storm conditions).<br>-Water carts will be employed to keep mine roads and work areas in a moist condition.<br>-Dozer operations on overburden dumps will be modified or suspended if dust generation is excessive. |

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| 245 | | | Drilling and Blasting :<br>-Dust curtains will be installed on drill rigs (i.e. under the drill deck with fabric filters to collect dust).<br>-Water injector will be used on drill rigs to minimise dust emission.<br>-Local residents (neighbours) will be advised of blasting events (date and time).<br>-Blasting operations will be modified during adverse weather conditions (e.g. dust storms, gale force winds and storm conditions).<br>-Blasts will occur during daytime hours only and not on weekends or public holidays.<br>-Gravel/basalt stemming will be used in blast holes. |
| 246 | | | Haul roads:<br>-Water carts will maintain moisture conditions on haul roads.<br>-Road grading and maintenance will be undertaken on a regular basis. Key actions include:<br>- Application of coarse rejects on haul roads to reduce dust generation.<br>- Grading procedures to achieve constant spread of fines and coarser material.<br>-Speed on haul roads will be limited to 60km/h (20 km/h on selected corners).<br>-Where feasible, the volumes of trays on haul trucks will be maximised to increase carrying capacity and to reduce vehicle kilometres travelled on haul roads.<br>-Visual monitoring of haul roads and major work areas will be undertaken to identify noticeable dust generation for corrective actioning.<br>-Certain site roads will be sealed (near administration area – site access and employee car park).<br>-Efficient watering will be conducted during peak periods of activity and within areas of concentrated activity.<br>-Well defined and planned haul routes and internal roads will be developed to maximise efficiency of travel.<br>-Obsolete mine roads will be rehabilitated.<br>-The private haulage route from the Materials Handling Facility to Train Loading Facility will be a sealed road. |
| 247 | | | Exposed areas:<br>-The pre-strip areas will be planned to minimise the time of exposure following clearing in advance of mine development.<br>-Exposed areas/active areas will be watered if dust generation is observed.<br>-Where possible, topsoil will be stripped when its moisture content is elevated but not sodden.<br>-A vegetative cover will be established as soon as feasible on areas prepared for rehabilitation.<br>-Progressive rehabilitation will be conducted behind the active pit areas to minimise exposed areas.<br>-Unauthorised clearing of non-mine areas will be prevented using a 'permit to disturb' system. |
| 248 | | | ROM Pad:<br>-Water will be applied on a regular basis by a water cart on trafficked areas within the ROM Pad's operational area.<br>-Visual monitoring of ROM coal stockpiles will be undertaken to identify noticeable dust generation for corrective action.<br>-Water will be applied on the ROM coal stockpiles if significant dust levels are being generated. |
| 249 | | | CHPP and ROM Bin<br>-ROM Bin<br>-Automatic water sprays will be installed at the ROM hopper bin to produce a fine mist to suppress dust generated when sensors are triggered.<br>-Surge Bin<br>-Dust curtains will be installed.<br>-Waters sprays will be used.<br>-Crushing<br>-Wet crushing will be employed.<br>-This activity will be fully enclosed.<br>-Conveyors<br>-Water sprays will be used on transfer points. |
| 250 | | | MHF:<br>-An automatic sprinkler system will be employed to moisten product coal stockpiles.<br>-Water sprays will operate at transfer points on conveyors.<br>-Coal spills will be removed regularly to minimise the potential for dust generation.<br>-A vacuum sweeper will operate on roads near the MHF.<br>-The washed coal will normally retain a moisture level of approximately 10%. |
| 251 | | | TLF:<br>-No coal will be stored in open/exposed stockpiles.<br>-An enclosed overhead bin will deliver the coal to each rail wagon as part of the train loadout system.<br>-Coal will be loaded by side tipper into a hopper as part of the train loadout system.<br>-Veneering and profiling of the loaded coal will be conducted to minimise dust emissions during transport. |
| 252 | | | Dust control measures for construction of the revised Project |
| 253 | | | Mine and Mine Infrastructure:<br>-The size of cleared areas will be kept to an operational minimum to limit exposed areas available for dust emissions by wind erosion.<br>-The speed of light vehicles on-site will be limited to reduce wheel-generated dust.<br>-A watering truck will be employed to control dust in dry and/or windy conditions.<br>-Cease works if excessive dust generation from construction activities occurs. |
| 254 | | | Rail Spur and Balloon Loop:<br>-The size of cleared areas will be kept to an operational minimum to limit exposed areas available for dust emissions by wind erosion.<br>-The speed of light vehicles on-site will be limited to reduce wheel-generated dust.<br>-A watering truck will be employed to control dust in dry and/or windy conditions.<br>-Cease works if excessive dust generation from construction activities occurs. |
| 255 | | | Fume Management |

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| 256 | | | The fume management procedures form part of the Air Quality Management Plan in Appendix J.10. Key fume management actions include:<br>- review weather forecast;<br>- establish 300 m machine and 500 m personnel exclusion zones;<br>- establish Fume Management Zone based on expected meteorological conditions;<br>- notify neighbours on blast contact list of time and date of blast, and whether their residence is in the fume management zone;<br>- set up portable weather station to monitor field meteorological conditions;<br>- blast when meteorological conditions favourable; and<br>- capture, record and review relevant blast data. |
| 257 | | | Dust Forecasting System |
| 258 | | | NAC proposes to implement a dust forecasting system to provide daily predictions of upcoming meteorological conditions and potential risk of air quality impacts from mining operations from the revised Project. A proposed hierarchy of adaptive management measures for key sources of dust from mining operations is outlined in Section 9.5.5. |
| 259 | | | Air quality monitoring |
| 260 | | | An air quality monitoring program has been designed based on the dispersion modelling results presented in Section 9.4.4.<br>The air quality monitoring requirements for the revised Project are presented in Table 9 23. The locations of air quality monitoring equipment for the revised Project are presented in Figure 9 37. |
| 261 | | | The rationale for each component of the air quality monitoring program is:<br>-Real time PM10 – determine compliance with EPP (Air) objective of 50 µg/m3 and facilitate adaptive air quality management;<br>-Real time TSP – determine potential nuisance impacts to west of Manning Vale West Pit and determine compliance with EPP (Air) objective of 90 µg/m3;<br>-Quarterly PM10 monitoring - continue historical monitoring and determine compliance with EPP (Air) objective of 50 µg/m3;<br>-Dust deposition gauges – determine potential nuisance impacts and to continue historical monitoring; and<br>- Meteorological Station – analysis of data to will provide supporting data to assess potential for air quality impacts following any investigations of dust concerns raised. |
| 262 | | | Adaptive Air Quality Management |
| 263 | | | In addition to the dust controls identified in Table 9 21, a series of adaptive management measures are included in the Air Quality Management Plan for the revised Project in Appendix J.10.<br>An indicative hierarchy of controls in response to potential dust risk predictions from the dust forecasting system is presented in Table 9 24. |
| 264 | | | Local Stakeholder Engagement |
| 265 | | | The potential for dust nuisance from the revised Project can be further reduced through:<br>- effective communications with local stakeholders on air quality issues associated with mining activities;<br>- a clearly identified point of contact should local stakeholders have comments or concerns;<br>- a well defined process to ensure that any issues are dealt with promptly and where possible to a satisfactory level; and<br>- a well defined system of recording any incidents or concerns. |
| 266 | | | NAC will undertake consultation with local stakeholders where dispersion modelling predicts there is a potential for dust nuisance from the revised Project. The processes for communicating with local stakeholders are provided in the Local Stakeholder Management Plan (refer to Appendix J.18). |
| 267 | | | All concerns about air quality will be investigated promptly and appropriate action will be taken to reduce legitimate dust nuisance. A register of dust concerns will be maintained. The processes for recording and investigating dust concerns are provided in the Air Quality Management Plan (refer to Appendix J.10). |
| 268 | | | Acquisition/relocation/treatment strategy |
| 269 | | | NAC will undertake a specific consultation approach for local landholders/neighbours that may be potentially affected by air quality impacts from the revised Project (i.e. based on the air quality modelling results). Depending on individual circumstances, NAC will seek to negotiate legal agreement with potentially affected local landholders/neighbours for either property acquisition, relocation of their living arrangements or physical treatment of their residence. |
| 270 | | | NAC proposes to acquire land or relocate sensitive receptors in the event that air quality impacts cannot be adequately managed by dust minimisation activities and adaptive air quality management. NAC will ensure all acquisition and relocation processes are managed in a fair and equitable manner and to the satisfaction of both parties. |
| 271 | | | NAC may treat affected local landholder/neighbour's residences if potential air quality impacts cannot be adequately managed by dust minimisation activities and adaptive air quality management. NAC will ensure all proposed treatment options are negotiated in a fair and equitable manner (e.g. air conditioning). |
| 272 | | | The predicted PM10 concentrations for the revised Project including adaptive air quality management measures comply with the air quality objectives in the EPP (Air). |
| | Additional Commitmnets - AEIS | | |
| 273 | 5.1.3.4 | *Air Quality, Noise and Vibration* | NAC propose to publicly issue an environmental monitoring report on a monthly basis. The environmental monitoring report will present a summary of air quality, noise and vibration monitoring data. The environmental monitoring report will be made available to the public through the Proponent's website. |
| 274 | 5.1.3.5 | *Air Quality, Noise and Vibration* | NAC will undertake consultation with local stakeholders where dispersion modelling predicts there is a potential for dust nuisance from the revised Project. The processes for communicating with local stakeholders are provided in the Local Stakeholder Management Plan (Appendix J.18 of the draft EIS). |
| 275 | 5.1.3.5 | *Air Quality, Noise and Vibration* | All concerns about air quality, noise and vibration will be investigated promptly and appropriate action will be taken to reduce legitimate nuisance impacts. A register of dust, noise and vibration concerns will be maintained. The processes for recording and investigating dust concerns are provided in the Air Quality Management Plan (Appendix J.10 of the draft EIS). The processes for recording and investigating noise and vibration concerns are provided in the Noise and Vibration Management Plan (Appendix J.11 of the draft EIS). |
| 276 | 5.1.3.7 | *Air Quality, Noise and Vibration* | Community consultation and engagement activities addressing environmental concerns, including air quality, noise and vibration are provided in Table 5.1.3 – A of the AEIS. |
| 277 | 5.1.5.2 | *Water Resources* | In consultation with affected landholders, NAC is committed to sampling of water quality sampling in rainwater tanks should air quality monitoring exceed the air quality objectives in the EPP (Air) or the dust nuisance goals. NSW Health (2007) Options to protect water quality in rainwater tanks include:<br>- use drinking water grade PVC for fittings;<br>- inlet and overflow of the tank should incorporate a mesh cover and a strainer to keep out materials, such as leaves;<br>- cover the tank to prevent light reaching the water;<br>- discharge pipes from roof mounted appliances such as air conditioners should not be allowed to<br>discharge onto the roof catchment;<br>- clean roof catchments and gutters of leaves and other debris every three or four months; and<br>- installation of first flush devices to prevent bird droppings and dust entering the rainwater tank after first rains.<br>NAC will undertake immediate actions to resolve these issues in consultation with affected residents if any future testing demonstrates non-compliance with the above guidelines. As standard practice NHG will investigate the matter, which generally includes sampling for water quality and sludge in the tank. |
| 278 | 5.1.8.2 | *Health Impacts* | NAC has instituted veneering of coal trains, has committed to the relocation of the JRLF, consultation with residents living closest to the mine, and has committed to an adaptive management approach for air quality and noise. For additional information on these matters, please refer to Section 5.1.3 of the AEIS. |
| 279 | 5.1.8.2 | *Health Impacts* | Whilst investigations have shown that coal mining is unlikely to result in adverse health effects, and health professionals in the vicinity of the current NAC operations do not report any adverse population trends relating to the Mine, NAC recognises that it is important to ensure residents are aware of the facts regarding health and coal.<br>NAC is therefore committed to the ongoing provision of information and engagement with communities on this important issue. |
| 280 | 5.1.8.2 | *Health Impacts* | Table 5.1.8 -A of the AEIS outlines a range of community consultation and engagement activities that have been strengthened as part of the AEIS, to assist in alleviating community concern regarding health and the revised Project. |

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| 281 | 5.2.10.42 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | The following dust mitigation measures are implemented at the JRLF to reduce the potential risk of air quality impacts:<br>- High volume roadways, which convey 75% of site traffic, have been sealed<br>- All trucks leaving the facility are covered and must exit over a 'rattle grid';<br>- Speed restrictions apply to vehicle movements on site;<br>- A larger water truck has been commissioned for use on site to improve the watering regime;<br>- Unsealed road surfaces are graded regularly to reduce silt content of the surface;<br>- Side tipper trucks are used because they possess lower emissions than other types of trucks;<br>- Sealed roads are swept as required to reduce soiling due to track-out; and<br>- Additional dust management measures (e.g. water truck to spray site roads, dust sweeper on sealed roads) are implemented when air quality monitoring records exceed the dust trigger level. |
| 282 | 5.2.10.42 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | NAC undertakes air quality monitoring to determine if the JRLF is generating potential air quality impacts on sensitive receptors. The air quality monitoring locations for the JRLF are presented in Figure 5.2 X. The air quality monitoring program for the JRLF includes:<br>- Two real-time TSP monitoring stations – one at the JRLF and one within Jondaryan;<br>- Quarterly PM10 monitoring at the corner of Lagoon and Earl Streets in Jondaryan; and<br>- Dust deposition gauges at 5 locations in Jondaryan and near the JRLF. |
| 283 | 5.2.10.42 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | NAC propose to decommission the JRLF with the revised Project. Subject to all statutory approvals being received in 2015, the new rail spur and balloon loop, TLF and MHF will be constructed over an estimated two year period with completion in approximately 2017. The decommissioning of the JRLF will commence in 2018 and is expected to be completed in 2019. Based on the current schedule of works it is not expected that the TLF and the JRLF will be in joint operation. The existing JRLF site will be returned to its original land use of grazing. |
| 284 | 5.3.5.3 | *Responses to Submissions* | NAC will continue to periodically review the effectiveness of the JRLF's impact mitigation measures, further investigate practical mitigation measures and seek expert air quality advice as required. NAC continue to regularly consult with the local Jondaryan community to resolve as legitimate complaints. |
| 285 | 5.3.7.1 | *Responses to Submissions* | NAC will advise the DEHP in a timely manner of all non-compliances identified in relation to the revised Project's future EA (e.g. 'exception reporting'). |
| 286 | 5.3.8.1 | *Responses to Submissions* | NAC is committed to delivering a comprehensive air quality management strategy that will comply with the ambient air quality objectives in the EPP (Air) and prevent adverse air quality impacts at its neighbours' properties. |
| 287 | 5.3.8.1 | *Responses to Submissions* | All concerns about air quality will be investigated promptly and appropriate action will be taken to reduce legitimate dust nuisance. A register of dust concerns will be maintained. |
| 288 | 5.3.17.1 | *Responses to Submissions* | NAC will also continue to report the results of this monitoring on a regular basis to the Jondaryan residents, the wider public and the DEHP (main regulatory authority). |
| 289 | 5.3.40.2 | *Responses to Submissions* | NAC propose to undertake water quality sampling at selected number of rainwater tanks in Jondaryan following the decommissioning of the JRLF in 2018 for the revised Project. If this water quality testing does not meet the water quality objectives in the ADWG, NAC commit to engaging with the local community with the objective of identifying key strategies that can be implemented to improve water quality in rainwater tanks. |
| 290 | 5.3.41.2 | *Responses to Submissions* | The submission (Private submitter 487.1) recommended the expansion of the air quality monitoring network to include a dust deposition gauge. NAC have accepted the recommendation and will consult with the landowner to determine the most appropriate monitoring location. |
| 291 | 5.3.43.1 | *Responses to Submissions* | NAC will liaise with the Private Submitter (Private Submitter 487.3) in relation to meeting their dairy certification requirements. |
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| | CHAPTER 10 | *Greenhouse gases* | |
| | Existing Commitments - draft EIS | | |
| 292 | | | Reduce fuel usage from operations<br>NAC is continuously evaluating methods to reduce fuel usage. NAC are committed to undertaking the following actions to reduce fuel usage from mining operations for the revised Project:<br>- mine planning to reduce haulage distances<br>- improving efficiency of payload management (e.g. run-of-mine coal haulage);<br>- considering fuel efficiency of mining equipment and haul trucks during procurement;<br>- maintaining mining equipment and haul trucks in good working order so fuel efficiency of equipment is maximised;<br>- modifying operational procedures to improve the fuel use of selected machines (for example, minimising unnecessary idling of mobile equipment); and<br>- implementing an operator education program to promote more fuel efficient operation of machines. |
| 293 | | | Reduce electricity usage from operations<br>NAC are committed to undertaking the following actions to reduce electricity usage from mining operations for the revised Project:<br>-using power factor correction equipment at the CHPP to improve electricity consumption efficiency; and<br>- using LED lighting where practical for general access and safety lighting, e.g. around personnel access walkways and doors and conveyor walkways, which can result in a reduction of electricity consumption. |
| 294 | | | Use of Alternate Fuels<br>NAC will continue to periodically explore the potential use of alternative fuel options, and expects that major advances will be made in this area in the future, particularly when the economic drivers for change improve. |
| 295 | | | Reporting and Analysis<br>Based on the revised Project's estimated annual greenhouse gas emissions the following actions will be undertaken to fulfil legislative requirements:<br>- report annual greenhouse gas emissions under the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting System under the NGER Act (facility threshold is 25,000 t CO2-e / year); and<br>- identify, evaluate and publicly report cost effective energy savings opportunities under the EEO Act (facility threshold is 0.5 PJ energy consumed / year).<br>Under the EEO Act, NAC are committed to investigating energy efficiency and other opportunities with a view to reducing its carbon footprint. Initiatives such as a solar power and tree screening and planting are examples of options currently being considered. |
| 296 | | | Carbon Trading<br>The transition to an emissions trading scheme will provide opportunities to offset emissions through carbon trading. NHG will investigate opportunities to offset greenhouse gas emissions from the revised Project through the trading scheme under the *Clean Energy Act 2011.* |
| 297 | | | Greenhouse Gas Reduction:<br>- Mine planning to reduce haulage distances<br>- Improving efficiency of payload management (e.g. run-of-mine coal haulage)<br>- Consider fuel efficiency of mining equipment and haul trucks during procurement<br>- Maintaining mining equipment and haul trucks in good working order so fuel efficiency of equipment is maximised<br>- Modifying operational procedures to improve the fuel use of selected machines (for example, minimising unnecessary idling of mobile equipment);<br>- Implementing an operator education program to promote more fuel efficient operation of machines<br>- Using power factor correction equipment at the CHPP to improve electricity consumption efficiency<br>- Using LED lighting for general access and safety lighting, e.g. around personnel access walkways and doors and conveyor walkways can result in a reduction of electricity consumption<br>- Report annual greenhouse gas emissions under NGERS<br>- Identify, evaluate and publicly report cost effective energy savings opportunities under the EEO Act.<br>- Investigate opportunities to offset greenhouse gas emissions through carbon trading scheme under the Clean Energy Act 2011 |

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| 298 | | | Climate Change<br>- Recycled water will be supplied from Toowoomba's WWRF to provide a consistent and reliable source of water to the Project<br>- Ongoing monitoring of rehabilitation areas and implement control measures, if required, to achieve rehabilitation success criteria<br>- Responsive water management system to deal with severe storm events<br>- Progressive rehabilitation will be undertaken as soon as practical to minimise risk of erosion from exposed areas |
| | Additional Commitmnets - AEIS | | |
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| | CHAPTER 11 | *Noise and vibration* | |
| | Existing Commitments - draft EIS | | |
| 299 | | | Mining activities will typically be conducted either on a six day, 24 hour basis or a seven day, 24 hour basis depending on the mining schedule and the type of mining equipment used. The CHPP activities will be conducted on a seven day, 24 hour basis. Certain mining related activities such as blasting will only be undertaken during daylight hours and will not generally be carried out on Sundays or public holidays. Conducting mining operations on a 24 hour basis is standard practice in Queensland, with various measures in place to ensure a safe operation. The TLF will operate on a seven day, 24 hr basis. Train operations will also occur on a seven day, 24 hr basis. |
| 300 | | | By implementing noise management and mitigation measures including reduced night time operation (only two pits operating at night in adverse weather or atmospheric conditions) and using attenuated equipment (including excavators, track dozers, loaders and rear dump trucks), the predicted noise levels from the mining operation will achieve noise level consistent with the EPP (Noise) LAeq,adj,1 hr criteria of 42 dB(A) in daytime and evening hours, and 37 dB(A) in night time hours at all noise sensitive receptors. |
| 301 | | | The following mitigation measures are proposed by NAC as commitments to reduce the revised Project's potential noise impact.<br>- NAC will establish a real-time noise monitoring network, which will be used in conjunction with a weather forecasting system and an adaptive management process, to proactively relocate, reduce or stop noisier mining operations.<br>- NAC has developed a Noise and Vibration Management Plan (NVMP) for the revised Project. The NVMP will be administered as an accompanying document to the revised Project's Plan of Operations. A copy of the NVMP is provided in Appendix J.11.<br>- Based on ambient conditions (climate and the current mine plan)and feedback from the real-time noise monitoring (warning and alarm protocols), NAC may be required to limit or stop mining operations in the Manning Vale East pit during the night time period. This requirement is based on the noise assessment work completed for the revised Project's EIS.<br>- NAC will ensure noisier mining equipment, including excavators, track dozers, loaders and rear dump trucks, is fully attenuated. This requirement is based on the noise assessment work completed for the revised Project's EIS.<br>- Where possible, NAC will schedule noisier operations in-pit at night or during daylight hours only. For example, dumping of overburden and dozer activity on overburden dumps at or above ground surface may be restricted during night periods (10pm to 7am).<br>- If no suitable or acceptable noise amelioration solutions are available for a particular noise issue, NAC will negotiate in good faith with all affected property owners for property purchase or by agreement implement some other form of amicable arrangement (e.g. acoustic treatment of the dwelling, relocation or replacement of the dwelling at another suitable location, relocation of the landowner to another living arrangement for the period of the issue or any other suitable innovative solution). NAC would be responsible for all reasonable costs associated with any agreed solution to a noise issue. In the event agreement cannot be reached, NAC will enter into mediation with the affected party and employ the services of a third party to facilitate this process<br>- NAC will ensure proper maintenance and operational procedures will be undertaken to minimise noise emissions from equipment, including proper servicing and maintenance of exhaust systems on mine equipment.<br>- NAC will implement its Noise and Vibration Management Plan as presented in Appendix J.11 to minimise the risk of noise complaints from nearby sensitive receptors to the revised Project. All complaints received in relation to the revised Project's operation will be managed as outlined in NAC's Local Stakeholder Engagement Plan as presented in Appendix J.18. NAC's approach to complaints management is based on the key principles of timeliness, sensitivity, fairness and impartiality, and confidentiality. NAC is committed to open communication with its local stakeholders and active complaint resolution when issues or concerns are raised about its mining operations.<br>- If a complaint is received and/or a noise issue is identified by investigation, NAC will modify mining operations until a satisfactory solution for the noise issue is developed and implemented.<br>- NAC will ensure all complaints will be investigated to determine the source of the nuisance noise. Where appropriate, noise monitoring will be conducted at the affected residence, and as required, noise amelioration solutions will be investigated and implemented by agreement. NAC has purchased a specialist noise logger that can be placed at a complainant's residence for a length of time to record the problem periods. This equipment will be maintained and the results will be interpreted by a qualified professional.<br>- Where practicable, NAC using the mine planning process will utilise topsoil and other dumps as noise barriers between active mine operations and nearby noise receptor locations.<br>- NAC will continue to utilise broad band alarms instead of reverse beepers on all mobile equipment.<br>- NAC will continue to limit the speed of heavy vehicle traffic on haul roads.<br>- NAC will continue its current proactive monthly noise monitoring program and will expand its coverage around the revised Project site.<br>- NAC will continue its proactive assessment of possible noise attenuation options for both mobile or stationery noise emitting equipment. Noise emissions with tonal, impulsive and/or intermittent characteristics will be targeted for noise attenuation. |
| 302 | | | For the management of airblast overpressure and vibration, the following measures will be adopted for the revised Project.<br>- Field data will be used to best determine blast conditions and the type of stemming required for the area.<br>- In the event of a blast issue, the maximum instantaneous charge of subsequent blasts will be reduced using delays, reduction of hole diameter, etc. (i.e. until the blast issue is resolved).<br>- In the event of a blast issue, the burden and spacing of subsequent blasts will be changed by altering the drilling pattern and/or delay layout, or altering the hole inclination (i.e. until the blast issue is resolved).;<br>- The stemming depth and type will be adequate for each blast event.<br>- Blast events will only be conducted during favourable weather conditions.<br>- The monitoring of blasts will continue at the nearest sensitive receptors based on the interpretation of pre-blast weather data.<br>- The practice of advising near neighbours will continue in advance of each blast. All new near neighbours surrounding the Project site will be proactively invited to join the blast notification contact list.<br>- A qualified professional with suitable experience will be responsible for the Project's blast management.<br>- All blast complaints will be investigated in a timely manner to determine the extent of the issue. Where appropriate, blast monitoring will be conducted at the affected residence, and as required, blast mitigation solutions will be investigated and implemented by agreement. |
| | Additional Commitmnets - AEIS | | |
| 303 | 5.1.3.4 | *Air Quality, Noise and Vibration* | NAC propose to publicly issue an environmental monitoring report on a monthly basis. The environmental monitoring report will present a summary of air quality, noise and vibration monitoring data. The environmental monitoring report will be made available to the public through the Proponent's website. |
| 304 | 5.1.3.5 | *Air Quality, Noise and Vibration* | All concerns about air quality, noise and vibration will be investigated promptly and appropriate action will be taken to reduce legitimate nuisance impacts. A register of dust, noise and vibration concerns will be maintained. The processes for recording and investigating dust concerns are provided in the Air Quality Management Plan (Appendix J.10 of the draft EIS). The processes for recording and investigating noise and vibration concerns are provided in the Noise and Vibration Management Plan (Appendix J.11 of the draft EIS). |
| 305 | 5.2.4.8 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | NAC commits to provide interpreted data within a week, or earlier if possible, from DEHP requesting the data. |
| 306 | 5.2.4.14 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | Nac will comply with the operational mining noise (all noise sources). |
| 307 | 5.3.1.3 | *Responses to Submissions* | NAC will establish a real-time noise monitoring network, which will be used in conjunction with a weather forecasting system and an adaptive management process, to proactively relocate, reduce or stop noisier mining operations and other noise sources. |
| 308 | 5.3.1.3 | *Responses to Submissions* | If a legitimate complaint is received and/or a noise issue is identified by investigation, where possible NAC will modify mining operations until a satisfactory solution for the noise issue is developed and implemented. |
| 309 | 5.3.1.5 | *Responses to Submissions* | NAC will undertake a specific consultation approach for local landholders/neighbours that may be potentially affected by air quality, noise or groundwater impacts from the revised Project. Depending on individual circumstances, NAC will seek to negotiate a landholder agreement with potentially affected local landholders/neighbours for either property acquisition, relocation of their living arrangements or physical treatment of their residence. |
| 310 | 5.3.6.1 | *Responses to Submissions* | The Private Submitter's suggestion (Private Submitter 55) to plant a tree screen along the western edge of Lot 3445 will be implemented in consultation with the landholder. |

