

MANAGEMENT PLAN



REHABILITATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

MAC-ENC-MTP-055

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Key Contact: Environment Superintendent

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Mt Arthur Lease Block

Mt Arthur Lease Block	
Name of Mine	Mt Arthur Coal (Mt Arthur Coal Pty Limited)
Rehabilitation management Plan Commencement Date	July 2026 Version
Rehabilitation management Plan revision dates and version numbers	Version 1.0 – June 2019 Version 2.0 – April 2020 Version 3.0 – June 2021 Version 4.0 – September 2023 Version 5.0 – July 2026
Mining Authorisations (Lease/License No.):	CCL 744 – exp 21/01/2028 CL 396 – exp 03/02/2045 ML 1358 – exp 21/09/2036 ML 1487 – exp 12/06/2043 ML 1548 – exp 30/05/2035 ML 1655 – exp 03/03/2032 ML 1757 – exp 07/07/2038 ML 1739 – exp 25/07/2037 MPL 263 – exp 17/10/2032 Sublease CL 229 – exp 02/02/2045 Sublease CL 395 – exp 21/01/2029
Name of Authorisation / lease Holder(s)	Hunter Valley Energy Coal Pty Ltd Mt Arthur Coal Pty Limited Maxwell Ventures (Management) Pty Ltd. Maxwell Infrastructure (formerly Drayton) (sublease)
Date of Submission	July 2026

Application

This Plan applies to the following:

- All BHP employees and contract staff;
- All Partnering contractor company representatives; and
- All Subcontractor company representatives.

Abbreviations

ARRFP	Annual Rehabilitation Report and Forward Program (AHMHMP)
AHMP	Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan
BCM	Bank cubic metres
BioMP	Biodiversity Management Plan
CCC	Community Consultative Committee
CCL	Consolidated coal lease
CHPP	Coal handling preparation plant
CL	Coal lease
CPHR	NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water - Conservation Programs, Heritage & Regulation Group
DPHI	NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
EA	Environmental assessment
EL	Exploration licence
EPBC	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation
EPL	Environment Protection Licence
FLDP	Future Landscapes Design Project
FY	Financial year
HA	Hectares
HVEC	Hunter valley Energy Coal (MT Arthur Coal)
ISO	International Standards Organisation
ITP	Inspection and test plan
LGA	Local government area
MAC	Mt Arthur Coal
ML	Mining lease
MPL	Mining purpose lease
MSC	Muswellbrook Shire Council
Mtpa	Million tonnes per annum
NSW	New South Wales
ROM	Run of mine

Definitions

Hunter Valley Energy Coal Pty Ltd - operates the MAC which consists of the approved open cut mining operations, a rail loop and associated rail loading facilities (PA 09_0062) and the Mt Arthur Underground Project (PA 06_0091).

Future Landscapes Design Project - The FLDP was a project undertaken to research a landform approach that would align with community expectations and improvements in landform design techniques. A report by Landloch Pty Ltd (2014) was written to capture the findings of the project which have now been incorporated into the geomorphic landform design.

Geomorphic Landform Design - The adaption of the Geofluvial approach used at Mt Arthur Coal, uses the characteristics of stable natural alluvial landforms as an analogue on which to base the design of mine overburden landforms. Importantly, the approach does not replicate existing landforms, but rather uses the key characteristics that make these landforms stable in the design.

Project Approval - Project Approval 09_0062 MOD 3 Mt Arthur Coal Mine MOD 3 (Joint Tailings Management Project), determined 22 September 2025.

Annual Rehabilitation Report and Forward Program (ARRFP) – The Annual Rehabilitation Report and Forward Program meets the requirements of Schedule 8A, Part 2 of the Mining Regulation 2016.

Rehabilitation Management Plan (RMP) - The Rehabilitation Management Plan meets the requirements of Section 9 of Schedule 8 of the Mining Regulation 2016.

1 Introduction

Hunter Valley Energy Coal Pty Ltd (HVEC), a wholly owned subsidiary of BHP, operates the Mt Arthur Coal Complex (MAC), which consists of approved open cut and underground mining operations, a rail loop and associated rail loading facilities. MAC is located approximately 5 kilometres southwest of Muswellbrook within the Muswellbrook Shire Local Government Area (LGA) in the Upper Hunter Valley of NSW. The location of MAC is shown in **Figure 1**.

This RMP has been prepared in accordance with the Form and Way Rehabilitation Management Plan for Large Mines (Resources Regulator, 2025).

1.1 History of Operations

MAC is an open cut coal mine that has historically operated using truck and shovel mining methods to extract run-of-mine (ROM) coal. Coal mining commenced in the early 1960s and has progressively expanded through a series of open cut mining, infrastructure and project approval modifications. The key operational and approval milestones are summarised in **Table 1**.

Table 1 History of Operations

Period	Operational history and approvals
Pre-2010	Early operations and Bayswater mining areas Coal mining commenced in the early 1960s in the Bayswater No. 2 Open Cut mining area. Approval to extract coal from Bayswater No. 3 Open Cut was granted in 1994. Rail loading facility and spur line Approval was obtained in November 2000 for the rail loading facility and spur line, allowing export coal to be transported directly to Newcastle via the Main Northern Railway. MAC North Open Cut was approved in May 2001 to extract up to 15 Mtpa of ROM coal, with associated infrastructure and facilities. Bayswater No. 3 and Saddlers Pit Between 2003 and 2006, Bayswater No. 3 was effectively suspended and Saddlers Pit was maintained on care and maintenance. Works during this period primarily involved reshaping and final rehabilitation near Bayswater No. 3. Mining resumed in Saddlers Pit in September 2006. South Pit Extension An application to extend the MAC North South Pit was lodged in March 2006 and approved on 9 January 2008. The MAC Underground Project was approved on 2 December 2008 under Project Approval 06_0091, allowing extraction of up to 8 Mtpa. Saddlers Pit was used to construct an underground adit. The underground project is currently on care and maintenance.
2010–2014	Open Cut Consolidation Project – Project Approval 09_0062 was granted on 24 September 2010, consolidating existing open cut mining and surface infrastructure approvals and permitting extraction of up to 32 Mtpa of ROM coal from open cut operations. Several former approvals were surrendered in 2011, including MAC North, the Rail Loading Facility, the South Pit Extension and the Bayswater Coal Preparation Plant. The surrender of the Bayswater No. 3 development consent was accepted on 20 May 2013. Saddlers Pit operational responsibility MAC Coal assumed responsibility for overburden removal at Saddlers Pit in March 2012.
2014–2025	Project Approval 09_0062 Modification 1 was approved on 26 September 2014, allowing open cut mining to continue from 2022 to 2026 at up to 32 Mtpa. The modification also included additional disturbance areas, additional overburden emplacement areas, duplication of the rail loop and infrastructure changes. EPBC approval 2014/7377 was granted on 2 December 2016 for the Modification project, aligning the Commonwealth approval timeframe with the approved operational life to 2026.

Period	Operational history and approvals
2025–2030	Project Approval 09_0062 Modification 2 was approved in April 2025. MOD2 extended mining operations to 30 June 2030, revised the final landform by reducing emplacement areas and the number of residual voids retained post-closure, reduced the approved open cut and cumulative ROM coal extraction rate, and varied the approved disturbance extent. MOD2 also allows residual stockpiled coal to be processed and transported from the site between 30 June 2030 and 31 December 2030 as part of rehabilitation activities. Project Approval 09_0062 Modification 3 was approved in September 2025. MOD3 allows tailings to be transferred from MAC to Maxwell Underground for storage within the Maxwell East void. MOD3 did not change the conditions relating to preparation of the Rehabilitation Strategy. Refer to Section 6.1 for future operational activities.

1.2 Current Consents, Leases and Licences

Current Development Consents, leases and licenses are listed in **Table 2**. Lease boundaries are shown in **Figure 1**.

Table 2: Summary of Approvals and Licences

Approval	Issue date	Expiry date	Description
Development consents or project approvals			
Mt Arthur Coal MOD 3 (Joint Tailings Management Project) (PA 09_0062 MOD 3)	22/09/2025	30/6/2030 (mining) 31/12/2030 (processing and transport of residual coal) N/A (rehabilitation)	A modification (MOD 3) to allows the transfer of tailings from MAC to Maxwell Underground for storage within the Maxwell East void.
Mt Arthur Coal MOD 2 (Pathway to 2030) (PA 09_0062 MOD 2)	16/4/2025	30/6/2030 (mining) 31/12/2030 (processing and transport of residual coal) N/A (rehabilitation)	A modification (MOD 2) to facilitate: - A four-year extension of mining activities to 30 June 2030; - Reduction in the approved open cut mining rate from 32 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) of run-of-mine (ROM) coal to a maximum of 25 Mtpa ROM coal; - Reduction in the cumulative open cut and underground ROM coal handling rate from 36 Mtpa to 29 Mtpa; - Reduction in maximum total (open cut and underground) coal rail transportation from 27 Mtpa of product coal to 20 Mtpa, and a reduction in train movements from 30 to 20 movements per day; - Minor extension (25 hectare) of the approved disturbance area in the north-west corner of the operation predominantly to allow for access and ancillary infrastructure; - An overall reduction (387 hectare) in approved disturbance, as some previously approved disturbance areas are no longer intended to be disturbed; and - Revised final landform and final void configuration, including an overall reduction in the approved height of the northern overburden emplacement areas and the final landform (to reflect the current actual height).

Approval	Issue date	Expiry date	Description
Mt Arthur Coal Mine – Open Cut Modification Project (PA 09_0062 MOD 1)	26/09/2014	30/06/2026	A modification (MOD 1) was granted on 26 September 2014 to facilitate: - The continuation of open cut mining to 2026 (maximum extraction rate of 32 Mtpa); - Increase in open cut disturbance areas; - Use of existing conveyor corridor between MAC and Maxwell Infrastructure for overburden emplacement; - Duplication of the existing rail loop; - Increase maximum number of train movements per day to 30; - Relocation of the overland conveyor load point which delivers coal to Macquarie Generation's Bayswater Power Station; - Relocation and upgrade of the explosives storage, magazine and associated facilities; and - Construction of additional offices, a control room and extension to the ROM coal stockpile footprint.
Mt Arthur Coal Mine – Underground Project (MP06_0091)	02/12/2008	31/12/2030	To develop a new underground coal mine to add to the existing MAC. The proposal –involves: - Underground longwall mining from 5 coal seams at a rate of 8 million tonnes of run-of-mine (ROM) coal a year over a period of 21 years. - Extracted coal would be processed in MAC's existing coal handling and preparation facilities and then transported to market using existing rail loading and conveyor facilities. - The mine infrastructure would be upgraded to service the project.
Mining leases and exploration licences			
ML 1358	21/09/1994	21/09/2036	ML held by Hunter Valley Energy Coal Pty Ltd
ML 1487	13/06/2001	12/06/2043	ML held by Hunter Valley Energy Coal Pty Ltd
ML 1548	31/05/2004	30/05/2035	ML held by Hunter Valley Energy Coal Pty Ltd
ML 1655	03/03/2011	03/03/2032	ML held by Hunter Valley Energy Coal Pty Ltd
ML1739	25/07/2016	25/07/2037	ML held by Hunter Valley Energy Coal Pty Ltd
ML 1757	7/07/2017	7/07/2038	ML held by Hunter Valley Energy Coal Pty Ltd
MPL 263	17/10/1990	17/10/2032	MPL held by Mt Arthur Coal Pty Limited
CCL 744	03/07/1989	21/01/2028	CCL held by Mt Arthur Coal Pty Limited
CL 396	23/06/1992	03/02/2045	CL held by Mt Arthur Coal Pty Limited
CL 229	03/02/1982	02/02/2045	CL held by Maxwell Ventures (Management) Pty Ltd. Maxwell Infrastructure (formerly Drayton) (sublease).
CL 395	23/06/1992	21/01/2029	CL held by Maxwell Ventures (Management) Pty Ltd. Maxwell Infrastructure (formerly Drayton) (sublease).
EPL			

Approval	Issue date	Expiry date	Description
EPL 11457	09/10/2001 (last updated on 19/02/2026)	Not specified	EPL for the following scheduled activities: Coal Works > 500,000 tonnes handling capacity; Crushing, grinding or Separating > 500000 - 2000000 T annual processing capacity; Mining for Coal > 5,000,000 tonnes annual production capacity; and Chemical storage > 5000 - 100000 kL storage capacity
EPBC approvals			
EPBC 2011/5866	30/04/2012	30/06/2030	Conditional approval for development of five new open cut extension areas (within designated areas).
EPBC 2014/7377	05/12/2016	30/06/2030	Continuation of the open cut mining operations of approximately 128 million tonnes of ROM coal within HVEC's existing mining tenements and application rea – ML548, ML 1358, ML1548, Sublease CL 229, ML 1655 and ML 1739.
General Water Licences			
WAL 917 (20AL201126), WAL 918 (20AL201127), WAL 1296, WAL 18141, WAL 18247, WAL 41495, WAL 41556, WAL 41557 and WAL 18175.			



Figure 1 Site location and leases

1.3 Land Ownership

Land ownership, land use and, pre-mining vegetation and catchments within and surrounding MAC is shown on **Figure 2, Figure 3** and **Figure 4**, with details provided in **Table 3. Appendix 1** includes the Schedule of Lands.

MAC is situated within the Upper Hunter region which has a long history of rural land use for a variety of agricultural and industrial activities, predominantly livestock grazing and coal mining. MAC is located within lands that have been largely disturbed by previous agricultural activities, particularly cultivation and grazing.

The dominant land uses within and adjacent to the existing mining lease boundaries include open cut coal mining, power generation and industrial activities, agriculture, rural residential and residential areas. Other land uses include equine industries and viticulture. Where possible, rehabilitation planning at MAC will attempt to maximise opportunities for a diverse post-mining landscape and range of land uses. Proposed final land uses include agricultural (grazing) and native ecosystem, consistent with PA 09-0062.

MAC or its subsidiaries own or manage the majority of land within the MAC mining tenements including operational areas and adjacent properties to the north-east, north and west, which are maintained as buffer land or biodiversity offset areas. Areas within the lease not owned by MAC include: Crown land, road reserves, and the Maxwell Infrastructure sublease area in the southeast of the mine site.

Maxwell Ventures (Management) Pty Ltd owns the majority of land to the immediate east and south of MAC mining tenements, including the Maxwell Infrastructure (Drayton) sublease Area. Land further to the southeast owned by Macquarie Generation. The Bengalla Joint Venture owns the land on which Bengalla Mine operates and to which its mining tenements apply, to the immediate north of MAC.

Table 3: Land Ownership within Leases

Owner	Approximate Area of Ownership
Mt Arthur Coal Pty Limited	508 ha
Hunter Valley Energy Coal Pty Ltd	7,697 ha
Malabar Resources Pty Ltd (Maxwell Mine)	299 ha
Maxwell North Pty Ltd	213 ha
Crown Land	12 ha

