

FINAL

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD CLOSED EPBC REF: 2014/7377

MT ARTHUR COAL OPEN CUT MODIFICATION PROJECT, MUSWELLBROOK, NSW

Hunter Valley Energy Coal Pty Ltd (HVEC) operates the Mt Arthur Coal complex located approximately 5 kilometres south west of Muswellbrook in the NSW Upper Hunter Valley. Mining has been undertaken at the complex since the 1960s.

HVEC is proposing to commence the Mt Arthur Coal Open Cut Modification Project (also known as the Modification Project), which was approved by the NSW Planning and Assessment Commission under the *NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, on 26 September 2014.

The Modification Project involves the continuation of open cut mining operations at the Mt Arthur Coal Mine for an additional operational life of four years from 2022 to 2026, an increase in the open cut disturbance areas, the use of the conveyor corridor for overburden emplacement and the duplication of the existing rail loop.

The proposed action is a controlled action under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999* and will be assessed through preliminary documentation. The controlling provisions under Part 3 of the EPBC Act are listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 and 18A). The proposed action is to be undertaken by HVEC.

In accordance with Section 95B(4) of the Act, HVEC advises that no comments were received at the close of the public comment period. Preliminary documentation can continue to be viewed until the 27 July 2016 at the following locations, without charge:

- Mt Arthur Coal, Thomas Mitchell Drive, Muswellbrook, NSW.
- Muswellbrook Library, 126 Bridge Street, Muswellbrook, NSW.
- NSW Environment Protection Authority, Bull St, Newcastle, NSW.
- NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, Level 4, 26 Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle, NSW.
- Department of the Environment, John Gorton Building, King Edward Terrace, Parkes, ACT.

The documents can also be viewed without charge at bhpbilliton.com/regulatoryinformation by selecting 'Mt Arthur Coal'. If you require assistance in accessing the material or would like any further information, please call (02) 6544 5800 or email: NSWEC.Community@bhpbilliton.com