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| 311 | 5.3.23.1 | *Responses to Submissions* | Noise issues in relation to the Western Railway line are under Aurizon's jurisdiction and management. Therefore, it is suggested that all noise concerns about rail transport be raised directly with Aurizon. Longer term, NAC will use its monitoring results to continuously review its compliance status and to develop new and modify existing mitigation strategies to minimise potential adverse noise impacts from the JRLF's operations affecting Jondaryan. NAC is committed to operating the JLRF in compliance with the noise conditions of its environmental authority up until closure of the facility. |
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| | CHAPTER 12 | *Cultural heritage* | |
| | Existing Commitments - draft EIS | | |
| 312 | | | Acland Management Strategy<br>In developing the Acland Management Strategy, the following guiding principles were adopted:<br>- remove dysfunctional buildings and infrastructure in a state of disrepair;<br>- tidy up and maintain land;<br>- retain items of local historical or heritage significance;<br>- enhance amenity of Tom Doherty Park and the Acland Community Hall; and<br>- meet legal obligations.<br>The Acland Management Strategy outlining the property types and structures in Acland currently owned by the NHG is provided in Chapter 3, Section 3.12. |
| 313 | | | Acland Colliery Conservation Management Plan<br>To satisfy its obligations as an owner of a Queensland Heritage listed site, the NHG has developed the ACCMP for the Acland No.2 Colliery, and is provided in Appendix J.12. The purpose of the ACCMP is to set out an agreed framework for the management, preservation and maintenance of the listed structures within the former Acland No.2 Colliery site.<br>As a Queensland Heritage listed site, the significance of the former Acland No.2 Colliery requires that the following general commitments are undertaken.<br>- The historical mine site, including all built, moveable and landscape features should be maintained and conserved within their original setting, particularly where possible elements of moderate and high rankings of significance;<br>- Significant elements should be maintained;<br>- Intrusive elements should be removed;<br>- Development on or immediately adjoining the site should be avoided or if necessary only undertaken with full consideration of the cultural heritage significance of the site; and<br>- The scale, form and setting of the place should be respected and any proposed management or use options should be sympathetic to its historic use. |
| 314 | | | Cultural Heritage Management Plan |
| 315 | | | Two major clearance/collection activities involving the Western Wakka Wakka People have occurred on ML 50170 under permits administrated by the previous CR Act.<br>All future clearance/collection activities on MLA 50232 will be dealt with under the ACH Act. Minor clearance/collection activities involving the Western Wakka Wakka People will occur on a periodic basis within the Study area. All personnel and contractors (construction and subsequent workings) will undergo a cultural heritage awareness program. |
| 316 | | | Aboriginal cultural heritage<br>- NAC and the Western Wakka Wakka People will continue to progressively implement the requirements of the Co-operation Agreement and CHMP to ensure the proper management and the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage within the Study area.<br>-All future clearance/collection activities on MLA 50232 will be dealt with under the ACH Act.<br>-All personnel and contractors (construction and subsequent workings) will undergo a cultural heritage awareness program. |
| 317 | | | Acland No.2 Colliery<br>- As a Queensland Heritage listed site, the significance of the former Acland No.2 Colliery requires that the following general commitments are undertaken.<br>- The historical mine site, including all built, moveable and landscape features will be maintained and conserved within their original setting, particularly where possible elements of moderate and high rankings of significance.<br>- Significant elements should be maintained.<br>- Intrusive elements should be removed.<br>- Development on or immediately adjoining the site will be avoided or if necessary only undertaken with full consideration of the cultural heritage significance of the site.<br>- The scale, form and setting of the place should be respected and any proposed management or use options should be sympathetic to its historic use.<br>A total of twenty-one management commitments have been included in the ACCMP to ensure the former Acland No.2 Colliery receives a high standard of management and is protected for future generations. NAC has developed the ACCMP and is provided in Appendix J.12. |
| 318 | | | Acland<br>NAC has developed an Acland Management Strategy for each of the property types and structures in Acland currently owned by the NHG. This is provided in Chapter 3, Section 3.12. |
| | Additional Commitmnets - AEIS | | |
| 319 | 5.1.7 | *Acland Township* | The management of Acland is documented in the Acland Management Plan (AMP) located in Appendix I of the AEIS and is guided by the unique historical context of Acland, and the safety, security and environmental objectives which stakeholders have raised during community consultation activities conducted by NAC over a number of years. In order to achieve the outcomes documented in the AMP, Acland has been excised from the area of Mining Lease (ML) Application 50232. |
| 320 | 5.1.7 | *Acland Township* | A program of asbestos removal and the demolition of derelict buildings has been undertaken. A number of contaminated sites as listed on the EMR Register will be managed according to site environmental management plans. The current management status of key sites throughout Acland is tabulated in detail in the AMP. |
| 321 | 5.1.7 | *Acland Township* | opportunity to comment on Acland. A detailed overview of community consultation and engagement can be found in the Section 5.1.10 of the AEIS. Specific commitments relating to Acland include:<br>- A community information session with the opportunity to comment on the Acland township plan;<br>- Acland township plans on display at the Oakey Community Information Centre, including community staff available to answer questions and provide information; |
| 322 | 5.2.1.1 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | NAC is committed to continuing its established relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the local area, including engagement through the Oakey Reconciliation Committee. A representative from the Oakey Reconciliation Committee currently sits on NAC's Community Reference Group and contributes to conversations regarding NAC's operations. NAC's commitment also encompasses an internal Equal Employment Opportunity Policy and Guidelines which aim to foster a workplace where employees feel that they are valued members of the organisation and that they are treated fairly. |
| 323 | 5.2.1.1 | | Contact has been made with representatives from the Queensland Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs in relation to the revised Project. Discussions will take place between NAC and departmental officers regarding potential employment and business development opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. |
| 324 | 5.3.21.6 | *Responses to Submissions* | NAC has developed an AMP, which outlines the proposed management actions to achieve these goals and objectives. NAC will fund these management actions and seek further input from the local public through additional planned consultation. |
| 325 | 5.3.44.1 | *Responses to Submissions* | NAC is committed to the protection, maintenance and potential enhancement of Tom Doherty Park. In addition, NAC acknowledges the Private Submitter's information in relation to the Acland War Memorial described through the submission. NAC will conduct regular consultation with the community and the Private Submitter (Private Submitter 503) in relation to this matter. |
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| | CHAPTER 13 | *Traffic and Transport* | |
| | Existing Commitments - draft EIS | | |

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| 326 | | | NAC will continue to advance discussions with the regulatory agencies in relation to the re-aligned Jondaryan-Muldu Road. NAC will also consult with local landowners potentially impacted by the Jondaryan-Muldu Road diversion to ensure appropriate detours are available. |
| 327 | | | NAC will initiate discussions on the preferred acquisition process with QR Limited at the appropriate time. Since the rail loop encroaches on MLA 50232, approval to subdivide and construct the rail infrastructure needs to be obtained by NAC prior to the rail corridor being leased to QR Limited or operated privately by NAC. |
| 328 | | | The management of the rail spur and balloon loop will be carried out under the provisions of the *Transportation Infrastructure Act 1994* . QR Limited's standard workplace health and safety and industrial rail management provisions will be adopted. |
| 329 | | | NAC will continue to implement a Fatigue Management Plan within its Safety and Health Management Systems (Section 31.2.02) with the proposed construction workforce to ensure that all individuals on site are fit for work, thereby not compromising safety within the workforce. The procedure should be in line with Section 42(2)(c),(d)of the *Coal Mining Safety and Health Regulation 2001* and is intended to reduce the risk of mine workers becoming fatigues whilst travelling to and from work and whilst on the job. NAC's Fatigue Management Policy is located in Appendix A.4. |
| 330 | | | NAC will implement the following mitigation measures throughout the revised Project's construction phase to minimise the impact of traffic movements.<br>- Working hour arrangements will be modified and haulage tasks avoided during peak traffic periods and school drop-off and pick-up times. |
| 331 | | | NAC will implement the following mitigation measures throughout the operational phase to minimise the impact of traffic movements:<br>- Working hour arrangements will be modified and haulage tasks avoided during peak traffic periods and school drop-off and pick-up times.<br>- Established haul routes and arterial roads will be used for coal transportation to minimise traffic on local roads.<br>- Traffic conditions during the operational phase will be monitored in order to identify and address any negative impacts.<br>- Local communities will be adequately notified about proposed changes to local traffic conditions during the operational phase, including the provision of advanced notice, clear signage of changed traffic conditions, and as required, traffic control personnel.<br>- Traffic control measures designed for the safe movement of vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists accessing the revised Project site will be provided.<br>- Adequate on-site parking will be provided to accommodate employee vehicles.<br>- Access to Acland will be maintained at all times via Oakey-Cooyar Road.<br>- Adequate consultation is undertaken with the appropriate regulatory authorities. |
| 332 | | | Detailed intersection assessment should be undertaken during the preliminary design phase of the revised Project when the traffic demand and other infrastructures are confirmed through the EIS process. NAC will ensure that all road intersections required for the revised Project are adequate to safely cater for the construction and operational traffic volumes. However, given that intersection as currently planned would operate outside DMR's standard DoS thresholds in 2027 irrespective of the additional development traffic, TMR and TRC should take an active role in consultation with NAC in determining the appropriate intersection design. One school bus routes (S24) affected by the revised Project will need to be notified about the revised access to Acland township and appropriate rerouting should be considered. |
| 333 | | | NAC will ensure that appropriate discussions are undertaken with the relevant road and rail authorities to ensure an appropriate mitigation measures are implemented based on the proposed design considerations outlined within the ALCAM Report. |
| | Additional Commitmnets - AEIS | | |
| 334 | 5.1.6 | *Transport Traffic and Roads* | These road closures are scheduled to be implemented concurrently once the realignment of Jondaryan-Muldu Road is completed and MLA 50232 is granted. Appropriate signage and infrastructure will be in place when these closures are implemented to warn public of the restricted access. NAC will also ensure that the public is appropriately advised via its various public communication tools as further discussed in Section 5.1.10 of the AEIS. |
| 335 | 5.1.6 | *Transport Traffic and Roads* | The proposed road closures for the revised Project are detailed in Table 5.1.6 A. |
| 336 | 5.1.6 | *Transport Traffic and Roads* | All emergency departments will be formally notified of the proposed road closures in advance of the closures as part of the road closure application to Toowoomba Regional Council. |
| 337 | 5.1.6 | *Transport Traffic and Roads* | Access to all nearby business will be maintained. Travel distances for customers accessing business located within the key townships are outlined within Table 5.1.6-D of the AEIS. |
| 338 | 5.1.6 | *Transport Traffic and Roads* | Expected road impacts and safety issues related to the proposed closures will be addressed in detail within the Road Use Management Plan (RMP) and the Traffic Management Plans (TMP) reports that will be submitted to DTMR and TRC when the project execution contracts have been awarded. |
| 339 | 5.1.6 | *Transport Traffic and Roads* | The RMP document will outline all the relevant activities that will be undertaken by NHG and the proposed mitigations measure. The Commitments Table within the RMP documents will summarise all these activities to ensure that TMR and TRC can undertake a compliance audit easily. The TMP report will describe in details how any required roadworks and proposed road closures undertaken during the construction phase will be safely undertaken in accordance with the Manual of uniform traffic control devices (MUTCD). |
| 340 | 5.1.6 | *Transport Traffic and Roads* | All landholders will be formally notified of the proposed road closures in advance of the closures via newsletters. |
| 341 | 5.1.6 | *Transport Traffic and Roads* | Detailed mitigation measures and strategies related to the impact of the proposed road closures and diversions will be outlined within the RMP and the TMP documents which will be undertaken when the project execution contracts have been awarded. These documents will be submitted to DTMR and TRC for approval. |
| 342 | 5.1.6 | *Transport Traffic and Roads* | On site (the relevant roads), provisions of advance notice and clear signage of changes in traffic conditions will be in place to warn road users of the proposed road closures and diversions. |
| 343 | 5.1.6 | *Transport Traffic and Roads* | NAC recognises that landholders surrounding Acland and residents in the town have a particular interest in understanding changes to transport, traffic and roads as a result of the revised Project. Information will be available and discussed through landholder engagement activities as outlined in Section 5.1.10 of the AEIS.<br>Further activities specific to road closures are outlined in Table 5.1.6 F of the AEIS, i.e Acland-Sabine Road will be Sealed.<br>NAC will ensure that the planned upgrade of the Acland-Sabine Road is completed before any of the current access roads to Acland Township are closed for the revised Project (i.e. to guarantee continuity of access to Acland Township at all times) |
| 344 | 5.2.3.1 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | The design of the proposed intersection will be detailed within the Road Impact Assessment (RIA) report that will be undertaken during the detailed design stage. |
| 345 | 5.2.3.6 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | NHG will continue its current close consultation procedure with the relevant personnel within DTMR, TRC and QR to ensure an appropriate mitigation measure is implemented for this intersection. The agreed mitigation measure will be outlined within the RIA report which will be undertaken during the detailed design stage. |
| 346 | 5.2.3.8 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | The accredited ALCAM report from QR will outline the findings of the level crossing assessment undertaken on the key level crossings located within proximity to the revised Project site. NAC will ensure that appropriate discussion are undertaken with the DTMR Downs-South West Region and the relevant rail authority to ensure appropriate mitigation measures are implemented based on the design consideration outlined within the ALCAM report and subsequent discussion with the relevant authorities. Any necessary construction approvals will be sought once an agreement has been reached with the relevant authorities during the detailed design stage. |
| 347 | 5.2.3.12 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | The RMP and TMP will be undertaken when the project execution contracts have been awarded. NHG will continue to consult DTMR to ensure all stakeholders are satisfied with the outcomes of the RMP and TMP. |
| 348 | 5.2.3.15 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | A detailed road safety assessment can only be undertaken upon confirmation of the transport routes for the revised Project. NAC will ensure appropriate road safety audits are undertaken during the detailed design stage to ensure the confirmed transport route road safety risks are adequately dealt with. Detailed mitigation measures and strategies will be outlined within RMP and the TMP which will be undertaken when the project execution contracts have been awarded. |
| 349 | 5.2.3.16 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | The operation phase is unlikely to generate high volumes of domestic haulage within the road network, as no increase from current domestic tonnages are forecasted. However, NAC will ensure that the current measures stay in place to reduce the likelihood of product spill through covering loads and washing down vehicles prior to departure from the construction site is maintained during the operation phase also. |
| 350 | 5.2.10.49 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | NHG will ensure appropriate road safety audits are undertaken during the detailed design stage to ensure the confirmed transport route is road safety risks are adequately dealt.<br>In the interim, further crash data has been sourced for key local roads within close proximity to the revised Project. This analysis will be undertaken upon receiving the entirety of the data from DTMR and will be prepared during the detailed design stage. |
| 351 | 5.2.10.50 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | NHG will continue its close consultation with the relevant personnel within TRC to ensure any future improvements works are captured within the RMP and TMP which will be undertaken during the detailed design stage. |
| 352 | 5.2.10.51 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | Discussions between NHG, Queensland Rail and Aurizon will continue with regard to infrastructure and logistics associated with any required upgrades. |
| 353 | 5.2.10.53 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | Revised performance criteria for the LoS assessment for the specified sections of Warrego Highway will be undertaken for the Road Impact Assessment report during the detailed design stage. |
| 354 | 5.2.10.56 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | Detailed design of the proposed realignment will be outlined within the detailed design stage. The RMP and TMP undertaken during the detailed design will outline the following issues:<br>- how the existing section of Jondaryan- Muldu Road (within the Manning Vale West resource area) will be controlled subsequent to the implementation of the revised Project;<br>- the management of existing public utilities within the existing road reserves when the proposed road closures are in place; and<br>- funding for the proposed new road and upgrades to the existing road (if required). |
| 355 | 5.2.10.57 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | The TMP and RMP reports will outline the impacts of the potential temporary closure of the Western Railway during emergency events on the surrounding road network and uses. |
| 356 | 5.3.2.1 | *Responses to Submissions* | NAC commits to proactively consulting with the submitter (Private Submitter 16) on proposed plans for the realignment of Jondaryan – Muldu Road. NAC will ensure that access to Lot 20 and Lot 21 is maintained, or that impacts to access is minimised as per agreement with the submitter. This includes the Private Submitter's request to keep the realignment as closet to the junction of Cookes Road and Jondaryan – Muldu Road. |

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| 357 | 5.3.2.2 | *Responses to Submissions* | NAC commits to proactively consulting with the submitter (Private Submitter 16) on proposed plans for the rail spur that passes through land owned by the submitter, including Lots 13 and 14 on RP3467. An agreement will be developed and executed between NAC and the submitter. |
| 358 | 5.3.2.3 | *Responses to Submissions* | NAC commits to proactively consulting with the submitter (Private Submitter 16) on proposed plans for the realignment of Jondaryan – Muldu Road. NAC will ensure that impact to Lot 3444 is minimised, or that impacts are limited as per agreement with the submitter |
| 359 | 5.3.2.4 | *Responses to Submissions* | The Private Submitter's suggestion to plant a tree screen along the western edge of Lot 3445 will be implemented in consultation with the landholder. |
| 360 | 5.3.3.3 | *Responses to Submissions* | NAC commits to proactively consulting with the submitter (Private Submitter 17) on proposed plans for the realignment of Jondaryan – Muldu Road. NAC will ensure that access to Lot 3446 and Lot 3306 is maintained, or that impacts to access is minimised as per agreement with the submitter. |
| 361 | *5.3.19.10* | *Responses to Submissions* | NAC will further engage with the Private Submitter (Private Submitter 284) to discuss this impact and a possible solution. |
| 362 | *5.3.19.14* | *Responses to Submissions* | NAC is committed to the maintenance of a safe, all weather access to Acland for the local inhabitants and general public. |
| 363 | *5.3.20.5* | *Responses to Submissions* | NAC will fund all planned changes required to the local road and rail network as a result of the revised Project's implementation and operation. |
| 364 | *5.3.24.22* | *Responses to Submissions* | NAC will work with the bus company and the affected families in an attempt to develop amicable solutions for those school bus routes that may be impacted. |
| 365 | *5.3.32.6* | *Responses to Submissions* | NAC will fund all road diversions or other changes required as a result of the revised Project (e.g. the re-alignment of the Jondaryan-Muldu Road.). As a rule of thumb, any changes to local infrastructure as a result of the operation of the revised Project would be funded by NAC. |
| 366 | *5.3.33.3* | *Responses to Submissions* | NAC will undertake the appropriate discussions with QR, DTMR and TRC to ensure the appropriate mitigation measures are implemented based on the proposed design considerations outlined within the ALCAM assessment that would be undertaken by QR. |
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| | CHAPTER 14 | *Waste management* | |
| | Existing Commitments - draft EIS | | |
| 367 | | | The WMP for the revised Project is provided in Appendix J.13. In addition, the EM Plan for the revised Project is located in Appendix J.19 and addresses waste management aspects for the revised Project. |
| 368 | | | All waste generated on-site during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases will be disposed of in accordance with the WMP, which includes:<br>- waste stream characterisation and separation strategies;<br>- assessment of waste reduction opportunities for identified wastes; and<br>- management of waste in accordance with the waste management hierarchy. |
| 369 | | | In accordance with Section 4.8 of the EM Plan, training will be provided to personnel and contractors in relation to waste management requirements for the revised Project. |
| 370 | | | The waste management strategies proposed for the revised Project will consider waste management from the concept and planning stages through design, construction, operation and decommissioning. Waste planning allows for considerable flexibility in the management of all wastes. Waste segregation will apply to the management of all waste streams onsite at the point of generation and will cover the handling and removal of a variety of wastes in order to comply with current regulations. |
| 371 | | | Aspects of the revised Project that contribute to cleaner production outcomes include:<br>- selection of the best available practicable technology for coal extraction for upgrades or equipment replacement to ensure appropriate energy intensity and production efficiency of product coal;<br>- location of the mining and associated infrastructure areas to minimise the clearing of vegetation where practical;<br>- use of best practice procurement and construction methods for the CHPP precinct, ensuring minimum wastes are produced (i.e. off-site pre-fabrication);<br>- selection of the best available practicable technology for the CHPP precinct for new or replacement equipment to ensure optimum water use and energy efficiency, minimum dust emissions and waste minimisation;<br>- use of the most appropriate processes and equipment for operation and maintenance, such as the reuse of wastewater within the mine water management system and CHPP system; and<br>- recycling of glass, aluminium, steel and cardboards. |
| 372 | | | Contracts with construction service suppliers will be negotiated to encourage all contractors to adopt waste minimisation procedures consistent with the WMP. This approach includes the purchase of materials cut to standard sizes, bulk purchasing of materials, reduction of packaging, reuse of concrete formwork where practicable, and source separation and segregation of all recoverable materials. Separate skips will be provided to maintain segregation and maximise economic reuse and recycling, in preference to disposal to landfill. |
| 373 | | | The waste contractor will provide a monthly report which tracks waste generation at each location and includes data on general and recyclable waste generated and the level of contamination in waste receptacles. All forms of regulated waste will be tracked in accordance with a waste tracking certificate and detailed in a monthly report by the contractor. The EHP Waste Transport Certificates will be forwarded to NAC, with copies being retained by the waste contractor and by the EHP. The certificates will outline the type and amount of regulated waste, the name of the waste producer and the nominated disposal/treatment/storage facility. |
| 374 | | | The spill response process in order of priority is to control, contain, absorb and finally to dispose of the spilt material. Procedures will include the provision of spill containment equipment and materials at workshops, warehouses and fuel/chemical storage areas to reduce the impacts of hydrocarbon/chemical spills that have the potential to enter waterways, undisturbed areas or rehabilitated areas. Training will be provided to personnel and contractors in the management of chemicals, hydrocarbons and wastes. |
| 375 | | | Sites that become contaminated will be investigated, managed and remediated in accordance with the requirements of the contaminated land provisions of the EP Act. |
| 376 | | | All waste storage and containment areas will be located and constructed to ensure that all surface waters are excluded from these areas as far as reasonably practicable by the installation of appropriate levee/bunding structures. These structures are currently in place at NAC and will continue to be used and augmented where appropriate for the revised Project. |
| 377 | | | State Planning Policy 1/03 Mitigating the Adverse Impacts of Flood, Bushfire and Landslide, and associated solution 4.1 & 4.2 will be used as a reference for the location of all new facilities with regard to the revised Project |
| 378 | | | Waste monitoring and auditing will be undertaken at the revised Project. The purpose of monitoring waste management activities and outcomes on-site include:<br>- assessing actual waste results and comparing with predicted impacts and mitigation measures;<br>- monitoring for potential environmental impacts; and<br>- providing baseline data to enable continuous improvement of waste avoidance, reduction and management measures. |
| 379 | | | NAC will implement a program to address any outstanding non-conformances as a result of the monitoring and auditing program. Corrective actions will be recorded and responsibility will be assigned to the appropriate person for action and close out. |
| 380 | | | Adaptive management processes are an integral part of the WMP. The WMP will be reviewed regularly and if necessary, will be amended to suit the current activities being conducted throughout the construction and operational phases of the revised Project. |
| 381 | | | During the design phase of the revised Project, a comprehensive assessment of waste generation areas will be undertaken in line with the waste management hierarchy to identify the most appropriate measures to manage all wastes for the revised Project. |
| 382 | | | During construction and operation, colour-coded, signed bins will be used to segregate and collect food wastes, paper and recyclables. These bins will be located throughout the offices and site infrastructure areas to achieve maximum economic waste recovery. These bins will be emptied into larger skips regularly. All bins and/or skips will have lids to reduce the potential for attracting insects and vermin. General wastes will be collected regularly and transported for disposal to the Oakey landfill by a licensed waste transporter. Recyclables will be transported to a local material recycling facility. |
| | Additional Commitmnets - AEIS | | |
| | | | NA |
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| | CHAPTER 15 | *Visual amenity* | |
| | Existing Commitments - draft EIS | | |
| 383 | | | The Aviation Hazard Management located in Appendix J.17 outlines the mitigation measures that will be implemented for the revised Project. |
| 384 | | | NAC will address concerns from near neighbours regarding directional lighting issues from mobile lighting units. NAC has prepared a Local Stakeholder Management Plan (LSMP) which outlines procedures to address concerns from near neighbours. The LSMP is provided in Appendix J.18. |

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| 385 | | | Retention of Existing Vegetation<br>The retention where practical, of existing roadside and fence line vegetation will assist in partially screening elements of the revised Project and may assist in limiting expansive views of these activities. This action will be considered at the following locations:<br>- Oakey-Cooyar Road (along the western side of the road);<br>- Jondaryan-Muldu Road (along the eastern side of the road);<br>- Acland-Silverleigh Road (along the northern and southern sides of the road; and<br>- Within and surrounding Acland. |
| 386 | | | Completion of Tree Screening Activities NAC undertook tree planting activities during February 2005 and a total of 2,500 trees were planted at a rate of approximately one tree every 2 m. The tree species used were Eucalyptus argophloia (Chinchilla white gum), Eucalyptus poplunea (Poplar box) and Casuarina cristata (Belah).<br>New tree-screening activities will occur:<br>- along the western side of Oakey-Cooyar Road to minimise expansive views of the revised Project site to the east;<br>- along the western side of the re-aligned section of Jondaryan-Muldu Road to limit views of mining vehicle traffic;<br>- along both the eastern and western sides of Jondaryan-Muldu Road south-west of the revised Project site to limit views of the rail spur and mining vehicle traffic; and<br>- on the eastern and western edges of Acland to preserve the character of the town.<br>Other areas of tree-screening activities surrounding the revised Project site may be appropriate, such as around individual residential homesteads and within Acland. This would be identified through consultation with individual landholders impacted by the revised Project. |
| 387 | | | Night lighting<br>Lighting on the revised Project site will be oriented inwards and screened from the outside where possible.<br>NAC will implement the Aviation Hazard Management Plan.<br>Night lighting with be located as required for safety and security, but focussed on the areas required, with shields around the globes to limit extraneous light where necessary. NAC will implement the LSMP. |
| 388 | | | Rehabilitation of the Project site<br>Rehabilitation will be carried out progressively. The provision of vegetation to the disturbed areas of the revised Project, including the out-of-pit spoil dumps, backfilled areas and depressed landforms, will ensure that the visual environment is returned, as much as possible, to its predominately rural outlook. |
| 389 | | | Establishment of Visual Buffers<br>The establishment of elevated bunds between the revised Project and sensitive receptors may be implemented to reduce the overall visibility of the revised Project. Mitigation strategies that were implemented for the Mine (refer to Photograph 15-3) will be incorporated along Oakey-Cooyar Road and the re-aligned section of Jondaryan-Muldu Road.<br>These barriers may be established during the initial stages of the revised Project's early works and would be established from overburden spoil and done concurrently with the tree screening activities.<br>However, in establishing these buffers, it will be necessary to consider the potential impacts from these features on the visual environment. Elevated bunds should only be implemented in areas where limited views are currently provided or where mining activities are located very near to roadsides and could present as a distraction to vehicle occupants. |
| 390 | | | Further identification of impacts<br>As required, residences will be consulted with in order to determine if future perceived impacts require mitigation; and if so, discuss what form of mitigation is acceptable. For example, a tree screen at the back of a house to completely screen the views of the mine expansion areas is an option. |
| | Additional Commitmnets - AEIS | | |
| | | | NA |
| | CHAPTER 16 | *Social environment* | |
| | Existing Commitments - draft EIS | | |
| 391 | | | NAC will continue to adopt an equal employment opportunity approach to all recruitment and continue to support a diverse workforce that includes vulnerable population groups including people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, Indigenous peoples, women, school leavers, the unemployed and underemployed. |
| 392 | | | Table 16-16 summarises key impacts associated with property and land use, as well as mitigation strategies to manage impacts. |
| 393 | | | NAC will endeavour to source workers from the TRC area, where possible, depending on the specific skills required, the status of the labour market at the time, the trainability of the advertised position and the proposed timetable of construction. |
| 394 | | | Table 16-19 provides a summary of housing and accommodation impacts and the mitigation measures that will be applied to manage these. |
| 395 | | | NAC will ensure transparent advertising of employment opportunities to the local communities through online advertising, and using the Oakey Community Information Centre as a point of contact for employment enquiries 'on the ground'. |
| 396 | | | NAC will also target under-represented groups including women, the unemployed, unskilled workers, members of the Indigenous community and people with a disability to deliver work readiness and skills development training. This will be achieved through up-skilling existing and new employees and working with local recruitment firms to target diverse population groups. |
| 397 | | | NAC will continue to adopt an equal employment opportunity approach to all recruitment and continue to support a diverse workforce that includes vulnerable population groups including people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, Indigenous peoples, women, school leavers, the unemployed and underemployed. |
| 398 | | | Table 16-20 summarises impacts on employment and mitigation and enhancement measures. |
| 399 | | | NAC will undertake consultation with, and work in conjunction with local business and industry groups to provide relevant information to local businesses regarding procurement opportunities and processes. |
| 400 | | | Table 16-21 summarises impacts and mitigation measures relating to the economy, local business and industry. |
| 401 | | | NAC will work with the Rural Fire Brigade to develop consistent protocols and clear roles and responsibilities. |
| 402 | | | NAC will provide a first aid service and fire fighting services at the revised Project site. This will reduce the demand placed on government services. In addition, NAC will continue to liaise with the Queensland Government to identify potential impacts on emergency services over time. |
| 403 | | | NAC will continue its consultation with the Oakey Hospital. |
| 404 | | | Table 16-22 summarises impacts and benefits associated with social infrastructure. Key mitigation measures will be implemented to avoid or minimise impacts where possible. |
| 405 | | | NAC will continue to financially support a community bus which operates between Oakey and Toowoomba City. |
| 406 | | | Table 16-23 highlights the impacts that may be experienced in terms of traffic and access. Mitigation measures are also discussed. |
| 407 | | | Table 16-24 summarises the means by which key amenity impacts will be managed. |
| 408 | | | NAC will implement appropriate education to regulate driver behaviour and this will assist in managing these impacts. NAC's Fitness for Work Policy – Alcohol Management, Fatigue Management and Drug Management is located in Appendices A.3, A.4 and A.5 respectively and will be implemented for the revised Project. |
| 409 | | | NAC will establish and maintain contingencies to deal with emergency situations. An emergency response capability and appropriate facilities will be provided, and maintained, to enable the management of emergency situations in an appropriate manner. In addition, Emergency Preparedness and Response shall be tested via emergency exercises, audits and reviews to verify adequacy and effectiveness. This will be completed in consultation with local emergence service providers. NAC has developed emergency and evacuation planning and response procedures in consultation with state and regional emergency service providers. NAC will continue to liaise with Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS), Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS), local State Emergency Services, local ambulance, local hospital services and local Police throughout all stages of the revised Project. NAC will continue to conduct periodic emergency simulation drills with its regional emergency service providers over the life of the revised Project. |
| 410 | | | Table 16-25 summarises key impacts and mitigation measures associated with community health and safety. |
| 411 | | | Table 16-26 summarises the means by which key amenity impacts will be managed. |
| 412 | | | NAC will continue to provide a 24 hour employee support program. This employee support program provides counselling and support to all employees and immediate family members. |
| 413 | | | Table 16-27 summarises impacts on the revised Project workforce and recommends mitigation measures. |