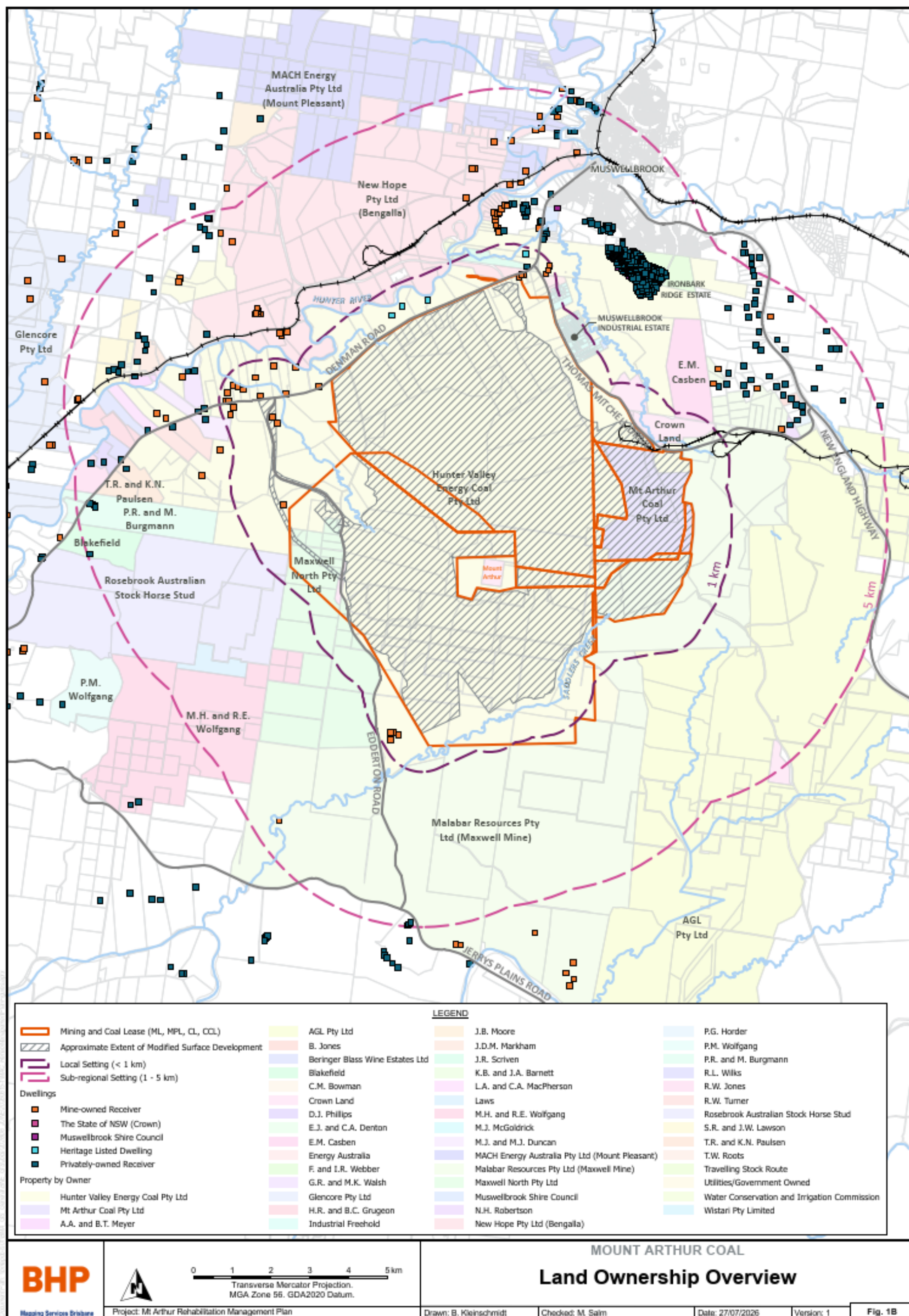


Figure 2 Land ownership overview

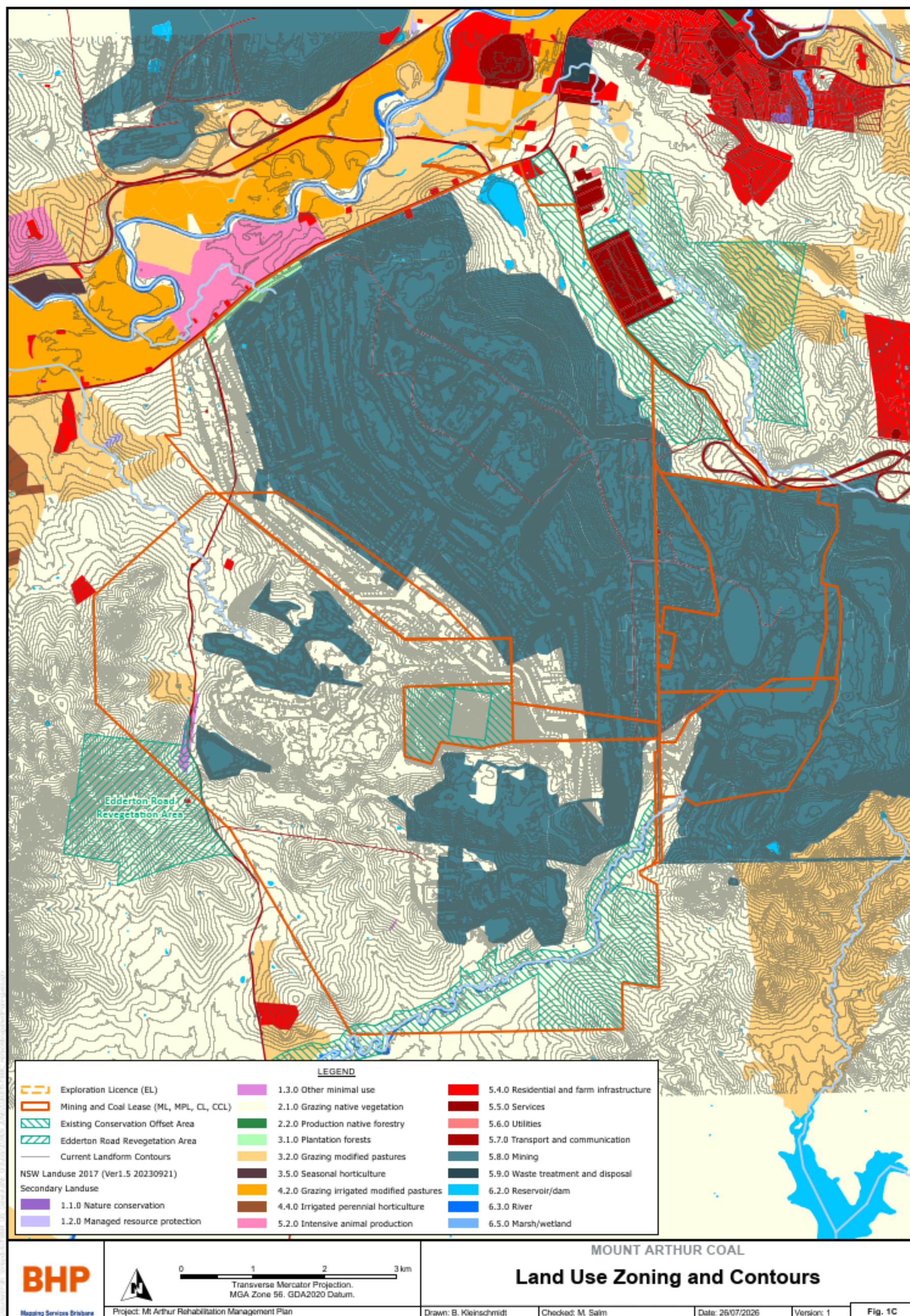


Figure 3 Land use zoning and contours

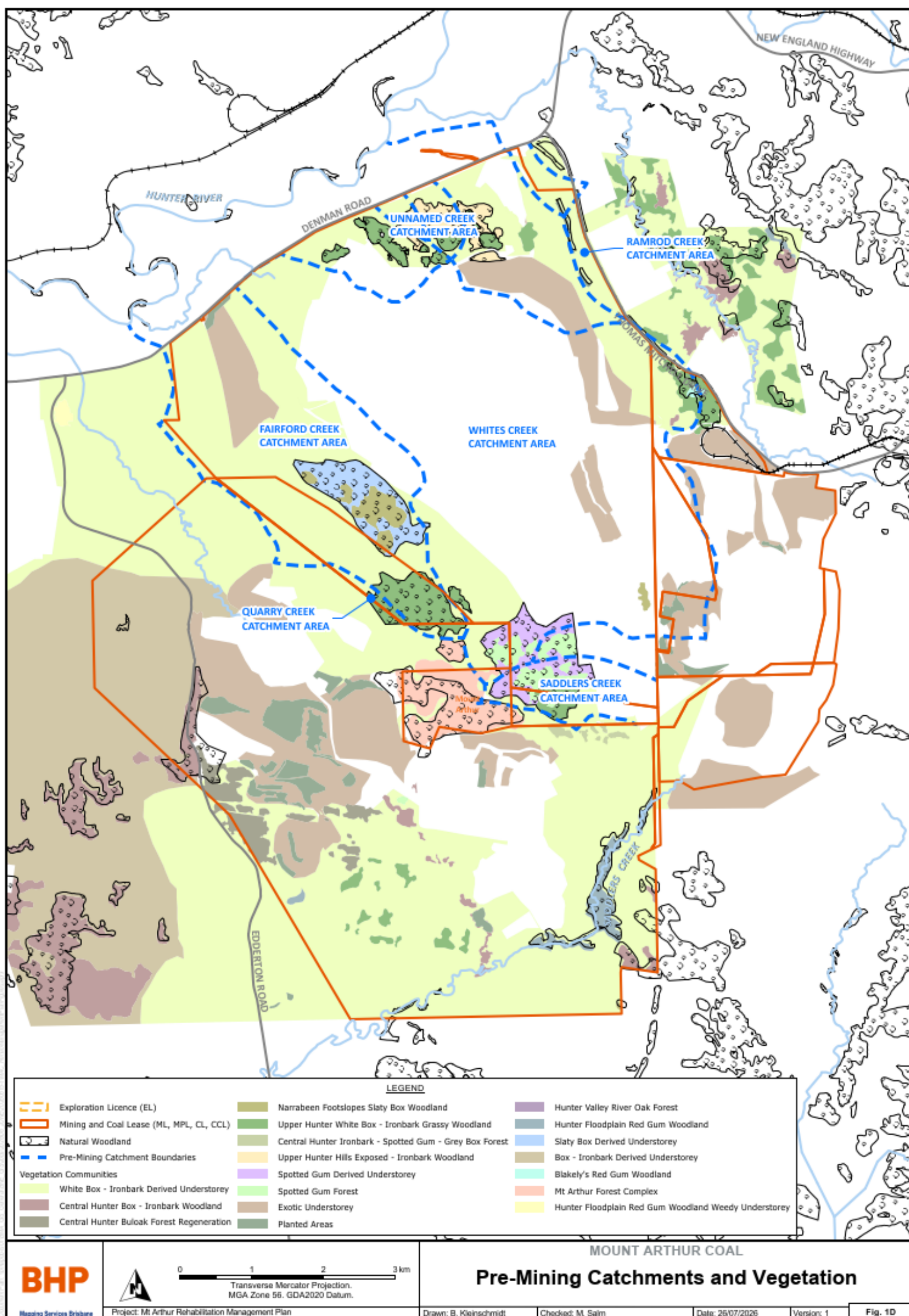


Figure 4 Pre-mining catchments and vegetation

2 Final Land Use

2.1 Regulatory Requirements for Rehabilitation

As stated in **Section 1.3**, final land use at MAC includes the establishment of native woodland and pasture, consistent with PA 09_0062. Regulatory requirements for post mining land use and rehabilitation are included in:

- Project Approval (09_0062 MOD 3); EPBC Approval 2014/7377;
- EPBC Approval 2011/5866; and
- Key Mining Tenements (listed in **Table 2** above).

Conditions which specifically affect the post mining land use, landscape and rehabilitation outcomes are listed in **Table 4**.

Table 4: Regulatory Requirements Related to Rehabilitation

Document	Condition/ Section	Requirement	Area	Timing	Section Addressed/ Comment
Project Approval (09_0062 MOD 3)	Schedule 2, Condition 5	Mining operations for the development may take place until 30 June 2030. <i>Notes:</i> • Under this consent, the Applicant is required to decommission and rehabilitate the site and carry out other requirements in relation to mining operations. Consequently, this consent will continue to apply in all respects other than to permit the carrying out of mining operations until the rehabilitation of the site and other requirements have been carried out to the required standard. • Mining operations and rehabilitation are also regulated under the Mining Act 1992.	Mine Site (Project as a whole)	During the active mining phase.	N/A
	Schedule 3, Condition 36	The Applicant must implement the biodiversity offset strategy as outlined in Table 13 and as generally described in the EA (and shown in Appendix 7), to the satisfaction of the Secretary.	Biodiversity Offset Area	End of Mine Life	Offset areas are managed under a Biodiversity Management Plan (BioMP) Ecological rehabilitation contributes 2642ha to the Biodiversity Offset Strategy.
	Schedule 3, Condition 38	The Applicant must ensure that the biodiversity offset strategy and/or rehabilitation strategy is focused on the re-establishment of, to the satisfaction of the Secretary: (a) significant and/or threatened plant communities, including: - Upper Hunter White Box – Ironbark Grassy Woodland; - Central Hunter Box – Ironbark Woodland; - Central Hunter Ironbark – Spotted Gum - Grey Box Forest; - Narrabeen Foothills Slaty Box Woodland; - Hunter Floodplain Red Gum Woodland Complex; - White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Woodland; - Hunter Lowlands Red Gum Forest; and (b) significant and/or threatened plant species, including: - River Red Gum (<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>); - Pine Donkey Orchid (<i>Diuris tricolor</i>); - Tiger Orchid (<i>Cymbidium canaliculatum</i>); - Weeping Myall (<i>Acacia pendula</i>); and (c) habitat for significant and/or threatened animal species.	- Native Ecosystem; and - Biodiversity Offset Area.	End of Mine Life	Section 6.2.1.2; Offset areas are managed under a BioMP
	Schedule 3, Condition 40	Biodiversity Management Plan The Applicant must prepare and implement a Biodiversity Management Plan for the development to the satisfaction of the Secretary. This plan must:	Biodiversity Offset Area	End of Mine Life	Offset areas are managed under a BioMP

Document	Condition/ Section	Requirement	Area	Timing	Section Addressed/ Comment
		(a) be prepared in consultation with the CPHR and Council, and be submitted to the Secretary for approval by the end of March 2015, unless otherwise agreed with the Secretary; (b) describe how the implementation of the offset strategy would be integrated with the overall rehabilitation of the site (see below); (c) include: i. a description of the short, medium, and long term measures that would be implemented to: • implement the offset strategy; and • manage the remnant vegetation and habitat on the site and in the offset areas; ii. detailed performance and completion criteria for the implementation of the offset strategy; iii. a detailed description of the measures that would be implemented over the next 3 years, including the procedures to be implemented for: • implementing revegetation and regeneration within the disturbance areas and offset areas, including establishment of canopy, sub-canopy (if relevant), understorey and ground strata; • protecting vegetation and soil outside the disturbance areas; • rehabilitating creeks and drainage lines that occur on the site, both inside and outside the disturbance areas (such as the White's Creek Diversion), to ensure no net loss of aquatic habitat; • managing salinity; • conserving and reusing topsoil; • undertaking pre-clearance surveys; • managing impacts on fauna; • landscaping the site and along public roads (including Thomas Mitchell Drive, Denman Road, Edderton Road and Roxburgh Road) to minimise visual and lighting impacts; • collecting and propagating seed; • salvaging and reusing material from the site for habitat enhancement; • salvaging, transplanting and/or propagating threatened flora and native grassland, in accordance with the Guidelines for the Translocation of Threatened Plants in Australia (Vallee et al., 2004); • controlling weeds and feral pests; • managing grazing and agriculture; • controlling access; and • bushfire management; • minimising impacts on Box Gum Woodland including re-establishing, enhancing and protecting the 'proposed additional Box Gum Woodland' areas (shown in Appendix 7) vegetation to a condition state commensurate with Box Gum Woodland; iv. a program to monitor the effectiveness of these measures, and progress against the performance and completion criteria; v. a description of the potential risks to successful revegetation, and a description of the contingency measures that would be implemented to mitigate these risks; and vi. details of who would be responsible for monitoring, reviewing, and implementing the plan.			

Document	Condition/ Section	Requirement	Area	Timing	Section Addressed/ Comment																
	Schedule 3, Condition 40A	The Biodiversity Management Plan, as approved by the Secretary, must be implemented for the development.	Biodiversity Offset Area.	End of Mine Life	BioMP																
	Schedule 3, Condition 41A	The Applicant must rehabilitate the site in accordance with the conditions imposed on the mining lease(s) associated with the development under the Mining Act 1992. This rehabilitation must be generally consistent with the documents listed in condition 2 of Schedule 2 (and shown conceptually in the rehabilitation plan in Appendix 7 and the final landform plan in Appendix 8) and must comply with the objectives in Table 14. Table 14: Rehabilitation Objectives <table><tr><th>Feature</th><th>Objectives</th></tr><tr><td>All areas of the site affected by the development</td><td> • Safe, stable and non-polluting • Final landforms designed to incorporate natural microrelief and natural drainage lines to integrate with surrounding landforms • Fit for the intended post-mining land use/s • Establish the final landform and post-mining land use/s as soon as practicable after cessation of mining operations • Minimise post-mining environmental impacts </td></tr><tr><td>Final voids</td><td> • Designed as long term groundwater sinks and to maximise groundwater flows across back-filled pits to the final void • Minimise to the greatest extent practicable: • The size and depth of final voids • The drainage catchment of final voids • Any high wall instability risk • Risk of flood interaction </td></tr><tr><td>Agricultural land</td><td> • Rehabilitate at least 33 hectares of Class II agricultural capability land in the area identified in the rehabilitation plan • Rehabilitate other areas identified for agricultural use in the rehabilitation plan to sufficient agricultural capability to support grazing </td></tr><tr><td>Revegetation areas</td><td> • Restore at least 2,665 hectares of self-sustaining woodland ecosystems in accordance with the rehabilitation plan, including at least 523 hectares of White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Woodland </td></tr><tr><td>Creeks diversions and realignments</td><td> • Flows to mimic pre-development flows for all flood events up to and including the 1 in 100 year ARI • Incorporate erosion control measures based on vegetation and engineering revetments • Incorporate structures for aquatic habitat, and replace any habitat removed • Revegetate with suitable native species </td></tr><tr><td>Surface Infrastructure</td><td>To be decommissioned and removed, unless DRE agrees otherwise</td></tr><tr><td>Community</td><td>Ensure public safety Minimise the adverse socio-economic effects associated with mine closure</td></tr></table>	Feature	Objectives	All areas of the site affected by the development	• Safe, stable and non-polluting • Final landforms designed to incorporate natural microrelief and natural drainage lines to integrate with surrounding landforms • Fit for the intended post-mining land use/s • Establish the final landform and post-mining land use/s as soon as practicable after cessation of mining operations • Minimise post-mining environmental impacts	Final voids	• Designed as long term groundwater sinks and to maximise groundwater flows across back-filled pits to the final void • Minimise to the greatest extent practicable: • The size and depth of final voids • The drainage catchment of final voids • Any high wall instability risk • Risk of flood interaction	Agricultural land	• Rehabilitate at least 33 hectares of Class II agricultural capability land in the area identified in the rehabilitation plan • Rehabilitate other areas identified for agricultural use in the rehabilitation plan to sufficient agricultural capability to support grazing	Revegetation areas	• Restore at least 2,665 hectares of self-sustaining woodland ecosystems in accordance with the rehabilitation plan, including at least 523 hectares of White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Woodland	Creeks diversions and realignments	• Flows to mimic pre-development flows for all flood events up to and including the 1 in 100 year ARI • Incorporate erosion control measures based on vegetation and engineering revetments • Incorporate structures for aquatic habitat, and replace any habitat removed • Revegetate with suitable native species	Surface Infrastructure	To be decommissioned and removed, unless DRE agrees otherwise	Community	Ensure public safety Minimise the adverse socio-economic effects associated with mine closure	• Native Ecosystem; and • Biodiversity Offset Area.	End of Mine Life	This MAC RMP including previous and future revisions. • Rehabilitation Objectives: Section 4 and Section 8.3; • Final Landforms are discussed in Section 6.2.3. • Final Void: Section 6.2.3 and Rehabilitation Strategy. • Agriculture: Section 6.2.3 and 6.2.5; • Revegetation: Section 6.2.1.2, Section 6.2.1.3, Section 6.2.4; • Diversions and realignments: Section 6.2.3.1 and Section 6.2.3.5. • Surface Infrastructure: Section 6.2.3.3. • Community: Section 6.2.2.1 • Water Quality: Section 4.1 • Final Landform: Section 6.2.3
	Feature	Objectives																			
	All areas of the site affected by the development	• Safe, stable and non-polluting • Final landforms designed to incorporate natural microrelief and natural drainage lines to integrate with surrounding landforms • Fit for the intended post-mining land use/s • Establish the final landform and post-mining land use/s as soon as practicable after cessation of mining operations • Minimise post-mining environmental impacts																			
	Final voids	• Designed as long term groundwater sinks and to maximise groundwater flows across back-filled pits to the final void • Minimise to the greatest extent practicable: • The size and depth of final voids • The drainage catchment of final voids • Any high wall instability risk • Risk of flood interaction																			
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	Surface Infrastructure	To be decommissioned and removed, unless DRE agrees otherwise																			
	Community	Ensure public safety Minimise the adverse socio-economic effects associated with mine closure																			