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| 414 | | | Community development<br>-Continued operation of the Community Investment Fund and Community Sponsorship and Donation Program.<br>- Maintain a community grievance mechanism to allow landholders and other stakeholders to lodge issues, concerns, questions or suggestions and have them responded to in a timely manner.<br>- Engage with local schools to provide specific curriculum assistance through specialist visits. |
| 415 | | | Change of land use from agriculture to mining<br>-APC will continue to undertake grazing and agricultural activities in the SIA study area and provide training and employment opportunities for local people.<br>-Continued progressive rehabilitation of mined land – returned to grazing potential. |
| 416 | | | Changes to Acland<br>Retain and maintain the Tom Doherty Park, War Memorial and the Acland No 2 Colliery. |
| 417 | | | Impact on amenity<br>- Move the JRLF onto the revised Project site.<br>- Continue dust suppression measures, such as veneering and implement the use of enclosed hoppers for loading.<br>- Implement environmental management measures as identified in Appendix J.19.<br>- NAC will continue its on-going community consultation to provide updated information and respond to issues and concerns.<br>- The current and future activities of APC will promote the continued agricultural use of land surrounding the revised Project site.<br>- Continue the CRG as a communication channel to identify concerns and disseminate information |
| 418 | | | Increase in SIA study area and TRC area population.<br>- Where practical and possible, NAC will continue its employment of local people.<br>- Where practical and possible, NAC will source employment from unskilled labour to help meet labour demand. |
| 419 | | | Demand for worker housing, potentially impacting on availability of local rental and purchase properties<br>- NAC will liaise with local accommodation providers so that demand for short term accommodation can be met locally where possible.<br>- Where practical and possible, adopt a target of 70% local employment to reduce demand for housing in the SIA study area. |
| 420 | | | Increased opportunities for local short term accommodation establishments.<br>- NAC will liaise with local accommodation providers so that demand for short term accommodation can be met locally where possible. |
| 421 | | | Creation of direct and indirect employment opportunities.<br>- Where practical, NAC will recruit local community members (i.e. based on skills and job specific recruitment requirements at the time of employment).<br>-Where practical and if necessary, NAC will train previously unskilled local labour to meet recruitment requirements.<br>- Continuation of existing partnerships with educational institutions, training groups and government agencies (such as Oakey State High School, University of South Queensland and Downs Group Training)<br>- Continued implementation of structured training programs such as apprenticeships and traineeships, and opportunities for vacation employment and graduate employment through NAC<br>- Continued appointment of a dedicated Community Liaison Officer, to provide information around employment opportunities to local communities.<br>- Job advertisements placed online and in physical locations to allow local access |
| 422 | | | Creation of employment opportunities for vulnerable groups<br>- Maintain relationships with government agencies, training groups and community groups to assess the opportunity to provide employment for long-term unemployed people or people with a disability, and assessing skills gaps and training required.<br>- Implement a targeted advertising campaign to attract a diverse workforce, including circulation of employment opportunities to local community groups and development of specific ads targeting females and Indigenous workers, dedicating 10% of NAC's recruitment budget to targeting advertising, distributing employment advertisements to community groups and the Oakey Reconciliation Council.<br>- Maintain preference clauses for employment of local Indigenous peoples in line with the Cultural Heritage Management Plan and Cooperation Agreement<br>- Adopt flexible and fair work arrangements such as flexible shift times, working from home arrangements and school hour shifts which are designed to assist employees with maintaining work/life balance and help disadvantaged groups transition to the workforce.<br>- Continued adoption of equal employment opportunities for recruitment and continue to support a diverse workforce that includes vulnerable population groups including people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, Indigenous peoples, women, school leavers, the unemployed and underemployed.<br>- Continue to build partnership with the Oakey Reconciliation Council to encourage Indigenous peoples to apply for employment opportunities. |
| 423 | | | Education and training.<br>- NAC will continue to liaise with Oakey State High School and other local education providers to identify training opportunities.<br>- Wherever possible, NAC will continue to provide training and apprenticeships in various skill areas, including agriculture.<br>- Continued practice of up-skilling and training staff to progress to new positions and training to Black Coal industry standards.<br>- Continued implementation of Management and Leadership Development Training.<br>- Continued access to Employee Educational Assistance Program to encourage staff to continue their education or undertake further training and qualifications.<br>- Continued relationship with Downs Group Training to facilitate structure training programs. |
| 424 | | | Procurement opportunities for local businesses.<br>- NAC will continue its preferential use of local businesses and suppliers (i.e. based on an assumption of competitive pricing).<br>- Where appropriate, NAC will advertise tender requirements locally and participate in information sessions regarding local procurement requirements.<br>- NAC will liaise with local accommodation providers so that demand for short term accommodation can be met locally where possible.<br>- NAC will adopt and promote the Queensland Resources and Energy Sector Code of Practice for Local Content.<br>- NAC will establish a register for local contractors to register interest in the revised Project.<br>- NAC will hold local briefings for businesses explaining what opportunities are available for local contractors and the anticipated timelines.<br>- NAC will provide or facilitate the provision of pre-tender training and information to ensure interested parties are tender ready. NAC will hold bi-annual procurement information sessions during detail design and construction of the project with potential -contractors and subcontractors to explain NAC requirements and expectations.<br>- NAC will provide feedback if requested by suppliers that were unsuccessful in prequalification or tendering.<br>- Present at the Toowoomba Regional Council 2014 Energy Summit to inform local business of NAC content requires and provide information to allow businesses to ready themselves for tender opportunities.<br>- NAC to sponsor a local workshop to educate businesses on preparing for tenders and becoming 'tender ready'.<br>- Develop and distribute fact sheet on tender requirements.<br>- Consult with the Oakey Reconciliation Council to identify Indigenous business opportunities.<br>- Develop and distribute fact sheet on procurement requirements and processes to New Hope Community Information Centre at Oakey, Oakey Reconciliation Council and Traditional Owner representatives. |
| 425 | | | Declining local employment opportunities in agriculture.<br>- Where possible, NAC will continue to provide employment and training opportunities through APC. |
| 426 | | | Safety risks associated with travelling to site.<br>- NAC will continue to communicate the company's corporate policies.<br>- NAC will continue to manage health and safety issues, such as fatigue, in an effort to reduce the potential for accidents on and off the revised Project site. |

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| 427 | | | Impacts on health and emergency services.<br>NAC will liaise with state and regional health departments to provide information about the revised Project and the potential for associated service provision requirements.<br>- NAC will continue to undertake appropriate site induction and health / safety training of consultants, contractors and employees to help minimise the number of health and safety related incidents.<br>- NAC will continue to provide on-site first aid and fire fighting services.<br>- NAC has prepared an Emergency Management Plan for the revised Project (Appendix J.15), which will include consultation with local emergency service centres, including fire, ambulance and police stations and the Jondaryan Rural Fire Brigade.<br>- NAC will continue to liaise directly and through the CRG with Oakey Hospital and other local health services. |
| 428 | | | Increased demand for education services<br>- NAC will continue to liaise directly with Oakey State High School and other local schools through the Community Reference Group and other mechanisms.<br>- Partnerships and relationships with local educational institutions such as Oakey State High School, University of Queensland and University of Southern Queensland to understand concerns and opportunities. |
| 429 | | | Decreased connectivity on and around the Project site due to increased vehicle movement.<br>- Access to individual properties surrounding the revised Project area will be maintained using the existing peripheral road network.<br>- NAC will develop and implement a communication program to inform local residents and road users of planned changes to traffic and access conditions undertaken as a result of the revised Project.<br>- NAC will employ appropriate road safety signage and minimise delays to travel during the revised Project related construction and transport activities.<br>- Develop a Traffic Management Plan for the revised Project in consultation with relevant state and local government departments. |
| 430 | | | Increased traffic congestion and travelling times for local people.<br>- NAC will undertake maintenance and upgrade activities on road surfaces that are significantly affected by the revised Project related traffic in a timely manner. This will be done in consultation and agreement with the TRC. |
| 431 | | | Improved amenity at site of JRLF.<br>- Decommissioning of the JRLF.<br>- Removal of buildings, coal stockpile and concrete floors at JRLF.<br>- Use of the JRLF site for grazing and agriculture following decommissioning of the JRLF. |
| 432 | | | Dust, noise and visual impacts from mining operations.<br>- NAC will continue to implement the environmental impact control strategies and measures described in Appendix J.19.<br>- Use of enclosed hoppers, veneering and dust suppression measures at the rail loading facility.<br>- NAC will implement visual screening measures, such as tree planting, along roads and neighbouring properties. |
| | Additional Commitmnets - AEIS | | |
| 433 | 5.3.24.30 | *Responses to Submissions* | NAC will evaluate the performance of the SIMP over the life of the revised Project and amend it as necessary to ensure that it is functioning efficiently and effectively. |
| 433 | 5.3.24.32 | *Responses to Submissions* | NAC and the APC will continue to take the necessary actions in an attempt to reduce the potential for criminal activity within the area surrounding the revised Project. NAC is happy to work with its neighbours to help address this issue. |
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| | CHAPTER 17 | *Economic environment* | |
| | Existing Commitments - draft EIS | | |
| 434 | | | NAC will endeavour to source workers from the local Study area depending on the specific skills required, the status of the labour market at the time, the trainability of the advertised position and the proposed timetable of employment required to meet the scheduled ramp up in production of up to 7.5 Mtpa. |
| 435 | | | NHG has committed 10 per cent of the NHG recruitment budget for targeted employment strategies. As part of the revised Project, NHG commits to the following strategies / actions to support employment locally:<br>- Maintaining the local apprenticeships program.<br>- Continuing to work with Downs Training Group to support apprenticeships and structured training.<br>- Maintaining relationships with education providers (such as Oakey State High School) to assess the opportunity for employment and training (including apprenticeship opportunities) for school leavers which provide opportunities to enhance the local skills base, including twice yearly meetings.<br>- Continuing the vacation work program in place with the University of Queensland and University of Southern Queensland. NHG will also continue to work with the University of Southern Queensland to develop and implement university courses aimed at the mining industry.<br>- Maintaining relationships with recruitment agencies to assess the opportunity to provide employment for long-term unemployed people or people with a disability, and assessing skills gaps and training required.<br>- Holding educational and industry tours of the mine site to interested groups.<br>- Implementing the Educational Assistance Program to the revised Project workforce to support workers to undertake further study and training to progress their careers, which will contribute to sustainable employment opportunities both as part of the revised Project and on decommissioning. |
| 436 | | | NAC will hold bi-annual procurement information sessions during detail design and construction of the project with potential contractors and subcontractors to explain NAC requirements and expectations |
| 437 | | | In addition, specific strategies / actions which NAC has committed to engage local content and businesses for the revised Project are outlined below:<br>- Presenting at the 2014 Toowoomba Regional Council Energy Summit to outline opportunities for local businesses to work with NHG and information to become 'tender ready'.<br>- Continuing their partnership with the Toowoomba Surat Enterprise and Oakey Chamber of Commerce to understand local business needs, capabilities and gaps.<br>- Sponsoring a workshop to build local business capacity to become 'tender ready'.<br>- Including a preference for local workforce in contractor service level agreements.<br>- Developing fact sheets for local businesses on how to tender / become 'tender ready'. Which will be distributed at the New Hope Community Information centre at Oakey, as well as to the Oakey Reconciliation Council and through existing relationships with traditional owners. |
| 438 | | | The Indigenous Employment Policy for Queensland Government Building and Civil Construction Projects (IEP 20% Policy) is a Queensland Government policy which "promotes, encourages and creates skills development, employment and business opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders" for government funded building and civil construction projects. Although NAC are not required to adopt the policy as a privately funded project, they currently have in place two headline internal (confidential) agreements which outline established processes to provide employment opportunities for recognised traditional owners. Noting that the agreements are confidential, a broad outline of the commitments by NAC includes:<br>- Establishing clear position descriptions and notifying the Coordination Committee of available positions to enable awareness by local indigenous communities of skills, qualifications, attitudes/behaviours and experience necessary for employment and promotion on the revised Project<br>- Establishment of an Employment and Positions Register containing the names of members of the recognised traditional owners who wish to obtain employment with the revised Project<br>- Advising contractors and sub-contractors of commitments with the traditional owners<br>- Providing feedback as requested if tenders are unsuccessful which indicates areas for improvement to increase the prospects of success in future tenders<br>- Providing cultural awareness training for existing NAC employees, contractors and sub-contractors.<br>NAC will re-negotiate these provisions with recognised traditional owners for the revised Project. |
| 439 | | | NAC has also committed to working with the Oakey Reconciliation Council to invite local Indigenous businesses to tender for contracts for the revised Project, and will continue to sponsor NAIDOC week in Oakey which will contribute to an awareness of potential employment / contract opportunities for the revised Project. As noted previously, fact sheets for local businesses on how to tender / become 'tender ready' will be distributed to the Oakey Reconciliation Council and through existing relationships with traditional owners. |
| 440 | | | Reduction in agricultural output from impacted land:<br>- Household impacts from a reduction in agricultural output have been mitigated to some extent through compensation for landowners. Rehabilitation should ensure that land is returned to beneficial post mine use as possible. |
| 441 | | | Lower than expected benefits for the regional study area:<br>- Employ strategies outlined in Section 17.4 to increase local participation. Locally sources labour and materials should only be pursued where the net benefit of the project is not undermined. |

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| 442 | | | Displacement of employment following construction and commissioning phase<br>- Maximise the transfer of appropriately skilled and experienced staff within the New Hope Group where possible<br>- Undertake a skills and education audit with employees to determine existing levels of transferrable skills, and opportunities for further training in the skills development program;<br>- Identify local skills shortages through consultation with state and local government, industry, economic development boards and local training providers. |
| 443 | | | Employment is transferred from other industries or businesses leading to reduced business viability and increasing labour costs Mitigating inflationary pressures are out of the scope of control for the proponent, however where possible local development should be supported through:<br>- Training for currently unemployed workers to encourage generated employment<br>- Advertising employment opportunities with welfare agencies in the Project study area |
| 444 | | | Significant migration to the local area causing upward pressure on property values<br>- Source employment locally where appropriate to limit migration and pressure on property values<br>- Conduct surveys to ascertain the number of workers likely to relocate for the revised Project and whether construction of temporary or permanent accommodation may be required |
| 445 | | | Impact on future development in the region The revised Project is not expected to negatively impact on future development in the region except where significant competition for labour and materials exists. Should supply constraints exist, this impact can be mitigated through sourcing labour and materials outside of the region. This approach should only be pursued where necessary, since the objective of sourcing labour and materials locally is to maximise economic benefits for the region.<br>Positive impacts include potential new business investment from supporting industries and industries benefitting from increased consumption expenditure such as retail trade. This benefit can be enhanced through employing the strategies outlined in Section 17.4, where this does not cause excessive pressure on availability of labour and materials. |
| | Additional Commitmnets - AEIS | | |
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| | CHAPTER 18 | *Health, safety and risk* | |
| | Existing Commitments - draft EIS | | |
| 446 | | | Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) for Anionic flocculants (acrylamide/acrylate copolymer) and Cationic flocculant (polydimethyl diyl dimethyl ammonia chloride) (poly DADMAC) are located in Appendix G.10.2. Other MSDSs will be obtained and communicated to all site personnel involved in the storage, handling, use and disposal of dangerous and hazardous substances and materials. |
| 447 | | | MSDS information will be obtained and communicated to all site personnel involved in the storage, handling use and disposal of dangerous goods, hazardous substances and materials. The storage, handling and transport of these goods/substances will be in accordance with the current Australian Standards and industry codes of practice. |
| 448 | | | The greatest use of dangerous goods/hazardous substances will involve diesel fuel oil. The approved separation distances will be maintained during the storage of these materials/substances as defined in AS 1940-2004 The storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids. |
| 449 | | | It is important to note that additional risk assessment processes will be carried out throughout the revised Project's life cycle. In addition, comprehensive risk registers have been implemented for the existing operation and will be updated to include the revised Project. |
| 450 | | | All site personnel will undergo comprehensive site inductions, regular 'tool box talks'. The risks identified in this Chapter will be communicated, audited and regularly reviewed to ensure applicability. |
| 451 | | | All identified risks to the community and surrounding environment will be assessed and mitigated as far as reasonably practicable. Mitigation measures will be developed in consultation with the relevant stakeholders. |
| 452 | | | The Pest and Weed Management Plan for the revised Project site is provided in Appendix J.9. This plan will be implemented during construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the revised Project. |
| 453 | | | Mine water discharges to waterways will be restricted to emergency discharges during extreme rainfall/flood conditions, thus discharges (if required) would be significantly diluted with flood waters. Chemical spills will be minimised as outlined above. All sewage will be treated on-site at the STP and treated effluent drains to an on-site sediment dam. No sewage effluent will be discharged to waterways. |
| 454 | | | NAC will ensure that all road intersections required for the revised Project are adequate to safely cater for the construction and operational traffic volumes. |
| 455 | | | NAC will ensure that appropriate discussions are undertaken with the relevant road and rail authorities to ensure an appropriate mitigation measures are implemented based on the proposed design considerations outlined within the ALCAM Report. |
| 456 | | | Designated first aid and emergency rescue facilities and equipment will be available during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases, as is the case with the existing operation. Appropriately trained personnel will be on-site throughout the life of the revised Project to provide first aid and to respond to on-site emergencies. First aid response and provision will be included in the site induction training that will be provided to all staff members. |
| 457 | | | All fire fighting facilities and equipment will be appropriately installed, serviced, maintained and inspected by a certified body. First aid and fire fighting equipment (hand held extinguishers and fire hoses) will be installed at strategic points within each building. Fire fighting equipment and exit locations will be suitably signed. All work areas will be within the required distance to reach emergency exits. |
| 458 | | | Induction training will include fire response techniques. The revised Project site will have a fire truck or suitably equipped water truck or trailer that can support fire response requirements. Site fire fighting capabilities are also addressed in the Emergency Management Plan. Fire drills will continue to be undertaken on a regular basis. Permanent facilities, such as fuel storage areas, will have a dedicated fire alarm, suppression and fire fighting systems. |
| 459 | | | NAC will continue to liaise with QFRS, Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS), local State Emergency Services, local ambulance, local hospital services (agencies including Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service) and local Police throughout all stages of the revised Project. NAC will continue to conduct periodic emergency simulation drills with its regional emergency service providers over the life of the revised Project. In addition, NAC will liaise with Queensland Health at the appropriate time regarding emergency management procedures for the revised Project. The industrial paramedic will provide initial on-site care in an emergency and is also involved in health promotion and safety training for NAC personnel. |
| | Additional Commitmnets - AEIS | | |
| 460 | 5.2.5.6 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | NAC will commit to attaining all relevant licenses and will comply with food safety requirements outlined within the *Food Act 2006* for the revised Project. |
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| | CHAPTER 19 | *Community consultation* | |
| | Existing Commitments - draft EIS | | |
| 461 | | | As detailed in the revised Project's Stakeholder Engagement Plan available in Appendix K.1, NAC's stakeholder engagement program has been developed around a core set of objectives to include:<br>- balancing the current debate regarding the NHG and the Mine with factual information and promoting the revised Project's benefits and opportunities;<br>- engaging with the local community to generate a greater level of support for current and future operations;<br>- providing open, honest and timely communication with stakeholders;<br>- engaging stakeholders and the community to capture their concerns or views and ensure they are understood by the team and considered in decision-making where possible;<br>- ensuring early identification of potential stakeholder issues and implementation of appropriate mitigation strategies; and<br>- maintaining a positive reputation for the revised Project and the NHG in the community. |
| 462 | | | NAC will continue to consult with relevant stakeholders using a variety of communication mechanisms to ensure that the local community is continually engaged about the revised Project. NAC will also continue to ensure its neighbours are properly consulted in relation to revised Project. |
| | Additional Commitmnets - AEIS | | |
| 463 | 5.1.9 | *Complaints and Dispute Resolution* | Wherever possible, the NAC will seek resolution to concerns through dialogue and joint problem solving with affected stakeholders. The way in which complaints are resolved will vary according to the particular issue, and may range from a reasonable rejection of the complaint (with a full explanation provided to the complainant) to mitigation or change in practices. |
| 464 | 5.1.9 | *Complaints and Dispute Resolution* | Upon receipt of a complaint, the responsible Manager will commence an investigation into the cause of the complaint and where mitigation is required, take any reasonable actions required to address the complaint. |
| 465 | 5.1.9 | *Complaints and Dispute Resolution* | A verbal response on the facts identified and progress with the investigation will be provided to the Complainant within two business days (unless the complainant agrees otherwise). |

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| 466 | 5.1.9 | *Complaints and Dispute Resolution* | Upon closing out a complaint, the Complainant will be contacted by the relevant NAC representative to determine if they are satisfied with the resolution. If dissatisfied, the Complainant can appeal to NAC for further consultation and investigation. In the event that a Complainant rejects a proposed resolution, they will be invited to resubmit the complaint with an explanation or reconsideration and a response. Further dispute resolution processes are in place for sensitive receptors and are communicated through the relevant Landholder Agreement. |
| 467 | 5.1.9 | *Complaints and Dispute Resolution* | Upon closing out a complaint, the Complainant will be contacted by the relevant NAC representative to determine if they are satisfied with the resolution. If dissatisfied, the Complainant can appeal to NAC for further consultation and investigation. In the event that a Complainant rejects a proposed resolution, they will be invited to resubmit the complaint with an explanation for reconsideration. |
| 468 | 5.1.9 | *Complaints and Dispute Resolution* | Technical Dispute<br>If the dispute is in relation to a technical matter (Technical Dispute):<br>a) within 10 Business Days of the receipt of a Notice of Dispute, a senior officer of NAC must meet with the Complainant to seek to resolve the Technical Dispute; and<br>b) failing resolution of the Technical Dispute, within 20 Business Days of receipt of the Notice of Dispute, the Technical Dispute may be referred to determination by an Independent Expert by both parties.<br>c) If the parties are unable to agree upon the appointment of an independent expert within 10 Business Days, any party may refer the matter to the President for the time being of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy or, if no longer in existence, other professional body that includes a similar group of professions, to nominate a suitably qualified and experienced person to act as the independent expert to determine the Technical Dispute.<br>An independent expert appointed must;<br>a) have reasonable qualifications and practical experience in the area of the Technical Dispute;<br>b) have no interest or duty which conflicts or may conflict with his or her function as an expert, he or she being required to disclose fully any relevant interest or duty before his or her appointment;<br>c) not be a current employee or officer of NAC or of the Complainant; or<br>d) related to the Complainant.<br>e) act as an expert and not as an arbitrator.<br>Within 20 Business Days after the independent expert is appointed, each party must produce to the other party and the independent expert a written submission that sets out its opinion about the Technical Dispute and the party's proposed method for resolution of the Technical Dispute and any materials or evidence which that party believes is relevant to the matter in question.<br>Each party will make available to the independent expert and the other party all materials requested by the independent expert and all other materials which are relevant to the independent expert's determination.<br>Within 10 Business Days of the receipt of the last of the written submission, each party may make a further written submission or modify its previously provided written submission. A copy of any new submission must be provided to the other party. |
| 469 | 5.1.9 | *Complaints and Dispute Resolution* | Legal Dispute<br>If the dispute is in relation to a legal matter (Legal Dispute):<br>a) within 10 Business Days of the receipt of a Notice of Dispute, a senior officer of NAC must meet with the Landholder to seek to resolve the Legal Dispute; and<br>b) failing resolution of the Legal Dispute, within 20 Business Days of receipt of the Notice of Dispute, either party may refer the Legal Dispute to a court of competent jurisdiction for determination.<br>Determination<br>Within 50 Business Days after the independent expert is appointed, the independent expert must make a determination to the Technical Dispute.<br>The independent expert may, with the prior written consent of both parties (such consent not to be unreasonably withheld), engage such consultants or advisors as are reasonably necessary to assist the independent expert in making its determination.<br>In the absence of fraud or manifest error, the determination of the independent expert will be final and binding upon the parties. |
| 470 | 5.1.9 | *Complaints and Dispute Resolution* | To ensure stakeholders are informed about the enquiry, concern and complaint procedures, proactive engagement will be undertaken. A particular focus will be on ensuring High Priority Landholders understand the processes for raising concerns and complaints should they occur. Table 5.1.9-A of the AEIS outlines NAC's community engagement activities regarding the complaints procedures. |
| 471 | 5.1.10 | *Consultation* | There are a range of key commitments NAC has made regarding interactions with neighbours:<br>- NAC is committed to regular ongoing engagement and communication with neighbours;<br>- Ongoing dust, noise and vibration, and ground water monitoring to ensure impacts are managed and mitigated;<br>- Preference will be given to at least two positions on the New Acland CRG for landholders or landholder representative groups;<br>- For urgent issues relating to the operating mine, near neighbours have access to senior site personnel via a 24hr phone number; and<br>- Neighbours will be kept informed of revised Project construction activities that may impact them e.g. road closures. |
| 472 | 5.1.10 | *Consultation* | Table 5.1.10-A of the AEIS contains an outline of community consultation and engagement activities relating the revised Project and the environment. |
| 473 | 5.1.10 | *Consultation* | NAC acknowledges submitter concerns and has subsequently clarified and extended its consultation activities relating specifically to Acland.<br>Key activities include, but are not limited to:<br>- The development of the Acland Management Plan (AMP) which provides information regarding NACs plans for Acland and its immediate surrounds. For additional information please refer to Section 5.1.7 and Appendix I of the AEIS.<br>- A community information session with the opportunity for further community input into the AMP;<br>-The AMP displayed at the Oakey Community Information Centre, including community staff available to answer questions , provide information;<br>- Gather feedback; and<br>- Information on road closures in the Acland area and options for access. |
| 474 | 5.1.10 | *Consultation* | Table 5.1.10- B provides a detailed overview of consultation and community engagement activities regarding Acland , transport and road closures. Please note that consultation relating to environmental management and monitoring in the Acland area is covered in Section 5.1.10.1 of the AEIS. |
| 475 | 5.1.10 | | NAC accepts that residents of Jondaryan have concerns regarding the location of the JRLF prior to its decommissioning. As such, NAC will strengthen engagement activities in the Jondaryan area in the provision of updated information, results of air quality monitoring, and opportunities for regular discussion and feedback on the facility and potential impacts. Specific engagement activities will continue through decommissioning and rail construction and until such time as the facility is relocated from its current location. Following relocation, Jondaryan residents will continue to be considered part of the Mine's broader community for engagement activities. |
| 476 | 5.1.10 | *Consultation* | Commitments specifically relating to Jondaryan include:<br>-NAC community staff to regularly visit Jondaryan and be available for residents to provide information, answer questions and respond to concerns regarding the rail construction and JRLF decommissioning;<br>- Additional community information sessions to provide Jondaryan residents with further specific information around the revised Project timelines;<br>- Preference will be given to at least one position on the CRG for a Jondaryan Community Representative. Note that the CRG includes 2 Jondaryan representatives for 2014 calendar year;<br>- Ongoing engagement with the Jondaryan District Resident's Association (JDRA), including presentations to JDRA meetings; and<br>- Jondaryan residents will receive mailed information on environmental monitoring and key milestones. |
| 477 | 5.1.10 | *Consultation* | Consultation and engagement regarding activities at Jondaryan is outlined in Table 5.1.10 - C of the AEIS. |
| 478 | 5.1.10 | | Whilst investigations have shown that coal mining is unlikely to result in adverse health effects, and health professionals in the vicinity of the current NAC operations do not report any adverse population trends relating to the Mine, NAC recognises that it is important to ensure residents are aware of the facts regarding health and coal.<br>NAC is therefore committed to the ongoing provision of information and engagement with communities on this important issue. Table 5.1.10 – D outlines a range of community consultation and engagement activities that have been strengthened as part of the AEIS, to assist in alleviating community concern regarding health and the revised Project. |
| 479 | 5.1.10 | *Consultation* | Wherever possible, NAC will seek resolution to concerns through dialogue and joint problem solving with affected stakeholders. The way in which complaints are resolved will vary according to the particular issue, and may range from a reasonable rejection of the complaint (with a full explanation provided to the complainant) to mitigation or change in practices.<br>To ensure stakeholders are informed about the enquiry, concern and complaint procedures, proactive engagement will be undertaken. A particular focus will be on ensuring High Priority Landholders understand the processes for raising concerns and complaints should they occur. Table 5.1.10 – E outlines NAC's community engagement activities regarding the complaints procedures. |
| 480 | 5.1.10 | *Consultation* | The past and future communication activities specific to the broader community are presented in Table 5.1.10 - F. |
| 481 | 5.1.10 | *Consultation* | Contact has been made with representatives from the Queensland Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs in relation to the revised Project. Further discussions will take place between NAC and departmental officers regarding potential employment and business development opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. |
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| | CHAPTER 20 | *Cumulative impacts* | Not applicable |
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| | CHAPTER 21 | Draft EM Plan | Specific commitments are contained within the EM Plan. |
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| | CHAPTER 22 | *References* | Not applicable |
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| | Appendix G.1.8 | *Final Landform Technical Report* | |
| | Existing Commitments - draft EIS | | |
| 482 | | | NAC will progressively rehabilitate the active mine areas over the life of the revised Project to advance the mine closure process. Rehabilitation and full mine closure is expected to be completed in total to a standard for regulatory approval for surrender of the revised Project's mining leases by about 2039. It should be noted that these dates are subject to variation and can be significantly influenced by factors that affect the rate of mining, fluctuations in the global economic environment, legislative and regulatory changes, future business decisions by the NHCL's Board and Senior Management, and/or change of company ownership. |
| 483 | | | NAC will continue to consult with the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM) in the future to ensure compliance with the SCL legislation. As a preliminary task, NAC will lodge a validation application for the revised Project with the DNRM to delineate those areas that are not SCL, and therefore, will not require specific management to ensure statutory compliance. |
| 484 | | | NAC will continue to investigate other possible innovative final land uses for the revised Project. NAC will ensure the applicable government authorities and the community are appropriately consulted in relation to any proposed future changes for the revised Project's final land uses. NAC will also be required to seek regulatory approval, provide satisfactory scientific evidence and ensure community expectations are satisfied for all proposed future changes to the revised Project's final land uses. NAC will ensure all consultation undertaken for the revised Project is consistent with the Local Stakeholder Management Plan and the Stakeholder Engagement Plan located in Appendices J.18 and K.1 respectively. |
| 485 | | | The final phase of the revised Project's mine closure planning process will commence a minimum of five years from the end of the revised Project's life and will involve the development of a dedicated Mine Closure Plan. NAC will ensure the applicable government authorities, its workforce and the community are appropriately consulted during the development of the revised Project's Mine Closure Plan and that a risk based management approach is adopted to address all relevant environmental, social, economic and safety issues/matters at the end of the revised Project's life. |
| 486 | | | NAC is committed to delivering 'leading practice' rehabilitation management practices for the revised Project where they are prudent, economically feasible and will deliver beneficial outcomes. |
| 487 | | | NAC will continue to seek support from specialist consultancies and qualified professionals to address specific issues as they arise in relation to environmental management of the revised Project's mining operations. |
| 488 | | | NAC will employ a range of recognised water management structures to control rainfall run off to minimise the risk of significant erosion. |
| 489 | | | In summary, NAC will apply the following erosion and sediment control principles to all areas as general practice for the revised Project.<br>1) Erosion and sediment control planning will be incorporated into the mine planning process prior to commencing disturbance works in new mining areas. The erosion and sediment control planning will be amended as required to keep pace with the dynamic nature of the mining process, to ensure statutory compliance with discharge limits, and to minimise the potential for environmental harm to the downstream receiving environment.<br>2) Disturbance at the revised Project will be kept to an operational minimum. New disturbance areas will be carefully planned and controlled by the mine planning process. A 'permit to disturb' process will be applied to non mining areas to prevent accidental disturbance by contractors.<br>3) Clean water from undisturbed areas at the revised Project will be diverted around disturbed areas.<br>4) Where possible, top soil at the revised Project will be protected against erosion initiated by raindrops, wind, or concentrated flows. The revised Project's Topsoil Management Plan is located in Appendix J.3.<br>5) Dirty water from disturbed areas at the revised Project will be captured preferentially for re-use on site or treated prior to discharge.<br>6) Sediment control measures will be implemented for the revised Project to prevent off-site impacts (e.g. contour banks, rock lined water ways, grassed diversion drains, etc.).<br>7) Disturbed areas at the revised Project will be progressively rehabilitated as soon as operationally possible to ensure a groundcover of >70% is established as a surface stabilisation and erosion control measure.<br>8) An inspection, monitoring, and corrective action maintenance regime will be applied to the revised Project to ensure erosion and sediment control measures and water management structures are functioning efficiently.<br>NAC will continue to explore innovative erosion and sediment control measures and use recognised industry standards for general practices, for example, "Sediment Control Engineering Guidelines for Queensland Construction Sites (IEA Qld 1996)". |
| 490 | | | For the revised Project's depressed and elevated landforms, NAC will expand its current monitoring programs and grazing trials to incorporate the applicable rehabilitation success criteria to guide its rehabilitation management (e.g. performance and maintenance regime) and to collect the necessary data to demonstrate:<br>• the geotechnical stability of the constructed landform;<br>• the successful establishment of a suitable vegetative cover to support the final land use and minimise the potential for erosion; and<br>• the productivity of the vegetative cover from a grazing (beef production) perspective. |
| 491 | | | While conservative slopes have been selected for the revised Project's final landform design criteria, NAC will ensure that the following additional monitoring parameters are established or expanded to demonstrate the long term geotechnical stability of the depressed and elevated landforms for future mine closure and mining lease surrender requirements.<br>• NAC will select several typical profiles normal to the slope contours for each of the revised Project's depressed and elevated landform areas. Sufficient monitoring points will be established at each constructed landform to allow proper scientific evaluation;<br>• NAC will establish permanent survey points along each profile;<br>• NAC will undertake photographic monitoring and surveying at each of the profiles once or twice a year (e.g. at the start and finish of the wet season);<br>• NAC will progressively review and maintain its slope stability monitoring data as a long term performance measure for the geotechnical stability of the revised Project's depressed and elevated landforms; and<br>• NAC will expand its general site inspection regime to include all constructed slope areas. This inspection regime will be conducted monthly during the wet season and possess a formal corrective action process. |
| 492 | | | This grazing trial includes slope areas and will involve a comparison process with an analogue site in the vicinity of the Mine. The grazing trial program is being managed by the APC and will involve a formal study and report by a professional third party agricultural consultancy and local university. This grazing trial program will be a continuous process with new areas progressively added to the original trial area each year. The grazing trial program will be expanded to include the revised Project's rehabilitation areas designated for grazing. NAC believes the grazing trial program will be a critical assessment tool for demonstrating long term success of its grazing based rehabilitation for the revised Project's future mine closure and mining lease surrender requirements. |
| | Additional Commitmnets - AEIS | | |
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| | Appendix H.1 | *MNES Report* | |
| | Existing Commitments - draft EIS | | |
| 493 | | | The biodiversity offset will be located on land owned and controlled by the APC (another NHG subsidiary company).<br>The BOMP is provided in Appendix J.8. |
| 494 | | | For the Mine and revised Project, NAC has committed to a conservation zone over Bottle Tree Hill and 50 metres either side of Lagoon Creek to protect and enhance ecologically significant areas of remnant vegetation not to be mined and to promote the restoration of the Lagoon Creek riparian zone. NAC has produced a CZMP to manage these ecologically significant areas within the Mine and revised Project site. The main components of the CZMP includes the revegetation and management goals/objectives, planned revegetation techniques (e.g. species selection, planting methods and rates, timing, etc.), rehabilitation acceptance criteria, a monitoring and reporting regime, a maintenance regime for weeds and poor establishment, and a comprehensive long term management regime.<br>The CZMP is provided in Appendix J.6. |