Document	Condition/ Section	Requirement		Area	Timing	Section Addressed/ Comment
		Water quality	• Water retained on the site is fit for the intended post-mining land use/s • Water discharged from the site is suitable for receiving waters and fit for aquatic ecology and riparian vegetation			
		Final landform	• Stable for the intended post-mining land use/s • Integrated with surrounding natural landforms and other mine rehabilitated landforms, to the greatest extent practicable • Incorporate micro-relief and drainage features that mimic natural topography and mitigate erosion, to the greatest extent practicable • Maximise surface water drainage to the natural environment i.e. free draining (excluding final void catchment) • Minimise visual impacts, where practicable			
		Note: 1 The rehabilitation plan for the site is shown in Appendix 7. Revegetation areas include the remnant woodland within the approved disturbance area (including the Impact Minimisation Area) shown in Appendix 7, which forms part of the woodland corridor area obligations under this consent.				
	Schedule 3, Condition 42	The Applicant must prepare a revised Rehabilitation Strategy for the MAC to the satisfaction of the Secretary. This strategy must: (a) be prepared in consultation with the CPHR, the Resources Regulator and Council, and be submitted to the Secretary for approval within 12 months of the approval of Mod 2, unless otherwise agreed with the Secretary; (b) be prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced person/s whose appointment has been endorsed by the Secretary; (c) align with strategic rehabilitation and mine closure objectives and address the principles of the Strategic Framework for Mine Closure (ANZMEC and MCA, 2000); (d) build upon the Rehabilitation Objectives in Table 14 and conceptual rehabilitation plan in Appendix 7, describe the overall rehabilitation outcomes for the site, and address all aspects of rehabilitation including mine closure, final landform (including final voids), post-mining land use/s and water management; (e) describe how the rehabilitation measures would be integrated with the measures in the Biodiversity Management Plan referred to in condition 40 of Schedule 3 and the Visual Amenity and Lighting requirements referred to in condition 52 of Schedule 3; (f) include details of target vegetation communities and species to be established within the proposed revegetation areas; (g) investigate opportunities to refine and improve the final landform and final void outcomes over time; (h) include a post-mining land use strategy to investigate and facilitate post-mining beneficial land uses for the site (including the final voids), that: • considers regional and local strategic land use planning objectives and outcomes; • support a sustainable future for the local community; • utilise existing mining infrastructure, where practicable • opportunities for regional vegetation connectivity with adjoining developments; and • avoid disturbing self-sustaining native ecosystems, where practicable; (i) investigate ways to minimise adverse socio-economic effects associated with rehabilitation and mine closure; and		Mine Site (Project as a whole)	End of Mine Life	A Rehabilitation Strategy has been prepared for MAC. The Rehabilitation Strategy should be read in conjunction to this RMP. Rehabilitation objectives are discussed in Section 4.

Document	Condition/ Section	Requirement	Area	Timing	Section Addressed/ Comment
		(j) include a program to periodically review, and if necessary revise, this strategy at least every two years.			
	Schedule 3, Condition 42A	The Rehabilitation Strategy, as approved by the Secretary, must be implemented for the development.	Mine Site (Project as a whole)	End of Mine Life	A Rehabilitation Strategy has been prepared for MAC. The Rehabilitation Strategy should be read in conjunction to this RMP. Rehabilitation objectives are discussed in Section 4 .
EPBC Approval 2011/5688	Condition 4	The person taking the action must commence progressive regeneration of 1915 ha of woodland and forest communities, including 299.20 ha of Box Gum Woodland identified in Table 1, as described in the Preliminary Documentation within 1 year of commencement of construction. (Table 1 indicates 500 ha of Box Gum Woodland, and 1415 ha Rehabilitation Corridors).	Native Ecosystem	During the active mining phase, Decommissioning, Landform Establishment, End of Life and Post Mining Phase.	• Section 6.1; • Section 6.2; and • Section 6.2.3.
	Condition 5	Biodiversity Management Plan The person taking the action must submit for the Ministers approval the BioMP for the project by 30 June 2013. The BioMP must reflect the proposed MAC Biodiversity Offset Strategy as outlined in Table 1 and as generally described in the Preliminary Documentation and focus on the reestablishment and protection of a minimum of 707.7 ha of Box Gum Woodland and a minimum of 738.7 ha of suitable habitat for Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot. The approved BioMP must be implemented.	• Native Ecosystem; and • Rehabilitation Biodiversity Offset Area.	End of Mine Life	Rehabilitation objectives are discussed in Section 4 . Offset areas are managed under a BioMP.

2.2 Final Land Use Options Assessment

A Final Land Use Options Assessment has not been completed as part of this RMP as the suitability of the proposed final land use(s) are determined in the existing Project Approval processes including the Project Approval and Environmental Assessment.

Section 2.4 of this RMP provides detail on final land use domains.

2.3 Final Land Use Statement

The land use objective described in PA 09_0062 (MOD 3) is to create a mixture of pasture areas suitable for grazing, large tracts of self-sustaining woodland to improve biodiversity values in the region, and water management areas. The conceptual final land use is depicted on Figure 5.

Final voids are identified as either backfilled and achieving native woodland or grazing, or as a water management area for water storage or a groundwater sink.

The two proposed final voids:

- Northern Open Cut Void; and
- McDonald Void.

2.4 Final Land Use and Mining Domains

The key domains for MAC, as shown in the Final Landform Features Plan (**Figure 5**), are outlined below in **Table 5**.

Table 5: Mt Arthur Coal Domains based on NSW Resources Regulator Domain Codes (2021)

Final Land Use Domain	Code	Mining Domain	Code
Native Ecosystem	A	Infrastructure Area	1
Agricultural – Grazing	B	Tailings Storage Facility	2
<i>Agricultural – Cropping</i>	<i>C</i>	Water Management Area	3
Rehabilitation Biodiversity Offset Area (on site)	D	Overburden Emplacement Area	4
<i>Industrial</i>	<i>E</i>	Active Mining Area (Open cut void)	5
Water Management Areas	F	<i>Underground Mining Area (SMP)</i>	6
<i>Water Storage (Excluding Final Void)</i>	<i>G</i>	<i>Beneficiation Facility</i>	7
<i>Heritage Area</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>Other</i>	8
<i>Infrastructure</i>	<i>I</i>		
Final Void	J		
<i>Other</i>	<i>K</i>		

NOTES:

- The domains listed above are the required domains from the RMP Form and Way Document.
- The bold domains are relevant to the site and should be listed in **Section 2.4** of this RMP. Domains in grey italics are not applicable to the site.

2.4.1 Final Land Use Domains

Final land use domains define the final landform and land use. Final land use domains contain post-mining land management units characterised by similar land use. **Table 6** outlines the relevant final land use domains for the Project. These domains are outlined in the Final Landform and Rehabilitation Plans, **Figure 5** and **Figure 6**.

Table 6: Mt Arthur Coal Domains Final Land Use Domains

Code	Final Land Use Domain for RMP	Description
A	Native Ecosystem	Native ecosystem at MAC is described as Native Woodland. Woodland ecosystems will continue to be established predominantly on the shaped overburden emplacements and adjacent to final voids as the Development undertakes progressive rehabilitation. Per Schedule 3, Condition 41A of PA 09_0062 (MOD 3), rehabilitation includes restoration of “at least 2,665 hectares (this includes 2642ha of PMLU and 23ha of additional Box-Gum Woodland adjacent to Saddlers Creek Conservation Area) of self-sustaining woodland ecosystems in accordance with the rehabilitation plan. White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Woodland is to be established to the north on site (refer Figure 7 of the Rehabilitation Strategy). The management of offset areas (not a proposed woodland rehabilitation area) is covered under the MAC BioMP.
B	Agricultural - Grazing	Areas identified for agricultural use will be rehabilitated to pasture landscapes with sufficient agricultural capability to support livestock grazing. Per Schedule 3, Condition 41A of PA 09_0062 (MOD 3), rehabilitation will include 33 hectares of Class II agricultural capability land.
D	Rehabilitation Biodiversity Offset Area (on site)	Of the 2,665ha of woodland, at least 523 hectares of White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Woodland (Box Gum Woodland) will be restored.
F	Water Management Areas	The RMP Form and Way document defines this domain as ‘water management areas (e.g. creek realignments, constructed wetlands, significant final landform drainage features)’. For MAC this includes: Whites Creek Diversion; and Significant drainage structures and drainage lines from landforms
J	Final Void	There are 2 proposed final voids at closure (Northern Open Cut Void and McDonald Void) as shown in Plan 1 (Final Landform Features). Final voids will remain as a water management area for water storage and a groundwater sink.

2.4.2 Mining Domains

The mining domains for MAC are defined in **Table 7**. These are classified as a land management unit with a discrete operational function, and therefore similar geophysical characteristics, that will require specific rehabilitation treatments to achieve the final land use(s).

Table 7: Mt Arthur Coal Mining Domains

Code	Mining Domain for RMP	Description
1	Infrastructure Area	• Main workshops; • Wash-down bay and mobile plant park-up areas; • CHPP (including structure, equipment and associated buildings); • Coal stockpile areas, including export stockpile; • Electricity sub stations; • Powerlines and light towers; • Fuel farm; • Truck fill Points; • Water treatment plant and potable tanks; • Water pipelines; • Septic tanks; • Conveyor from CHPP to export stockpile; • Rail loop and loading bin and infrastructure; • Visual and noise barriers (fencing) along the rail line; • Overpass bridges (2 over Thomas Mitchell Drive and 1 over The New England Highway). • Main administration building and bath house; • Projects Offices and portable buildings; • Powerlines and light towers; and • Sealed roads and car parks
2	Tailings Storage Facility	Tailings Storage Facilities (TSF) (walls and tailings) including • MAC TSF comprising of 2 active cells ◦ West Cut Void (WCV) TSF ◦ South West Valley TSF • North Cut TSF, which is capped; • SP1 & SP2 TSF's, which are capped • SP3 TSF which is capped • Pumps and pump housing; and • Tailings pipelines from the CHPP to the MAC tailings storage facility's

Code	Mining Domain for RMP	Description
3	Water Management Area	• Historic Voids; • Whites Creek diversion; • Environmental Dam; • CHPP Dam; • Main Dam; • Sediment Dams; • Dam walls; • Pumps and pump housings; • Polylines; • Open drains and spillways; • Alluvial Cut Off Wall and Levee.
4	Overburden Emplacement	• Shaped overburden • Unshaped overburden; and • Current rehabilitation. • Truck fill points • Pumps and pump housings; • Polylines; and • Powerlines and light towers;
5	Active Mining	Area of active mining. Movement of run of mine (ROM) coal and overburden.

3 Rehabilitation Risk Assessment

Detailed risk assessments have been completed for rehabilitation risks at MAC and are reviewed and updated annually through the environmental management system process and published internally. These detailed risk assessments consider and align with other site risk assessments, including the Environment Risk Register and Closure Risk Register.

The initial Rehabilitation Risk Assessment was completed 28 November 2019. The most recent Rehabilitation Risk Assessment was completed on 26 May 2026 generally in accordance with:

- Rehabilitation Risk Assessment Guideline (NSW Resources Regulator, 2021); and
- BHP's Risk Framework (which is aligned to ISO31000).

The objective of the risk assessment was to identify and assess rehabilitation risks for the Project and determine critical controls for each risk.

Treatment of risks includes implementation of controls to prevent the causes of a threat, and mitigating controls to reduce its impacts. Residual Risk Rating (RRR) is assessed and risk evaluation is completed annually.

For each identified risk, MAC's internal Risk Framework is used to determine the Maximum Foreseeable Loss (MFL) rating of 1 to ≥5. Of the 19 risks assessed, a total of four (4) risk scenarios were determined to have a MFL of 3 or above (with controls in place) as shown in **Table 8**.

Table 8: Rehabilitation Risk Assessment

Scenario	Control	Section
Loss of corporate knowledge or lack of qualified resources or poorly defined accountabilities	Annual planning, budgeting and closure costing review, including studies and additional resources.	- Section 4.1; and - Section 6.
	Rehabilitation Master Contract to provide sufficient resourcing and governance.	
	HR strategies around workforce retention.	
	Document Management System and Closure Knowledge Base	
	RACIs that outline roles and accountabilities during active mining through to post mining land use.	
	Risk and phased approach to closure planning	
	Global standard for closure and legacy management	
	Landform design process and Basis of Design	
	Existing contracts with key workforce and critical roles	
	Stakeholder engagement to outline closure process.	
	Rehabilitation targets are tracked on site performance boards / scorecards to ensure activities are prioritised and tracked. Business planning process captures rehabilitation targets and resourcing (LoA 2YB).	
	Execution of study closure program and establishment of Transition Team to support 2030 closure announcement.	
	Transition Policy	
	Rehabilitation Standard detailing rehabilitation processes	
	Additional studies completed to restore knowledge base	
	Additional Subject Matter Experts engaged to offset missing knowledge	
	Rehabilitation (monitoring) TARP responses.	

Scenario	Control	Section
Extreme weather (climate change) causing failure of constructed landforms	Rehabilitation Standard detailing rehabilitation processes	- Section 4; - Section 6.2.1; - Section 6.2.4; and - Section 6.2.5
	Rehabilitated landforms constructed to engineering designs that consider a range of weather events.	
	Erosion risk modelling	
	Flood Model	
	Landform design process and Basis of Design	
	Studies to understand rework of landforms to mitigate unplanned climate impacts	
	Additional resources to support necessary studies on climate adaptation.	
	Risk and phased approach to closure planning	
	"Pit and dump designs include geotechnical engineering (i.e. max slope angles, critical areas (materials, faults etc), previous failure models floor conditions).	
Final high wall or end wall fails beyond the abandonment or flood bund	Ensuring category 1 and sub-category 1 are not used on final dump edges.	- Section 4.1; - Section 6.2.1; - Section 6.2.3;
	Alluvial cut off wall in place (over engineered). Construction was subject to QAQC process.	
	Operations geotechnical/ wall stability monitoring program (including survey checks, piezometers).	
	Surface water diversions above high walls (not all considered adequate).	
	Current geotechnical design of walls to meet operational needs provide a factor of safety. Factor of safety is high (exceeds final plan). Geotechnical Pit Layout for final voids .	
	Regulatory approval of existing mine wall designs/ operations.	
	Company owned buffer land surrounding all voids.	
	Dewatering of active voids during operations.	

Scenario	Control	Section
	Industry standards/guidelines for long-term landform stability into final landform design i.e. adherence to BHP guidelines for closure FoS as well as recent industry study (ACARP) study findings. Geodom	
	Assurance and execution standards. Execution compliance to design. Monthly compliance to design process (long term plan compliance to execution adherence)	
	Access requirements considered into long term plans (access network)	
	Annual landform monitoring/verification process including survey checks and detailed inspections / engineering reviews of dump design using TARPs.	
	Area that describes the Zone of Instability and demarcation of recommended abandonment bunds identified on LOM surface (L14).	
	Final Pit Wall Sign Off	
	GPL updated to include final void design parameters	
	3D numerical groundwater model	
	Flood Model	
	Void water balance model	
	Surface water and Groundwater monitoring.	
	Spontaneous Combustion Management Plan for operations.	
Adverse geochemical/chemical composition of mined materials such as overburden, interburden, processing wastes, demolition wastes, subsoils	Mined material assessments and characterisation.	• Section 4.1; • Section 6.2.1; and • Section 6.2.2.
	Risk and phased approach to closure planning	
	Rejects material tracking/segregation document control and record keeping (QA/QC).	
	Co-disposal of coarse reject material and burden	
	Capping of tailings dams	
	Critical Materials Balance	

Scenario	Control	Section
and topsoils and imported cover materials	Aerial or drone thermal monitoring to identify problem areas.	
	Construction of waste dumps procedure prohibits dumping of PAF near dump edges.	
	Document control and record keeping (QA/QC).	
	Mine plan captures bulk material requirements for capping.	
	Quarterly flights of completed final highwalls. Database development	
	R70 testing - Combustion age testing	
	Short term mine planning directing the placement of material with an appropriate cover material	
	Weekly Dig 2 Design Compliance Check	
	Contaminated (potential) sites register	
	PSI over all infrastructure areas	
	Cover Capping Model (including the mapping of coarse reject disposal)	

4 Rehabilitation Objectives and Completion Criteria

4.1 Rehabilitation Objectives and Rehabilitation Completion Criteria

MAC will rehabilitate mining generated landforms (waste emplacements) to establish a non-polluting, structurally stable landscape to maximise opportunities for a diverse post-mining landscape and range of land uses. The approved final land uses comprise a combination of woodland and agricultural land uses. Consistent with stakeholder feedback, the conceptual final landform has also been designed to minimise sterilisation of future alternate mine land re-uses, subject to satisfying existing rehabilitation and offset commitments.

Rehabilitation Objectives (approved 18 June 2026), Performance Indicators and Completion Criteria (draft), for the mining and final land use domains identified in **Section 2** are presented in **Table 9**. The spatial reference can be determined using the Final Land Use and Mining Domain codes shown in **Table 5**. These rehabilitation completion criteria are applicable to all rehabilitation at MAC, inclusive of existing and future rehabilitation, and have been developed to address the rehabilitation obligations listed in **Table 4**.

Rehabilitation completed prior to 2010 was completed in accordance with requirements at the time, it will therefore have separate completion criteria for vegetation composition because it is a woodland community with no set Plant Community Type.

Australian Coal Association Research Program (ACARP), specialist advice, and other industry-led and publicly available research has been used to justify threshold values for draft completion criteria and performance standards, and associated validation methodologies.