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| 495 | | | A TSTP has been developed for the threatened flora species impacted by the revised Project. The TSTP aims ensure no net loss of individuals from the local population and will include:<br>- a discussion of known ecology and reproductive biology of the target species;<br>- a methodology for relocating the target species;<br>- a set of performance indicators to demonstrate successful relocation of the target species;<br>- a review of propagation potential for the target species;<br>- a methodology for the propagation of the target species;<br>- identification of suitable receiving sites for the propagated and/or relocated individuals of the target species; and<br>- a regime for long term monitoring and management of translocation sites.<br>The TSTP is provided in Appendix J.7. |
| 496 | | | Areas to be cleared will have boundaries clearly marked by tape, pegs or other means. The demarcated boundaries will conform within the limits of design drawings and will comply with the Mine's existing clearance procedures. Particular attention will be paid to defining the boundaries of clearing where endangered ecological communities or listed species (under the EPBC Act) are present. |
| 497 | | | All vegetation clearance will be restricted to that necessary for the safe operation of mining activities. A plan for dealing with fauna during clearing and construction will be prepared to outline protocols for dealing with injured wildlife and other necessary actions relating to fauna. |
| 498 | | | All remnant vegetation that does not require clearing will be protected from further disturbance to enhance its potential for natural regeneration. |
| 499 | | | NAC will continue to take reasonable steps to keep the revised Project site free of Class 1 and Class 2 declared animal pests, in accordance with the requirements of the LP Act. Management of animal pests will also be consistent with any pest management plans set by the Toowoomba Regional Council. NAC undertakes periodic consultation with Toowoomba Regional Council and Agforce to keep up to date with pest management issues. |
| 500 | | | To protect native fauna within the revised Project site, Project employees, contractors or visitors will not be allowed to bring domestic animals, such as cats and dogs, onto the revised Project site. |
| | Additional Commitmnets - AEIS | | |
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| | Appendix H.2 | *IESC Submission* | |
| | Existing Commitments - draft EIS | | |
| 501 | | | The groundwater monitoring program for the revised Project combines the current monitoring program for the existing Mine with an extended network of monitoring bores enclosing the revised Project site. Data collected from the groundwater monitoring program will:<br>- be operated in accordance with the revised Project's approved EA, including adoption of suitable guideline criteria and temporal investigation;<br>- be used in the continued development and refinement of groundwater impact assessment criteria and investigation triggers;<br>- enable verification and refinement (where necessary) of the groundwater modelling predictions presented in this EIS; and<br>- be collated into a database that will be made available to the administering authority on request. |
| 502 | | | The groundwater monitoring network will:<br>- be installed and maintained by a person possessing appropriate qualifications and experience in the fields of hydrogeology and groundwater monitoring program design to be able to competently make recommendations about these matters;<br>- be constructed in accordance with methods prescribed in the "Minimum Construction Requirements for Water Bores in Australia" (National Uniform Drillers Licensing Committee, 2012) by an appropriately qualified driller; and<br>- include a sufficient number of 'bores of compliance' that are located at an appropriate distance from potential sources of impact from mining activities and provide the following:<br>- representative groundwater samples from the uppermost aquifer;<br>- background water quality in hydraulically up-gradient or background bore(s) that have not been affected by any mining activities conducted by NAC; and<br>- the quality of groundwater down gradient of potential sources of contamination. |
| 503 | | | Groundwater monitoring will be undertaken by appropriately qualified personnel. Groundwater level measurements, sample collection, storage and transportation will be undertaken in accordance with procedures conforming to the current industry standard: AS/NZS 5667.1, .11 1998. |
| 504 | | | The data gathered from the groundwater monitoring program will be collated into a database which will include:<br>- a site plan showing sample locations;<br>- tabulated results of the monitoring compared with applicable background/trigger levels;<br>- all data collected during each monitoring round;<br>- a record of chain of custody of the samples from sampling through to analysis;<br>- laboratory analysis certificates;<br>- groundwater monitoring program reports, and<br>- a description of the procedures, methods and calculations used. |
| 505 | | | Groundwater sample analysis will continue to be undertaken by a laboratory accredited by the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA). Field measurement of water quality parameters will continue to be undertaken using appropriate field equipment that is maintained and calibrated in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. |
| 506 | | | Data collected from landholder bores, wells, and waterholes will be used in conjunction with the groundwater impact investigation procedure to determine if contingency measures are required. |
| 507 | | | Eight basalt bores will be monitored, including five new bores (Table 9 1 and shown on Figure 9 1). |
| 508 | | | The groundwater monitoring program includes 25 bores in the Walloon Coal Measures (Table 9 1 and shown on Figure 9 1), including seven new bores. |
| 509 | | | Groundwater monitoring will be undertaken at selected landholder bores surrounding the revised Project site, following consultation with relevant landholders. Primarily this will include monitoring of groundwater levels and groundwater quality in conjunction with metering groundwater abstraction rates at suitable bores in order to assess potential groundwater level impacts from mine dewatering in the context of any variations to bore pumping rates. Landholder bores targeted for monitoring will be selected based on a thorough review of bores within the predicted drawdown impact zone. Section 9.4 details the approach for managing impacts on landholder bores in further detail. |
| 510 | | | During the life of the revised Project, data collected through the groundwater monitoring program, will be used to update and refine the revised Project's groundwater model and it's predictions to reflect the actual activities undertaken on site (e.g. mine development and sump locations). |
| 511 | | | The results of the groundwater model verification and refinement, or the justification that this action is not necessary, will be documented, and as required, presented to the DNRM (regulatory authority). |
| 512 | | | NAC will undertake a program of works to characterise and assess predicted impacts on individual groundwater users within the predicted drawdown area. The work program will have the primary outcome of determining the most appropriate means of 'Make Good' for individual users should groundwater monitoring validate model predictions of groundwater effects on those users. Results of this characterisation work will also feed into the first revision of the groundwater model where possible. |
| 513 | | | If required in these circumstances, NAC will provide an alternative water supply arrangement to affected third parties. Due to the progressive nature of drawdown within aquifers, the provision of alternative supplies may be staged. |
| 514 | | | NAC will implement a groundwater monitoring regime aimed at identifying possible effects to neighbouring groundwater users from the revised Project's operations (i.e., in relation to drawdown levels and water quality). NAC will review and update its groundwater monitoring regime on a regular basis in line with the progression of mining over the life of the revised Project. The revised Project's groundwater monitoring regime will be periodically updated in NAC's current Environmental Monitoring Plan, which forms a supporting document to the NAC Plan of Operations. |
| 515 | | | NAC will investigate all groundwater complaints related to the revised Project both during the operational phase and following mine closure. NAC will ensure all legitimate groundwater complaints are addressed in an expedient manner. |
| 516 | | | The GMIMP will be regularly reviewed over the life of the revised Project, and as required, will be updated based on monitoring results, new outputs from revisions to the groundwater modelling and any other applicable groundwater management matters that relate to operation of the revised Project. The GMIMP will form a supporting document to NAC's Plan of Operations for the revised Project and is provided in Appendix F. |
| 517 | | | Work methods will be developed and included in the Contractor Environmental Management Plans. These methods will detail appropriate control and mitigation measures for the revised Project. In addition to these measures, the specific environmental management conditions will be implemented to mitigate the impacts of the construction of the railway line crossing of Lagoon Creek. The following outlines the major mitigation measures that will be implemented where practicable during the construction phase. |

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| 518 | | | Importantly, current good practice erosion and sediment control measures will be provided as outlined in the Institution of Engineers publication IECA Best Practice Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines (2008) to comply with the EPP (Water). These measures include:<br>- construction work in creeks will be undertaken in dry weather and conditions of minimal or no flow;<br>- weather conditions will be monitored so that work in creek crossings and erosion prone areas will not take place if rain and/or extreme weather (e.g. storms) are forecast;<br>- sedimentation fences and bunds will be used to contain fill or excavated material during construction;<br>- fill and excavated material will be stockpiled away from gully heads, active creek banks, bank erosion or other unstable areas;<br>- local runoff from disturbed areas will be routed clear of disturbed areas;<br>- assessment of the integrity and effectiveness of erosion control measures will be undertaken at regular periods and following significant rainfall events; and<br>- if required the erection of temporary waterway barriers during construction will include the provision to transfer flows from upstream of the works to the downstream channel without passing though the disturbed construction site. |
| 519 | | | The following management strategies will be implemented by the revised Project to protect surface water quality and the downstream receiving environment<br>- An operational separation distance of approximately 150 m will be maintained from the edge of the mining pits to Lagoon Creek, which will include a 50 m conservation buffer where no mining activities will be undertaken.<br>- The current conservation zone, 50 m either side of Lagoon Creek, from the Mine will be extended into the revised Project site to promote the re-establishment of the riparian zone. No mining activities will occur within the proposed conservation zone.<br>- Sediment dams, environmental dams, pit water storage and other water management structures (e.g. bunds and drains) will be used appropriately by the revised Project as per the water management plan (WMP).<br>- The revised Project's water management will be based on the separation and management of clean and dirty water catchments where practicable.<br>- Water capture within the revised Project's clean areas will be diverted around operational areas and where practical, allowed to discharge off site as part of normal overland flow.<br>- Water from disturbed areas within the revised Project site will be diverted to sediment dams for treatment and possible reuse as a supplementary supply for the revised Project's water requirement.<br>- Surface runoff from the revised Project's potentially contaminated areas, such as infrastructure areas, will receive additional levels of treatment (e.g. oil-water separators and bunding). Water captured by these devices will be preferentially reused on site, while captured oil will collected for recycling by a licensed contractor.<br>- Progressive rehabilitation will be undertaken as the revised Project's operational areas become available to reduce the amount of disturbed areas.<br>- Fuel, dangerous goods and hazardous chemicals will be managed as outlined by current standards, guidelines and in compliance with statutory requirements.<br>- Refuelling locations and handling of fuels will be undertaken away from all waterways including creeks and drainage paths.<br>- NAC's existing SOP for spills and emergency response procedures will be expanded to incorporate the revised Project. Spill recovery and containment equipment will be available when working adjacent to sensitive drainage paths and within other areas, such as workshops.<br>- NAC will continue to commit to investigating all legitimate surface water complaints, and if a genuine problem is identified, conduct immediate remediation measures and establish standard operating procedures to minimise the possibility of a reoccurrence of the original issue.<br>- NAC's current water quality monitoring program will be expanded to incorporate the operational and decommissioning phases of the revised Project. The program is designed to ensure the WMP is effective, to demonstrate compliance with the Mine's strict discharge limits, and to ensure the downstream water quality (physico-chemical parameters, at a minimum) is not being adversely impacted. In general, the monitoring program will include the following actions.<br>- Water quality will be measured upstream and downstream of the revised Project site. Basic water quality indicators (i.e. Salinity, pH, DO, EC, temperature) will continue to be monitored on a monthly basis, or when water is present, and heavy metals, nutrients, anions and cations monitored twice annually.<br>- During any release event, the receiving water will be monitored upstream (50 m to 100 m upstream of the release point) and downstream (200 m downstream of the release point) locations. Water quality variables will include basic water quality indicators, suspended solids, heavy metals, nutrients, anions and cations.<br>- Progressive rehabilitation of areas impacted by operational activities will be undertaken as soon as practical in order to reduce the amount of exposed soil.<br>- Fuel, dangerous goods, hazardous chemicals and work shop wastes will be managed to ensure compliance with current industry standards and guidelines for safety and environmental protection. These management actions will focus on handling, storage, spill containment, emergency response, establishment of 'standard operating procedures' for key operational aspects, and development of a responsibility matrix for operational and reporting matters. |
| 520 | | | As per the management intent under the EPP Water, where possible NHG will seek to improve the environmental values of the Lagoon Creek catchment through the preservation of the main channel and the riparian zone 50 m either side of the creek |
| | Additional Commitmnets - AEIS | | |
| 521 | Appendix N | IESC Submission Response | The NHG is committed to undertaking baseline surveys at all groundwater bores within its predicted area of impact; it is envisaged that this program of works will identify the source aquifer of many of the currently 'unknown aquifer' bores as well as bores used in entitlements, and therefore allow more accurate groundwater modelling related to these. The NHG is committed to incorporating these third-party groundwater entitlements in future iterations of the groundwater model where possible (i.e. if the planned program of baseline assessments allows it to occur), such as the first 3-yearly review as outlined in the revised Project's GMIMP. |
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| | Appendix I | Offset Strategy | |
| | Existing Commitments - draft EIS | | |
| 522 | | | Prior to construction, a Biodiversity Offset Package will be prepared that will:<br>- identify and secure an offset package/s – following completion of ecological assessments of proposed offset sites;<br>- secure a legally binding mechanism on Title; and<br>- develop an Offset Area Management Plan (OAMP) for each offset management area. |
| 523 | | | There are several legally binding mechanisms available that may be applied to the final Biodiversity Offset Package including:<br>- 'gazettal as a protected area (e.g. a nature refuge)' under the NCA;<br>- 'voluntary declaration of an area of high nature conservation value' under the VMA; or<br>- use of a 'covenant' under the Land Title Act 1994 or Land Act 1994. |
| 524 | | | An OAMP will be prepared for each offset site to meet the requirements of the EPBC EOP and QBOP. The OAMPs will include information on the threats and the management actions required at each offset site to abate those threats. Each OAMP will contain an estimate of the costs of management and will provide a monitoring program that will extend until the management outcomes are achieved. |
| 525 | | | Management actions may include:<br>- management of grazing;<br>- weed management;<br>- feral pest management;<br>- management of fire; and<br>- if applicable, active revegetation. |
| 526 | | | The length of active management will be influenced by the condition of vegetation, type of habitat, climatic conditions and vegetation on site, as well as existing management issues. The OAMPs will incorporate conditions of approval required by the State and Commonwealth departments, including regular monitoring and reporting such as those conditions granted for the Stage Two Project in 2006. |
| | Additional Commitmnets - AEIS | | |
| | | | NA |
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| | Appendix J.1 | In pit Tailings Storage Facility Management Plan | |
| | Existing Commitments - draft EIS | | |

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| 527 | | | The surface water from all receiving and holding dams on ML50170 and ML 50216 will be monitored regularly to ensure their operation is not causing unauthorised environmental harm either on or off-lease. Surface water will be managed upstream of the ITSFs to ensure runoff into the ITSFs is minimised through the use of water diversion bunds and drainage channels. A detailed Water Resource Management Plan for the revised Project is provided in Appendix J.4. Water levels within the ITSFs will be managed via the maximisation of water recycling from the ITSFs to the CHPP. The rupture of a pipe transporting reclaimed tailings water to the CHPPs will be dealt with under current spill procedures. |
| 528 | | | The location of the ITSFs below surface level reduces the impacts of dust generated by exposed tailings to the environment. In the event that exposed tailings do become a source of excessive dust, the following strategies will be applied on an 'as required' basis:<br>• If operationally possible, additional water is applied to exposed tailings surface via spraying or flooding.<br>• Disturbance of the exposed tailings surface is kept to a minimum.<br>• If operationally possible, the exposed tailings surface will be armoured with moist coarse rejects.<br>• Rehabilitation activities will be commenced as early as operationally possible.<br>• If necessary, the use of suitable alternate dust mitigation measures (e.g. chemical surfactants and foggers) will be investigated. |
| 529 | | | Table 6-1, Table 6-2 and Table 6-3 present the statutory, operational and environmental monitoring and reporting requirements for the operation and management of the ITSFs. Rehabilitation monitoring will be incorporated into future updates of the ITSF Management Plan as it becomes an applicable issue for the ITSFs. |
| 530 | | | The main statutory reporting requirement for the ITSFs is an annual regulated dam inspection of the ITSFs which includes the assessment of the general condition and integrity of the embankment walls, review of Design Storage Allowance (DSA) and Mandatory Reporting Level (MRL). The inspection will be undertaken by a suitable qualified Registered Professional Engineer on or about 1 October but prior to the 1 November. The inspection will be reported to the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP) within 28 days of the inspection. NAC's Technical Services Superintendent is responsible for ensuring compliance with this requirement. |
| 531 | | | Monitoring and reporting records will be kept for general DEHP inspections and requests for information as required under the revised Projects EA. NAC's Environmental Officer is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep if all monitoring records. Appendix A of this Management Plan outlines the In-Pit Tailings Monthly Inspection Field Sheet. |
| 532 | | | A separate plan will be developed that will outline the decommissioning and rehabilitation works to be undertaken for ITSFs. Timing for the completion of all decommissioning works will be influenced by the rate of tailings dewatering and tailings placement objectives. |
| 533 | | | Rehabilitation of the disturbance area of ITSFs will be appropriately costed and incorporated into the financial assurance and Schedule of Rehabilitation of NAC's Plan of Operations. The rehabilitation costs for the ITSFs will be a third party cost sourced from quotes provided by external contractors.<br>In summary, future rehabilitation activities will include:<br>• a suitable period for desiccation for the deposited tailings;<br>• capping of the tailings area with a minimum one meter thick layer of course rejects to provide an impermeable cap above the tailings. The rejects will be dumped and pushed with low ground pressure dozers at a rate that prevents tailings bow waves and provides a smooth consistent cap;<br>• placement of a layer of inert spoil above the rejects layer to provide a further seal above the tailings and allow integration into the surrounding topography.<br>• final contouring of the covering spoil into the surrounding topography to improve drainage and visual amenity and meet slope stability requirements;<br>• establishment of drainage structures to ensure free drainage off the capped ITSFs;<br>• topsoiling and seeding with appropriate native and exotic pasture species; and<br>• ongoing monitoring of rehabilitation to determine success in terms of erosion, stability, groundcover, sustainability and crust penetration. |
| 534 | | | NAC will continue to investigate alternative rehabilitation strategies for the ITSFs and consult with the DEHP if any new methods are proposed. Other beneficial uses for the tailings will be explored in consultation with the DEHP. |
| 535 | | | NAC will maintain responsibility for the ITSFs and will be unable to surrender the EA, Mining Leases, or recover the deposited financial assurance until the ITSFs have been appropriately rehabilitated and the DEHP has accepted the Final Rehabilitation Report (FRR) and Environmental Audit Statement (EAS). The FRR and EAS will include a summary of how NAC has met the conditions of its EA over the life of the mine, the relevant environmental monitoring activities, and evidence of demonstrated rehabilitation success. |
| | Additional Commitmnets - AEIS | | |
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| | Appendix J.2 | FINAL LAND USE AND REHABILITATION PLAN | |
| | Existing Commitments - draft EIS | | |
| 536 | | | Rehabilitation strategies for the Mine and revised Project will include all areas of disturbance and will be reviewed on a regular basis in order to take into account any changes to mine operations, changes in legislative requirements, results of on-going studies and monitoring and/or through the introduction of future innovations in rehabilitation techniques. |
| 537 | | | The overriding principle for the rehabilitation program at the Mine and revised Project is that the land should be returned to a post-mine land use that will be stable, self-sustaining and will only require maintenance commensurate with the proposed final land use. The post-mine land use for areas disturbed by mining at the Mine and revised Project will be a self-sustaining vegetation community using appropriate pasture (exotic) and native grasses and scattered plantings of native tree and shrub species. The attainment of this land use will stabilise the landform, protect the downstream water quality and ensure an economic level of pastoral production is achieved by the Acland Pastoral Company (APC) post mining. |
| 538 | | | The rehabilitation strategies for each of the four main disturbance domains of solid waste disposal areas (spoil, waste dumps, reject dumps), tailings dams, mine infrastructure areas and linear infrastructure for the Mine and revised Project sites are summarised in Table 4-1. The rehabilitation acceptance criteria proposed later in the report relates to all four domains as they are classified as "disturbed by mining" and will receive the same rehabilitation treatment. For example, tailings emplacements will be capped with mine spoil then, topsoiled and seeded. Once the tailings areas are capped with mine spoil they will receive a similar treatment to other areas of mine spoil/waste dumps etc.. Mine and linear infrastructure areas will generally not require spoil placement or capping but receive topsoil and seeding treatments similar to the solid waste disposal and capped tailings dams. |
| 539 | | | Stable landforms will continue to be progressively established as part of the mining process using integrated mine planning and proven earthmoving techniques. The final slopes will be engineered to ensure geotechnical stability and designed to incorporate the required water management structures to manage storm runoff. Established topsoil and revegetation techniques will be applied to create a self-sustaining vegetation community cable of supporting grazing. A regular monitoring regime and grazing trial program will be implemented to demonstrate rehabilitation success, guide maintenance activities and to develop a long term management regime. |
| 540 | | | The Mine's proposed final voids will be backfilled by the existing mining operations or progression of the revised Project. The Central Pit's waste rock material will backfill the North Pit's final void. The Centre Pit's final void will be backfilled by tailings from the CHPP. While the South Pit's final void will be backfilled with waste rock material from the revised Project's Manning Vale East Pit and coarse rejects from the CHPP. |
| 541 | | | The revised Project's final voids will be reshaped to depressed landforms to ensure they can support the proposed final land use of grazing. NAC has produced a Final Landform Technical Report (SKM 2013) that outlines the methodology behind the development of the depressed landforms. The Final Landform Management Report (SKM 2013) is provided as an Appendix for the New Acland Coal Mine Stage 3 Project – Environmental Impact Statement (SKM 2013). |
| 542 | | | The revised Project's out-of-pit dumps (elevated landforms) will be rehabilitated using 10 m lifts on external dump faces, with a maximum working dump lift height of 30 m. Each new out-of-pit dump will be recontoured from angle of repose slopes to a range of 8.5 degrees to 17 degrees (15% to 30%) depending on operational circumstances. The Final Landform Technical Report (SKM 2013) provides further details on the rehabilitation of out-of-pit dumps (elevated landforms). |
| 543 | | | NAC manages the operation and rehabilitation of its in-pit and out-of-pit TSFs via specific management plans and is required to report annually on the performance of these structures to the Regulatory Authority until they are rehabilitated. In general, these structures are capped with a benign material, topsoiled and seeded with native pasture (exotic) grass species. As a contaminated land requirement, these structures are registered on the Environmental Management Register (EMR) under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 and will require a long term site-based management plan at the time of mine closure. |
| 544 | | | Contour banks are constructed after final profiling of the final landforms to control rainfall run off. The contour banks are designed and constructed to reduce slope length. Run off is conveyed along the contour banks to a rock lined waterway or onto natural ground, and then to a sediment dam. Surface run off from all disturbed areas will pass through sediment dams to reduce the levels of suspended solids. The sediment dams normally discharge to an environmental dam before eventual discharge off site. Water in the environmental dams is recycled to minimise the potential for off-site discharge. |

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| 545 | | | NAC's rehabilitation strategy relies on the progressive rehabilitation of areas disturbed by mining using a range of proven techniques that include:<br>• appropriate pre-disturbance preparation, such as a topsoil management plan and integrated mine planning to efficiently coordinate mining activities;<br>• implementation of practical landform designs to prevent erosion and establish long term geotechnical stability;<br>• identification of an appropriate post-mine land use consistent with local environmental constraints;<br>• avoiding the placement of sodic/dispersive materials near the surface of the dumps or within the plant root zone;<br>• appropriate management of the final TSF waste, including capping with benign waste rock, revegetation to form a stable cover to resist erosion and establishment of a long term site based management plan;<br>• revegetation trials for selection of appropriate revegetation species and methodologies and development of a long term management regime;<br>• progressive rehabilitation of disturbed areas using appropriate rehabilitation procedures;<br>• a rehabilitation monitoring program to assess rehabilitation success against accepted performance indicators; and<br>• a corrective action program to address areas of substandard rehabilitation. |
| 546 | | | A progressive rehabilitation program will continue to be implemented for the Mine and revised Project and will be administered by each Plan of Operations. Progressive rehabilitation will commence as soon as possible when areas become available within the operational land.<br>The main features of the progressive rehabilitation process are:<br>• construction of waste dumps in 10 m lifts on external dump faces, with a maximum working dump lift height of 30 m;<br>• development of a stable slope design that incorporates appropriate water management structures (e.g. contour banks, etc.);<br>• use of suitable topsoil, which will either be stockpiled until recontoured areas are available or respread immediately across available recontoured areas;<br>• contour ripping to water promote infiltration and minimise run off;<br>• seeding with an appropriate seed mix (grass, shrub and tree species) prior to the commencement of the wet season to maximise the benefits of subsequent rainfall;<br>• application of appropriate fertiliser or other soil ameliorants for plant establishment if required; and<br>• the battering down of final void slopes to create depressed landforms that can safely support the proposed final land use. |
| 547 | | | NAC has developed a Topsoil Management Plan (SKM 2013) for the Mine's and revised Project's topsoil management to ensure leading practice in this critical aspect of rehabilitation. The Topsoil Management Plan (SKM 2013) is administered and implemented as a key component of the FLURP, and is provided as an Appendix to the New Acland Coal Mine Stage 3 Project – Environmental Impact Statement (SKM 2013). |
| 548 | | | In general, suitable topsoil will be stripped from each of the Mine's and revised Project's new disturbance areas for subsequent use in the rehabilitation program. The topsoil will be stripped as defined by the soil surveys and will either be stockpiled until suitable re-contoured areas are available for rehabilitation purposes or directly returned immediately across the areas to be rehabilitated. The topsoil resources present are more than adequate for the rehabilitation of the waste rock dumps and other disturbed areas. |
| 549 | | | NAC's revegetation methods for all types of mine disturbed land normally consist of the following practices:<br>• respreading stockpiled or freshly stripped topsoil;<br>• contour ripping;<br>• application of appropriate fertiliser for plant establishment, after soil chemical analysis, if required;<br>• seeding with an appropriate seed mix. |
| 550 | | | Rehabilitated areas will be monitored in order to identify any areas in need of maintenance. Rehabilitated areas that have not achieved the designated acceptance criteria will be repaired. |
| 551 | | | Supplementary plantings or seeding may be used to increase species diversity and/or groundcover. Maintenance work will be performed to repair any areas exhibiting excessive soil erosion. If problem areas occur, they will be investigated to determine the reason for substandard rehabilitation and to identify appropriate methods for repair. |
| 552 | | | A Life of Mine (LoM) Plan has been developed for New Acland Coal Mine (including the revised Project). This LoM Plan helps to inform the mine closure planning process and establishes a basis for final landform design and management. The LoM Plan will be continuously revised based on economic, geological and engineering factors. In addition, this LoM Plan will be used to guide the day-to-day operational activities (i.e. to guide medium and short term mine planning). As a result of this continuous planning process a competent Mine Closure Plan will be prepared towards the end of the revised Project's life. This approach is consistent with industry leading practice. |
| 553 | | | A Mine Closure Plan will be submitted to the Regulatory Authority at least five years prior to the proposed surrender of New Acland Coal Mine's environmental authority and associated mining tenure. The implementation of the Mine Closure Plan will be through the Plan of Operations. |
| 554 | | | On the completion of mining activities, infrastructure will be treated as follows:<br>• mine roads will be left behind for use as farm roads or if not required, rehabilitated;<br>• water dams will remain if required by the relevant landowner and approved by regulators, otherwise, they will be rehabilitated;<br>• buildings, plant and equipment will be removed and the surface rehabilitated, including the CHPP, workshop, offices, storage tanks and material handling facility and train loadout facility;<br>• concrete pads will be covered with benign waste rock, topsoiled and revegetated or removed and disposed to the nearest landfill;<br>• contaminated land management will be completed as required under the Environmental Protection Act 1994;<br>• all TSFs will possess a competent final cover system; and<br>• the final voids remaining at the end of the mine life will be battered down to form depressed landforms to support the proposed final land use. |
| 555 | | | A Final Rehabilitation Report and Environmental Audit Statement will be produced as a statutory requirement of the surrender process for environmental authorities and their associated mining tenures. |
| 556 | | | Cumulative indicative rehabilitation targets are given in Table 4-3. Scheduling and reporting of rehabilitation is outlined in each Plan of Operations. Changes and updates to the mine plan and rehabilitation schedule will be made through the Plan of Operations process. |
| 557 | | | Table 6-1 and Table 6-2 illustrate the proposed rehabilitation acceptance criteria for all areas disturbed by mining. The acceptance criteria does not apply to conservation zone areas within the Mine and revised Project as these are covered separately in the Conservation Zone Management Plan (SKM 2013), which is provided as an Appendix of the New Acland Coal Mine Stage 3 Project – Environmental Impact Statement (SKM 2013). |
| 558 | | | At the commencement of rehabilitation works in a new area, permanent photograph points will be established and delineated with a star picket or similar. The geographic location and bearing of the photograph should be recorded using GPS. This point will form the start of a permanent monitoring site. This will be an on-going process over the life of the Mine and revised Project. |
| 559 | | | An Annual Rehabilitation Report will be submitted to the Regulatory Authority with each Annual Return. This report will be qualitative and comprise a pictorial display of new rehabilitation areas and any significant rehabilitation events over the 12 months in older rehabilitation areas. The Annual Rehabilitation Report will include the following:<br>1) a summary description of visual monitoring for active rill/gully erosion within the first 12 months after seeding and after heavy rainfall events;<br>2) photographs of the new rehabilitation areas from permanent photographic points;<br>3) a summary record of treatments used, including seeding rates, soil treatment, topsoil source; and<br>4) a summary description of any failure of rehabilitation works and maintenance conducted or proposed to be conducted for these areas. |
| 560 | | | Formal revegetation monitoring will be conducted by a competent person and will occur every two years. New rehabilitation areas will be added as necessary (i.e. dependant on establishment success which may be affected by rainfall, seedling establishment and other seasonal factors). This formal monitoring regime will apply to Mine areas and the revised Project from adoption of this FLURP (i.e. following replacement of the Mine's previous FLURP), and will continue until all rehabilitation works are deemed successful at New Acland Coal Mine for surrender of the associate mining tenure. |

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| 561 | | | It is proposed that rehabilitation will be monitored every two years until success has been achieved. During this monitoring the revegetation will be compared against the success criteria proposed in Table 6-1 (general grazing areas) and Table 6-2 (treed areas within grazing areas). The following information will be collected for rehabilitation areas during the biennial monitoring visits:<br>1) photographs of existing and new rehabilitation areas from permanent photographic points;<br>2) record to treatments used for each new rehabilitation, including seeding rates, soil treatment, topsoil source;<br>3) botanical description of the rehabilitation area, including percentage cover and species diversity;<br>4) selective measurement of ESP, CEC and RZS;<br>5) presence and abundance of weed species;<br>6) landform monitoring, including slope angle, contour bank spacing, waterways, presence/absence of active rill/gully erosion; and<br>7) any failure of rehabilitation works and maintenance conducted or proposed to be conducted for these area. |
| 562 | | | To enhance the ecological outcomes of the Mine and revised Project and to address Commonwealth and State statutory requirements, NAC has committed to the implementation and management of a number protected ecological areas that will form part of the final land use for the former mined and surrounding lands. These matters are managed separate of the FLURP and are briefly summarised in Sections 8.2 to 8.5. |
| | Additional Commitmnets - AEIS | | |
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| | Appendix J.3 | TOPSOIL MANAGEMENT PLAN | |
| | Existing Commitments - draft EIS | | |
| 563 | | | Topsoil material resource assessments will be carried out in advance of mining to confirm the accuracy of the pre-mine topsoil survey data. These assessments may include:<br>• topsoil depth confirmation;<br>• possible additional chemical analysis to confirm suitability (pH, EC, Cl-, CEC and Cations), particularly around soil type boundaries or where variation is suspected in relation to the original soil survey;<br>• dispersion characteristics for erosion potential; and<br>• review of existing soils data and experience gained in topsoil recovery of adjacent mining areas. |
| 564 | | | NAC has prepared a Standard Work Procedure to define the topsoil stripping process for the revised Project. This is located in Appendix A. |
| 565 | | | A general protocol for soil handling during topsoil stripping is presented below and includes soil handling measures which optimise the retention of soil characteristics (in terms of nutrients and micro-organisms) favourable to plant growth and propagules for natural regeneration (e.g. seed banks).<br>• Topsoil will be recovered using appropriate equipment. Depending on compaction and recovery rates, deep ripping may be required to maximise topsoil recovery with care taken not to mix topsoil with sodic subsoil.<br>• During the stripping process there may be some unexpected changes in the depth and the nature of the soil. Where practical the inclusion of obviously poorer quality material will be avoided such as subsoil clay with mottles, saline material and material dominated with stones. Proposed pre-stripping assessments will help manage unexpected topsoil changes.<br>• It is preferable for material to be stripped when it is in a lightly moist condition; soil is slightly moist when colour is darker than when it is dry and the soil cannot be rolled by hand into a bolus.<br>• Contractors bringing machinery onto the site will be required to present such machinery in a weed-free condition. Advice regarding local weed species should be obtained from the local government or the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.<br>• Disturbance areas will be stripped progressively, as required, in order to reduce erosion and sediment generation, to reduce the extent of topsoil stockpiles and to utilise stripped topsoil as soon as possible for rehabilitation. Rehabilitation of disturbed areas, such as roads, embankments and batters, will be undertaken as soon as practicable after these structures are completed or as areas are no longer required for operational purposes. |
| 566 | | | Stockpile locations will be subject to the following management actions.<br>• Grazing stock, machinery and vehicles will be excluded.<br>• Overland water flow onto or across stockpile site will be kept to a practical minimum.<br>• Where possible, stockpile sites will be selected to maximise protection from `the prevailing winds, particularly if the material is friable in nature (e.g. sand or silt). Establishing stockpiles within a buffer treed zone or in the lee of hills, may be appropriate for these circumstances.<br>• All long-term topsoil material stockpiles will be located outside the active mine path and away from drainage lines.<br>• Drainage from higher areas will be diverted around stockpile areas to prevent erosion.<br>• As required, sediment controls will be installed downstream of stockpile areas to collect any run-off.<br>• Topsoil stockpile locations will be strategically located to assist the sequence of future rehabilitation. |
| 567 | | | Separate stockpiles for topsoil and subsoil will be formed in low mounds of minimum height (3 m maximum) and maximum flat surface area, consistent with the storage area available. Stockpiling using a greater number of low (<2 m high) mounds, rather than a few high spoil-type dumps, is preferable. Long term stockpiles will be revegetated to minimise loss of soil quality. Rrevegetating stockpiles will minimise weed infestation, maintain soil organic matter levels, maintain soil structure and microbial activity and maximise the vegetative cover of the stockpile. |
| 568 | | | Stockpiles to be retained for a period greater than six months will be sown with a cover crop if a natural vegetative cover does not establish. Topsoil stockpiles will be clearly signposted for easy identification and to avoid any inadvertent losses. The establishment of declared plants on the stockpiles will also be monitored and control programs implemented as required. |
| 569 | | | In general, topsoil stockpiles will be managed so that:<br>• storage time is minimised;<br>• Sodosols will be stockpiled separately (if they are to be used in rehabilitation);<br>• locations are accurately surveyed and data is recorded relating to the soil type and volume;<br>• stockpiles are located outside proposed mine disturbance areas and outside of the Lagoon Creek floodplain;<br>• stockpiles are located in areas away from drainage lines or windy areas in order to minimise the risk of soil and wind erosion;<br>• stockpile surfaces are seeded (if natural revegetation does not provide adequate cover);<br>• good vegetative cover will be maintained on stockpiles and on top-dressed areas until ground cover is well established by excluding stock and controlling weed growth;<br>• appropriate weed control strategies are implemented particularly for any noxious weeds (Immediate revegetation will provide vegetative competition to assist with the control of undesirable plant species.);<br>• where practical and applicable, stockpiles will have sediment control measures installed and be located within the catchment of sediment control dams;<br>• stockpiles are delineated to avoid vehicle and pedestrian traffic and accidental removal/disturbance; and<br>• topsoil stockpiles possess a suitable embankment grade to limit the potential for erosion of the outer pile face. |
| 570 | | | Progressive rehabilitation will be undertaken to stabilise disturbed areas as quickly as practical and to limit erosion. Erosion and sediment control measures will be employed, which are consistent with the practices described in DME (1995). |
| 571 | | | The design parameters for the construction of erosion control work such as rock armoured or grass lined waterways will be in accordance with established principles for engineering and soil conservation earthworks. A number of variables must be considered, such as time of concentration, rainfall intensity, erosivity, gradient, scour velocities and flow estimations. |
| 572 | | | The erosion control options that may be employed throughout the life of the revised Project are summarised in Table 5-2. |
| 573 | | | A progressive rehabilitation program will be implemented throughout the life of the revised Project and reported in each Plan of Operations, and will commence when areas become available within the operational land.<br>The main features of the progressive rehabilitation process are:<br>• use of suitable topsoil, sourced either from stockpiles or respread immediately after stripping across available recontoured areas;<br>• contour ripping as an erosion control measure;<br>• seeding with an appropriate seed mix (grass, shrub and tree species) prior to the commencement of the wet season to maximise the benefits of subsequent rainfall;<br>• application of appropriate fertiliser for plant establishment if required; and<br>• application of gypsum if required. |

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| 574 | | | The volume of growth media material available will be reconciled with the estimated volume needed for successful rehabilitation. The application procedure is essentially the reverse of the stripping procedure. First, the overburden materials will be profiled or landformed to the design slopes, then if suitable, secondary media (subsoil) should be placed in position, followed by the primary media (topsoil). |
| 575 | | | The mine rehabilitation strategy may include the following measures which are designed to minimise the loss of topsoil material respread on rehabilitated areas and promote successful vegetation establishment.<br>• Balance the topsoil requirement for rehabilitation areas against stored stockpile inventories and proposed stripping volumes.<br>• Maximise the opportunities for direct placement of topsoil from pre-strip to rehabilitation areas.<br>• Minimise the length of time that topsoil material is to be stockpiled.<br>• During removal of soils from the stockpiles, take care to minimise structural degradation of the soils.<br>• Respread topsoil material in even layers at a thickness appropriate for the landform and land capability of the area to be rehabilitated.<br>• Use gypsum to stabilise sodic soil.<br>• Contour rip to encourage rainfall infiltration and minimise run-off.<br>• Soon after respreading, seed with sterile cover crops and pasture grasses and/or native tree species to establish revegetation cover as early as possible.<br>• Construct contour banks in accordance with the applicable landform design criteria to limit slope lengths and control run-off.<br>• Construct collection drains and sedimentation dams to collect run-off and remove suspended sediment.<br>• Regularly inspect and maintain rehabilitation areas to facilitate sediment and erosion control and revegetation success.<br>• Rehabilitation areas of returned topsoil will be ripped, with care taken not to bring subsurface materials to the surface (e.g. large rocks). Ripping should only be sufficient to allow equipment to work efficiently. Ripping along slopes should be along contour.<br>• Regularly inspect rehabilitated areas for declared plants and environmental weeds, and control significant weed outbreaks using chemical or mechanical control methods.<br>• Apply appropriate fire, grazing, and hygiene management procedures.<br>• Continue to implement the SOP to ensure topsoil application is conducted in a consistent manner to ensure rehabilitation success. |
| 576 | | | In general, stable landforms will be established following mining, using soils capable of supporting vegetation communities adapted to the local environment. The stability of the post-mine landform will be achieved by applying sound rehabilitation practices. The disturbed land will be rehabilitated to a condition that is self-sustaining or to a condition where the maintenance requirements are consistent with the proposed post mining land use. |
| 577 | | | In addition, NAC will trial the return of selected rehabilitation areas within the revised Project site to dryland cropping. Topsoil management, drainage and slope conditions will be critical factors for the promotion of a successful outcome. NAC will engage a suitable academic institution to ensure an appropriate level of scientific rigour is applied to the trial process. |
| 578 | | | The effectiveness of the topsoil management practices outlined in this TMP will be assessed regularly in conjunction with overall rehabilitation assessments. |
| 579 | | | The TMP is to be reviewed at least every five years or as otherwise directed by NAC's management in consultation with the relevant government agencies. The review will reflect changes in environmental requirements, technology and operational procedures. The review will include soil depths, topsoil stockpiling locations and topsoil budgets for the proposed mining period. |
| 580 | | | Results of the assessments will be incorporated into future rehabilitation planning to continually improve the success of the program. The performance outcomes for the TMP are:<br>• soil survey is conducted prior to stripping;<br>• soil stripping is scheduled to minimise exposed areas;<br>• soil material suitable for reuse is recovered and utilised in an appropriate manner; and<br>• procedures are in place detailing methods to be used for the stripping and stockpiling of soils. |
| | Additional Commitmnets - AEIS | | |
| | | | NA |
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| | J.4 | WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN | |
| | Existing Commitments - draft EIS | | |
| 581 | | | All of the storages will be subject to a risk assessment as outlined in the 'Manual for Assessing Hazard Categories and Hydraulic Performance of Dams' (DERM, 2012). |
| 582 | | | All regulated storages will be inspected annually by a suitability qualified and experienced person for their structural, geotechnical and hydraulic adequacy and the results of the assessment reported to DNRM. Maintenance of pumps is the responsibility of the Maintenance Department, who will provide 24-hour support across the site, this will include a 250-hour interval time on all pump maintenance, stepped in complexity and thoroughness as the pump accumulates hours. |
| 583 | | | The revised Project will include flood defences in the form of levees for Lagoon Creek. All flood defences will have annual inspections after each wet season and significant flow event. Levees will not be to be altered or interfered with unless there has been thorough consultation with a professional engineer. |
| 584 | | | The NHG will also monitor 3 month rainfall outlooks provided by the BoM to manage the risk of high to extreme rainfall events. |
| 585 | | | Drought planning will involve monitoring and review of existing water use. Monitoring of existing water uses and analysis of the data will allow inefficiencies in the system to be identified and targeted for reduction in forward planning. |
| 586 | | | The NHG's Emergency Response Manual includes a section on actions to be taken in response to an environmental emergency. The discharge of water from the water management structures are included as an individual issue with specific requirements outlined in the Emergency Response Manual, which will be reviewed and updated as required. The NHG's emergency response plans also include incident reporting. These plans will be updated to incorporate risks specific to the revised Project. |
| 587 | | | This WRMP will be reviewed every 12 months prior to the end of September and after any event involving the uncontrolled release of water to the environment. The review will consider any updates to the system, predictions from the water balance model and any changes to regulatory or licensing conditions. |
| 588 | | | Monitoring of performance will involve the testing and gauging of a number of different systems. Monitoring programs will be in place and documented for the following areas:<br>• dam safety inspections;<br>• water quality monitoring;<br>• groundwater monitoring;<br>• dam level monitoring;<br>• water use gauging;<br>• levee audit and safety assessment; and<br>• Lagoon Creek channel stability. |
| 589 | | | The revised Project's EM Plan will outline monitoring locations, methods and frequency to ensure consistency across the revised Project's life of mine. The monitoring program will be designed to.<br>• ensuring compliance with the EA and water licences;<br>• ensuring that no unacceptable impacts to surface and groundwater systems are occurring as a result of activities;<br>• ensuring that any regulatory non-compliance is detected and managed in accordance with procedures and regulatory requirements;<br>• support operational control and update on-site water balances and off-site catchment models;<br>• assess current and cumulative impacts of on the environment;<br>• meet corporate and regulatory reporting requirements;<br>• maintain safety and environmental inspection procedures, including the verification of identified hazards and compliance with licence conditions, for all licensed water control facilities; and<br>• in addition to the monitoring program, a monthly report will be compiled to compare actual site water usage to target water usage and describe mine water storage levels and volumes. The report will be used to:<br>• forecast mine water storage volumes and evaluate quality of mine site water and water not affected by mining against water quality criteria;<br>• review the site water balance; and<br>• identify any anomalies in data and recommended action items. |

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| 590 | | | Strategies for improvement in water use will form a mandatory part of the water balance review. Water usage targets will be established and progress against these targets will be monitored. The revised Project will be operated according to a series of documented procedures - Safe Operating Procedures (SOPs). The SOPs relating to the water management system are:<br>• surface water management;<br>• monitoring and reporting;<br>• regulated dam management;<br>• levee management;<br>• water storages management;<br>• water usage and release;<br>• collecting water and groundwater monitoring data;<br>• operation and maintenance of sediment dams, environment dams and sumps; and<br>• groundwater management and reporting. |
| | Additional Commitmnets - AEIS | | |
| | | | NA |
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| | Appendix H AEIS | Revised GMIMP | |
| 591 | | | Baselines have been defined for monitoring bores associated with the groundwater monitoring program for existing operations at New Acland Coal Mine. Long term monitoring of bores for the expanded groundwater monitoring program which covers the revised Project will be undertaken to establish bore-specific groundwater level and quality baselines. The Life of Mine Plan will allow sufficient time for parameter baselines to be established in advance of any potential impacts from mining across the revised Project area. |
| 592 | | | The groundwater monitoring program for the revised Project combines the current monitoring program for the existing Mine with an extended network of monitoring bores enclosing the revised Project area. Data collected from the groundwater monitoring program will:<br>• be operated in accordance with the revised Project's approved EA;<br>• be collated into six monthly and annual reviews of groundwater monitoring;<br>• be used in the continued development and refinement of groundwater impact assessment criteria and investigation triggers;<br>• enable verification and refinement of the groundwater modelling predictions presented in the revised Project's AEIS (Jacobs SKM 2014); and<br>• be collated into a database that will be made available to the administering authority on request. |
| 593 | | | The groundwater monitoring program conforms to Conditions C21 to C33 of the current EA EMPL00335713 for New Acland Coal Mine. Table 3-1 summarises the bores that will be monitored, monitoring parameters, and frequency. The groundwater monitoring program combines the existing monitoring bores together with an additional 15 bores that have been installed around the revised Project area. In addition, a further 15 bores will be added to the monitoring network which brings the total number of bores included in the groundwater monitoring program to 45. Proposed additional monitoring bore locations have been chosen based on model drawdown predictions and presence of aquifers and receptors of interest. The monitoring program for new bores will be established prior to the commencement of the revised Project's mining schedule to ensure there is sufficient baseline information on groundwater levels and quality for those bores. |
| 594 | | | The locations of the monitoring bores in Table 3-1 are presented in Figure 3-1. The final location of the proposed additional bores may vary slightly depending on land access and proximity to local groundwater users. These bores will be individually identified in accordance with the bore naming convention at the revised Project site. |
| 595 | | | The existing Mine EA reference bores (BMH1 and CSMH1) are located within the predicted zone of groundwater drawdown from operation of the revised Project. NAC will accordingly re-assess the location of these reference bores and if necessary install new reference bores outside the revised Project's predicted zone of groundwater drawdown. |
| 596 | | | The groundwater monitoring network will:<br>• be installed and maintained by a person possessing appropriate qualifications and experience in the fields of hydrogeology and groundwater monitoring program design to be able to competently make recommendations about these matters;<br>• be constructed in accordance with methods prescribed in the latest edition of "Minimum Construction Requirements for Water Bores in Australia" (National Uniform Drillers Licensing Committee, 2012) by an appropriately qualified driller; and<br>• include a sufficient number of 'bores of compliance' that are located at an appropriate distance from potential sources of impact from mining activities and provide the following:<br>• representative groundwater samples from the uppermost aquifer;<br>• background water quality in hydraulically up-gradient or background bore(s) that have not been affected by any mining activities conducted by NAC; and<br>• the quality of groundwater down gradient of potential sources of contamination including groundwater passing the relevant bore(s) of compliance. |
| 597 | | | Groundwater monitoring will be undertaken by appropriately qualified personnel. Groundwater level measurements, sample collection, storage and transportation will be undertaken in accordance with procedures conforming to the current industry standard: AS/NZS 5667.1, .11 1998. |
| 598 | | | The data gathered from the groundwater monitoring program will be collated into a database which will include:<br>• a site plan showing sample locations;<br>• tabulated results of the monitoring compared with applicable background/trigger levels;<br>• all data collected during each monitoring round;<br>• a record of chain of custody of the samples from sampling through to analysis;<br>• laboratory analysis certificates;<br>• groundwater monitoring program reports, and<br>• a description of the procedures, methods and calculations used. |
| 599 | | | Groundwater sample analysis will continue to be undertaken by a laboratory accredited by the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA). Field measurement of water quality parameters is undertaken using appropriate field equipment that is maintained and calibrated in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. |
| 600 | | | • The nearest alluvium with significant groundwater supplies is associated with Oakey Creek in the south-west of the revised Project site. A new monitoring bore installed at location 5A (Figure 3 1) will monitor groundwater levels and quality in the Oakey Creek Alluvium. Groundwater levels in the coal measures between the active mine pits and the Oakey Creek Alluvium will be monitored at bores 119PGC and 116P and directly beneath the alluvium at Location 5B. |
| 601 | | | • Eight basalt bores will be monitored, including five new bores strategically located in areas of predicted drawdown and/or sensitive receptors (Figure 3 1). Groundwater levels will be monitored on a monthly basis and samples will be collected and submitted for the analytical suite set out in Table 3 1 every six months. |
| 602 | | | • The groundwater monitoring program includes 22 coal measures bores of which seven are new, strategically located in areas of predicted drawdown and/or sensitive receptors (Table 3 1 and Figure 3 1). Groundwater levels will be monitored on a monthly basis and samples will be collected and submitted for the analytical suite set out in<br>Table 3 1 every six months. |
| 603 | | | The Mine currently abstracts groundwater from the Marburg Sandstone aquifer for the purpose of coal washing. NAC currently possesses an allocation of 271 ML/year for this aquifer. For the revised Project's future operation, abstraction from the Marburg Sandstone aquifer will range around 10 ML/year for maintenance purposes. 2 new groundwater monitoring bores will be installed in the southwest and southeast of the revised Project site, to monitor this aquifer and confirm predictions of minimal impacts. The locations of these bores have been strategically chosen in areas of predicted drawdown and/or sensitive receptors, and in conjunction with other shallower monitoring bores to allow assessment and confirmation of vertical gradients and hydraulic separation between the overlying aquifers. |
| 604 | | | NAC will undertake a landholder bore assessment program to characterise each and every private bore predicted to be impacted by operation of the revised Project. This will include those bores that are currently within the maximum extent of predicted drawdown (for the Walloon Coal Measures with a 1 m cutoff) but that currently do not have a source aquifer assigned in the DNRM registered bore database, so that groundwater drawdown predictions can be made for these 'unknown aquifer' bores during the first groundwater model update (see Table 3-2). |
| 605 | | | Groundwater monitoring will be undertaken for the revised Project in accordance with the groundwater monitoring program. Impact assessment criteria for groundwater levels and quality, where not already established, will be developed using statistical analysis of the baseline data and the predicted effects presented in the revised Project's AEIS (Jacobs SKM 2014). |

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| 606 | | | In the event that a formal groundwater investigation conclusively identifies that the revised Project's mining operations have adversely impacted a neighbouring groundwater user (affected groundwater user), NAC will attempt in 'good faith' to negotiate suitable mitigation measures in a timely manner to rectify the identified groundwater problem. NAC may involve an appropriately qualified environmental specialist to assist with development of the mitigation measures. The development of suitable mitigation measures will be based on the outcomes of an appropriate scientific investigation. |
| 607 | | | Possible mitigation measures that may be applied by NAC include:<br>• the refurbishment of an existing groundwater bore;<br>• the installation of a new groundwater bore;<br>• the establishment of an alternative water supply arrangement; and/or<br>• the use of another mutually agreed form of mitigation. |
| 608 | | | NAC will ensure as a minimum that the proposed mitigation measures are acceptable to the affected groundwater user, and if acceptable, will enter into a legal agreement for the installation of the proposed mitigation measures at NAC's expense. NAC will also ensure the proposed mitigation measures are commensurate with the identified groundwater loss. |
| 609 | | | NAC may be required to install interim mitigation measures until the permanent mitigation measures have been developed and installed. As required, NAC will seek agreement with the affected groundwater user and pay all reasonable cost for the use of any interim mitigation measures. |
| 610 | | | If agreement cannot be reached with the affected groundwater user in relation to the proposed mitigation measures, NAC will facilitate some form of legal disputes resolution for the matter. |
| 611 | | | NAC will ensure the administering authority is fully advised about the details and progress of these types of groundwater matters. |
| 612 | | | NAC is committed to rectifying all groundwater problems that are legitimately attributed to the revised Project's mining operations through proper scientific evaluation, in an appropriate timeframe, using accepted and practical mitigation measures, and to the satisfaction of the affected groundwater user. |
| 613 | | | NAC will record the details of the groundwater complaint in the Mine's complaint database (register) and review this information. As required, NAC will re-contact the complainant about the groundwater complaint to obtain all the necessary details to decide the next course of action. Depending on the severity of the groundwater complaint, NAC as a courtesy may also advise the Toowoomba Office of the DEHP about the matter. As required, the New Hope Group's Corporate Environmental Team may assist with management of the groundwater complaint. |
| 614 | | | NAC's investigation of the groundwater complaint is designed to establish the legitimacy of the complaint, and if legitimate, whether the Mine is directly or indirectly responsible for the complaint. If current evidence or further scientific investigation establishes NAC is responsible for the groundwater complaint, NAC will advise the complainant, the Toowoomba Office of the DEHP and follow the mitigation strategy outlined in Section 4.4 of this Plan. If current evidence or further scientific investigation establishes NAC is not responsible for the groundwater complaint, NAC will advise the complainant in a timely manner, and depending on circumstances, the Toowoomba Office of the DEHP. |
| 615 | | | At the cessation of the complaint investigation process, NAC will record all the relevant details about the groundwater complaint in the Mine's complaint database, including all management actions undertaken, the final outcomes of the complaint investigation process, the details of any required follow-up or on-going management actions, and whether the complaint is 'closed off' to the satisfaction of the complainant. NAC maintains the Mine's complaint database for issue analysis, regulatory and audit purposes. |
| 616 | | | Importantly, NAC is committed to working with its near neighbours to resolve genuine issues as they arise in relation to the operation of the Mine. |
| 617 | | | NAC will conduct an annual review of the environmental performance of the revised Project. The annual review will address the performance of the GMIMP and will:<br>• include a comprehensive review of the monitoring results and complaints records for the revised Project over the year, including a comparison of these results against the:<br>• relevant statutory requirements, limits or performance measures/criteria,<br>• monitoring results of previous years, and<br>• relevance to the revised Project's EA;<br>• identify any non-compliance over the last year, and describe what actions were (or are being) taken to ensure compliance;<br>• identify any trends in the monitoring data over the life of the revised Project;<br>• identify any discrepancies between the predicted and actual impacts of the revised Project, and analyse the potential cause of any significant discrepancies (Validate validate model);<br>• describe mitigation measures that have or are being implemented to address breaches of any groundwater impact triggers; and<br>• review the condition and extent of the groundwater monitoring network in the context of meeting its objectives. |
| 618 | | | Over the lifespan of the revised Project (approximately 16 years of working) and the post closure monitoring period, it is inevitable that groundwater monitoring bores will become unserviceable and need to be replaced. NAC will proactively maintain the groundwater monitoring network, replacing bores as necessary, and use the regular review of monitoring data to inform the location of additional monitoring bores, if required. |
| 619 | | | As required, NAC may update or revise the GMIMP based on the outcomes of the annual review process. The DEHP will be consulted in relation to any significant changes to the GMIMP and as necessary will be re-issued any new versions of the document. |
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| | Appendix J.6 | CONSERVATION ZONE MANAGEMENT PLAN | |
| | Existing Commitments - draft EIS | | |
| 620 | | | NAC will concentrate conservation and rehabilitation efforts on selected sections of Lagoon Creek that are contained within the boundaries of the revised Project. NAC will also undertake additional conservation and rehabilitation measures around Bottle Tree Hill. |
| 621 | | | Survey plots to monitor basic indicators will be established and permanently marked in a revegetated site, prior to the commencement of any on-ground works. The same plots will then be surveyed each time the site is monitored. A metal peg or star-picket will be used to permanently mark the location of the 0 m points on each transect and the location of the start and finish points will be recorded using a GPS. |
| 622 | | | Natural regeneration areas will be inspected at approximately six monthly intervals, to determine the extent of weed invasion and natural recruitment, and to assess the requirement for further intervention or management. |
| 623 | | | Revegetation (active seeding/planting) areas will be visually monitored monthly for the first six months (or until the plants are self-sufficient), then annually thereafter until rehabilitation targets are reached for the first 10 years. The qualitative visual monitoring will include the following: presence of active rill/gully erosion and weed species, general assessment of seedling establishment, and any general failure of rehabilitation works. |
| 624 | | | Reference sites and revegetation areas will be quantitatively assessed (including species composition), every 3 years after establishment of the reference sites. |
| 625 | | | If monitoring demonstrates that natural regeneration or revegetation sites along Lagoon Creek or around Bottle Tree Hill are not achieving their designated rehabilitation criteria, NAC will investigate the cause of the negative variance or failure. Based upon the findings of these investigations, NAC will conduct specific maintenance rehabilitation activities to correct or improve the overall performance of the deficient sites, to ensure that the long term objectives of the CZMP are achieved. If required, NAC may also adjust its standard revegetation techniques to correct any identified technical or other failings. |
| 626 | | | General maintenance will involve a range of measures as required, including erosion and sedimentation maintenance, repair of any damaged infrastructure (e.g. fencing, signage, etc.), general weed control, and control of fire fuel loads following good growing seasons. |
| | Additional Commitmnets - AEIS | | |
| | | | NA |
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| | Appendix J.7 | THREATENED SPECIES TRANSLOCATION PLAN | |
| | Existing Commitments - draft EIS | | |
| 627 | | | Translocation of the three threatened species will commence as soon as the SEWPaC approval of the revised Project is received, expected to be in 2014. Starting the planning and site preparation and actual translocation of the plants prior to the commencement of disturbance for the revised Project will increase the chance of success of translocation. The construction of the Manning Vale West pit and Willaroo pit is planned to commence in 2017-2018. As there are at least three years between the anticipated timing of the SEWPaC approval and the planned intended date of construction of the pits, there is time to establish the threatened species in new locations prior to an impact being caused. |
| 628 | | | NAC will provide SEWPaC with a schedule of plant translocations for the revised Project's areas of threatened species prior to the commencement of translocation activities and regularly update the progress of this schedule over the life of the revised Project. The plant translocation process will be progressive to stay well in advance of the revised Project's mine path and to ensure in situ plants for seed and propagule collection should there be in the event of an unexpected failure. |
| 629 | | | Prior to removing tussocks, the translocation sites will be prepared. This will include removing existing groundcover and digging holes or trenches to depths that match the plants' original location. Existing groundcover will be cleared a suitable distance from around each translocation site to reduce completion from weeds and other plants in proximity to the translocation site. |