Table 9: Rehabilitation Objectives and Completion Criteria

Final Land Use Domain	Mining Domain	Spatial Reference Field	Rehabilitation Objective Category	Approved Rehabilitation Objectives	Indices	Draft Proposed Rehabilitation Completion Criteria	Example Justification / Validation Methods
A. Native Ecosystem B. Agricultural – Grazing	1. Infrastructure Area	A1 B1	Removal of infrastructure	All infrastructure that is not to be used as part of the final land use is removed to ensure the site is safe and free of hazardous materials.	Rehabilitation performance indices will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.	Surface structures, buildings, roads and rail infrastructure not required for post mining land use have services disconnected and terminated and are demolished and removed.	Justification or validation methods of performance will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.
A. Native Ecosystem B. Agricultural – Grazing	1. Infrastructure Area	A1 B1	Retention of infrastructure	Ensure that retained infrastructure has relevant consent approvals. All infrastructure that is to remain as part of the final land use is safe and does not pose any hazard to the community.	Rehabilitation performance indices will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.	Safety risks associated with remaining infrastructure identified and appropriately managed. Legal instruments established to prove transfer of ownership to another entity, or agreement to acquire, operate and manage retained infrastructure at mine closure.	Justification or validation methods of performance will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.
A. Native Ecosystem B. Agricultural – Grazing	4. Overburden Emplacement Area	A4 B4	Land contamination	Reshaped overburden emplacements will be compatible with surrounding landforms (mined and non-mined) and selected postmining land uses.	Rehabilitation performance indices will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.	Assessment by a suitably qualified soil and erosion and sediment professional that rehabilitated landforms are stable.	Rehabilitation performance indices will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.
A. Native Ecosystem B. Agricultural – Grazing J. Final Void	1. Infrastructure Area 2. Tailings Storage Facility 3. Water Management Area 4. Overburden Emplacement Area 5. Active Mining Area (Open cut void)	A1 A3 A4 A5 B1 B2 B3 B4 B5 J5	Land contamination	There is no residual soil contamination on the Project area that is incompatible with the final land use or that poses a threat of environmental harm.	Rehabilitation performance indices will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.	Carbonaceous, acid generating or spontaneously combustible material will be adequately characterised and addressed before closure; Contaminants less than the assessment criteria; and Contaminated materials removed from site, treated or capped.	Justification or validation methods of performance will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.
B. Agricultural – Grazing	2. Tailings Storage Facility	B2	Management of waste and process materials	Capping/ treatment of facilities will be appropriately designed and constructed so as to ensure geotechnical stability and	Rehabilitation performance indices will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.	Construction of capping layer as per independent consultant's design. Monitoring regime established for downstream waters; Monitoring indicates no evidence of capping instability or environmental harm; Sign off from the Dam Safety Committee that TSF wall integrity is satisfactory based on assessment by a suitably qualified	Justification or validation methods of performance will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.

Final Land Use Domain	Mining Domain	Spatial Reference Field	Rehabilitation Objective Category	Approved Rehabilitation Objectives	Indices	Draft Proposed Rehabilitation Completion Criteria	Example Justification / Validation Methods
				successful containment of tailings material and hazardous leachate drainage or seepage.		geotechnical engineer; and Capping of tailings	
B. Agricultural – Grazing	2. Tailings Storage Facility	B2	Management of waste and process materials	The Project's tailings storage facilities will be capped to minimise the potential for exposure of potentially environmentally sensitive tailings material in the rehabilitated landform	Rehabilitation performance indices will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.	Construction of capping layer as per independent consultant's design; Field monitoring and/or survey data analysis indicates TSF capping will continue to shed water, with stability and erosion comparable to surrounding non-mined landforms of similar topography; Any areas of active erosion on the TSF capping or end walls are within the parameters for safe and stable (landform); Groundwater quality downgradient of TSF is within range as predicted in environmental assessments.	Justification or validation methods of performance will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.
A. Native Ecosystem B. Agricultural – Grazing F. Water Management Areas	1. Infrastructure Area 2. Tailings Storage Facility 3. Water Management Area 4. Overburden Emplacement Area 5. Active Mining Area (Open cut void)	A1 A3 A4 A5 B2 B3 B4 F3	Landform stability	The final landform is safe, stable, non-polluting and does not present a risk of environmental harm downstream / downslope of the site or a safety risk to the public/stock/native fauna. Landform that is commensurate with surrounding natural landform and where appropriate, incorporates geomorphic design principles.	Rehabilitation performance indices will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.	Field monitoring of surface drainage infrastructure demonstrates that constructed drainage features are functioning as designed with no significant failures; Field monitoring and/or survey data analysis indicates reshaped landforms will continue to shed water, with stability and erosion comparable to surrounding non-mined landforms of similar topography; Potentially high risk materials (coarse rejects, potentially acid-generating or spontaneously combustible) placed in overburden emplacements will be capped in accordance with the approved engineering design and assessed by a suitably qualified person; No active spontaneous combustion areas, as evidenced through established monitoring program. To achieve the rehabilitation objectives, slopes are generally consistent with Project Approval (09_0062); Any areas of active erosion are within the parameters for safe and stable landform; and Discharge points from rehabilitated landform to natural channels are stable.	Justification or validation methods of performance will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.
J. Final Void	5. Active Mining Area (Open cut void)	J5	Landform stability	The final void is safe, stable, non-polluting and does not present a risk of environmental harm downstream / downslope of the site or a safety risk to the public/stock/native fauna.	Rehabilitation performance indices will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.	Fencing and signage in place. Void low walls are to be reshaped to achieve long term stability; Void high walls to achieve a Factor of Safety (FoS) of 1.5 and, if required, protected with berm and trench, or fencing and signage, depending on risk. Final voids have been inspected by a qualified geotechnical engineer to validate that it is stable and poses acceptable safety risk.	Justification or validation methods of performance will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.

Final Land Use Domain	Mining Domain	Spatial Reference Field	Rehabilitation Objective Category	Approved Rehabilitation Objectives	Indices	Draft Proposed Rehabilitation Completion Criteria	Example Justification / Validation Methods
F. Water Management Areas	3. Water Management Area	F3	Landform stability	The flood levee is stable and flood-proof, with no evidence of slumping, and continued function and stability of subsurface of the alluvial cut off wall.	Rehabilitation performance indices will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.	Demonstrated long-term stability and function of Hunter River alluvials cut-off wall and flood levee.	Justification or validation methods of performance will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.
A. Native Ecosystem	1. Infrastructure Area 3. Water Management Area 4. Overburden Emplacement Area 5. Active Mining Area (Open cut void)	A1 A3 A4 A5	Bushfire	The risk of bushfire and impacts to the community, environment and infrastructure has been addressed as part of rehabilitation.	Rehabilitation performance indices will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.	Appropriate bushfire hazard controls (where required) have been implemented on the advice from the NSW Rural Fire Service. Self-sustainable ecosystem, resilient to bushfire: evidence of flowering and seeds or second generation juveniles for trees and shrubs.	Justification or validation methods of performance will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.
F. Water Management Areas	3. Water Management Area	F3	Surface water	Rehabilitate and revegetate Whites Creek in accordance with the Project Approval. Whites Creek reinstated such that there are no impacts to downstream receptors.	Rehabilitation performance indices will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.	Independent report confirming no loss of aquatic habitat (per PA 09_0062).	Justification or validation methods of performance will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.
A. Native Ecosystem B. Agricultural – Grazing F. Water Management Areas	1. Infrastructure Area 2. Tailings Storage Facility 3. Water Management Area 4. Overburden Emplacement Area 5. Active Mining Area (Open cut void)	A1 A3 A4 A5 B1 B2 B3 B4 B5 F3	Surface water	Runoff water quality is similar to analogue sites.	Rehabilitation performance indices will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.	Runoff water quality from rehabilitation areas are within the site specific criteria for MAC, derived from ANZECC guidelines. Water quality in all storages left within the Project area (other than final voids) is suitable for the approved final land use.	Justification or validation methods of performance will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.
F. Water Management Areas J. Final Void	3. Water Management Area 5. Active Mining Area (Open cut void)	F3 J5	Water approvals	Structures that take water are appropriately licensed.	Rehabilitation performance indices will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.	Licenses held, where required.	Justification or validation methods of performance will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.
A. Native Ecosystem J. Final Void	1. Infrastructure Area 3. Water Management Area	A1 A3 A4	Groundwater	Groundwater quality and groundwater regime are within range as predicted	Rehabilitation performance indices will be determined pending approval of	Groundwater quality and groundwater regime are within range as predicted in environmental assessments and in accordance with water sharing plans or water allocations held by the Project.	Justification or validation methods of performance will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.

Final Land Use Domain	Mining Domain	Spatial Reference Field	Rehabilitation Objective Category	Approved Rehabilitation Objectives	Indices	Draft Proposed Rehabilitation Completion Criteria	Example Justification / Validation Methods
	4. Overburden Emplacement Area 5. Active Mining Area (Open cut void)	A5 J5		in environmental assessment and Water Management Plan. The risk to important groundwater assets has been addressed by the rehabilitation.	rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.		
B. Agricultural – Grazing	1. Infrastructure Area 2. Tailings Storage Facility 3. Water Management Area 4. Overburden Emplacement Area 5. Active Mining Area (Open cut void)	B1 B2 B3 B4 B5	Groundwater	Groundwater quality and groundwater regime are within range as predicted in environmental assessment. The risk to important groundwater assets (alluvial aquifers and landholder bores) has been addressed by the rehabilitation.	Rehabilitation performance indices will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.	Groundwater quality and groundwater regime are within range as predicted in environmental assessments and in accordance with water sharing plans or water allocations held by the Project.	Justification or validation methods of performance will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.
D. Rehabilitation Biodiversity Offset Area (on site)	1. Infrastructure Area 3. Water Management Area 4. Overburden Emplacement Area 5. Active Mining Area (Open cut void)	D1 D3 D4 D5	Ecological rehabilitation	523 ha of rehabilitation will be established and maintained as Box Gum Woodland (as defined in Project Approval).	Rehabilitation performance indices will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.	All areas shown as Box-Woodland Woodland vegetation community of the Mt Arthur Coal Mine Rehabilitation Strategy Conceptual Final Land Use Plan figure, planted with a native species mix (seed or tubestock) targeted at establishing an open grassy woodland vegetation community	Justification or validation methods of performance will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.
A. Native Ecosystem	1. Infrastructure Area 3. Water Management Area 4. Overburden Emplacement Area 5. Active Mining Area (Open cut void)	A1 A3 A4 A5	Ecological rehabilitation	An area equivalent to 2142 ha will be established and maintained as native woodland (non White Box Blakely’s Red Gum Woodland) as shown in the Final Landform and Rehabilitation Plan (FLRP).	Rehabilitation performance indices will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.	All areas shown as Native Woodland vegetation community of the Mt Arthur Coal Mine Rehabilitation Strategy Conceptual Final Land Use Plan figure, planted with a native species mix (seed or tubestock) targeted at establishing an open grassy woodland vegetation community.	Justification or validation methods of performance will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.
A. Native Ecosystem	1. Infrastructure Area 3. Water Management Area 4. Overburden	A1 A3 A4	Ecological rehabilitation	Habitat suitable for target species is present in	Rehabilitation performance indices will be determined pending approval of	Fauna monitoring of natural and introduced habitat features (i.e. nesting boxes large rocks, logs/coarse woody debris, hollow bearing timber) indicates colonisation by native species.	Justification or validation methods of performance will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.

Final Land Use Domain	Mining Domain	Spatial Reference Field	Rehabilitation Objective Category	Approved Rehabilitation Objectives	Indices	Draft Proposed Rehabilitation Completion Criteria	Example Justification / Validation Methods
	Emplacement Area			rehabilitation areas.	rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.	Rehabilitated native vegetation distribution will link areas of onsite and near-site native vegetation, and be consistent with the biodiversity corridors as presented in the Rehabilitation Strategy Conceptual Final Land Use Plan.	
A. Native Ecosystem	1. Infrastructure Area 3. Water Management Area 4. Overburden Emplacement Area 5. Active Mining Area (Open cut void)	A1 A3 A4 A5	Ecological rehabilitation	Rehabilitated areas contain flora species assemblages characteristic of species found within analogue sites to provide habitat.	Rehabilitation performance indices will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.	Total native species richness is comparable to reference sites (between 10th and 90th percentile of all reference sites).	Justification or validation methods of performance will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.
A. Native Ecosystem	1. Infrastructure Area 3. Water Management Area 4. Overburden Emplacement Area	A1 A3 A4	Ecological rehabilitation	¹ Vegetation structure is trending to analogue site.	Rehabilitation performance indices will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.	Total native coverage is between 10th to 90th percentiles of reference.	Justification or validation methods of performance will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.
A. Native Ecosystem	1. Infrastructure Area 3. Water Management Area 4. Overburden Emplacement Area 5. Active Mining Area (Open cut void)	A1 A3 A4 A5	Ecological rehabilitation	Levels of ecosystem function have been established that demonstrate the rehabilitation is self sustainable.	Rehabilitation performance indices will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.	Weed coverage trending to reference sites (<90th percentile) Number of weed species and surface area comparable to reference sites. (<90th percentile) Observations indicating reproduction (seeding, flowering or second generation plants) recorded at multiple locations within rehabilitated vegetation area Observations indicating nutrient recycling (development of consistent litter layer, litter layer decomposition and cryptogam presence) recorded at multiple locations within rehabilitated vegetation area.	Rehabilitation performance indices will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.
A. Native Ecosystem	1. Infrastructure Area 3. Water Management Area 4. Overburden Emplacement Area 5. Active Mining Area (Open cut void)	A1 A3 A4 A5	Ecological rehabilitation	Rehabilitated native woodland vegetation will provide faunal habitat and movement corridors by linking existing vegetation communities within and surrounding the mine boundary.	Rehabilitation performance indices will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.	Habitat suitable for target species is present in rehabilitation areas.	Justification or validation methods of performance will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.
A. Native Ecosystem	1. Infrastructure Area 3. Water	A1 A3 A4	Ecological rehabilitation	¹ Rehabilitated native woodland will be focussed on re-	Rehabilitation performance indices will be determined pending approval of	High Threat Weed coverage is less than the 90th percentile of reference sites for Box woodland	Justification or validation methods of performance will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.

Final Land Use Domain	Mining Domain	Spatial Reference Field	Rehabilitation Objective Category	Approved Rehabilitation Objectives	Indices	Draft Proposed Rehabilitation Completion Criteria	Example Justification / Validation Methods
	Management Area 4. Overburden Emplacement Area5. Active Mining Area (Open cut void)	A5		establishing the vegetation communities as described in the Project Approval: Upper Hunter White Box – Ironbark Grassy Woodland; Central Hunter Box – Ironbark Woodland; Central Hunter Ironbark – Spotted Gum - Grey Box Forest; Narrabeen Footslopes Slaty Box Woodland; Hunter Floodplain Red Gum Woodland Complex; White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Woodland; Hunter Lowlands Red Gum Forest. Note: where communities listed in the condition have been established in offset areas in accordance with condition 38, it is not the expectation that all communities are established or represented within rehabilitation areas.	rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.	Species richness of native trees, shrubs, grasses, forbs and ferns are between 10th to 90th percentiles of reference sites Minimum of 12 non-grass species	
B. Agriculture J. Final Void	1. Infrastructure Area 2. Tailings Storage Facility 3. Water Management Area 4. Overburden Emplacement Area 5. Active Mining Area (Open cut void)	B1 B2 B3 B4 B5 J5	Agricultural revegetation	Land capability is sustainable for the long term and only requires maintenance that is consistent with the intended final land use.	Rehabilitation performance indices will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.	Grass species 7 or more Legume species 2 or more within a 12-month cycle (allowance for seasonal legume species) Dominant individual grass (% of total pasture cover) <50% Dominant individual grass (% of total pasture cover) <40% >5 Modified Braun-	Justification or validation methods of performance will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.

Final Land Use Domain	Mining Domain	Spatial Reference Field	Rehabilitation Objective Category	Approved Rehabilitation Objectives	Indices	Draft Proposed Rehabilitation Completion Criteria	Example Justification / Validation Methods
						Blanquet Cover Abundance Scale in below average rainfall years Cover of annual and Hunter Region priority weed species comparable to reference sites (<90th percentile) State Criteria 9.1.9.1.1	
B. Agricultural – Grazing	1. Infrastructure Area 2. Tailings Storage Facility 3. Water Management Area 4. Overburden Emplacement Area 5. Active Mining Area (Open cut void)	B1 B2 B3 B4 B5	Agricultural revegetation	Land use capability is capable of supporting the target agricultural land use (grazing) and Class II (where required).	Rehabilitation performance indices will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.	Standing dry matter comparable to that of reference sites (>10th percentile). Stocking rate is comparable to that of reference sites (>10th percentile) 3P grass component of pasture >15%	Justification or validation methods of performance will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.
B. Agricultural – Grazing	1. Infrastructure Area 2. Tailings Storage Facility 3. Water Management Area 4. Overburden Emplacement Area 5. Active Mining Area (Open cut void)	B1 B2 B3 B4 B5	Agricultural revegetation	Rehabilitate at least 33 hectares of Class II agricultural capability land in the area identified in the Final Landform and Rehabilitation Plan.	Rehabilitation performance indices will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.	At least 33 hectares of rehabilitated pasture meets a Class II or better Rural Land Capability as assessed under the land and soil capability assessment scheme – second approximation (Office of Environment and Heritage, 2012).	Justification or validation methods of performance will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.
B. Agricultural – Grazing	1. Infrastructure Area 2. Tailings Storage Facility 3. Water Management Area 4. Overburden Emplacement Area 5. Active Mining Area (Open cut void)	B1 B2 B3 B4 B5	Agricultural revegetation	Pasture rehabilitation land will demonstrate appropriate soil properties so as to support sustainable livestock grazing.	Rehabilitation performance indices will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.	Soil parameters between 10-90th percentile of reference sites OR within acceptable guideline ranges Evidence of nutrient cycling / mineralisation or nutrient stores (Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium and Organic carbon) comparable to reference sites (>10th percentile).	Justification or validation methods of performance will be determined pending approval of rehabilitation objective and completion criteria.

1: This objective may include different completion criteria for pre 2010 ecological rehabilitation.