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| 630 | | | The translocated plants will be watered prior to removal to reduce transplanting shock. The plants will be removed early in the morning to avoid heat stress and will not be moved during periods of high temperature or strong drying winds. Individual tussocks or small groupings of plants, including the root mass and sufficient soil to hold the root system together, will be carefully removed using a spade or a mattock. SKM (2009) reported that Belson's Panic which experienced disturbance to the root mass did not thrive as well in the first three months post translocation. Therefore, care will be taken to minimise root damage during the translocation process. All plants to be translocated will be pruned prior to removal to reduce their potential for loss of moisture by transpiration. |
| 631 | | | The excavated plants will be protected from wind and sun exposure to minimise stress factors during transport from their original location to their translocation site. All excavated plants will be transported from their excavation site to their replanting site under the cover of wet hessian, or a similar cover. The excavated plants will also be lightly sprayed with water to maintain moisture on the leaves, roots and soil. |
| 632 | | | The excavated plants will be placed in the prepared holes or trenches, backfilled with topsoil, and firmed down (gently) in a manner that creates a slight depression to enhance water retention. Mulch will be placed on bare soil to reduce wind erosion and evaporation. |
| 633 | | | The translocated plants will be marked with two stakes and flagging tape for easy identification. |
| 634 | | | All translocated clusters of plants will be watered with approximately 30 litres of water at the time of translocation. |
| 635 | | | A photograph, relevant notes and GPS coordinates will be taken for each translocated cluster of plants. A unique site identification code will also be provided for each translocated cluster of plants. |
| 636 | | | Translocated clusters of plants will be watered twice daily with approximately 10 litres of water per cluster for the first week and once a day with approximately 10 litres of water per cluster for the second week. Watering will then continue as required based on weather conditions and the progress of establishment success. Water will be applied at constant, low rates to allow for infiltration and absorption. Soil characteristics (i.e. dryness, cracking and water logging) will be assessed before each watering use to determine watering requirements. For example, if the soil is showing signs of dryness (i.e. dry, crumbly, cracking) then watering volumes will be increased, and if the soil indicates soil moisture is too high (i.e. waterlogged) then watering volumes will be reduced. |
| 637 | | | As explained in Section 5.2.2, all groundcover vegetation (weeds and other grass species) within a suitable distance around each translocation site will be removed prior to translocation. The groundcover vegetation exclusion zone will be maintained until the translocated plants have become established. Follow-up maintenance activities (weed control) will be conducted as required such as during each watering. |
| 638 | | | Fire beaks will be established around each translocation site and will be slashed prior to commencement of the high fire risk season in July-August, and maintained over the growing season. If required, limited grazing may be carefully applied to these areas to reduce fire fuel loads. Grazing will only be used if plant re-establishment is well advanced. |
| 639 | | | Weekly inspections of the translocated plants will be conducted by the Mine's environmental staff until the translocated plants have become establishment. More regular inspections will be conducted during the initial watering phase of the translocation process. As required, corrective and/or maintenance actions will be undertaken based on the findings of these inspections. |
| 640 | | | A qualified ecologist will conduct regular monitoring at each translocation site, which will include the following actions.<br>• An assessment of soil moisture condition will be made prior to each watering by visual inspection to determine the level of watering needed.<br>• Weekly monitoring of individual tussock ecological health will be undertaken until establishment success is confirmed (i.e. percentage alive or dead, height, evidence of new shots and reproductive status).<br>• A bi-monthly ecological condition assessment of the ground layer consistent with the biocondition method Version 2.1 will be undertaken, including assessment against benchmarks (DERM) 2011. This assessment regime will continue for a minimum of 12 months and until successful establishment of the translocated plants can be scientifically confirmed.<br>• A bi-monthly presence and abundance assessment of exotic plants and declared weeds as listed under the Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002 (LP Act) will be undertaken. This assessment regime will continue for a minimum of 12 months and until successful establishment of the translocated plants can be scientifically confirmed.<br>• A biannual report will be provided to SEWPaC summarising the monitoring completed and any corrective and/or maintenance actions undertaken for the previous six months until successful establishment of the translocated plants can be scientifically confirmed. |
| 641 | | | This risk can be significantly reduced if care is taken with the relocation procedures, adequate follow up watering is applied until new root growth advances, and weed and other grass species competition is prevented. Appropriate management strategies for managing competition from weed and exotic species include:<br>• slashing or brush cutting;<br>• mulching around the establishing plants;<br>• hand weeding; and/or<br>• selective application of appropriate herbicides. |
| 642 | | | If the monitoring program identifies a greater than 20% loss of translocated plants, immediate action will be taken to source and collect seed or other plant propagules from the translocated plants for artificial propagation and re-planting. The progressive nature of the translocation effort over the revised Project's life should ensure that undisturbed areas of the threatened species are available within the revised Project area for seed and plant propagule collection up until the last areas of each species are relocated. |
| 643 | | | Should the translocated plants fail to become established at the translocation site, then practices will be reviewed and corrected as required (including possible updating of this plan). |
| | Additional Commitmnets - AEIS | | |
| 644 | Appendix L | THREATENED SPECIES TRANSLOCATION PLAN | The management of the offset for *Homopholis belsonii* will exclude agricultural activities, limit grazing to the extent that it is used to assist with the management of fire risk, remove weeds and be excluded from mining activities. The translocation sites are on land owned by the New Hope Group.<br>These threats are reflected in the priority actions for the species, as outlined in the conservation advice and these actions are to be undertaken by NAC, as part of the management of the revised Project's impact on the species. Priority actions for the conservation of Homopholis belsonii, as committed to by NAC are:<br>• removing habitat loss, disturbance and modification of habitat;<br>• control of invasive weeds;<br>• management of trampling, browsing and grazing;<br>• awareness raising of the species in the local community; and<br>• encouraging recovery of the species are additional sites. |
| 645 | Appendix L | THREATENED SPECIES TRANSLOCATION PLAN | • Once the plants are established, monitoring will be undertaken every six months, for a period of five years from the translocation of the plants. |
| 646 | Appendix L | THREATENED SPECIES TRANSLOCATION PLAN | The monitoring of translocated threatened species will be undertaken for a period of five years, during which it is expected that the plants will be successfully established. As the weather conditions in the Acland area can be variable, it is intended that monitoring would include a period of low rainfall. NAC will liaise with both DotE and DEHP during the five year monitoring program to discuss the results and reach agreement on the representativeness of the weather conditions that were experienced at the site. In the event that a period of low rainfall is not experienced, NAC will agree with DotE and DEHP on the need to undertake monitoring during a low rainfall period.<br>Once the translocated plants have been successfully established the frequency of monitoring is proposed to be undertaken annually for the life of the offset. Monitoring will record the progress of the plants to reproduce, without management input. |
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| | Appendix J.8 | BLUEGRASS OFFSET MANAGEMENT PLAN | |
| | Existing Commitments - draft EIS | | |
| 647 | | | The New Hope Group (NHG) will provide direct offsets that include the on-ground protection for existing Bluegrass ecological communities via sustainable management objectives and restoration initiatives for adjacent areas. The offset areas will provide connectivity to a State significant biodiversity corridor which occurs adjacent to the revised Project site on land owned and managed by the Acland Pastoral Company (APC), a company established by the NHG. |
| 648 | | | The direct offsets will be supported by site-specific management plans and managed by the APC with a locally-based pastoral manager. To protect the offset areas in perpetuity, a suitable legal protection mechanism will be established over the applicable land parcels (e.g. Queensland nature refuge or covenant). Management objectives for the offset areas aim to implement practices that improve the extent and ecological condition of the Bluegrass ecological community. This approach will be achieved through a combination of fencing, stock management, ecological restoration and maintenance works, weed management, performance monitoring, and general management (e.g. administration). |

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| 649 | | | Translocation sites will be provided and will include protected and fenced off areas for the translocation of threatened species associated with the Bluegrass ecological community that will be impacted by the revised Project. The species are identified as Lobed Blue-grass (Bothriochloa biloba), Belson's Panic (Homopholis belsonii) and Finger Panic Grass (Digitaria porrecta). The management of the translocation of these species is described in the revised Project's Threatened Species Translocation Plan. |
| 650 | | | In addition, prior to the clearance of the identified areas of Bluegrass ecological community to be impacted by the revised Project, significant specimens of the herb and forb species associated with Bluegrass ecological community will be transplanted using the same methodology outlined in the revised Project's Threatened Species Translocation Plan. |
| 651 | | | Upon implementation of the BOMP, the following measures will be implemented within the assisted natural regeneration areas.<br>• These areas will be spelled and weeds controlled using broad leaf herbicide application to avoid impacts on existing native grasses.<br>• While being spelled and after favourable seasonal conditions, these areas will be direct-drilled with seed collected from local Bluegrass ecological community areas or purchased local seed if available.<br>• These areas will be monitored pre- and post-wet season i.e. October and March to ascertain the ecological condition in association with the performance criteria.<br>Once the assisted natural regeneration areas meet the performance criteria for the Bluegrass ecological community they will be managed in accordance with the sustainable grazing areas. |
| 652 | | | Site based action plans will be developed for each Bluegrass rehabilitation area including on-ground biomass reduction of non-native perennials, seed collection, site preparation, planting, monitoring, replanting, weed control and on-going management. Upon acceptance of the BOMP, the following measures will be implemented.<br>• Sites for replanting will be prepared for sowing after initial biomass reduction and weed management.<br>• Seed for replanting will be harvested from areas of known Bluegrass endangered ecological community and/or purchased if available to make up any short falls in seed quantities for sowing activities. Preference will be given to harvesting of local seed to promote the ecological benefits of local provenance seed.<br>• Replanting activities will occur after favourable rainfall, which is normally during spring/summer.<br>• On-going weed control and post-seeding monitoring will be conducted to determine if further direct drilling enhancement planting is required.<br>Once these areas meet the performance criteria for the Bluegrass ecological community, they will be managed in accordance with the sustainable grazing areas. |
| 653 | | | Performance criteria for the offset areas will be assessed as per the condition thresholds for the historical listing advice for the Bluegrass ecological community (section 3.3). |
| 654 | | | A monitoring and evaluation plan will be developed for all management areas and will be consistent with the Methodology for Survey and Mapping of Regional Ecosystems and Vegetation Communities in Queensland (Neldner et al., 2012) in combination with the Biocondition methodology for treeless ecosystems (DERM, 2011). Monitoring results will be evaluated against associated management objectives for each Bluegrass management area and reported to provide improved knowledge and understanding of maintaining existing Bluegrass ecological communities, and methods for sustainable grazing, assisted natural regeneration and rehabilitation (re-establishment). |
| 655 | | | The NHG's offsets were calculated based on 100% direct contribution. As a result, no indirect offsets will be required. The NHG may undertake a number of additional management actions, which are listed in Table 4 1. These additional management actions are consistent with the Bluegrass Recovery Plan (EPA, 2007, Appendix C). Broad descriptions of the proposed management actions are provided in part 5 of Appendix C. The main intention of additional management actions is to create awareness, improve knowledge and understanding of Bluegrass ecological community management, and to encourage ecological restoration. |
| 656 | | | In the event scientific evidence demonstrates the NHG's offset package is failing over time, the NHG will engage a third party offset broker to source a suitable replacement offset strategy and will implement the replacement offset strategy in an expedient manner. If required to offset, the NHG will enter into a financial assurance arrangement with the SEWPaC by legal or other agreement. |
| 657 | | | The NHG will ensure the Bluegrass ecological community offsets are appropriately monitored to demonstrate establishment success and guide maintenance requirements. The NHG will ensure the Bluegrass ecological community offsets are protected in perpetuity by a suitable legal mechanism. If required, the NHG will enter into a suitable legal or other agreement to manage any risk associated with establishing its Bluegrass ecological community offsets. |
| | Additional Commitmnets - AEIS | | |
| | | | NA |
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| | Appendix J.9 | PEST AND WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN | |
| | Existing Commitments - draft EIS | | |
| 658 | | | • NAC will continue to implement weed hygiene measures to reduce the spread of existing weeds, and reduce the risk of introducing new weeds to the Study area.<br>• All machinery that is entering NAC, including but not limited to light vehicles, heavy vehicles and mobile plant equipment is washed down in the washdown bay when the following is applicable:<br>• Before a machine is to commence work in areas that require interaction with topsoil used for stockpiles or vegetation<br>• Before a machine is due to work in an environmentally sensitive area<br>• After leaving areas outside the ML that are not designated roads<br>Weeds that are cleared as part of clearing or topsoil stripping operations are disposed of within the mine spoil areas where the ability for them to reproduce is significantly reduced. |
| 659 | | | Prior to any controlled burns there is a requirement to obtain a Permit to Light from the Rural Fire Brigade. If this method is to be adopted, and is likely to affect external parties, it would be undertaken in consultation with landowners and interested stakeholders. |
| 660 | | | Integrated pest management will not be commenced without consultation with affected relevant stakeholders, and/or TRC as required by statutory commitments. This will allow for a co-ordinated approach to management of target species to ensure successful management. |
| 661 | | | An annual monitoring program will continue to be undertaken to determine the current presence of pest and weed species and their abundance within the Study area. Any significant findings, such as new pest or weeds species, new outbreaks or any actions resulting from incidents, from the annual monitoring will be incorporated into an annual review of the PWMP. Weeds and pest identification is also included in the scope of the annual Rehabilitation Monitoring program. |
| | Additional Commitmnets - AEIS | | |
| 662 | 5.2.5.5 | *Advisory Agency Responses* | NAC acknowledges that throughout the construction and operation phases of the revised Project, there will be a number of itinerate workers visiting the site on a regular basis. In light of this, NAC will update its existing PWMP in accordance with QH's document, "Guidelines to minimise mosquito and biting midge problems in new developing areas" and the Public Health Act 2005 and Division 2 of the Public Health Regulation 2005. |
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| | Appendix J.10 | AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN | |
| | Existing Commitments - draft EIS | | |
| 663 | | | The air quality management actions to reduce emissions from mining operations are presented in Table 3 1. |
| 664 | | | Material extraction and handling<br>Loading/dumping overburden<br>• The drop height of material from excavators will be minimised when loading trucks.<br>• Modification of operations will occur during adverse weather conditions (e.g. dust storms, gale force winds and storm conditions).<br>• Water carts will be employed to keep mine roads and work areas in a moist condition.<br>• Dozer operations on overburden dumps will be modified or suspended if dust generation is excessive. |

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| 665 | | | Drilling and blasting<br>• Dust curtains will be installed on drill rigs (i.e. under the drill deck with fabric filters to collect dust).<br>• Water injector will be used on drill rigs to minimise dust emission.<br>• Local residents (neighbours) will be advised of blasting events (date and time).<br>• Blasting operations will be modified during adverse weather conditions (e.g. dust storms, gale force winds and storm conditions).<br>• Blasts will occur during daytime hours only and not on weekends or public holidays.<br>• Gravel/basalt stemming will be used in blast holes.<br>• A pre-blast environmental checklist will be used. Key actions will include::<br>- Review of the current weather forecast.<br>- Establishment of 300 m and 500 m minimum machine and personnel exclusion zones, respectively.<br>- Establishment of a Fume Management Zone based on expected meteorological conditions.<br>- Neighbours on blast contact list will be notified of whether their residence is in the fume management zone.<br>- A portable weather station will be set up to monitor field meteorological conditions.<br>- Blast will only be conducted when meteorological conditions are favourable.<br>- Relevant blast data will be captured, recorded, and as required reviewed. |
| 666 | | | Haul roads<br>• Water carts will maintain moisture conditions on haul roads.<br>• Road grading and maintenance will be undertaken on a regular basis (refer to Standard Operation Procedure (SOP 05 12.02 Maintain and Water Mine Roads in Appendix A.2). Key actions include:<br>- Application of coarse rejects on haul roads to reduce dust generation.<br>- Grading procedures to achieve constant spread of fines and coarser material.<br>• Speed on haul roads will be limited to 60km/h (20 km/h on selected corners).<br>• Where feasible, the volumes of trays on haul trucks will be maximised to increase carrying capacity and to reduce vehicle kilometres travelled on haul roads.<br>• Visual monitoring of haul roads and major work areas will be undertaken to identify noticeable dust generation for corrective actioning.<br>• Certain site roads will be sealed (near administration area – site access and employee car park).<br>• Efficient watering will be conducted during peak periods of activity and within areas of concentrated activity.<br>• Well defined and planned haul routes and internal roads will be developed to maximise efficiency of travel.<br>• Obsolete mine roads will be rehabilitated.<br>• The private haulage route from the Materials Handling Facility to Train Loading Facility will be a sealed road. |
| 667 | | | Exposed areas<br>• The pre-strip areas will be planned to minimise the time of exposure following clearing in advance of mine development.<br>• Exposed areas/active areas will be watered if dust generation is observed.<br>• Where possible, topsoil will be stripped when its moisture content is elevated but not sodden.<br>• A vegetative cover will be established as soon as feasible on areas prepared for rehabilitation.<br>• Progressive rehabilitation will be conducted behind the active pit areas to minimise exposed areas.<br>• Unauthorised clearing of non-mine areas will be prevented using a 'permit to disturb' system. |
| 668 | | | ROM Pad<br>• Water will be applied on a regular basis by a water cart on trafficked areas within the ROM Pad's operational area.<br>• Visual monitoring of ROM coal stockpiles will undertaken to identify noticeable dust generation for corrective actioning.<br>• Water will be applied on the ROM coal stockpiles if significant dust levels are being generated. |
| 669 | | | Coal Handling and Preparation Plant & ROM Bin<br>ROM Bin<br>• Automatic water sprays will be installed at the ROM hopper bin to produce a fine mist to suppress dust generated when sensors are triggered.<br>Surge Bin<br>• Dust curtains will be installed.<br>• Waters sprays will be used.<br>Crushing<br>• Wet crushing will be employed.<br>• This activity will be fully enclosed.<br>Conveyors<br>• Water sprays will be used on transfer points. |
| 670 | | | Material Handling Facility<br>• An automatic sprinkler system will be employed to moisten product coal stockpiles.<br>• Water sprays will operate at transfer points on conveyors.<br>• Coal spills will be removed regularly to minimise the potential for dust generation.<br>• A vacuum sweeper will operate on roads near the Materials Handling Facility.<br>• The washed coal will normally retain a moisture level of approximately 10%. |
| 671 | | | Train Loadout Facility<br>• No coal will be stored in open/exposed stockpiles.<br>• An enclosed overhead bin will deliver the coal to each rail wagon as part of the train loadout system.<br>• Coal will be loaded by side tipper into a hopper as part of the train loadout system.<br>• Veneering and profiling of the loaded coal will be conducted to minimise dust emissions during transport. |
| 672 | | | NAC proposes to implement a dust forecasting system to provide daily predictions of upcoming meteorological conditions for use in the proactive assessment of potential risks from air quality impacts from the revised Project's mining operations. |
| 673 | | | The proposed air quality monitoring program for the revised Project consists of<br>• Tapered Element Oscillating Microbalances (TEOMs) for real time measurement of PM10 concentrations;<br>• Tapered Element Oscillating Microbalances (TEOMs) or Beta Attenuation Monitors (BAMs) for real time measurement of Total Suspended Particulates (TSP);<br>• High Volume Air Samplers for measurement of PM10 particulates;<br>• Dust Deposition Gauges for measurement of general dust fall out; and a<br>• Meteorological Station for the measurement of local weather conditions.<br>The locations of air quality monitoring equipment for the revised Project are presented in Figure 3-1. |

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| 674 | | | The proposed number of monitoring equipment, frequency of monitoring and relevant monitoring standards are summarised in Table 3 2. The siting and installation of air quality monitoring instruments will be in accordance with the requirements of AS/NZS 3580.1.1:2007 Methods for sampling and analysis of ambient air. Part 1.1: Guide to siting air monitoring equipment. |
| 675 | | | The Adaptive Air Quality Management framework for the revised Project is presented in Table 3 3. NAC will continue to expand its corrective actions list for air quality management over the life of the revised Project. |
| 676 | | | A legible record of all concerns will be kept by NAC's Environmental Team, who are responsible for the revised Project's environmental concerns management. Each concern received in relation to the revised Project will be formally documented and record of the following information is maintained for legal and compliance purposes. |
| 677 | | | Standard actions taken by NAC's Environmental Team in relation to air quality (dust) concerns will include reviewing in relation to the time of the concern:<br>• meteorological data;<br>• relevant available air quality monitoring data; and<br>• mine operations. |
| 678 | | | Follow up actions taken by NAC's Environmental Team in relation to air quality (dust) concerns may include depending on circumstances:<br>• a site inspection of the complainant's residence;<br>• targeted sampling at the complainant's residence of:<br>– general surface dust and/or rainwater tank sludge for compositional analysis, and/or<br>– collected rainwater for water quality analysis;<br>• an investigation of other potential dust generating sources in the vicinity of the complainant's residence;<br>• if the complainant's residence is outside NAC's proactive air quality monitoring network, installation of an applicable monitoring station at the complainant's residence (e.g. dust deposition gauge); and<br>• engagement of an air quality specialist to assist the concerns investigation process. |
| 679 | | | NAC is committed to rectifying all air quality issues that are legitimately attributed to the revised Project's operations through proper scientific evaluation, in an appropriate timeframe, using accepted and practical mitigation measures, and if reasonably possible, to the satisfaction of the affected party. |
| 680 | | | NAC will advise the DEHP in a timely manner of all non-compliances identified in relation to the revised Project's future EA (e.g. 'exception reporting'). |
| 681 | | | If a definite case where material or serious environmental harm or the potential for material or serious environmental harm is clearly established by an air quality investigation into an unforeseen impact, NAC will ensure the notification requirements of Section 320 of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 are fully addressed. |
| 682 | | | As required, NAC will prepare and submit to the DEHP any requested information about environmental management and other related matters in relation to the revised Project's operations, including air quality monitoring data. |
| 683 | | | Over the life of the revised Project, NAC will regularly audit the performance of the AQMP using both internal and third party auditing processes. Internal and third party audits will be conducted on annual and three yearly timeframes, respectively. The audit process will generally be designed to examine the status of the key components of the AQMP, review air quality concerns management, and evaluate the overall performance of NAC's air quality management for the revised Project. The strategy for NAC's audit processes is to ensure compliance and promote continuous improvement as part of the revised Project's air quality management regime. |
| 684 | | | In addition, NAC's AQMP will be subject to potential audit by the DEHP during Compliance Inspections and other site inspections, and as a possible component of a formal air quality concerns investigation process. |
| 685 | | | NAC will continue to review the dispersion modelling over the life of the revised Project, and in particular, will compare collected monitoring data and the modelled results at specific locations (e.g. sensitive receptors) to help guide future air quality mitigation strategies ahead of the mine path. |
| | Additional Commitmnets - AEIS | | |
| | | | NA |
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| | Appendix J.11 | NOISE AND VIBRATION MANAGEMENT PLAN | |
| | Existing Commitments - draft EIS | | |
| 686 | | | The following mitigation measures are proposed by NAC as management commitments to reduce the revised Project's potential noise impact.<br>• NAC will establish a real-time noise monitoring network, which will be used in conjunction with a weather forecasting system and an adaptive management process, to proactively relocate, reduce or stop noisier mining operations and other noise sources.<br>• Based on ambient conditions (climate and the current mine plan) and feedback from the real-time noise monitoring (warning and alarm protocols), NAC may be required to modify (limit) or stop mining operations in the Manning Vale East pit during the night time period. This requirement is based on the noise assessment work completed for the revised Project's EIS.<br>• NAC will ensure noisier mining equipment such as excavators, track dozers, loaders and rear dump trucks are fully attenuated. This requirement is based on the noise assessment work completed for the revised Project's EIS.<br>• If a legitimate complaint is received and/or a noise issue is identified by investigation, where possible NAC will modify mining operations until a satisfactory solution for the noise issue is developed and implemented.<br>• Where possible, NAC will schedule noisier operations in-pit at night or during daylight hours only. For example, dumping of overburden and dozer activity on overburden dumps at or above ground surface may be restricted during night periods (10pm to 7am).<br>• If no suitable or acceptable noise amelioration solutions are available for a particular noise issue, NAC will negotiate in good faith with all affected property owners for property purchase or by agreement implement some other form of amicable arrangement (e.g. acoustic treatment of the dwelling, relocation or replacement of the dwelling at another suitable location, relocation of the landowner to another living arrangement for the period of the issue or any other suitable innovative solution). NAC would be responsible for all reasonable costs associated with any agreed solution to a noise issue.<br>• NAC will ensure proper maintenance and operational procedures will be undertaken to minimise noise emissions from equipment, including appropriate servicing and maintenance of exhaust systems on mine equipment.<br>• NAC will ensure all complaints are investigated in a timely manner to determine the source of the nuisance noise. Where appropriate, noise monitoring will be conducted at the affected residence, and as required, noise amelioration solutions will be investigated and implemented by agreement. NAC has purchased a specialist noise logger that can be placed at a complainant's residence for a length of time to record the problem periods. This equipment will be maintained and the results will be interpreted by a qualified professional.<br>• Where practicable, NAC using the mine planning process will utilise topsoil and other dumps as noise barriers between active mine operations and nearby noise receptor locations.<br>• NAC will continue to utilise broadband alarms instead of reverse beepers on all mobile equipment.<br>• NAC will continue to limit the speed of heavy vehicle traffic on haul roads.<br>• NAC will continue its current proactive monthly noise monitoring program and will expand its coverage around the revised Project area.<br>• NAC will continue its proactive assessment of possible noise attenuation options for both mobile or stationery noise emitting equipment. Noise emissions with tonal, impulsive and/or intermittent characteristics will be targeted for noise attenuation. |
| 687 | | | For the management of airblast overpressure and vibration, the following measures will be adopted for the revised Project:<br>• Field data will be used to best determine blast conditions and the type of stemming required for the area.<br>• In the event of a blast issue, the maximum instantaneous charge of subsequent blasts will be reduced using delays, reduction of hole diameter, etc. (i.e. until the blast issue is resolved).<br>• In the event of a blast issue, the burden and spacing of subsequent blasts will be changed by altering the drilling pattern and/or delay layout, or altering the hole inclination (i.e. until the blast issue is resolved).;<br>• The stemming depth and type will be adequate for each blast event.<br>• Blast events will only be conducted during favourable weather conditions.<br>• The monitoring of blasts will continue at the nearest sensitive receivers based on the interpretation of pre-blast weather data.<br>• The practice of advising near neighbours will continue in advance of each blast. All new near neighbours surrounding the Project area will be proactively invited to join the blast notification contact list.<br>• A qualified professional with suitable experience will be responsible for the Project's blast management.<br>• All blast complaints will be investigated in a timely manner to determine the extent of the issue. Where appropriate, blast monitoring will be conducted at the affected residence, and as required, blast mitigation solutions will be investigated and implemented by agreement. |
| 688 | | | NAC proposes to implement a weather forecasting system to provide daily predictions of upcoming meteorological conditions and potential risk of noise and vibration impacts from mining operations from the revised Project. |