4.2 Rehabilitation Objectives and Rehabilitation Completion – Stakeholder Consultation

MAC regularly engages with local stakeholders regarding proposed operations, including community engagement programs and opportunities. This engagement includes:

- Operation of a 24-hour free call community response line to allow the community to contact the operation directly (1800 882 044).
- Access to information including approval documents, environmental assessments, management plans, environmental audits and environmental management and monitoring reports on a publicly accessible website, at: <https://www.bhp.com/environment/regulatory-information/>.
- Quarterly CCC meetings to provide an interface between the community, mine management and the select government departments. The community representatives on the CCC can share information from CCC meetings with the wider community and to report back on community issues at CCC meetings.
- The MAC Community Investment Fund which provides financial and in-kind support to local not-for-profit organisations and partners with community development programs.
- Regular attendance at monthly meetings of Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc, of which MAC is an active member, to support local business houses and industry.
- Participation in the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue (UHMD), coordinated by the NSW Minerals Council to address cumulative impacts from mining in the Upper Hunter and identify opportunities for improved management and innovation.

Consultation with registered Aboriginal parties is discussed in the Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan (AHMP).

MAC implemented a comprehensive engagement program for the MAC MOD 2 (Pathway to 2030) with a broad spectrum of interested stakeholders and including a Social Impact Assessment (SIA). Ongoing engagement as outlined above assists to further understand stakeholder expectations for rehabilitation. This is further discussed in the Rehabilitation Strategy (MAC-ENC-MTP-047).

Recent consultation relating to the RMP is provided in **Table 10**. Detailed consultation specific to the RMP is provided in **Appendix 2** when required. Stakeholder consultation relating to rehabilitation is reported annually in the MAC Annual Rehabilitation Report.

Table 10: Stakeholder Consultation since the last RMP revision

Consultation Authority	Details of Consultation
Muswellbrook Shire Council (MSC)	A meeting was held on the 18 March 2026 to familiarise the Rehabilitation Strategy. MSC reviewed the Rehabilitation Strategy and provided comments. Council stated that comments can be addressed in future revisions of the Rehabilitation Strategy.
Resources Regulator	Updated ROBJ considering MOD2 & 3 were submitted to the Resources Regulator 23 December 2025. Further information supporting the application was provided 20 February 2026. Resources Regulator reviewed the Rehabilitation Strategy and raised no specific comments on the proposed amendments. Noted that rehabilitation outcome documents approved under Schedule 8A of the Mining Regulation will need to be consistent with the revised Rehabilitation Strategy.
Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure	Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure approved the Rehabilitation Strategy on 5 June 2026.

5 Final Landform and Rehabilitation Plan

This section outlines the Final Landform and Rehabilitation Plans for MAC which have been prepared as per the RMP Form and Way Document. The two plans include:

Figure 5 (Plan 1): Final Landform Features.

Figure 6 (Plan 2): Final Landform Contours.

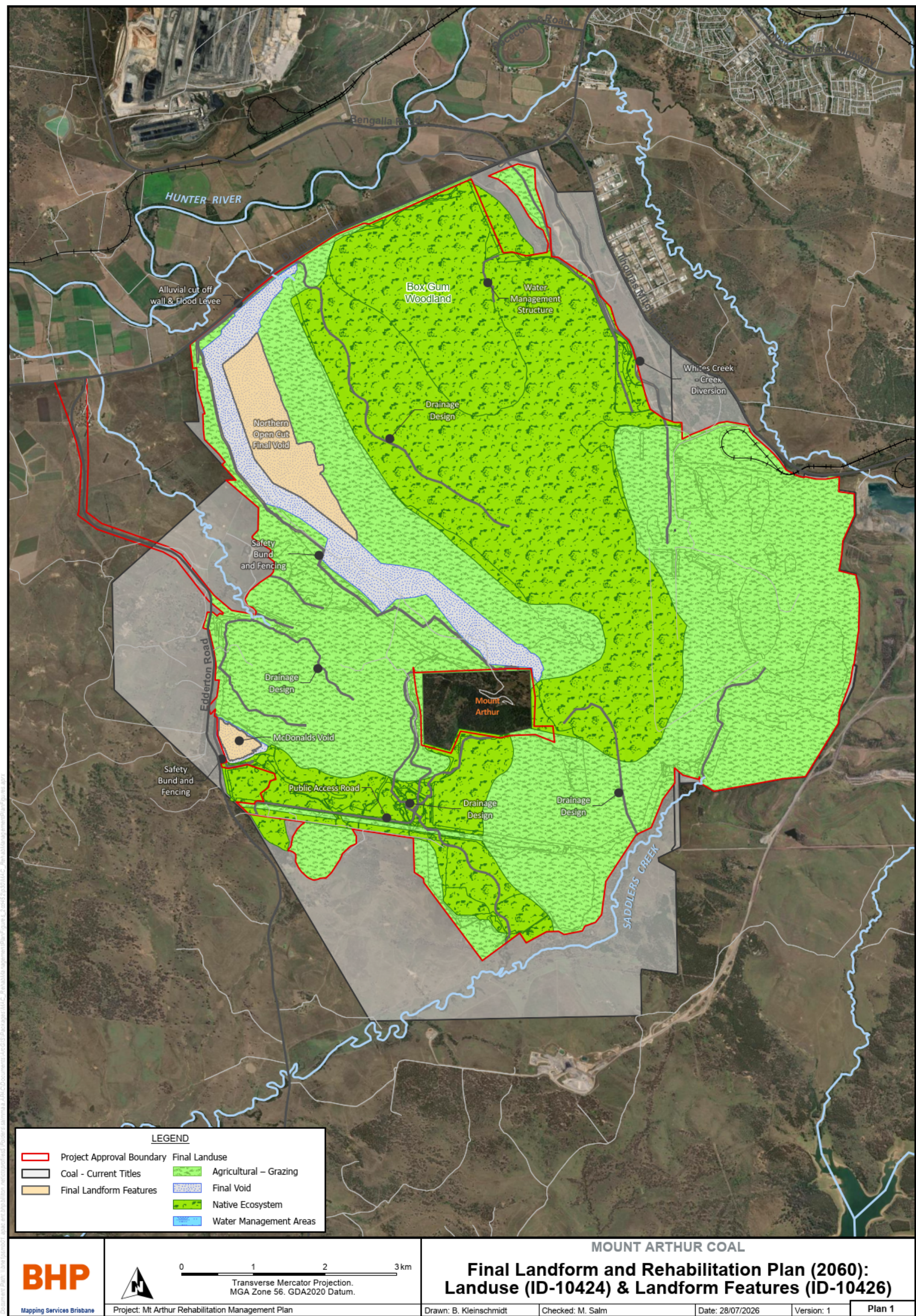


Figure 5 Final landform and rehabilitation plan: Landform features

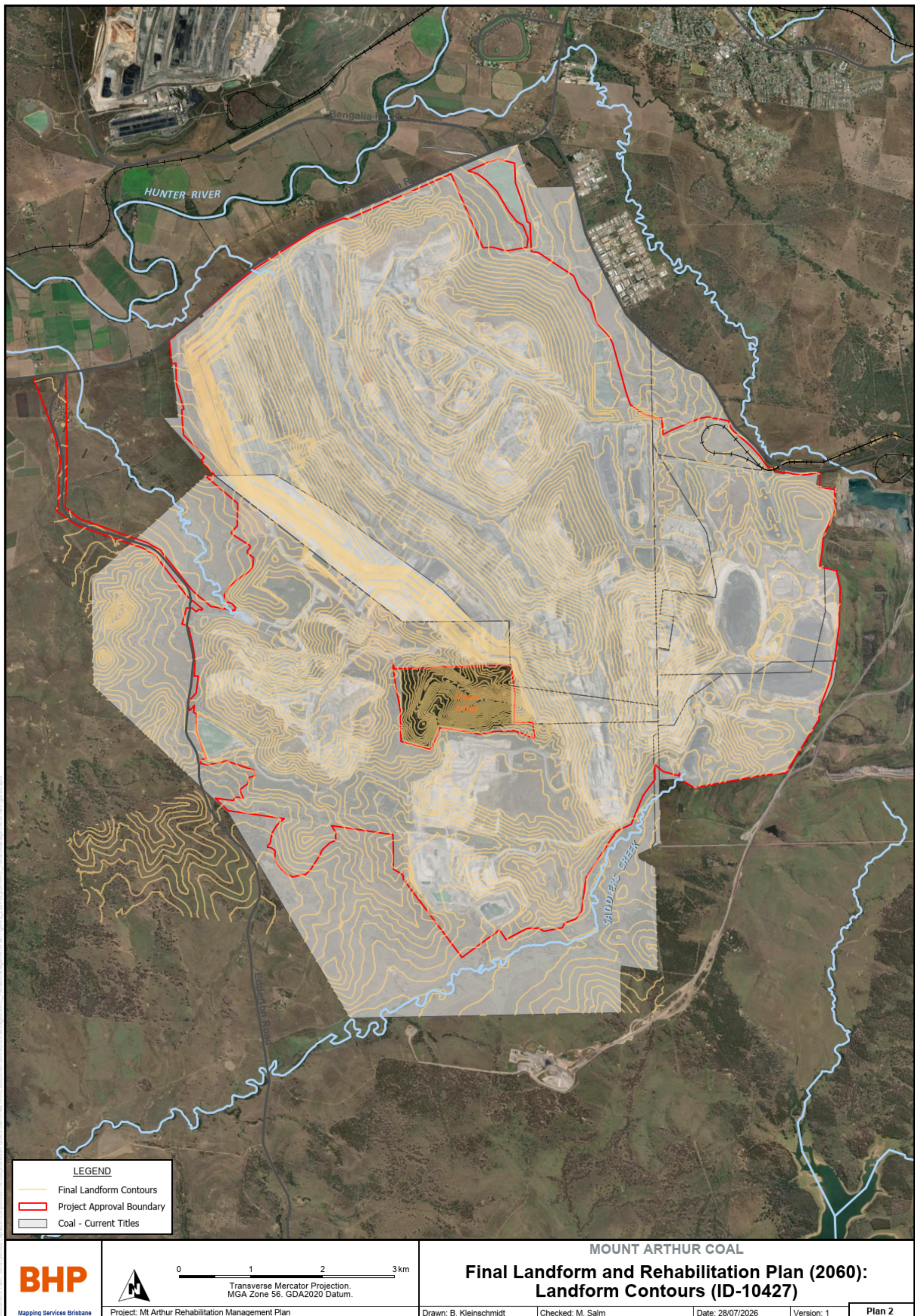


Figure 6 Final landform and rehabilitation plan: Landform contours

6 Rehabilitation Implementation

6.1 Life of Mine Progressive Rehabilitation Schedule

This section describes the rehabilitation schedule over the life of the mine, from the commencement of the rehabilitation management plan until lease relinquishment. The life of mine rehabilitation schedule includes a series of plans illustrating the proposed mine layout and sequence of progressive rehabilitation across the leasehold area at a minimum of five-yearly intervals until completion of mining and achievement of the final land use. **Table 11** provides corresponding information for closure and rehabilitation activities until relinquishment.

Detailed mine planning is completed annually and outlines proposed mining/disturbance and rehabilitation areas. Detailed figures are prepared as part of the Annual Rehabilitation Report and Forward Program, with these outlining activities over the next three years.

Rehabilitation schedule figures are presented in **Appendix 3**.

Table 11 Mt Arthur Life of Asset planning

Aspect	Description
An estimated timing of the construction and decommissioning of key infrastructure.	Under The Project Approval “MP 00_0062”, all surface infrastructure must be decommissioned and removed unless an alternative post-mining land use has been established and approved by the Resources Regulator in consultation with surrounding landholders. Decommissioning and demolition activities are expected to increase following the completion of active mining in FY30. Key infrastructure that is no longer required in closure will be progressively decommissioned during the active closure period, currently assumed to be FY31–FY37. This includes the main MIA, CHPP, export yard, magazine, shutdown pad, etc. Certain site office buildings and workshop areas (i.e. MAC South MIA, as well as key water infrastructure are expected to remain operational to support ongoing rehabilitation activities, including long-term landform stabilisation and TSF capping. Decommissioning of these remaining facilities is anticipated to occur closer to the completion of final rehabilitation and relinquishment, currently projected around FY60.
An estimated timing of key final landform establishment activities	Progressive rehabilitation to FY30, including the completion of active mining, will focus on the Out-of-Pit Dump (OOPD), Saddlers Pit, and the CD/VD5 areas. This prioritisation reflects the mine plan and an emphasis on achieving accelerated completion of prominent external-facing landforms. Rehabilitation efforts will also focus on the Northern Open Cut Void low wall and the backfilling of the remaining Ayredale Pit. These works are intended to provide structural buttressing to Mount Arthur and to re-establish connectivity within the woodland corridor. Based on current planning assumptions, these activities are expected to be completed by approximately FY37 (the active closure period). Capping of the TSF is anticipated to commence in FY34 and is expected to take approximately eight years to complete, with completion projected around FY41–FY42. Ongoing settlement of the TSF landform is predicted, and it may take 15 years or more following completion of capping for the landform to reach its final profile. Continued monitoring and maintenance during this period of settlement will be critical to ensure the landform establishes in accordance with project approval requirements. Rehabilitation of the remaining drainage lines will include re-establishing connections to surrounding waterways, once these areas are demonstrated to be safe, stable, and non-polluting, in accordance with the project approval. Drayton Pit, will also be backfilled in

Aspect	Description
	this time. These final activities are currently projected to be completed by approximately FY60 prior to relinquishment.
Estimated timing to undertake investigations to address knowledge gaps and / or implement medium to long-term programs of work aimed at improving performance and progress towards achieving the final land use as set out in the approved rehabilitation outcome documents.	Studies were commenced prior to the closure announcement, this allowed a lead time of greater than 5 years. Some studies have already been finalised, with many still ongoing or in the future pipeline. A risk assessment is undertaken yearly to reassess the closure risks against additional information and results from completed investigations. The work program and schedule is updated to reflect any new and ongoing studies. These studies include contamination studies, TSF capping, demolition, critical material inventories, legacy coarse rejects and tyres, geotechnical assessments, spontaneous combustion and groundwater assessments.
Assumptions and principles that are relied on for the development of the life of asset rehabilitation schedule to ensure that rehabilitation is undertaken progressively and as soon as reasonably practicable, such that; - Production milestones or anticipated volumes of overburden to be handled. - The staging of mining activities to promote progressive rehabilitation	The Life of Asset (LoA) rehabilitation plan has been fully integrated into the overall mine plan at MAC. This integration has involved a comprehensive, bottom-up design and schedule process to ensure alignment with the current production plan. As a result, rehabilitation delivery is closely linked to operational activities, including dump construction and the timing of landform availability for shaping and revegetation. Specific areas have been prioritised to ensure rehabilitation outcomes are consistent with the MOD 3 approval, including the OOPD and Saddlers Pit. The approved final landform includes two final voids: the Northern Open Cut Void and the smaller McDonald Pit. The remnant highwalls associated with these voids will remain in place and have been assessed to meet long-term stability requirements. Stability outcomes will be achieved through a combination of batter layback and highwall buttressing. Achieving the approved final landform will require significant post-closure earthworks. These works will be undertaken using a combination of major and minor truck-and-shovel operations, dozer push activities, and the placement of topsoil and coarse rock within drainage features. Resource allocation has been planned to support the steady progression of rehabilitation activities throughout the active closure period. Key volumes of suitable fill material for the Ayredale backfill (12Mbcm), MAC buttressing (~10Mbcm), and (TSF capping (~25Mbcm) are being sourced locally from the Conveyor Corridor dump. Other overburden will be sourced locally within the respective rehab domains. Current forecasts indicate that sufficient topsoil is available from existing site stockpiles to support rehabilitation of pasture areas. Topsoil is not planned to be used on woodland areas, instead a compost mix is sourced as a suitable alternate growth medium. Suitable coarse rock material required for rehabilitation drain construction is being sourced from in-pit horizons, stockpiled, and processed for future use.

6.2 Phases of Rehabilitation and General Methodologies

The final land use objectives will be achieved through a series of conceptual stages listed below:

- **Active Mining** – The RMP Form and Way document states in the context of rehabilitation, land associated with mining domains is considered 'active' for the period following disturbance until the commencement of rehabilitation.
- **Stage 1: Decommissioning** – The removal of infrastructure associated with mining activities including preparation plants, hard stand areas, buildings, contaminated materials, hazardous materials. The RMP Form and Way document states that this phase of rehabilitation may also include studies and assessments associated with decommissioning and demolition of infrastructure or works carried out to make safe or 'fit for purpose' built infrastructure to be retained for future use(s) following lease relinquishment.
- **Stage 2: Landform Establishment** – The RMP Form and Way document states that this phase of rehabilitation consists of the processes and activities required to construct the approved final landform (as per the development consent and, for large mines, the approved Final Landform and Rehabilitation Plan). In addition to profiling the surface of rehabilitation areas to the approved final landform profile this phase may include works to construct surface water drainage features, encapsulate problematic materials such as tailings, and prepare a substrate with the desired physical and chemical characteristics (that is, rock raking or ameliorating sodic materials). The landform design and construction part of this phase incorporates gradient, slope, aspect, drainage, substrate material characterisation and morphology.
- **Stage 3: Growing Media Development** – The RMP Form and Way document states that this phase of rehabilitation consists of activities required to establish the physical, chemical and biological components of the substrate required to establish the desired vegetation community (including short-lived pioneer species). This phase may include spreading the prepared landform with topsoil and/or subsoil and/or soil substitutes, applying soil ameliorants to enhance the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of the growth media, and actions to minimise loss of growth media due to erosion. Additional characterisation of materials e.g. subsoils, topsoils, organic additives and overburden surface is usually required in this phase to cross check data from the earlier phases.
- **Stage 4: Ecosystem and Land Use Establishment** – The RMP Form and Way document outlines that this phase of rehabilitation consists of the processes to establish the approved final land use following construction of the final landform. For vegetated land uses this rehabilitation phase includes establishing the desired vegetation community (e.g. Seeding or tube stocking) and implementing land management activities such as weed control. This phase of rehabilitation may also include habitat augmentation such as installation of nest boxes.
- **Stage 5: Ecosystem and Land Use Development** – The RMP Form and Way document outlines that this phase of rehabilitation consists of the activities to manage maturing rehabilitation areas on a trajectory to achieving rehabilitation objectives, completion criteria and the Final Landform and Rehabilitation Plan. Completion criteria for this phase will include components of floristic structure, nutrient cycling recruitment and recovery, community structure and function which are the key elements of a sustainable landscape.
- **Stage 6: Rehabilitation Competition** – The RMP Form and Way document outlines that this final phase of rehabilitation occurs where a rehabilitation area has achieved the final land use for the mining area as stated in the approved rehabilitation objectives and the approved rehabilitation completion criteria and spatially depicted in the approved Final Landform and Rehabilitation Plan. Rehabilitation areas may be classified as complete when the NSW Resources Regulator has determined in writing that rehabilitation has achieved the final land use following submission of the relevant application by the lease holder.

By dividing the temporal progression of rehabilitation into these stages and allocating progress indicators and relinquishment criteria (as discussed in **Section 4**), MAC can track the development of rehabilitation to final completion and relinquishment. Not all rehabilitation phases are relevant to each management domain. **Table 9** shows the rehabilitation objectives for each phase.

The stages listed above and methodologies (where relevant) are discussed in more detail in the following sub-sections.

Across all phases, consideration is given to the resources available and knowledge of those executing rehabilitation activities. Through planning process such as Annual Planning and Life of Asset Planning, MAC review and change processes in relation to provided information.

6.2.1 Active Mining Phase

The RMP Form and Way document states in the context of rehabilitation, land associated with mining domains is considered 'active' for the period following disturbance until the commencement of rehabilitation. This sub-section summarises the risks and opportunities for rehabilitation associated with the active mining phase across the mining domains. The following sub-sections have been prepared as per the RMP Form and Way document.

6.2.1.1 Soils and Materials

The RMP Risk Assessment identified poor quality or lack of topsoil as a potential risk to rehabilitation.

Soil and land capability assessments conducted as part of the Mt. Arthur Coal Open Cut Consolidation Project EA (2009) and the MAC Modification Project EA (2013) identified topsoil resources suitable for recovery and use as a growth medium for post-mining rehabilitation. Control measures are detailed in the Topsoil Management Plan, a topsoil mass balance review, and a topsoil stockpile database. The following controls are used to manage soils and materials:

- Mine planning (including annual life of mine planning, weekly operations) identifies areas of disturbance and soil salvage and quantifies potential topsoil volumes for stockpiling or direct reuse. Where possible the mine plan will be designed so that topsoil is removed at a maximum of one strip ahead of mining.
- The Land Management Procedure outlines protocols for topsoil stripping, with key elements being the Permit to Disturb process and erosion and sediment control requirements
- A pre-stripping assessment is undertaken prior to clearing. This assessment compares actual conditions to general recommendations presented in the relevant soil stripping plan and delineates local topographical and drainage variations to topsoil depth. The final stripping plan is modified to appropriately ensure all suitable topsoil material is recovered without contamination by subsoils.
- Recommended topsoil recovery depths are 100-300 mm based on the presence of a moderately to strongly structured sandy to silty loam A horizon. Duplex soils are common and stripping of heavy clay subsoils is avoided. Some soils display sodic subsoil properties and measures have been implemented to ensure these materials do not contaminate topsoil resources.
- Skilled contractors are used to strip soil and remove/mulch trees. This ensures that soil salvage is maximised and compaction or impact physical properties is limited.

Ongoing management of topsoil and subsoil resources including stockpiling is captured in **Section 6.2.1.10** and **6.2.4** and the Topsoil Management Plan.

6.2.1.2 Flora

Several internal and external MAC documents provide detailed management measures for flora, pests, weeds and bushfire. The Biodiversity Management Plan details measures to manage native flora and fauna alongside pest animal control initiatives. The Mine Rehabilitation Standard requires annual planning for rehabilitation activities, including weed and pest action plans whilst specific actions to restore vegetation and manage rehabilitation areas are provided in the Rehabilitation Strategy. Flora management controls include:

- Salvage and translocation of threatened species including the Tiger Orchid and terrestrial orchids. These are salvaged and translocated during summer or autumn (outside the peak growing period) to ensure minimal distress. Staggered translocation of individuals over time increases the potential for success. Approval to remove threatened species from the Approved Project Disturbance Area is within the Project Approval therefore a separate licence to remove/translocate threatened flora is not necessary.
- Native seeds will be collected, where practical, from remnant native vegetation located on MAC owned land. This seed is used in rehabilitation via direct-seeding, or to develop tubestock for planting in rehabilitation and regeneration activities - MAC are in early stages of developing an onsite nursery for the propagation of tubestock for rehabilitation planting programs. Further information on this will be provided in later versions of this RMP.

- Weed management at MAC (including offset areas) consists of two major programs:
 - o Weed Assessment Program: The Weed Assessment Program consists of inspections of MAC owned land (except operational areas such as open cut pits). In addition, mining personnel, contractors and lessees report areas of identified weed infestation. The results of these inspections guide weed control programs for the subsequent year. A trial using high resolution aerial imagery to assess weeds in rehabilitation areas is currently being scoped.
 - o Weed Treatment Program: MAC's weed treatment programs are guided by the Hunter Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2023 – 2027 (Hunter Local Land Services, 2025). MAC primarily targets Weeds of National Significance, as well as State Priority weeds and Regional Priority weeds for the Hunter Region, declared under the Biosecurity Act 2015. The treatment program involves the seasonal treatment, mainly through chemical spraying, of the highest priority weed infestations. Weed treatment has been identified as a critical control to manage risk to rehabilitation.
- Pest control at MAC is managed under a pest control program. This program targets wild dogs, pigs and foxes that represent a threat to biodiversity values on site (including offset areas) and to adjacent grazing operations. At minimum, one feral animal control program is conducted each year, targeting areas where dogs, pigs and foxes have been spotted. Pest management programs are conducted in accordance with the *Pesticide Control Order 2010 (1080 Liquid Concentrate and Bait Products)* and, where possible, in conjunction with wider regional control programs. Other pest management programs conducted include rabbit and hare control, using baits and trapping. Kangaroo harvesting may occur as required.
- The Bushfire Prevention Procedure outlines specific measures for preventing and controlling fires to protect both ecological communities and infrastructure. The Emergency Procedure – Bushfires outlines the protocol that should be followed during bushfire emergencies. Bushfire prevention and control measures include fuel load assessment and reduction programs, the establishment and maintenance of fire breaks and the prevention of ignition sources. Fire suppression and control is achieved through on-site firefighting equipment and vehicle access trails, which provide access to all areas of MAC owned land. MAC also maintains a trained emergency response team on each shift, and fire extinguishers are fitted in all vehicles and buildings.

6.2.1.3 Fauna

MAC has a management strategy in place to manage or mitigate mining impacts on native flora, fauna and habitat in the vicinity of operational mining areas. This is because a key rehabilitation risk is that clearing and disturbance may result in the loss of fauna habitat, reduce habitat complexity, or impact threatened species. The following are controls to reduce fauna impact:

- The Permit to Disturb Procedure includes requirements for identifying habitat structures, inspecting areas for threatened species, and engaging wildlife spotters during the clearing process.
- Habitat value of the remnant native woodland areas will be maintained for threatened species. Where possible, linkages between remnant on site native vegetation communities, offset areas and off site vegetation areas will be identified while rehabilitation is establishing. Refer to BioMP for other conservation/revegetation activities.
- Habitat design incorporates salvaging and reusing material from site, and relocation of habitat trees identified during ecological assessments. Habitat features include nesting boxes (various bird, squirrel glider, possum and bat) and natural habitat features (including large rocks, logs/coarse woody debris, hollow bearing timber). These features are placed in established native woodland rehabilitation.
- Pest control is discussed in **Section 6.2.1.2**.

Detailed fauna, pest animal and habitat management controls are provided in the BioMP.

6.2.1.4 Rock / Overburden Emplacement

Once the mining area is cleared of vegetation and topsoil, the material lying above the target coal seams, known as overburden, is broken up through drilling and blasting to enable it to be removed. MAC extracts coal from multiple horizontal coal seams and therefore interburden must also be managed during mining operations.

Most of the conceptual final landform is associated with out-of-pit and in-pit waste rock emplacement areas. MOD 2 did not significantly affect the spatial extent of the waste rock emplacement areas relative to previously approved, except for the Impact Minimisation Area, where the southern out-of-pit emplacement is no longer intended to be disturbed. In addition, the MOD 2 results in a reduction in the final height of the northern emplacement (from an average of approximately 360 m AHD to an average of approximately 340 m AHD) to reflect actual waste rock emplacement heights. Following the MOD 2 changes, it has been determined that there will not be a material deficit of overburden material.

The following are controls used for overburden management:

- Materials characterisation is undertaken routinely which determines management requirements (segregated, stockpiled separately, treated etc.). Where possible, overburden and coarse rejects are co-disposed relying on the buffering capacity of waste rock to mitigate any potentially acid forming materials (further outlined in **Section 6.2.1.6** to **6.2.1.8**).
- The Permit to Disturb Procedure addresses management of overburden in relation to material characterisation and overburden emplacement and design requirements.
- The mine plan has been developed to maximise opportunities for in-pit waste rock emplacement, however there is still an out-of-pit overburden emplacement area (OEA) that is used. Overburden, interburden and coarse reject material will continue to be co-disposed in-pit or within overburden emplacement areas or utilised in the construction of stockpile pads, roads or other infrastructure. The placement of the overburden, interburden and coarse reject material is planned out during the mine planning process, to ensure that the dump space is maximised and reduce the haulage time. Procedures and standards detail where certain material types can be placed, such as coarse reject material must not be placed within 20 m of the edge of a rehab dump.
- All productive overburden dumps and coal stockpiles are set out in a safe uniform design, well-constructed and routinely maintained. The Design Construction and Maintenance of Dump Areas Standard outlines the necessary standards for constructing and maintaining dump areas, emphasising safety and geotechnical stability.
- All overburden dumps will be capped (as required), with geomorphic design applied to the outer faces of selected final waste rock emplacements. The geomorphic design approach uses the characteristics of stable natural alluvial landforms in the local environment as an analogue on which to base the design of overburden landforms (refer to **Section 6.2.3**).

6.2.1.5 Waste Management

MAC is committed to operating in an environmentally responsible manner and abides by the waste management hierarchy of 'avoidance, reduction, reuse, recycle and dispose' as much as practicable to minimise the waste generated by the mine. Waste is managed during operations in accordance with the internal Waste Management Plan.

In accordance with Waste Avoidance Resource Recovery Act 2001, waste material is categorised into designated waste streams and each stream is treated and disposed of accordingly. Other waste management procedures involve:

- Minimising waste generation, encouraging and facilitating re-use and recycling of waste streams where possible.
- Conducting appropriate segregation, storage, transportation and disposal of waste generated across the Project.
 - MAC are approved to bury heavy-vehicle tyres on-site (in accordance with EPL 11457). Disposal planning identifies locations which will meet burial condition requirements (including depth from final landform elevation and proximity to rejects).
 - MAC are also assessing potential options for the construction of an on-site waste emplacement cell. Progress of these assessments will be captured in future RMP revisions.
- Conducting proper hydrocarbon management, wastewater and sewage treatment.
- Providing education and training programs to personnel and contractors regarding waste mitigation measures and proper waste handling and disposal.

Ore Beneficiation and waste material is outlined in **Section 6.2.1.8**.

6.2.1.6 Geology and Geochemistry

Responsible materials management allows for appropriate characterisation and placement of potentially acid mine drainage (AMD) generating or other deleterious materials, as well as separation and retention of beneficial materials during operations for use at closure. An understanding of material properties informs landform closure design which in turn influences operational materials placement and impacts the ability to achieve safe and stable landforms post-closure.

Mine waste characterisation at MAC is based on physical and geochemical properties and is undertaken in accordance with BHP's Mined Materials Management Global Standard (MMM GS). An updated Acid and Metalliferous Drainage (AMD) Risk Assessment completed in 2025 evaluated AMD hazards associated with key mine domains, including overburden emplacement areas (OEs), tailings storage facilities (TSFs), coal stockpiles, and voids.

The site's waste inventory is predominantly spoil (98.5%), with smaller amounts of rejects (1.5%) and tailings (<1%). Geochemical testing assessed acid drainage, metalliferous drainage and salinity risks.

Overall, geochemical risks to environmental receptors are considered low and manageable. Spoil landforms have low AMD risk and moderate salinity risk, while TSFs present low to moderate AMD risk and low salinity risk. Long-term water quality in residual voids is expected to be controlled mainly by evapo-concentration rather than AMD.

The assessment concludes that closure-related AMD and salinity risks are generally low, particularly for spoil-dominated landforms. Higher risks associated with tailings and void floors can be managed through closure design measures such as material blending, encapsulation, capping, and landform design.

Materials characterisation also includes physical properties to identify management requirements (segregated, stockpiled separately, treated) for materials during design and operations, as well as provide an indication of the availability of materials which may be beneficial for closure.

The controls listed below enable the collection of sufficient AMD and physical characterisation data, to provide inputs to risk assessments.

- Site model to identify potential AMD sources.
- Geotechnical testing.
- Physical testing.
- Tracking and recording material quantities and movements to ensure correct handling and management, final location (e.g. location within specific waste rock dump), and reporting of potential deleterious material sources. Spoil material is regularly tested to determine the quality of material for rehabilitation.

Physical management (handling, burial, etc) is outlined in **Section 6.2.1.7** and **6.2.1.8**.

6.2.1.7 Material Prone to Spontaneous Combustion and Generating Acid Mine Drainage

The internal Mined Materials Management Standard and Mine Rehabilitation Standard guide the management of material prone to spontaneous combustion and generating acid mine drainage controls such as identification and monitoring of materials, conducting risk assessment, implementing planning and closure strategies and remedial measures to address spontaneous combustion and/or AMD.

Spontaneous combustion at MAC is predominantly confined to old mining areas in the Bayswater No. 2 and the Maxwell Infrastructure (Drayton) sublease area. This is a result of the higher levels of sulphuric material in the coal seams mined from the Greta measures, compared to those mined in the former Bayswater No. 3 and MAC North mining areas (Wittingham Measures).

A Spontaneous Combustion Control Program has been prepared for ongoing operations at MAC. It details the monitoring and control measures implemented to manage spontaneous combustion at MAC. Key mitigation measures for spontaneous combustion include:

- Monitoring for signs spontaneous combustion per the Spontaneous Combustion Control Program. This includes inspection and aerial/drone thermal monitoring.
- Combustion age testing.
- Remedial action of spontaneous combustion.

- Overburden emplacement and coal stockpile designed to minimise spontaneous combustion potential. Material prone to spontaneous combustion should be combined with overburden in active dumps and not block dumped unless it can be covered with inert material.

As outlined in **Section 6.2.1.6**, the AMD risk is generally low and MAC will continue to monitor for signs and implement appropriate material handling and burial with inert material. Key mitigation measures for AMD include:

- Mine planning to determine the most suitable location for the material.
- Prohibiting AMD/PAF material near the dump edge.

Ongoing monitoring programs for waste dump areas is captured in **Section 0**.

6.2.1.8 Ore Beneficiation Waste Management (Reject and Tailings Disposal)

Coarse rejects

Coarse rejects may be co-disposed with overburden into designated overburden emplacement areas, or in-pit waste rock emplacement areas (refer **Section 6.2.1.4**). Coarse rejects are block tipped and evenly distributed with competent material where possible. Coarse reject material within the overburden emplacement areas will be incorporated to the final landform at a depth where rehabilitation establishment is not impacted and to mitigate the potential for spontaneous combustion or ignition of carbonaceous material in the event of bushfire occurring within the revegetated landscape.

- One row of competent material is required along the open edge of the dump.
- When advancing a tip head over an area consisting of predominantly block tipped coarse reject, the dump height is limited to 20 m.
- Must contain competent material with a minimum 5 metres suitable capping (non-acid forming material). Noting this may change in consultation pending outcomes of future trials, models and studies (**Section 9.2**).

Tailings

There are multiple existing reject and tailings emplacement areas currently servicing coal processing facilities (refer **Section 2.4.2**). MAC has 4 TSF as follows:

- MAC TSF comprising of 2 active cells
 - o West Cut Void (WCV) TSF
 - o South West Valley TSF
- North Cut TSF, which has been capped;
- SP1 & SP2 TSF's, which are capped
- SP3 TSF which is capped

Tailings are pumped as a slurry to approved tailings dams constructed within the mined-out voids from where supernatant waters are recovered to the mine water management system, for dust suppression, or reuse in the CHPP.

MAC is responsible for the active tailings management and capping design. In response to the 2023 MAC closure announcement, MAC has developed a flocculation strategy and a TSF capping design to enable closure activities by providing a stable base for plant and equipment to operate on the tailings. The tailings capping and cover design will take into consideration local topography, climatic conditions, and availability of suitable cover materials (i.e. weathered mine waste rock). The proposed flocculation system will be completed in two phases:

- 1) **Short-term phase**, which focuses on the implementation of the flocculation plant to meet the early deposition requirements for treatment of tailings which reduces risk of closure by ensuring that a full depth of crust can be developed across the reach of the TSF.
- 2) **Long-term phase**, which focuses on the deposition strategy of the tailings to create an optimum beach profile to achieve sufficient cover across the dam. The long-term phase will also investigate the most suitable flocculant type and plant to ensure best practice for the flocculation system.

As part of MOD3, MAC can transfer tailings to Malabar TSF – East Void. MAC will continue to treat the tailings material from the CHPP while Malabar will manage the tailings material and associated infrastructure once it is received at the TSF.

6.2.1.9 Erosion and Sediment Control

The primary site-wide management measure for erosion and sediment control (ESC) is the control of initial ground disturbance. Management of surface water run-off and establishment of a vegetative cover are the secondary controls once disturbance has occurred.

During the active mining phase, MAC use a combination of ESC mitigation measures as outlined in **Section 9.2** of the Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (ESCP - MAC-ENC-PRO-060):

- Temporary seeding/mulching: Rapidly establishing sterile cover crop species provide erosion control via establishment of a surface vegetative cover. During drought conditions mulch may be used across topsoil for temporary stabilisation, and to promote ground cover.
- Shaping of stockpiles and mining surfaces to minimise the velocity and direction of water flow.
- Installation of temporary infrastructure such as sediment fences and ponds to capture sediment flows to prevent material loss and impact to surrounding environments. These structures generally consist of contour drains, mulching and rock placement. Sediment ponds, designed in accordance with *the Managing Urban Stormwater Guidelines* (Landcom (2004) [Blue Book]).