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| 689 | | | The weather forecasting system predicts potential risk of noise and vibration impacts using dispersion modelling tools for up to two days in advance. The weather forecasts will be updated on a daily basis, generating a daily automated email of forecast meteorological conditions. |
| 690 | | | Predictions from the weather forecasting system will allow Mine management to identify locations and times of potentially increased risk, and to facilitate appropriate planning to minimise or avoid potential impacts. |
| 691 | | | Significant noise and vibration issues will be highlighted at shift changes between the Production Supervisors or are and will be conveyed to the general workforce on a regular basis through 'Tool Box Talks'. This approach ensures that the day-to-day business focuses on good work practices to help reduce the potential for noise and vibration impacts from the revised Project. |
| 692 | | | NAC will establish a permanent real-time noise monitor in Acland and a mobile real-time noise monitor to be placed depending on ambient conditions (climate and the current mine plan). This monitoring system will be used in conjunction with the weather forecasting system and will operate on a risk based approach. Warning and exceedance alarms will be used to inform the Mine of the status of the noise limits at the monitoring locations. In the event of an alarm, the Mine will attend the monitoring location as soon as possible to establish if the Mine is the source of the high noise levels. This unattended monitoring system will not always be practical during the warmer months due to other intrusive noise sources (e.g. insect noise). However, it will be ideal during the cooler months when background noise levels are lower and temperature inversions are common. NAC will ensure use of the real-time monitoring equipment is appropriate and practical for the circumstances. |
| 693 | | | In the event monitoring positively identifies that noise from the Mine is approaching or exceeding the specified noise limits, immediate management actions will be applied at the site that may involve modification or cessation of mining activities at one or more of the revised Project's mine pits. |
| 694 | | | Based on noise assessment work completed for the revised Project's EIS, the Manning Vale East Pit will most likely require specific management actions under these circumstances. Modification of mining activities may mean reducing the intensity of noisier operations or moving particular noisier equipment to other areas or mine pits within the revised Project site. The actions taken will depend on the mine noise sources identified by the appropriate Mine staff following alert by the real-time monitoring system and the level of exceedance at the time (e.g. warning or alarm)NAC will ensure that the scheduling of the Mine's activities at night proactively considers potential noise issues from the various areas of operational activities. The weather forecasting system will help guide these mine planning decisions (e.g. wind conditions and temperature inversion conditions). |
| 695 | | | NAC will continue its proactive assessment of possible noise attenuation options for both mobile or stationery noise emitting equipment. Noise emissions with tonal, impulsive and/or intermittent characteristics will be targeted for noise attenuation. |
| 696 | | | The current proactive monthly noise monitoring program will continue in an expanded form to cover the broader revised Project area. As explained, a permanent noise monitor will be located in Acland to continuously monitor the noise levels. |
| 697 | | | All complaints will be investigated to determine the source of the nuisance noise. Where appropriate, noise monitoring will be conducted at the affected residence, and as required, noise amelioration solutions will be investigated and implemented. NAC has purchased a specialist noise logger that can be placed at a complainant's residence for a length of time to record the problem periods. This equipment will be maintained and the results will be interpreted by a qualified professional. |
| 698 | | | Monitoring of blasts will continue at the nearest sensitive receivers around the revised Project based on climatic conditions (e.g. wind conditions). |
| 699 | | | Concerns and other issues raised will be managed in accordance with the revised Project's Local Stakeholder Management Plan, which is provided in Appendix J.18. A register will record details of the concern, the complainant(s), a summary of the investigations completed, any management actions taken, and the status of the concern. |
| 700 | | | A twenty four hour telephone number is made available to near neighbours for receiving concerns. This 'fast response' approach is designed to ensure access to the NAC employee on site at the time with the necessary responsibility to take immediate actions if required. NAC's Environmental Team will be available for contact during business hours by email (with the email address available through a web-site), and by telephone through the Mine's reception. |
| 701 | | | A legible record of all concerns will be kept by NAC's Environmental Team, who are responsible for the revised Project's environmental concerns management. Each concern received in relation to the revised Project will be formally documented and record of the following information is maintained for legal and compliance purposes.<br>1) The date and time of concern.<br>2) The nature of concern (e.g. noise).<br>3) The method by which the concern was received (e.g. telephone).<br>4) The name and title of the person who receives the concern.<br>5) The personal details of the complainant, if made available, or if no details were provided, a note to that effect.<br>6) The action taken in relation to the concern, including any follow-up contact, the outcome of investigations and any required on-going actions.<br>7) If no action was taken, then the reason why no action was taken.<br>8) The final status of the concern (e.g. resolved, continuing or unresolved). |
| 702 | | | Standard actions taken by NAC's Environmental Team in relation to noise concerns will include reviewing the following:<br>• meteorological data;<br>• relevant available noise monitoring data; and<br>• mine operations. |
| 703 | | | Follow up actions taken by NAC's Environmental Team in relation to noise concerns may include depending on circumstances:<br>• a site inspection of the complainant's residence;<br>• targeted sampling at the complainant's residence;<br>• an investigation of other potential noise generating sources in the vicinity of the complainant's residence; and<br>• engagement of an noise and vibration specialist to assist the concerns investigation process. |
| 704 | | | NAC is committed to rectifying all noise issues that are legitimately attributed to the revised Project's operations through proper scientific evaluation, in an appropriate timeframe, using accepted and practical mitigation measures, and if reasonably possible, to the satisfaction of the affected party. |
| 705 | | | Non-compliant Monitoring Results<br>NAC will advise the DEHP in a timely manner of all non compliances identified in relation to the revised Project's future EA (e.g. 'exception reporting'). |
| 706 | | | Environmental Incidents<br>NAC will be bound to report all environmental incidents as a requirement of its future EA for the revised Project (i.e. based on the same requirement for the current Mine). |
| 707 | | | General<br>As required, NAC will prepare and submit to the DEHP any requested information about environmental management and other related matters in relation to the revised Project's operations, including applicable noise monitoring data. |
| 708 | | | Auditing<br>Over the life of the Project, NAC will regularly audit the performance of its noise management using both internal and third party auditing processes. Internal and third party audits will be conducted on annual and three yearly timeframes, respectively, and will be incorporated into NAC's EMS. The audit process will generally be designed to review noise complaints management and evaluate the overall performance of NAC's noise management for the Project. The strategy for NAC's audit processes is to ensure compliance and promote continuous improvement as part of the revised Project's noise management regime.<br>In addition, NAC's noise management regime will be subject to potential audit by the DEHP during Compliance Inspections and other site inspections, and as a possible component of a formal noise complaint investigation process. |
| 709 | | | Review<br>The NVMP will be formally reviewed on an annual basis and updated as required. The NVMP may also be updated based on the findings of internal and third party audit processes, based on the outcomes of a complaint investigation or following a regulatory inspection (i.e. as corrective actions). The DEHP will be advised of all significant revisions of the NVMP. |
| | Additional Commitmnets - AEIS | | |
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| | J.12 | ACLAND COLLIERY CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN | |
| | Existing Commitments - draft EIS | | |

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| 710 | | | As a State heritage place, the significance of the Former Acland No.2 Colliery requires that the following general commitments are undertaken as follows:<br>• The historic mine site, including all built, moveable and landscape features should be maintained and conserved within their original setting, particularly elements of moderate and high rankings of significance, wherever possible;<br>• Significant elements should be maintained;<br>• Intrusive elements should be removed;<br>• Development on or immediately adjoining the site should be avoided or if necessary only undertaken with full consideration of the cultural heritage significance of the site; and<br>• The scale, form and setting of the place should be respected and any proposed management or use options should be sympathetic to its historic use. |
| 711 | | | The preparation of this CMP has been undertaken with the view to guide the immediate and future conservation of the site. Change of circumstance is inevitable and this document should be considered as an adaptable guide that is reassessed and modified at regular intervals to retain a contemporary stance on the management of the site.<br>Best practice guidelines state that a CMP should be reviewed, and if necessary, updated at least every five years. |
| 712 | | | Throughout all phases of works at the site, including conservation and maintenance, project works should respect the heritage significance of Former Acland No. 2 Colliery. Conservation and/or stabilisation of significant elements across the site should be undertaken where possible. |
| 713 | | | The Asset Maintenance Schedule (Table 6.1 over), identifies a base program for regular inspection as well as general works and activities at the site – and includes associated work method statements where applicable.<br>It also provides details with regards to the activities requiring approval from DEHP or TRC. This schedule template should be used and updated to record the level or inspection, maintenance and repairs to the site as required.<br>Refer also to Section 9.1 of Appendix D for details about conservation of structural elements, including a priority of works for significant elements. |
| | Additional Commitmnets - AEIS | | |
| | | | NA |
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| | J.13 | WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN | |
| | Existing Commitments - draft EIS | | |
| 714 | | | The WMP will be reviewed and updated (as new processes, waste streams, waste classifications, or major inconsistencies are identified) on a bi-annual basis to:<br>• ensure the aims and objectives of the WMP plan remain satisfied;<br>• assess the performance of waste management at the revised Project; and<br>• investigate opportunities for improvement of waste management practices. |
| 715 | | | Waste grease will be collected in bulk containers (as currently occurs) and removed by a licenced regulated waste transporter, to a licenced regulated waste receiver, for recycling or treatment and disposal under appropriate documentation. Waste grease will be predominately generated by mobile and fixed plant and will be collected from service trucks, the workshop, and the CHPP. Bulk and supplementary grease containers will be disposed of as necessary based on type. |
| 716 | | | Waste tyres generated by NAC for the revised Project will be stored near the workshop until a volume of tyres is present that necessitates dumping. A suitable area of pit floor as deep as possible but not in the region of an expressing aquifer will be prepared; the tyres will be then dumped, and surveyed as appropriate.<br>Alternatively, tyres will be stored and transported off-site by a licenced regulated waste transporter to a licensed regulated waste receiver. |
| 717 | | | Medical waste generated by NAC includes collection of hygiene products, sharps bins, and drug testing equipment, which will be removed by suitably accredited contractors under appropriate documentation. This waste will be transported to a suitable waste facility for incineration.<br>Removal of the sharps/medical/sanitary bins will occur as per contractual arrangements. Contractors will also be contacted for the removal of any additional build-up of this type of waste (i.e. outside the standard arrangement). |
| 718 | | | Waste oil is generally produced by the mobile plant fleet and transferred at the CHPP precinct and workshops. Waste oil will be transferred from the workshop and service vehicles and stored on-site in a bunded facility (compound, temporary or pallet) prior to removal from site for recycling with engine coolant. |
| 719 | | | Waste oil containers will be drained on-site and drums will be transported off-site by a waste contractor for off-site reuse, recycling or disposal. Oil will be collected, then transported off-site by a licensed regulated waste transporter to a licensed regulated waste receiver, for recycling. |
| 720 | | | Waste oil filters are generated by mobile and fixed plant. Waste oil filters will be temporarily stored at the workshop in skip bins. Bins have been designed specifically for oil filters and incorporate a drainage tray where excess oil can be drained from the filters and pumped from the bin. A licensed contractor will remove and replace the filter bin on an as required basis. Oil will be recovered from the filters at an approved facility, and filters will be recycled. |
| 721 | | | Waste oil absorbent sources generally occur from accidental spills. Waste oil absorbent will be placed in bags and then in a skip bin (with oily rags), or depending on the nature of the clean-up and content of soil, be placed in the dedicated contaminated land area. |
| 722 | | | The spill response process in order of priority will be to control, contain, absorb and dispose of the spilt material. Procedures will include the provision of spill containment equipment and materials at workshops, warehouses and fuel/chemical storage areas to reduce the impacts of hydrocarbon/chemical spills that have the potential to enter waterways, undisturbed areas or rehabilitated areas. Training will be provided to personnel and contractors in the management of chemicals, hydrocarbons and wastes. |
| 723 | | | Waste oily rags are predominantly generated by the workshop and washplant. Waste oily rags will be placed into dedicated bins in working areas, and then transferred to a skip bin which will be emptied routinely and as required by an accredited contractor under appropriate documentation. |
| 724 | | | The resulting oil will be collected and transported off-site by a licensed regulated waste transporter to a licensed regulated waste receiver for recycling. The separated water will be directed to a sediment dam for evaporation or possible reuse on-site. |
| 725 | | | The revised Project is not expected to generate significant volumes of waste paint/solvent. Paints and Resins used for the construction and operation of the infrastructure area (MHF, TLF workshops and buildings) will be minimised by producing/procuring only the amount necessary.<br>Waste will be collected on-site, stored in a segregated area, transported off-site by licensed regulated waste transporter under appropriate documentation, and disposed off-site by a regulated waste receiver. |
| 726 | | | Mobile and fixed plant will be the main generators of waste coolant at the revised Project. Waste coolant will be collected by the workshop and service vehicles and will be transferred to the waste oil compound and disposed of as described in Section 2.1.4. |
| 727 | | | Sewage will be generated at mobile crib hut locations, and at fixed structure locations. Sewage collected at mobile crib hut locations will be managed by accredited contractors and disposed of off-site. Sewage collected by fixed structure locations will be transferred to the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), treated and then irrigated or returned to CHPP supply storages.<br>Sewage from the construction areas and administration offices will be pumped to the STP for treatment and disposal in accordance with the revised Projects EA. Sewage sludge will be treated on-site at the STP. The thickened sludge will be removed from site by a licensed contractor.<br>STP effluent will be discharged to a sediment dam for possible reuse on-site for dust suppression and/or evaporation, or discharged to the process water system in accordance with the revised Projects EA. |
| 728 | | | Waste batteries will be stored near the workshop and will be collected and disposed of/recycled by an accredited contractor when a sufficient quantity is collected. |
| 729 | | | An oil water separator will be used to remove hydrocarbons from the wash-down water. Any sludge removed from the Wash-down Bay will be taken to NAC's current dedicated contaminated land area. All treated water from the Wash-down Bay will be diverted to NAC's Environmental Dam. Contractors will be engaged to remove wash-down bay sludge on an as required basis. |
| 730 | | | Chemicals will be disposed of as required depending on chemical type, in consultation with an accredited waste removal contractor. Bulk material containers will be used where possible to reduce the volume of waste generated. |
| 731 | | | Serviceable air filters will be collected by a contractor for cleaning, testing, and reuse. Non-serviceable air filters will be disposed of by the contractor engaged to test them. Any air filter deemed un-serviceable by NAC will be dispensed to the general waste bins, which will be removed by a nominated accredited waste removal contractor. |
| 732 | | | Aluminium cans including aerosol cans will be collected in co-mingled recycling containers and transferred to a recycling facility by an accredited waste removal contractor for separation and recycling. |
| 733 | | | Cardboard and paper will be collected in co-mingled recycling containers and transferred to a recycling facility by an accredited waste removal contractor for separation and recycling. |
| 734 | | | Used printer cartridges generated by NAC's Administration area will be disposed of in general waste bins and removed by an accredited waste removal contractor. NAC will investigate the option of returning the used printer cartridges to the supplier for refilling and reuse. |
| 735 | | | Recyclables generated will include glass jars and bottles, cardboard cartons, and plastic bottles/containers. All nominated recyclables will be collected in receptacles and then transferred to dedicated skip bins where it will be collected by an accredited waste removal contractor for separation and recycling. |
| 736 | | | Green waste will generally be re-used, however circumstances will occasionally arise when green waste is required to be buried in-pit, or removed from site for use elsewhere. Burning of green waste may be conducted where necessary, with appropriate permits in place. |

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| 737 | | | General waste will be collected at receptacles across the revised Project site, and transferred to dedicated skip bins where it will be collected by an accredited waste removal contractor for disposal to landfill. |
| 738 | | | Scrap metal/steel produced during the revised Project's construction and operational phases will be placed in dedicated scrap metal skip bins located at the workshop and at the CHPP Precinct. Dedicated scrap metal bins will be emptied as required by an accredited contractor for recycling. Scrap metal will be minimised by producing/procuring only the amount necessary. During the decommissioning phase of the revised Project, all re-usable steel and functioning equipment will be sold and removed appropriately from site. |
| 739 | | | All wooden pallets used on-site will be exchanged with pallet providers. As an exception, pallets that are deemed unusable will be disposed of in-pit or in general waste skips that will be removed from site by an accredited waste removal contractor. |
| 740 | | | Rubber waste generated will be collected and segregated on-site and removed from site by accredited waste removal contractor. |
| 741 | | | Excavated waste generated during construction of site infrastructure (rail spur line and balloon loop, MHF and TLF) for the revised Project will be used as fill on-site. Waste materials will be reused as much as practicable to construct haul roads and pads. Unsuitable material will be disposed of in waste dumps. |
| 742 | | | Wastage of concrete will be generated for the construction and decommissioning of the site Infrastructure area such as the CHPP precinct, workshops and buildings. Pre fabrication will be used if possible, and waste will be minimised by procuring only the amount necessary. |
| 743 | | | Electrical waste will be collected and segregated on-site and transported by a waste contractor for off-site recycling. |
| 744 | | | Waste that has the potential to hold residues of explosive material will be buried in pit. |
| 745 | | | Mining wastes and their management are discussed in Chapter 3 and in the In-pit Tailings Storage Facility Management Plan provided in Appendix J.1. |
| 746 | | | Coarse reject material generated by the CHPP includes material separated from the coal washing process that is approximately >2mm aggregate. Coarse reject will be contained by the CHPP and then either disposed of over the active dump, or used to sheet haul roads within revised Project site. |
| 747 | | | Fine tailings generated by the CHPP includes materials approximately <2mm that are separated from coal during the coal washing process. Fine tailings will be transferred from the CHPP to in-pit tailings cells for immobilisation. Flocculating agents may be added to the tailings to assist in dewatering, and beaching. |
| 748 | | | NAC will ensure that all new strategies and actions for waste management consider the 'waste management hierarchy' described by Section 10 of the EPP Waste. |
| 749 | | | Where possible and economically viable, waste management at the revised Project will focus on improving the key areas of waste minimisation, re-use and recycling. In light of this, NAC will make the following commitments.<br>• Contracts with construction companies will be negotiated to place responsibility on all contractors to adopt best practice waste minimisation procedures.<br>• Training will be provided to personnel and contractors in relation to waste management requirements and practices. |
| 750 | | | Contracts with construction service suppliers will be negotiated to encourage all contractors to adopt waste minimisation procedures consistent with NAC's WMP. This approach will include the purchase of materials cut to standard sizes, bulk purchasing of materials, reduction of packaging, reuse of concrete formwork where practicable, and source separation and segregation of all recoverable materials. Separate skips will be provided to maintain segregation and maximise economic reuse and recycling, in preference to disposal to landfill. |
| 751 | | | The waste contractor will provide a monthly report which tracks waste generation at each location and includes data on general and recyclable waste generated and the level of contamination in waste receptacles. All forms of regulated waste will be tracked in accordance with a waste tracking certificate and detailed in a monthly report by the contractor. The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) Waste Transport Certificates will be forwarded to NAC, with copies being retained by the waste contractor and by the EHP. The certificates will outline the type and amount of regulated waste, the name of the waste producer and the nominated disposal/treatment/storage facility. |
| 752 | | | NAC will implement a program to address any outstanding non-conformances as a result of the monitoring and auditing program. Corrective actions will be recorded and responsibility will be assigned to the appropriate person for action and close out. |
| 753 | | | The planned review process for the WMP, outlined in Section 1.6, will also generate the opportunity to examine possible areas for continuous improvement in waste management on a bi-annual basis. |
| | Additional Commitmnets - AEIS | | |
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| | Appendix E<br>AEIS | Revised SIMP | |
| 754 | | | The Community and Stakeholder Engagement Action Plan is a framework to provide effective community engagement and communications mechanisms to stakeholders and community members. Key strategies that will support the implementation of this Action Plan include:<br>• continued operation of the New Acland Community Reference Group (CRG);<br>• continued commitment to provide the staffed New Hope Community Information Centre at Oakey;<br>• ongoing proactive stakeholder and landholder engagement;<br>• implementation of the Local Stakeholder Management Plan (Refer to Appendix J.18);<br>• implementation of further consultation plans in Section 5.1.10 of the AEIS;<br>• continued communications through the project phone line and email address;<br>• participation in local community groups such as the Oakey Community Care Committee, Toowoomba Surat Basin Enterprise, Oakey Chamber of Commerce, Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce and other local groups; and<br>• Partnerships and relationships with local educational institutions such as Oakey State High School, University of Queensland and University of Southern Queensland. |
| 755 | | | NAC's Workforce Management Action Plan provides a framework for the management of potential impacts and commitments to the community. In addition, the Workforce Management Action Plan includes a number of approaches to support employment locally including for, Indigenous people, women and unemployed people . The key initiatives to be continued or implemented as a part of this plan include:<br>• continuation of existing partnerships with educational institutions, training groups and government agencies (such as Oakey State High School, University of South Queensland and Downs Group Training);<br>• continued implementation of structured training programs such as apprenticeships and traineeships, and opportunities for vacation employment and graduate employment through NAC;<br>• local recruitment strategies, such as local advertising and using the New Hope Community Information Centre in Oakey to advertise positions and accept employment applications;<br>• continued adoption of equal employment opportunities for recruitment and continue to support a diverse workforce that includes vulnerable population groups including people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, Indigenous peoples, women, school leavers, the unemployed and underemployed. Continued practice of up-skilling and training staff to progress to new positions;<br>• adopting flexible and fair work arrangements which are designed to assist employees with maintaining work/life balance and help disadvantaged groups transition to the workforce; and<br>• maintaining relationships with government agencies, training groups and community groups to assess the opportunity to provide employment for long-term unemployed people or people with a disability, and assessing skills gaps and training required. |
| 756 | | | The NAC Housing and Accommodation Action Plan has been developed in consultation with community members and stakeholders, including the CRG, local real estate agents, community groups, Toowoomba Regional Council and State Agencies. The slight increase in the workforce population is not expected to place undue demand on the housing and accommodation in the Study Area. This Action Plan has been developed to monitor and manage potential impacts on housing. The implementation of this Action Plan will work towards achieving the following outcomes:<br>• neutral impact on housing affordability and availability for locals;<br>• additional business opportunities for local accommodation providers; and<br>• benefits for temporary accommodation providers. |

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| 757 | | | NAC will adopt the Queensland Resources and Energy Sector Code of Practice for Local Content (the Code). The Code outlines specific tools to assist resources and energy companies to buy local and build supply chain value. Strategies which are outlined in the Code for ensuring that local industry receives a full, fair and reasonable opportunity include:<br>• openly promoting the adoption of the Code;<br>• establishing a register for local contractors to register interest in the project. Registered contractors could be provided with information on the typical services that the constructor is looking to source and any pre-tender requirements;<br>• hold local briefings explaining what opportunities are available for local contractors and the anticipated timelines;<br>• provide or facilitate the provision of pre-tender training and information to ensure interested parties are tender ready. NAC will hold bi-annual procurement information sessions during detail design and construction of the project with potential contractors and subcontractors to explain NAC requirements and expectations;<br>• developing and publicising a forward procurement plan;<br>• inviting pre-qualified suppliers to tender in addition to advertising tender opportunities via public avenues;<br>• provide feedback if requested by suppliers that were unsuccessful in prequalification or tendering; and |
| 758 | | | This Action Plan has been developed following consultation with the Oakey Hospital and local health services. Key strategies to be implemented under this Action Plan include:<br>• NAC will continue their relationship with the Oakey Hospital and meet regularly with key management staff to understand potential concerns or opportunities;<br>• health facilities and services will be provided on-site at the Mine in line with the requirements of the Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulations 1996;<br>• NAC will provide first aid services and fire fighting services at the revised Project site;<br>• implement a program of noise and dust management, including coal veneering, enclosed hoppers and noise management;<br>• ongoing support for agricultural activities in the region through the Acland Pastoral Company and community investment; and<br>• NAC will support community groups and social services with donations through the Community Donations and Sponsorship Program and larger grants through the Community Investment Fund. |
| 759 | | | In order to successfully implement the management plans outlined in this SIMP, NAC will commit to a number of key mechanisms or tools, including:<br>• community investment programs, in particular the New Acland Community Investment Fund and the Community Sponsorship and Donation Program, to channel financial resources into the community;<br>• key partnerships with government agencies and non-government organisations in the local community; and<br>• on-going provision of a Community staff to provide information to the public and deal with stakeholder issues and grievances. |
| 760 | | | The action plans will be reviewed on an annual basis. The key monitoring mechanisms proposed in these action plans are summarised in Table 6-1. |
| 761 | | | The SIMP will be reviewed prior to commencement of operations, and any revisions required will be discussed with the Office of the Coordinator General. |
| 762 | | | Communicating the findings of the monitoring process is important for providing key stakeholders with information on how social management activities are progressing. Internally, for NAC, it shows how funds are being used to achieve key objectives. Additionally, the findings generate knowledge of what works, what does not work and why; helping the project team to appropriately manage impacts. |
| 763 | | | Internal reporting on this SIMP will be undertaken regularly throughout construction and operation, through the existing General Management meetings. Where appropriate, summary reports will also be discussed at the weekly Senior Management Team meetings and may be issued in the internal employee newsletter, "Between the Seams". |
| 764 | | | External reporting during construction and operation will be reported as part of regular community newsletters, and in an annual report to the Coordinator General. |
| 765 | | | NAC will seek to involve the community during the planning, construction, operation and decommissioning of the revised Project, in accordance with the Australian Government's Handbook on Community Engagement and Development for the mining industry. |
| 766 | | | In particular, NAC will seek to understand and address community concerns about the environmental and social impacts of project activities. NAC will also seek to actively and effectively deal with community expectations around employment, economic and community development opportunities, whilst engaging near neighbours to manage amenity and access issues. |
| 767 | | | NAC will use a range of engagement mechanisms throughout the revised Project as detailed in Table 7-1. |
| 768 | | | The stakeholder engagement strategy will be reviewed and revised internally on an annual basis. Further details of consultation activitesactivities can be found in Section 5.1.10 of the AEIS. |
| 769 | | | A number of methods will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the engagement program with local stakeholders. These methods include:<br>• Database records: Database records with an analysis of feedback forms submitted, website hits, telephone calls, incoming emails, tone of enquiries and key issues raised.<br>• Benchmarking activities: Benchmarking activities will be undertaken using questions on any feedback forms and activities to determine changes in local community attitude, knowledge and behaviours.<br>• Informal feedback: All significant informal feedback received from local stakeholders regarding consultation activities will be recorded in the revised Project database and reported and analysed.<br>• Observations: Team members will record their observations during local stakeholder engagement activities. These observations will detail what happened during the activity, who was involved and how they reacted. Team members will also record 'stand out moments' and quotes.<br>• Media analysis: Analysis of negative versus positive media coverage. |
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| | Appendix J.15 | EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN | |
| | Existing Commitments - draft EIS | | |
| 770 | | | . NAC will continue to liaise with QFRS, Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS), local State Emergency Services, local ambulance, local hospital services and local Police throughout all stages of the revised Project. NAC will continue to conduct periodic emergency simulation drills with its regional emergency service providers over the life of the revised Project. In addition, NAC will liaise with Queensland Health at the appropriate time regarding emergency management procedures for the revised Project. |
| 771 | | | NAC will continue to provide and maintain resources and procedures to ensure NAC has an adequate emergency response capability throughout all stages of the revised Project. |
| 772 | | | NAC will establish and maintain contingencies to deal with emergency situations. An emergency response capability and appropriate facilities will be provided, and maintained, to enable the management of emergency situations in an appropriate manner. |
| 773 | | | NAC will engage the Local Stakeholder Management Plan (LSMP) as the primary mechanism for this process. The LSMP is presented in Appendix J.18. In the event of an emergency which requires immediate attention, NAC will engage an appropriate media campaign to inform all stakeholders about the nature of the emergency, that status and actions to be undertaken to minimise risks to human health and safety. |
| 774 | | | First aid and fire fighting equipment (hand held extinguishers and fire hoses) will be installed at strategic points within each building. Fire fighting equipment and exit locations will be suitably signed. Potential hazardous materials stores and incident control points, containing fire extinguishers, are depicted in Figure 1–1. All work areas will be within the required distance to reach emergency exits. |
| 775 | | | Emergency response procedures will be reviewed within four weeks of any emergency incident, in consultation with relevant state and regional emergency service providers. |
| 776 | | | NAC will continue to liaise with Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) and local Police throughout all stages of the revised Project. |
| 777 | | | Emergency Management Procedures will be reviewed annually in consultation with relevant stakeholders, to ensure maintenance of adequacy and effectiveness. |
| | Additional Commitmnets - AEIS | | |
| | | | NA |
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| | Appendix J.17 | AVIATION HAZARD MANAGEMENT PLAN | |
| | Existing Commitments - draft EIS | | |
| 778 | | | The Action Strategy will be periodically reviewed as part of the New Acland Mine hazard and risk management framework. As a result of this review the Action Strategy may evolve based on any changes to assumptions made and/or the effectiveness of the Mitigation Actions implemented. |
| 779 | | | Effective hazard management is dependent on clear communication and consultation with key external and internal stakeholders to promote the flow of information from decision makers to the relevant groups. For New Hope Coal, this will involve the ongoing communication of:<br>a) Hazard/risk management expectations, objectives and emerging trends from the SET and MRMIA; and<br>b) Key risks, sources of risk, potential consequences and the progress mitigation strategies top-down and bottom-up through the organisation. |

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| 780 | | | In addition to implementing clear paths of risk communication, New Hope Coal will consult with key stakeholders regularly to drive accountability and ownership, and facilitate the exchange of accurate and relevant risk related information. Risk communication and consultation, although formalised through quarterly reporting requirements, should be frequent and dynamic in response to changing risk profiles and emerging trends both internally and externally. |
| 781 | | | On-going liaison with RAAF (44WG) and DMO (GTESPO) will be maintained throughout the life of the Project with respect to the ATR at Turkey Hill. As detailed, the expanded air quality and vibration analysis and modelling indicates that the mining operations associated with the Project should have a negligible effect on the operation and serviceability of the ATR. However, in addition to providing this data to 44WG and GTESPO for review, on-going communication with New Hope Coal will be maintained to facilitate periodic feedback of operational monitoring results as necessary, allowing comparative analysis/validation against the predictive modelling results to be performed if required. |
| | Additional Commitmnets - AEIS | | |
| | | | NA |
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| | Appendix J.18 | LOCAL STAKEHOLDER MANAGEMENT PLAN | |
| | Existing Commitments - draft EIS | | |
| 782 | | | The NHG is focussed on ensuring a two-way conversation with stakeholders and the wider community and will actively seek feedback on the revised Project's impacts and benefits. Where possible, the revised Project team and those responsible for the technical studies will be directly involved in engagement activities and conversations with stakeholders to encourage a responsive approach to feedback. This method also assists in ground truthing study findings and understanding stakeholder's preferred mitigation and management strategies as they are advised and integration of this feedback into the EIS if relevant. Feedback will be provided to those submitting feedback at the most appropriate time. |
| 783 | | | Community feedback will be used to monitor the effectiveness of the revised Project's mitigation strategies and action plans. If feedback indicates a need to adjust the mitigation strategies and action plans the following process will be followed:<br>• community feedback on the mitigation measure will be reviewed further to better understand the issue;<br>• the feedback will be investigated further through discussions with stakeholders, community members, government agencies and other groups, field investigations, further technical monitoring or data collection as required; and<br>• following the investigation, recommendations will be made to the New Hope Operations Manager regarding the appropriate course of action. If necessary, Action Plans will be updated as needed and communicated to the relevant NAC staff for implementation. |
| 784 | | | Stakeholder input will be sought and considered during the development of the EIS and will be documented, reviewed and provided to the relevant technical study teams. Where possible, the revised Project team and those responsible for the technical studies will be directly involved in engagement activities and conversations with stakeholders to encourage a responsive approach to feedback. This method also assists in ground truthing study findings and understanding stakeholder's preferred mitigation and management strategies as they are advised and integration of this feedback into the EIS if relevant. Feedback will be provided to those submitting feedback at the most appropriate time. |
| 785 | | | Management of local landowner relationships will be managed by the NHG staff. Field staff will be provided with Record of Contact forms for times when informal contact is made. Discussions with land owners will be recorded in Consultation Manager. |
| 786 | | | A number of methods will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the engagement program with local stakeholders. These methods include:<br>• Database records: Database records with an analysis of feedback forms submitted, website hits, telephone calls, incoming emails, tone of enquiries and key issues raised.<br>• Benchmarking activities: Benchmarking activities will be undertaken using questions on any feedback forms and activities to determine changes in local community attitude, knowledge and behaviours.<br>• Informal feedback: All significant informal feedback received from local stakeholders regarding consultation activities will be recorded in the revised Project database and reported and analysed.<br>• Observations: Team members will record their observations during local stakeholder engagement activities. These observations will detail what happened during the activity, who was involved and how they reacted. Team members will also record 'stand out moments' and quotes.<br>• Media analysis: Analysis of negative versus positive media coverage. |
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| 788 | | | The rationale for each component of the air quality monitoring program is:<br>• Meteorological Station – analysis of data to will provide supporting data Real time PM10 – determine compliance with EPP (Air) objective of 50 µg/m3 and facilitate adaptive air quality management;<br>• Real time TSP – determine potential nuisance impacts to west of Manning Vale West Pit and determine compliance with EPP (Air) objective of 90 µg/m3;<br>• Quarterly PM10 monitoring - continue historical monitoring and determine compliance with EPP (Air) objective of 50 µg/m3;<br>• Dust deposition gauges – determine potential nuisance impacts and to continue historical monitoring; and<br>• to assess potential for air quality impacts following any investigations of dust concerns raised. |
| 789 | | | • The Proponent will implement the AQMP for the site prior to the commencement of any vegetation clearing or construction activities.<br>• The Proponent will achieve and maintain the level of dust control outlined in the EA.<br>• The Proponent will investigate all substantiated dust related complaints and implement corrective actions resulting from substantiated complaint investigations as required.<br>• All monitoring and sampling techniques will be consistent with the Queensland Government's Air Quality Sampling Manual and applicable Australian Standards as outlined in Section 3.3.7.<br>• The revised Project will maintain plant and equipment in a proper condition.<br>• The revised Project will investigate energy efficiency ratings of plant and equipment for consideration in [plant installations.<br>• A greenhouse gas inventory will be maintained and reported as required by the NGER legislation |
| 790 | | | Solid and liquid wastes will be managed by NAC's EMS based on the Waste Management Plan (WMP) in the EIS, Appendix J13. Liquid wastes are addressed in Section 3.7. Surface Water and Mining and tailings wastes are addressed in Section 3.8 Land Management.<br>• Waste management mitigation measures and commitments for the revised Project are provided in Table 3 9. |
| 791 | | | All hazardous materials used on-site will be recorded in the Hazardous Materials Register (HMR). This register includes details on storage location, storage requirements, handling information and disposal procedures. This information is also available in MSDS's which are kept for all materials and chemicals maintained within the HMR.<br>In addition:<br>• the storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids will be implemented in accordance with the applicable provisions of AS 1940-2004;<br>• contractors will provide a list of hazardous chemicals and MSDS prior to bringing chemicals on-site;<br>• no chemical will be allowed on site without an MSDS;<br>• a chemical register will be continued on-site;<br>• corrosive materials will be stored and handled in accordance with AS 3780.8 (Class 8 substances – corrosives);<br>• fuels, oils and chemicals in containers of 200 L or more will be stored in a bunded area with capacity of at least 110% of the largest container;<br>• fuels, oils and chemicals in containers less than 200 L capacity will be stored as above or in a fenced, bunded and roofed compound;<br>• all fuels, oils and chemicals will be clearly labelled;<br>• transfer of bulk fuel and handling of hazardous chemicals will be undertaken only by trained personnel and in accordance with a Standard Operating Procedure;<br>• spill cleanup kits including absorbent materials will be kept at each fuel and chemical storage facility; and<br>• an area will be designated for the temporary storage or bioremediation of hydrocarbon contaminated soils.<br>• The revised Project will continue to generate wastes similar to those presently generated at NAC, which presently have limited market demand. There are likely to be opportunities to reuse and recycle aluminium cans, some containers such as glass bottles, paper, and scrap steel. Some general wastes will be recycled or reused on site, such as pallets, or disposed of by licensed waste management contractors. The revised Project will review the marketability of all wastes for recycling and reuse on a regular basis and will update the WMP accordingly. |
| 792 | | | Based on the low level of risk, NAC will continue to use surface water monitoring, on-going geological assessments and rehabilitation performance to monitor for ARD. If required, waste rock dump design investigations will be undertaken to facilitate:<br>• physical characterisation of available non-acid forming (NAF) materials for burying potentially-acid forming (PAF) materials;<br>• physical characterisation of the PAF rock to be covered; and<br>• development of selective placement options. |

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| 793 | | | • General Waste<br>• A WMP will be regularly reviewed and revised as required.<br>• Recycling of glass, aluminium, steel and cardboards will be undertaken, if feasible.<br>• Regular monitoring and auditing will be undertaken, with a program to address any outstanding non-conformances.<br>• Waste Rock Management<br>• NAC will evaluate the acid generation potential appropriately regularly during mining operations to assess its acid generating capacity.<br>• The following measures will be implemented to manage mine waste. Low capacity PAF (PAF-LC) and PAF mine waste:<br>o progressively backfilled into pit voids and placed below the pre-mining groundwater level; and<br>o co-mingled with non-acid forming (NAF) materials in out of pit dumps during construction. |
| 794 | | | The following mitigation measures are proposed by NAC as commitments to reduce the revised Project's potential noise impact.<br>• NAC will establish a real-time noise monitoring network, which will be used in conjunction with a weather forecasting system and an adaptive management process, to proactively relocate, reduce or stop noisier mining operations.<br>• NAC has developed a NVMP for the revised Project, and is presented in Appendix J.11. The NVMP will be administered as an accompanying document to the revised Project's Plan of Operations.<br>• Based on ambient conditions (climate and the current mine plan)and feedback from the real-time noise monitoring (warning and alarm protocols), NAC may be required to limit or stop mining operations in the Manning Vale East pit during the night time period. This requirement is based on the noise assessment work completed for the revised Project's EIS.<br>• NAC will ensure noisier mining equipment, including excavators, track dozers, loaders and rear dump trucks, is fully attenuated. This requirement is based on the noise assessment work completed for the revised Project's EIS.<br>• Where possible, NAC will schedule noisier operations in-pit at night or during daylight hours only. For example, dumping of overburden and dozer activity on overburden dumps at or above ground surface may be restricted during night periods (10pm to 7am).<br>• If no suitable or acceptable noise amelioration solutions are available for a particular noise issue, NAC will negotiate in good faith with all affected property owners for property purchase or by agreement implement some other form of amicable arrangement (e.g. acoustic treatment of the dwelling, relocation or replacement of the dwelling at another suitable location, relocation of the landowner to another living arrangement for the period of the issue or any other suitable innovative solution). NAC would be responsible for all reasonable costs associated with any agreed solution to a noise issue. In the event agreement cannot be reached, NAC will enter into mediation with the affected party and employ the services of a third party to facilitate this process<br>• NAC will ensure proper maintenance and operational procedures will be undertaken to minimise noise emissions from equipment, including proper servicing and maintenance of exhaust systems on mine equipment.<br>• NAC will implement its Noise and Vibration Management Plan, as presented in Appendix J.11 to minimise the risk of noise complaints from nearby sensitive receptors to the revised Project. All complaints received in relation to the revised Project's operation will be managed as outlined in NAC's Local Stakeholder Engagement Plan as presented in Appendix J.18. NAC's approach to complaints management is based on the key principles of timeliness, sensitivity, fairness and impartiality, and confidentiality. NAC is committed to open communication with its local stakeholders and active complaint resolution when issues or concerns are raised about its mining operations. Where practicable, NAC using the mine planning process will utilise topsoil and other dumps as noise barriers between active mine operations and nearby noise receptor locations.<br>• NAC will continue to utilise broad band alarms instead of reverse beepers on all mobile equipment.<br>• NAC will continue to limit the speed of heavy vehicle traffic on haul roads.<br>• NAC will continue its current proactive monthly noise monitoring program and will expand its coverage around the revised Project site.<br>• NAC will continue its proactive assessment of possible noise attenuation options for both mobile or stationery noise emitting equipment. Noise emissions with tonal, impulsive and/or intermittent characteristics will be targeted for noise attenuation. |
| 795 | | | For the management of airblast overpressure and vibration, the following measures will be adopted for the revised Project.<br>• Field data will be used to best design blasts with an adequate buffer in place to meet noise/ vibration limits and the type of stemming required for the area.<br>• In the event of a blast issue, the maximum instantaneous charge of subsequent blasts will be reduced using delays, reduction of hole diameter, etc. (i.e. until the blast issue is resolved).<br>• In the event of a blast issue, the burden and spacing of subsequent blasts will be changed by altering the drilling pattern and/or delay layout, or altering the hole inclination (i.e. until the blast issue is resolved).<br>• The stemming depth and type will be adequate for each blast event.<br>• Blast events will only be conducted during favourable weather conditions.<br>• The monitoring of blasts will continue at the nearest sensitive receptors based on the interpretation of pre-blast weather data.<br>• The practice of advising near neighbours will continue in advance of each blast. All new near neighbours surrounding the revised Project site will be proactively invited to join the blast notification contact list.<br>• A qualified professional with suitable experience will be responsible for the revised Project's blast management. |
| 796 | | | A monitoring program will be implemented as per a NVMP and will include the following activities:<br>• NAC will continue its current proactive monthly noise monitoring program and will expand its coverage around the revised Project site.<br>• NAC will ensure all complaints will be investigated in a timely manner to determine the source of the nuisance noise. Where appropriate, noise monitoring will be conducted at the affected residence, and as required, noise amelioration solutions will be investigated and implemented by agreement.<br>• The monitoring of blasts will continue at the nearest sensitive receptors based on the interpretation of pre-blast weather data.<br>• All blast complaints will be investigated in a timely manner to determine the extent of the issue. Where appropriate, blast monitoring will be conducted at the affected residence, and as required, blast mitigation solutions will be investigated and implemented by agreement. |
| 797 | | | • Noise and vibration monitoring will be undertaken as per the EA.<br>• The Proponent will implement the NVMP.<br>• All substantiated noise and vibration complaints will be investigated and corrective action will be implemented as required. |
| 798 | | | Groundwater will be managed and monitored by NAC's EMS based on the updated Groundwater Monitoring and Impact Management Plan (GMIMP) in the AEIS, Appendix H. |
| 799 | | | NAC will expand its existing groundwater monitoring network to encompass the revised Project's new operational areas. NAC's groundwater monitoring regime will continue its regular assessment of water levels and quality from strategic bores surrounding the revised Project site to help identify potential impacts from the revised Project and to confirm legitimate issues raised by surrounding groundwater users. |
| 800 | | | If a legitimate groundwater issue is identified by monitoring or complaint investigation, NAC will attempt to reach a mutually agreeable arrangement with all affected neighbouring groundwater users in a timely manner, which may involve the provision of alternative water supplies throughout the revised Project's life and following mine closure. NAC would be responsible for all reasonable costs associated with the provision of any alternative water supply arrangements. Possible alternative water supply options may include:<br>• installation of new pumps capable of extracting groundwater from greater depths or more efficiently within existing bores;<br>• refurbishment of existing bores to improve the efficiency of groundwater extraction;<br>• deepening of existing bores to target new and/or more reliable aquifers; or<br>• installation of a new bore at another location on the property.<br>• Construction and decommissioning activities are not expected to impact groundwaters. |
| 801 | | | The groundwater monitoring program for the revised Project combines the current monitoring program for the existing Mine with an extended network of monitoring bores for the revised Project. Data collected from the groundwater monitoring program will:<br>• be operated in accordance with the revised Project's approved EA, including adoption of suitable guideline criteria and temporal investigation;<br>• be used in the continued development and refinement of groundwater impact assessment criteria and investigation triggers;<br>• enable verification and refinement (where necessary) of the groundwater modelling predictions presented in the AEIS; and<br>• be collated into a database that will be made available to the administering authority on request. |
| 802 | | | Table 3-12 summarises the bores that will be monitored, monitoring parameters, and frequency. The groundwater monitoring program combines the existing Mine monitoring bores together with the seven additional bores already installed around the revised Project site. |

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| 803 | | | In addition, a further 15 bores will be added to the monitoring network, which brings the total number of bores included in the groundwater monitoring program to 45 (Figure 3-3). The monitoring program for new bores will be established prior to the commencement of mining to ensure there is sufficient baseline information on groundwater levels and quality for those bores. |
| 804 | | | Monitoring results are interpreted on receipt and action taken to address any adverse results. Substantiated complaints in relation to water issues are dealt with promptly using NAC's complaint handling procedure. The surface water and groundwater monitoring regime will be expanded to cover the revised Project's development. As is currently practised, the Mine's current Monitoring Plan will be updated to reflect changes to the monitoring regime. |
| 805 | | | NAC's WRMP will be periodically updated to incorporate the progression in mining over the life of the revised Project. NAC's WRMP is an accompanying document to the Plan of Operations, and as a minimum, includes a summary of water management, current monitoring locations, a site plan, a schematic of the main water management structures and water discharge points, and a description of water use/recycling practices. A monthly evaluation and annual reporting of water monitoring results will be undertaken to check the effectiveness of the revised Project's water management. |
| 806 | | | After mining has ceased and decommissioning and rehabilitation works are complete, NAC will seek to relinquish the revised Project's mining leases. Prior to relinquishment, NAC will undertake the necessary investigations to ensure there are no long-term or residual impacts on the local groundwater regime as a result of the revised Project's previous mining activities. |
| 807 | | | • An operational separation distance of approximately 150 m will be maintained from the edge of the mining pits to Lagoon Creek, which will include a 50 m conservation buffer where no mining activities will be undertaken.<br>• The current conservation zone, 50 m either side of Lagoon Creek, from the Mine will be extended for the revised Project to promote the re-establishment of the riparian zone. No mining activities will occur within the proposed conservation zone.<br>• Sediment dams, environmental dams, pit water storage and other water management structures (e.g. bunds and drains) will be used appropriately by the revised Project as per the WRMP.<br>• The revised Project's water management will be based on the separation and management of clean and dirty water catchments.<br>• Water capture within the revised Project's clean areas will be diverted around operational areas and where practical, allowed to discharge off site as part of normal overland flow.<br>• Water from disturbed areas within the revised Project site will be diverted to sediment dams for treatment and possible reuse as a supplementary supply for the revised Project's water requirement.<br>• Surface runoff from the revised Project's potentially contaminated areas, such as infrastructure areas, will receive additional levels of treatment (e.g. oil-water separators and bunding). Water captured by these devices will be preferentially reused on site, while captured oil will collected for recycling by a licensed contractor.<br>• Progressive rehabilitation will be undertaken as the revised Project's operational areas become available to reduce the amount of disturbed areas.<br>• Fuel, dangerous goods and hazardous chemicals will be managed as outlined by current standards, guidelines and in compliance with statutory requirements.<br>• Refuelling locations and handling of fuels will be undertaken away from all waterways including creeks and drainage paths.<br>• NAC's existing SOP for spills and emergency response procedures will be expanded to incorporate the revised Project. Spill recovery and containment equipment will be available when working adjacent to sensitive drainage paths and within other areas, such as workshops.<br>• NAC will continue to commit to investigating all legitimate surface water complaints, and if a genuine problem is identified, conduct immediate remediation measures and establish standard operating procedures to minimise the possibility of a reoccurrence of the original issue. |
| 808 | | | In general, the monitoring program will include the following actions.<br>- Water quality will be measured upstream and downstream of the revised Project site. Basic water quality indicators (i.e. Salinity, pH, DO, EC, temperature) will continue to be monitored on a monthly basis, or when water is present, and heavy metals, nutrients, anions and cations monitored twice annually.<br>- During any release event, the receiving water will be monitored upstream (50 m to 100 m upstream of the release point) and downstream (200 m downstream of the release point) locations. Water quality variables will include basic water quality indicators, suspended solids, heavy metals, nutrients, anions and cations.<br>- Fuel, dangerous goods, hazardous chemicals and work shop wastes will be managed to ensure compliance with current industry standards and guidelines for safety and environmental protection. These management actions will focus on handling, storage, spill containment, emergency response, establishment of 'standard operating procedures' for key operational aspects, and development of a responsibility matrix for operational and reporting matters. |
| 809 | | | Nature conservation will be managed by NAC's EMS based on the CZMP, TSTP, PWMP, BOMP, and FLURP. |
| 810 | | | All areas to be cleared will have their boundaries surveyed and clearly marked by tape, pegs or other means. All site clearance will conform to the limits of the current mine plan. Particular attention will be paid to defining the boundaries of clearing where endangered and of concern regional ecosystems are present. |
| 811 | | | All vegetation clearance will be restricted to what is required for safe operations. A plan for dealing with fauna during clearing and construction will be prepared to outline protocols for dealing with injured wildlife and other necessary actions relating to fauna. |
| 812 | | | The existing flora and fauna monitoring program will be continued and expanded as required to protect flora and fauna of 'conservation significance' within and surrounding the Study area. The monitoring program will be broadened as required for the revised Project and will continue until decommissioning and final rehabilitation. |
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| | Appendix B<br>AEIS | *Koala Species Management Plan* | |
| 813 | | | NAC will preference the use of Koala food tree species for direct seeding and planting within the conservation zone, for example, Eucalyptus populnea, Eucalyptus tereticornis and Mountain Coolibah Eucalyptus orgadophila. NAC will aim for a stem density of 200-300 stems per hectare at initial planting to achieve a minimum final density goal of 100 stems of Koala food trees per hectare. This approach<br>incorporates a conservative degree of mortality during the first 10 years of growth. |
| 814 | | | To ensure full functionality as a safe movement corridor if infrastructure (e.g water treatment ponds, dams etc.) is to be located within the 50 metre buffer area, the extent of the buffer should be increased to accommodate the infrastructure whilst still providing a 50 meter buffer of vegetation. |
| 815 | | | The proposed Koala restoration area is shown on Figure 4.1, together with recommended locations for future Koala exclusion fencing.<br>The Action Plan to mitigate the loss of Koala habitats is provided in Table 4.1. |
| 816 | | | The revised Project's vegetation clearing and mining in the vicinity of recognised Koala habitat will be conducted in accordance with the Nature Conservation (Koala) Conservation Plan 2006 and Management Program 2006-2016 (EPA 2006), which is provided in Appendix 2 and involves:<br>- the staging or limiting of vegetation clearance to what is required for safe and efficient mining operations;<br>- the sequential clearance of trees under the guidance of a licenced and experienced Koala Spotter;<br>- the exclusion of vegetation clearance between the hours of 6pm and 6am; and<br>- the use of exclusion fencing around dangerous or high risk operational mining area. |
| 817 | | | As standard practice, NAC will ensure that all treed areas are assessed by a licenced and experienced Koala Spotter/Handler in advance of proposed vegetation clearance activities. In the event a Koala is present, the proposed clearing of these trees will be undertaken in a sequential manner to allow the Koalas present at the time to move out of the clearance site of their own accord in preference to being moved by a licenced and experienced Koala Spotter/Handler. All mining and other activity within this area will be suspended until the Koala has moved independently out of the danger zone or is relocated to a safe area by a licenced and experienced Koala Spotter/Handler. |
| 818 | | | The clearing of Koala habitat trees in a Koala habitat area (higher risk area) must be conducted in the presence of a licenced and experienced Koala Spotter/Handler whose primary role will be to locate Koalas in the trees to be cleared. For further guidance around this process, please refer to Appendix 2. |
| 819 | | | All of the revised Project's operational mining areas will be progressively fenced to ensure the exclusion of Koalas during their migratory activities. NAC has identified the treed areas of Lagoon Creek within the vicinity of the Manning Vale East andWilleroo Pits as a major high risk area. NAC will develop a Standard Operating Procedure for the management of Koalas within this high risk area. |
| 820 | | | While NAC's proposed conservation zone along Lagoon Creek will require specific fencing near operational mining area. There is no current plan to fence the whole length of the conservation zone within the Mine and revised Project areas. Temporary fencing and other methods will be used to exclude stock from the conservation zone, particularly form newly planted or direct seeded areas. Importantly, the overuse of fencing along the conservation zone can detrimentally exclude migrating Koalas from potential habitat along Lagoon Creek. Therefore, NAC and the Acland Pastoral Company will actively manage the revised Project's fencing requirements for conservation purposes to ensure positive outcomes. |
| 821 | | | In the event a Koala breaches a fenced area and wanders into an operational mining area, all activities<br>in the vicinity of the Koala will be suspended until the Koala has moved independently out of the danger zone or is relocated to a safe area by a licenced and experienced Koala Spotter/Handler. Wherever practical, the animal will be encouraged to move of its own volition. However, under certain circumstances to prevent immediate or potential threats that may cause death or harm, it will be prudent to capture and relocate the threatened animal. |
| 822 | | | NAC will ensure that only suitably qualified persons should attempt to spot or capture and contain a Koala. The licenced and experienced Koala Spotter/Handler will be required to possess appropriate equipment and cages and to immediately release all animals after capture, unless veterinary attention is required. |

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| 823 | | | The licenced and experienced Koala Spotter/Handler will ensure there are no Koalas present within or immediately near any tree felling activities. NAC will ensure no Koalas are artificially relocated to expedite tree felling activities. The licenced and experienced Koala Spotter/Handler will be required to operate in compliance with the requirements of the Nature Conservation (Koala) Conservation Plan 2006 and Management Program 2006-2016 (EPA 2006), which is provided in Appendix 2. |
| 824 | | | The construction of the revised Project's rail infrastructure and re-alignment of the Jondryan-Muldu Road will follow the same principles for Koala management as NAC's mining operations. NAC will ensure all contractors working on these activities are contractually bound to comply with the KSMP, especially in areas where vegetation clearance is required. |
| 825 | | | Once operational, the revised Project's rail infrastructure will be permanently fenced to exclude humans and stock. On the rare occasion, a Koala may traverse the rail infrastructure. Should this occur, the KSMP's management principles will apply, that is, all rail activities in the vicinity of the Koala will be suspended until the Koala has moved independently out of the danger zone or is relocated to a safe area by a licenced and experienced Koala Spotter/Handler. |
| 826 | | | The Action Plan to minimise the risk of death or injury to resident Koalas is provided in Table 4.2. |
| 827 | | | The KSMP will monitor the success of the prevention of Koala death and injury over the life of the revised Project together with the general population characteristics of the local Koala population in the vicinity of the revised Project. |
| 828 | | | NAC is committed to ensuring that the KSMP achieves its objectives. As a result, NAC will, as required, source external professional assistance to develop suitable corrective actions for significant issues identified by poor monitoring results. |
| 829 | | | To facilitate continuous improvement, NAC will review the KSMP's monitoring data on an annual basis to ensure management actions are effective and efficient. NAC may periodically amend the KSMP based on the outcome of this continuous improvement process. |
| 830 | | | The Action Plan for the KSMP's monitoring regime is outlined in Table 4.3. |
| 831 | | | An experienced licenced Koala Spotter/Handler will be engaged as required by NAC to conduct pre-clearance surveys of areas of vegetation proposed to be cleared. |
| 832 | | | The Koala Spotter/Handler will provide a brief report of all clearance or animal relocation works undertaken for NAC to assist monitoring and reporting, ecological evaluation and continuous improvement. |
| 833 | | | NAC has provided the KSMP as Appendix B of the revised Project's AEIS to address the CoG's additional information requirements for the revised Project's. In the future, NAC will provide copies of the KSMP or any associated reports to the general public on a formal request basis. |
| 834 | | | The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection and the Commonwealth Department of Environment will be advised of all significant matters arising out of operation of the KSMP and all amendments to the KSMP. NAC will also comply with all statutory obligations if applied to the management of Koalas in the future. |
| 835 | | | While not a matter of national environmental significance, for the purposes of the project's assessment, NAC will periodically audit the operation of the KSMP to assess the status of management compliance and to identify potential areas for improvement. These audits will be conducted internally on an annual basis and every three years by a qualified third party professional. The KSMP may be amended as part of this management compliance and improvement process. |
| 836 | | | NAC will review the operation of the KSMP to ensure it is functioning effectively on-site and to identify opportunities for improvement. The first review will occur after one year of operation of the KSMP and then every year following the third party audit. |
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| | Appendix C | Revised EM Plan | Specific commitments are contained within the revised Project EM Plan (Appendix C of the AEIS) |
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| | Appendix I | *Acland Management Plan* | |
| 837 | | | Table 1 identifies the commitments for each item, the items for which the management plans have been implemented and the items that will be retained and maintained (highlighted in green). |
| 838 | | | NHG will undertake necessary maintenance and refurbishment activities as outlined in the Acland Colliery Conservation Management Plan, to ensure the appropriate preservation of this important historical site. |
| 839 | | | In conjunction with management of Acland township through the Acland Management Plan, this heritage site will be managed according to the Acland Colliery Conservation Management Plan, as provided in the New Acland Coal Mine Stage 3 Project draft EIS (Appendix J.12). |
| 840 | | | Buildings owned by the NHG to be retained within Acland township (e.g.: Acland Town Hall), will be renovated and maintained as required, in order to keep them in a safe and tidy condition. It is intended that these buildings will be utilised periodically by company personnel for meetings and training purposes. Reasonable community requests for access and the use of these buildings, will also be given favourable consideration. |
| 841 | | | All local heritage items and structures remaining within Acland, will be appropriately maintained and managed by NHG or Acland Pastoral Company (APC). Appropriate guidelines and management plans will be followed, in the repair, maintenance and management of heritage items and structures. For example, work within the Acland No. 2 Colliery Conservation Area will be guided by the Acland Colliery Management Plan (Appendix J.12 of the draft EIS). |
| 842 | | | The NHG endorses the long-term protection and maintenance of Tom Doherty Park, and will continue to support the involvement of local landholders and visitors who may have an interest in the park and the associated war memorial (either regularly, or on special occasions such as Anzac Day or Remembrance Day). |
| 843 | | | The NHG remains committed to on-going and best-practice stakeholder engagement relating to the New Acland Coal Mine Stage 3 Project. This consultation will largely involve residents located in nearby townships such as Acland and Jondaryan. The company is committed to targeted community engagement activities to ensure local stakeholders have the opportunity to comment on the Acland township. |

# Appendix I. Communication Report - Advertisements and Media Releases

**Communication Report**

(occurring between the closure of the EIS public comment period, and the AEIS public comment period)

1. Advertisements in The Oakey Champion

    - Wednesday, 22 January 2014, page 9: Half-page advertisement headed 'Have your say – New Acland Coal Mine Stage 3 Project, Darling Downs (EPBC 2007/3423) - Draft environmental impact statement';

    - Wednesday, 22 January 2014, page 11: Half-page advertisement headed 'It's about community', detailing New Hope's partnerships with local community organisations. It states: 'Find out more, visit aclandproject.com.au';

    - Wednesday, 29 January 2014, page 12: Quarter-page advertisement – New Acland Coal Mine Stage 3 Project Community Information Sessions;

    - Wednesday, 5 February 2104, page 11: Quarter-page advertisement - New Acland Coal Mine Stage 3 Project Community Information Sessions;

    - Wednesday, 19 February 2104, page 11: Quarter-page advertisement – New Acland Public Tour (to be held on Friday, 21 February);

    - Wednesday, 26 February 2104, page 12: Quarter-page advertisement – New Acland Public Tour (to be held on Wednesday, 12 March);

    - Wednesday, 14 May 2104, page 5: Quarter-page advertisement – 'Congratulations Oakey State High on your 50th Anniversary from New Hope Group'. It states 'Find out more, visit aclandproject.com.au';

    - Wednesday, 13 August 2014, page 12: Half-page advertisement headed 'It's about water recycling' detailing New Acland's use of recycled waste water. It states: 'Find out more, visit aclandproject.com.au';

    - Wednesday, 20 August 2014, page 11: Half-page advertisement headed 'It's about water recycling' detailing New Acland's use of recycled waste water. It states: 'Find out more, visit aclandproject.com.au';

    - Wednesday, 17 September 2014, page 6: Advertisement across the bottom of the page for the Oakey QCWA Baby Show 2014 which states 'Please visit Helen Braithwaite and Naomi Tonscheck at the New Hope Community Information Centre in Campbell Street, Oakey, or phone 4691 3445.'; and

    - Wednesday, 8 October 2014, page 11: Quarter-page advertisement – New Acland Community Reference Group – seeking applications from representatives of the local community.

2. Media stories and letters to the editor relating to consultation during this period included:

    - Wednesday, 22 January 2014, page 5: story and photograph headed 'Have your say on the New Acland project'. Story details the EIS process and how to make a submission;

    - Wednesday, 5 February 2014, page 7: story headed 'New Acland EIS information sessions' detailing the four public information sessions in local communities;

- Wednesday, 12 February 2014, page 7: story and photo headed ‘Original Acland mine to be preserved’;

- Wednesday, 26 February 2014, page 2: story and three photos headed ‘Stage 3 expansion would extend mine life by 15 years’;

- Wednesday, 5 March 2014, page 4: story and photo headed ‘TOMnet offer thanks’ detailing a thank-you breakfast The Older Men’s Network (TOMnet) put on to thank the New Hope Group for its contribution to Oakey and district;

- Wednesday, 26 March 2014, page 6: story headed ‘Acland breakfast updates locals’ detailing a breakfast held at Acland Hall to update local Oakey businesses;

- Wednesday, 16 July 2014, page 9: Letter to the Editor ‘New Hope Responds’ by Bruce Denney, Chief Operating Officer, New Hope Group – details information about air monitoring; and

- Wednesday, 3 September 2014, page 3: story and photo headed ‘Have your say on stage three proposals’, detailing information and how to make submissions in the AEIS process.