Landform establishment (**Section 6.2.3.1**) and ecosystem establishment (**Section 6.2.5**) outline how shaping of emplacement area, installation of final drains and vegetation cover are the long-term management measures for erosion and sediment control.

6.2.1.10 Ongoing Management of Biological Resources for Use in Rehabilitation

Biological resources are identified during disturbance planning and pre-clearing inspections (as outlined in **Sections 6.2.1.1, 6.2.1.2 and 6.2.1.3**). Where practicable, resources are salvaged and either placed directly into rehabilitation areas or stockpiled and maintained for later use. The following are key activities which are undertaken to ensure that biological materials remain suitable for reuse on rehabilitation areas.

- As outlined in **Section 6.2.1.2**, MAC is currently designing a nursery area for the propagation of collected and purchased seeds. Revisions to the RMP will include additional information.
- Soil seed bank management at MAC Mine includes:
 - o Soil is stockpiled.
 - o Stockpiles are ripped and sown with a cover crop/pasture mix once their construction is completed.
 - o Stockpile heights are managed by the Mine Services Supervisor/ Contracted Topsoil Stripping Supervisor.
- Weeds are monitored and sprayed by hand, if necessary.
- The salvage of hollow bearing trees, hollow logs, fallen timber and boulders will be undertaken, where practical, during the clearing process. Habitat structures will be placed in rehabilitation areas and is aimed at increasing habitat complexity in these areas to encourage native species and key threatened species.

6.2.1.11 Mine Subsidence

Although MAC is located within the Muswellbrook Mine Subsidence district, there is no recent history of mine subsidence within MAC mine leases. As a result, subsidence is not predicted to impact on mining or rehabilitation activities within this RMP period.

6.2.1.12 Management of Potential Cultural and Heritage Issues

Aboriginal Heritage

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage is managed in accordance with the approved MAC Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan (AHMP). The AHMP has been developed to address the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites across MAC, and to ensure compliance with statutory requirements.

MAC has sought to avoid and minimise potential impacts on the significant archaeological values of the Project throughout the project planning process. This has included the avoidance of direct impacts on areas (sites) which:

- Contain identified grinding grooves
- Include archaeological features of high cultural significance.

MAC minimises potential impacts on known sites through:

- Management of potential blasting impacts
- Salvage programs at any sites that will be directly impacted by mining operations in accordance with procedures developed in consultation with the Aboriginal community and Heritage NSW.

Consultation with registered Aboriginal parties will be undertaken as part of the proposed MAC rehabilitation and closure works.

European Heritage

Historic heritage is managed in accordance with the approved MAC Historic Heritage Management Plan (HHMP) which provides the framework to identify, assess, monitor, and conserve European heritage.

MAC owns and manages five heritage-listed homesteads:

- Edinglassie Homestead (state significance);
- Rous Lench Homestead (state significance);
- Edderton Homestead Complex (local significance);
- Belmont Homestead Complex (local significance); and
- Balmoral Homestead (local significance).

Comprehensive historic heritage assessments of land directly and potentially affected by mining activities and associated facilities and infrastructure have been conducted during the environmental assessment phases over the life of the project. MAC will implement the historical heritage management measures associated with continued operations including managing blasting practices to meet relevant blast impact assessment criteria at listed heritage sites/items within the vicinity of the Project.

In the event that unexpected archaeological remains or potential heritage items are discovered, all works in the immediate area will cease, the remains and potential impacts will be assessed by a qualified archaeologist or heritage consultant and if necessary, Heritage NSW and DPE will be notified in accordance with the Heritage Act 1977.

MAC will continue to undertake stakeholder and community consultation regarding European Heritage as required.

6.2.1.13 Exploration Activities

MAC have developed procedures to manage exploration activities, so that they are conducted in an environmentally responsible manner and in consideration of the community. MAC is responsible for the final rehabilitation of any exploration sites.

At the completion of exploration, the following will be completed:

- Capping and backfilling of boreholes outside the mining footprint in accordance with Exploration Code of Practice: Rehabilitation (Resources Regulator, 2022).
- Rehabilitation of disturbance areas in accordance with this RMP.
- Access roads are to be rehabilitated so that they do not alter the natural path of overland flow.
- Disturbed areas surrounding drill sites will be returned to the same topography as that preceding drilling.
- Any vegetation removed as part of the project and access track clearing requirements will be used in the rehabilitation works.
- Stripped topsoil stockpiled as part of the project preparations will be replaced.
- Erosion and sediment control devices will be maintained and remain in place until the drill sites and associated tracks are completely rehabilitated.

The Permit to Disturb process will be completed prior to undertaking any exploration activity. Results from exploration activities will be used to investigate aspects such as geological/geotechnical features, seam structure and coal/overburden characteristics as input to detailed mine planning and feasibility studies.

6.2.2 Decommissioning

Infrastructure is to be removed unless otherwise approved by the Resources Regulator. The primary risk is associated with infrastructure removal which causes contamination from hazardous building materials and fuel and chemical storage.

MAC implements the following practices to mitigate such risks:

- A procedure that details how to identify, manage and remove/remediate contaminated land.
- Maintenance of a contaminated sites register.
- Maintenance of a hazardous building materials register, primarily asbestos, and a procedure for the safe and appropriate handling, transport and storage of hazardous materials.
- Prior to removal all areas are to be assessed for site contamination

All areas to be remediated to a standard that is acceptable under NSW State legislation.

6.2.2.1 Site Security

MAC implements a variety of control strategies to minimise the potential for public safety incidents within the Project area.

Primary security measures include:

- All visitors are required to report to the reception areas on arrival and complete an induction process to ensure all safety requirements are addressed.
- Access points to control areas have boom gates, and the remainder of the access points are secure with locked gates and fencing.
- Operational staff or security are present on the Project at all times.

Secondary security controls include:

- Limited access to mining equipment and processing equipment.
- Hazardous substances (e.g. explosives) are managed within the Project area in secure licenced facilities to ensure safe handling and storage.
- MAC operates a 24 hour community hotline for the public to report any concerns regarding public safety or suspicious activity.

6.2.2.2 Infrastructure to be Removed or Demolished

MAC will decommission and remove all built infrastructure not required for the final landform during the mine closure phase. Decommissioning activities will be done in consultation with the Resources Regulator, and ideally, in accordance with a decommissioning plan that will be used as a guide for sequencing and the process of infrastructure removal. Decommissioning activities include:

- Disconnection of all above ground and buried services and removal of associated infrastructure.
- Removal of all built infrastructure and plant such as:
 - o Electrical switchyards & substation;
 - o Buildings/ tanks, industrial buildings;
 - o Aerial conveyors;
 - o Concrete pads;
 - o Stacker reclaimer;
- Water pipelines;
 - o Water pumping infrastructure;
 - o Dam infrastructure at (i.e. pontoons, pumps, telemetry system);
 - o CHPP (if not required post closure);
 - o Removal of all wastes and hazardous materials.
- Removal (or on-site remediation) of any contaminated soils in accordance with a contaminated land assessment (where required).

- Decommissioning of groundwater boreholes in accordance with the “Minimum Construction Requirements for Water Bores in Australia (2020).

Demolition activities will be conducted in accordance with AS2601-2001: The Demolition of Structures, or its latest version.

6.2.2.3 Buildings, Structures and Fixed Plant to be Retained

All mining related infrastructure not required for the final land use will be decommissioned and removed.

6.2.2.4 Management of Carbonaceous/Contaminated Material

Carbonaceous and contaminated material management during decommissioning is required to prevent ongoing pollution, heating, instability or final land use constraints. The key rehabilitation risk is that contaminated or reactive material may remain in areas proposed for final rehabilitation.

A Phase 2 Contamination Assessment is proposed to identify any potential contamination sources at the site. Issues identified will be addressed during the mine closure and decommissioning processes.

During decommissioning, MAC will implement the following controls.

Contaminated Material

Hydrocarbons and other hazardous substances including bulk diesel fuels and chemicals, are kept in designated storage compounds designed and managed in accordance with relevant standards and procedures. Where required, bulk diesel fuels and chemicals are contained in bunded storage areas to minimise the potential for accidental spills. Monitoring and inspection programs are maintained for these facilities to ensure hazardous materials and wastes are being adequately stored and disposed of and that any spills or leaks are promptly reported and managed.

Additional management measures include:

- Tank farms and fuel fill points will be decontaminated prior to demolition and disposal.
- Inspecting and maintaining equipment and plant including the conveyor networks regularly to minimise potential for leaks associated with equipment failures.
- Management of identified asbestos at various buildings across MAC in accordance with the Asbestos Management Plan.
- Maintaining the existing bioremediation areas and establishing additional bioremediation areas as required to treat soils contaminated by hydrocarbon spills.
- Where hydrocarbon contamination is identified and a potential impact to sensitive receptors identified, bioremediation will be conducted on site or the material will be transported to an approved and engineered landfill site for disposal.
- Residual surface material will be scalped from hardstand areas and unsealed access roads and disposed of in a suitable location to remove the heavily compacted or contaminated material.
- Maintaining a Contaminated Sites Register.

Carbonaceous Material

Excess coal material remaining at closure will be scraped up and disposed of to the tailings/ coarse reject emplacement area, or capped with inert material. Carbonaceous materials should be managed in accordance with the Waste Management Plan or Spontaneous Combustion Management Plan which describes the methods to be used when handling and disposing of carbonaceous materials.

6.2.2.5 Hazardous Materials Management

Hazardous materials will be assessed as part of mine closure planning and should be removed as part of Stage 1 (decommissioning) phase of rehabilitation in accordance with the relevant Hazardous Material Management Plans and Asbestos Registers.

Further detail is provided in **Section 6.2.2**. Current controls are in place to manage these risk and additional controls identified are discussed in **Sections 6.2.2.2 to 6.2.2.4**.

6.2.2.6 Underground Infrastructure

No underground mining infrastructure at MAC requires decommissioning or removal. Minor infrastructure that was in place to support an underground operation has been removed.

6.2.3 Landform Establishment

Landform establishment is the process of shaping the final landform to a safe, stable and free draining landform that is appropriate for the desired final land use and consistent with the surrounding landscape.

The final shaped landform is constructed in accordance with the requirements of this document. Rehabilitation is undertaken progressively, generally commencing as soon as practicable following the completion of mining related activities.

The RMP Form and Way states that this phase of rehabilitation consists of the processes and activities required to construct the approved final landform as per the development consent and, for large mines, the approved Final Landform and Rehabilitation Plan. In addition to shaping the surface of rehabilitation areas to the approved final landform profile, this phase may include works to construct surface water drainage features, encapsulate problematic materials such as tailings, and prepare a substrate with the desired physical and chemical characteristics (rock raking or ameliorating sodic materials).

The landform design and construction part of this phase incorporates gradient, slope, aspect, drainage, substrate material characterisation and morphology per landform design planning.

General Landform Design

Mt Arthur Coal will adopt a geomorphological landform design to the outer faces of selected final waste rock emplacements where practical. It should be noted that the design will require the refinement and optimisation of the landforms as construction experience is obtained at Mt Arthur Coal including:

- Evaluation the performance of the rocky materials selected for erosion protection in the drainage lines.
- Revegetation strategies in and around the drainage lines and on the general slopes.
- Evaluation of the performance of the different soil types in varying slope and catchment area configurations.

Monitoring will inform continual improvement of the design including limitations on where it can be implemented.

Final Landform Design Construction

The final landform design approach moves away from specifying maximum slopes, since it is not the steepness of the slope alone that represents an erosion risk, but rather a combination of the catchment area and slope.

Where steeper outer slopes exist, material will be placed in benches and then dozed into place, while on the upper surface such as for Main overburden emplacement area, the material can be placed and shaped using GPS equipment.

Steeper drainage lines are armoured, not as a highly engineered drop structures, but rather as an integrated surface in the manner of a typical valley creek.

Final Void Design

An adaptive design approach to wall stability will be applied to the final voids, with consideration given to experience and learnings gained throughout the mining operation and long-term issues such as erosion, surface degradation and effects of stored void water. This approach is particularly suited to the complex structural geology at MAC, with pit walls intersecting faults and dykes at varying angles.

Other factors to consider include:

- Rock mass failure; and
- Erosional stability around the crest of the final void.

MAC will adopt leading practice at the time of closure, for example Probability of Failure (PoF) – a focus of ongoing research and development - as a design criterion, instead of the more deterministic Factor of Safety.

6.2.3.1 Water Management Infrastructure

Drainage

Where possible, MAC will adopt a free-draining geomorphic landform design. Managing runoff from rehabilitation is critical in achieving long term stability and success of rehabilitated areas. Inappropriate drainage can lead to instability and failure of landforms as well as failure of revegetation efforts. Detailed drainage designs are prepared by an experienced consultant for all primary rehabilitation areas, these designs are prepared in accordance with the Blue Book and approved final landform. These designs generally contain all runoff water on-site until rehabilitation has progressed to a sufficient stage to be classified as clean water. The following design elements are considered:

- Drainage upslope of rehabilitation areas to minimise overland concentrated flows.
- Water off active advancing dumps and flat areas should be managed to prevent runoff onto rehabilitated areas.
- Drainage paths, contour drains, ridgelines and emplacements, to be shaped as much as practical, undulating profiles in keeping with natural landforms of the surrounding environment.
- Drainage designs for each area will include consideration of the final landform and future adjacent rehabilitation areas to produce a free draining final landform to mitigate potential reworking of fringes where drainage designs may not match up adequately.

Suitable erosion control measures (e.g. catch drains, sediment dams, silt fences, mulches, etc.) are implemented to minimise soil loss from areas undergoing rehabilitation. In addition, sedimentation dams are incorporated into the final landform to collect runoff from the rehabilitated areas and the dam capacity. Refer to the Erosion and Sediment Control Plan for more information.

Further investigation is required regarding long-term water licencing and water management works associated with any ongoing water take by the final landform via interception, storage or diversion.

Sediment Dams

Runoff from rehabilitated and revegetated areas will continue to be directed to mine water storages or sediment retention storages prior to being allowed to drain offsite until the landform becomes more stable.

Sediment dams will offset the increase of peak flows associated with the steeper post-rehabilitation catchments compared to the pre-mining catchments. Other options may be considered where the sediment dams do not sufficiently mitigate the peak flows.

During rehabilitation works, water storage areas and sediment dams are proposed to be retained and will be:

- Integrated into final rehabilitation catchment;
- Reinstated or decontaminated (where required); and
- Converted to clean water dam.

Spillway Augmentation

The decision to remove spillways will be reviewed in the Final Closure Plan to assess if additional work is required for discharge points.

Creek Diversions

Whites Creek diversion will largely be retained in its current state and integrated into the post-mine landscape and the redundant section reinstated and rehabilitated.

Creek diversions are discussed further in **Section 6.2.3.5**.

Water Sources

Further investigation is required to clearly understand and minimise residual risk to water sources. The RMP will be updated as required to include additional studies and assessments.

6.2.3.2 Final Landform Construction: General Requirements

The final landform has been designed to be consistent with the rehabilitation objectives in Schedule 3, Condition 41A of the Project Approval (Refer **Section 2.1**, **Table 4**). As part of the landform construction, MAC considered potential geotechnical/geochemical and erosional issues, integration with the surrounding landscape for visual amenity and surface water impact minimisation.

MAC implements the following controls to effectively construct the final landform.

- Landform Design Process includes the following parameters which result in the approved landform:
- A reduction in the northern emplacement height by approximately 20m AHD compared to the height approved in MOD 1.
 - o Modifying final void high walls and low wall slopes to minimise final disturbance.
 - o Incorporating micro relief features throughout overburden emplacements to provide an enhanced naturally appearing landform and fauna habitat.
 - o The practical consideration of geomorphic type designs on the outer faces of selected emplacements to sustainably manage water and create a natural looking and stable landform.
 - o All landform designs are completed by a suitably qualified person.
 - o Material characterisation and dumping locations (refer to **Section 6.2.1.7** and **6.2.1.8**) to inform landform shaping.
- Erosion risk modelling is used to determine if the shaped landform will result in erosion and to what extent. This model helps proactive rework rather than maintenance.
- Skilled operators are used to ensure that the as built landform aligns with the landform design. Conformance scans and other QAQC processes are used to ensure alignment which minimises potential rework.

Visual amenity has been identified as a key risk during the construction of the final landform (a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment was undertaken as part of MOD 2). This assessment identified the landform establishment controls listed above and additional controls to minimise the expected impact:

- The integration of tree corridors on overburden emplacements as part of progressive rehabilitation.
- The retention of the eastern flank of MacLean's Hill to assist in creating landscape diversity at the foot of overburden emplacements.
- The strategic design and rehabilitation of overburden emplacements for increased visual shielding of operations.
- Establishing visual and ecological planting patterns of native trees to achieve landscape patterns that complement the existing spatial distribution of tree and grass cover in a grazing landscape.
- Minimising exposure of work areas to sensitive receivers where possible, largely through the timely rehabilitation of visible overburden emplacements.

The final status of visual bunds will be included in future updates of the RMP, this will take into consideration feedback via consultation.

6.2.3.3 Final Landform Construction: Reject Emplacement Areas and Tailings Dams

Reject Emplacement Areas

Reject is co-disposed within overburden emplacement areas. Reject is disposed of in areas where there will be a minimum of 5m of cover material (suitable locations are in-pit and emplacement dumps). Noting this may change in consultation pending outcomes of future trials, models and studies (**Section 9.2**). Information regarding final landform construction of overburden emplacement areas is discussed in **Section 6.2.3.2** above.

Tailings Facilities

Refer to **Section 2.4.1** and **Section 6.2.1.8** for the status of TSF at MAC.

MAC TSF's West Cut Void and South West Valley have undergone lifts and is the area of active tailings disposal. Tailings emplacement methods in West Cut Void and South West Valley are being reviewed and modified to allow for more efficient closure. North Cut TSF has been capped.

Future studies are required to:

- Review the capping of SP1-3; and
- Determine the most effective closure of West Cut Void and South West Valley TSF.

The rehabilitated Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) will be integrated into the final landform and revegetation process. The TSF in the Bayswater No. 2 and Drayton Sub-lease Areas will be integrated with other rehabilitation in the Drayton Sub-lease Area to form an elevated landform. The capping design will be free draining to avoid slumping and potential pooling. The capping layer will focus on sealing and the underlying material for creating suitable conditions for sustainable revegetation.

Groundwater interaction has also been considered as part of the TSF final landform design. To achieve a non-polluting landform, the capping design incorporates sufficient growth medium, integrated cap and vegetation and grasses for initial coverage. Based on the outcomes, trees and shrubs may also be incorporated. Sediment ponds designed for 1:20 year 24-hour storm event will be removed from the final landform, similar to standard rehabilitation at Mt. Arthur Coal Mine.

The decommissioning of tailings facilities will have closure design in accordance with ANCOLD guidelines. Capping/ treatment of facilities will be appropriately designed and constructed so as to ensure geotechnical stability and successful containment of tailings material and hazardous leachate drainage or seepage. The closure of will require sign off from the Dam Safety Committee that TSF wall integrity is satisfactory based on assessment by a suitably qualified geotechnical engineer.

6.2.3.4 Final Landform Construction: Final Voids Highwalls and Low Walls

Final Voids

The MAC Rehabilitation Strategy, specifically **Section 4.2.5.4** meets the commitments contained in the in the Project Approval and has superseded the Final Voids Management Plan previously referred to in RMP.

As part of the closure process, additional assessments will be undertaken to ensure that the voids remain safe, stable and non-polluting in the rehabilitated post-mining landscape phase and inform any controls that may be required to minimise negative impacts to livestock and the community. These studies will involve assessing:

- Safety hazards will include fencing, signage, restricted access to tracks and roads and removing any features that could encourage recreational activities (if compatible with the final land use).
- Geotechnical assessment on rock properties and geological structures to determine a design that has appropriate long-term stability. Surface water flow will be considered and specific designs will be implemented to manage the stability depending on the location of each void.
- Potential use of pits as a groundwater sink will help reduce the risk of contaminants entering the groundwater system.

To manage landform stability and meet with the objectives in MP 09_0062, the final voids are either:

- Backfilled and rehabilitated to native ecosystem which is integrated into the landscape, providing connected habitat for native flora and fauna species.
- Backfilled and rehabilitated to agricultural (grazing) land use which is aligned with the predominant land use in the hunter valley.
- Not backfilled and use as water storage and groundwater sink to minimise risk of pollution off site.

As part of MOD 2, a review of the final landform and voids allowed the number of voids to be reduced to two, which will remain as rehabilitated final voids and may be used as water storage:

- Northern Open Cut Void – consisting of Windmill, Calool, Roxburgh, and Ayredale (backfilled pits); and
- McDonald Void.

The following pits will be backfilled and rehabilitated:

- Macleans;
- West Cut;
- East Cut;
- North Cut;
- Belmont;
- Ayredale group including Ayredale North and Ayredale South;
- Drayton West; and

- Saddlers group of pits including Saddlers South, Saddlers Central, Saddlers North.

The final land use for the final voids is further discussed in the MAC Rehabilitation Strategy. Completion criteria for the final voids will be reviewed and updated as required using stakeholder feedback.

6.2.3.5 Construction of Creek/River Diversion Works

Whites Creek Diversion is the only diversion in place at MAC. Whites Creek Diversion was constructed in the early 2000s to divert Whites Creek around the Operations and direct runoff from undisturbed and rehabilitated mining areas and discharges to a small tributary downstream of Denman Road and then to the Hunter River. Ongoing performance monitoring is completed as part of the operations. Whites Creek diversion will be largely retained in its current state and integrated into post-mine landscape, and the redundant section reinstated and rehabilitated.

6.2.4 Growth Medium Development

Surface preparation activities for rehabilitated areas will commence as soon as practicable following the completion of mining activities. The RMP Form and Way states that this phase of rehabilitation consists of activities such as spreading the prepared landform with topsoil, subsoil or soil substitutes, and applying soil ameliorants required to establish the desired vegetation community. Planning in this phase includes actions to minimise loss of growth media due to erosion in addition to the following:

- Analysis of topsoil/ subsoil to assess quality and determine amelioration requirements.
- Determination of available resources provision of specifications to contractor.
- Calculating topsoil volumes and volume availability.
- Topsoil placement, ensuring topsoil is applied evenly and to specification.
- Amelioration (e.g. gypsum, mulch) application to topsoil at recommended rates.
- Topsoil stockpile management to ensure remaining topsoil stockpiles have been rolled over, ripped and seeded with cover crop.
- Suitable erosion control measures will be implemented to minimise soil loss from areas undergoing rehabilitation.
- Stockpiles re-surveyed/scanned and inventory and GIS database updated.

Topsoil is sourced from nearby stockpiles or directly placed from stripping operations. Due to the age and variable quality of stockpiled soil, a pre-rehabilitation topsoil stockpile inspection and testing program has been implemented to determine suitability for the specific rehabilitation and identify amelioration requirements, such as gypsum. The material is then placed and spread to an approximate depth of 100 millimetres and will be mostly used in areas of pasture rehabilitation. Ameliorants (i.e. gypsum and fertiliser), if required, are applied and integrated, and the topsoil surface is contour cultivated prior to seeding to provide suitable micro-environments that shelters seed and encourages water infiltration. The landscape being constructed will also include extensive use of trees and rock scarp for visual relief.

Alternate growth media of composted material has been determined for woodland areas and will be used to ensure sufficient topsoil balance for pasture areas.

6.2.5 Ecosystem and Land Use Establishment

This section outlines the methodologies to establish appropriate vegetation communities for the final land use of Native Ecosystem and Agricultural Grazing.

The RMP Form and Way document outlines that this phase of rehabilitation consists of the processes to establish the approved final land use following construction of the final landform. For vegetated land uses, this rehabilitation phase includes establishing the desired vegetation community and implementing land management activities such as weed control. This phase of rehabilitation incorporates revegetated lands and may include habitat augmentation such as installation of nest boxes, weed and pest animal control / management and establishment of flora.

From a rehabilitation planning perspective, the major strategies are to ensure that, MAC rehabilitation planning incorporates requirements listed in EPBC Approval (EPBC 2011/5866 and EPBC 2014/7377) and Project Approval 09_0062 MOD 2 (refer **Section 1.2, Table 2**).

Seed Management

MAC continually reviews and updates the applied seed mix to increase success of rehabilitation with consideration given to:

- Staged application of seed to mimic natural ecological development.
- Properties of species to help with growth medium development.
- Properties of species to species diversity by ensuring niches within the landscape are filled as they develop.
- Target plant community types.
- The use of early colonisers to ameliorate and stabilise soils.
- Species identification to better allocate resources and allow for planning of infill planting.

Testing of the woodland seed is completed to determine the germination rate. This occurs as part of procurement and MAC engage and independent consultant to complete a follow-up grab sample prior to use.

Native Ecosystem (Seed Mix and Tube Stock)

Native vegetation seed mixes are selected to re-establish Ironbark-Box-Gum communities (per Schedule 3, Condition 41A of Project Approval 09_0062 MOD 3). Tube stock planting programs also target the establishment of box-gum woodland and fauna habitat. Biodiversity and habitat values within woody rehabilitation areas are also enhanced by the incorporation of habitat structures such as nesting/roosting boxes, hollow bearing trees recovered during vegetation clearing, woody debris and rock piles. Large surface rocks raked clear during overburden emplacement rehabilitation will be placed in piles as habitat features amongst or adjacent to remnant vegetation where possible. The diversity of structure improves the potential biodiversity capability.

The native woodland vegetation seeded before July 2012 was a generic native tree and shrub mix based on species common to native vegetation communities of the Upper Hunter Valley floor. Following consultation with ecological consultants, the seed mix used to establish woodland rehabilitation at MAC was modified during 2013 and more recently in 2018 to better reflect the species composition of Upper Hunter White Box – Ironbark Grassy Woodland. This seed mix was also modified to include mainly native grass species, along with a sterile exotic cover crop, for groundcover.

Agricultural – Grazing (Seed Mix)

In the past, pasture rehabilitation has largely been established by broadcast seeding of a pasture seed mix, based heavily on exotic grass species such as rhodes grass (*Chloris gayana*), kikuyu (*Pennisetum clandestinum*) and green panic (*Panicum maximum*). The actual composition of the pasture seed mix has varied substantially, with the most significant change being the reduction and eventual removal of Rhodes Grass due to its observed dominance in pasture rehabilitation.

Species selected may vary year to year based on availability, characteristics of the landform to be established and based on trials of different phases of seeding.

Ongoing Maintenance

Repair and maintenance work can be broken down into two main streams:

- Scheduled routines for maintenance activities, typically weed treatment or pest animal control; and
- Activities identified through the Rehabilitation Management Plan Trigger Action Response Plan (TARP) – informed through monitoring and scheduled walkovers.

These streams will be combined to develop annual management plans to facilitate planning, implementation and review of works to be undertaken. Annual Plans should be developed to determine baseline workloads and highlight priority works. The Annual Plans required include:

- Weed Action Plan (refer to **Section 6.2.1.2**).
- Pest Action Plan (refer to **Section 6.2.1.2**).
- Revegetation Action Plan generally includes tubestock infill planting. These planting programs are completed during seasonal peaks to ensure success rates.
- Erosion Repair and Sediment Control Action Plan includes installation of minor water management structures to direct water flow to designated drains. Where erosion has occurred, maintenance may include hand or machine rework and re-seeding.

Monitoring

MAC has an integrated ecological and rehabilitation monitoring program which assesses the ecological development of rehabilitation areas against the remnant communities and rehabilitation progress criteria.

Ecological monitoring in accordance with MAC-ENC-PRO-080 Rehabilitation and Ecological Monitoring was identified as a critical control to demonstrate that the structure and function of the ecosystem has been achieved in this rehabilitation phase, and to identify if a rehabilitation area is able to be signed off. MAC reviews the monitoring undertaken (refer **Section 8**) to ensure it reflects any changes to rehabilitation objectives, performance indicators and completion criteria (**Section 4, Table 9****Error! Reference source not found.**).

6.2.6 Ecosystem and Land Use Development

The RMP Form and Way outlines that this phase of rehabilitation consists of activities to manage maturing rehabilitation areas on a trajectory to achieving rehabilitation objectives, completion criteria (discussed in **Section 4**) and the Final Landform.

Activities associated with the ecosystem and land use development phase of rehabilitation are generally ongoing maintenance, land management activities and rehabilitation monitoring.

Maintenance at rehabilitated areas will include, but not be limited to:

- Weeds and pest animal control;
- Managing bushfire risks;
- Minor earthworks to remediate any significant erosion features, including contour banks and diversion channels;
- Infill planting and/or seeding to meet vegetation community requirements;
- Maintaining erosion and sediment controls; and
- A rehabilitation monitoring program to assess the progress of rehabilitation areas toward the nominated completion criteria.

The Rehabilitation and Ecological Monitoring Program was identified as a critical control to identify any failing areas of vegetation establishment so the TARP can be triggered. Weed and pest management undertaken during the active mining phase will be continued into the ecosystem and land use development phase.

Rehabilitation monitoring (discussed in **Section 8**) will be undertaken until it can be demonstrated that rehabilitation areas have met all conditions for relinquishment.

6.3 Rehabilitation of Areas Affected by Subsidence

There is no recent history of mine subsidence within MAC mine leases, therefore subsidence is not predicted to impact on mining or rehabilitation activities within this RMP period.

7 Rehabilitation Quality Assurance Process

MAC has developed a Rehabilitation Standard to provide guidance on the process of establishing rehabilitation. The MAC Rehabilitation Standard has the following objectives:

- Define roles and responsibilities for the design, establishment, maintenance and monitoring of rehabilitation areas;
- Define the phases of rehabilitation;
- Define design requirements and construction tolerances; and
- Define appropriate hold points in the establishment of rehabilitation on waste rock. This includes Inspection Test Plans (ITP) templates.

The following are additional quality assurance practices in the MAC:

- MAC maintains a topsoil stockpile database;
- Bulk shaping is completed by GPS enabled dozers;
- Dumps for rehabilitation are verified compliant to design using LIDAR; and
- Supplied seed is be verified for viability.

The rehabilitation monitoring requirements are audited as part of BHPs Assurance Audit Program against the *BHP Our Requirements for Closure and Legacy Management* and *Our Requirements for Environment and Climate Change*.

The performance of rehabilitation is reviewed as part of the Annual Review as per Project Approval 09_0062 MOD 3 Schedule 5 Condition 3.

Table 12 below outlines the rehabilitation and quality assurance process for MAC.

The rehabilitation quality assurance process is used when planning future rehabilitation activities.

The objective for rehabilitation will be one of continuous improvement and includes:

- Utilising relevant industry best practice rehabilitation techniques;
- Utilising key personnel with rehabilitation and closure experience;
- Continuing to undertake rehabilitation monitoring and assessing against rehabilitation criteria; and
- Reviewing rehabilitation performance against the Trigger Action Response Plan in **Section 10**.

Table 12: Rehabilitation Quality Assurance

Phase	Key Quality Assurance Steps	Current Record Status (in place / still required)	Procedures/ Documentation
Active Mining	Records of competent personnel for active mining and rehabilitation.	Records in place.	Position descriptions.
	Up to date mine plans.	Completed for this RMP and the ARRFP	Mining plans
	Documentation of pre-clearance surveys (covering all key environmental aspects).	Records in place per Permit to Disturb Procedure	Permit to Disturb
	Maintenance of a topsoil inventory to document stripped, stockpiled and re-spread resources.	Location of soils stockpiles are known.	Topsoil register
	Regular inspections of erosion and sediment controls.	Currently being completed, as required.	Inspection records
	- Regular inspections to identify potential weed infestations; - Details of weed status included in rehabilitation monitoring; and - Weed management spraying records.	- Inspections currently being completed; and - Current records kept for weed spraying.	Inspection and control records
	Regular inspections to review spontaneous combustion.	Currently being completed.	Inspection records
	Overburden and reject material testing to determine PAF.	- Drillhole sampling for PAF - Known locations of PAF - Sign off process when inert material is placed over the PAF/ rejects	Test results
	Soil testing.	Currently being completed, as required.	Test results
Decommissioning	Inspections and demolition reports to confirm all infrastructure has been removed.	Required prior to closure. Development of a Decommissioning Plan to be completed.	Inspection and demolition reports
	Removal of waste	Waste records to be maintained per Waste Handling and Disposal procedure.	Waste records
	Validation testing to ensure any contamination/hazardous substances has been appropriately remediated and/or removed.	Required prior to closure. Phase 2 Contamination Assessment to be completed.	- Test results - Waste records
	Public safety risks are assessed during decommissioning.	Fencing, signage, security.	Risk assessment
Landform Establishment	Landform establishment and survey process. Quality assurance signoff of constructed landforms including slopes, landforms and water drainage structures.	Currently being completed, as required.	- ITPs - As-built survey
	Records of reject capping depth for the Project area.	Currently being completed, as required.	ITPs
	Recording depths of ripping of rehabilitation areas.	Currently being completed, as required.	ITPs
	Slopes, geotechnical and stability assessment required for closure planning.	Required prior to closure.	- Geotechnical assessment - As-built survey
	Void Water Management Assessment completed as part of closure planning.	Required prior to closure.	- Void Water Management Assessment - As-built survey
Growth Medium Establishment	Soil assessment for existing rehabilitation areas.	Covered in rehabilitation monitoring.	Soil assessment
	Soil assessment for future rehabilitation areas.	Required prior to future rehabilitation.	Soil assessment
	Register of topsoil and subsoil for future rehabilitation.	Location of soils stockpiles are known.	Topsoil register

Phase	Key Quality Assurance Steps	Current Record Status (in place / still required)	Procedures/ Documentation
	Records of identification and management of actual acid forming, potentially acid forming (PAF) and non-acid forming (NAF) material and ongoing monitoring.	Currently being completed, as required.	• Test results • Spatial records • Material balance
Ecosystem and Land Use Establishment	• Documentation of seeding or planting activities undertaken including: • Date of planting; • Weather conditions; • Seed mix; • Seeding rate (kg/ha) and/or planting rate (tubestock/ha); • Fertiliser rate (kg/ha); • Records of the salvage of all rehabilitation resources including suitable capping materials, topsoils/subsoils, seeds, habitat structures (e.g. tree hollows and rocks) for use in rehabilitation.	Records in place. To be recorded for future monitoring programs.	• Rehabilitation records • Annual Rehabilitation Report
	Regular Project area inspections of rehabilitated areas to allow early identification of any emerging threats to rehabilitation.	Currently being completed, as required.	• Site inspections
	Rehabilitation monitoring in accordance with Section 8 to monitor the success of rehabilitation.	Records of existing and proposed rehabilitation monitoring.	• Rehabilitation monitoring reports • Annual Rehabilitation Report
	Continuation of environmental monitoring program.	Ongoing.	• Monitoring results
	Weed and feral animal infestations; and Documentation of all weed management and eradication programs and follow-up inspections.	Current weed management records kept.	• Monitoring results • Weed/pest control records
Ecosystem and Land Use Development	Rehabilitation monitoring in accordance with Section 8 to monitor the success of rehabilitation.	Criteria assessed in the annual rehabilitation monitoring.	• Rehabilitation monitoring reports • Annual Rehabilitation Report
	Regular Project inspections of rehabilitated areas to allow early identification of any emerging threats to rehabilitation.	Currently being completed, as required.	• Site inspection records
	Weed and feral animal infestations; and Documentation of all weed management and eradication programs and follow-up inspections.	Records kept per Land Management Procedure.	• Weed/pest control records

8 Rehabilitation Monitoring Program

8.1 Analogue Site Baseline Monitoring

MAC aims to create rehabilitation that uses the characteristics of the local environment as a reference, or analogue, on which to base the design of rehabilitation. Analogue sites indicate the condition of the native communities in the vicinity of the mining area and have been established in areas of remnant woodland or conservation areas within/adjacent to the MAC mining authorities. To provide a reference for comparison, the analogue sites represent vegetation communities for each community type being established during rehabilitation. The plots are surveyed for species diversity, vegetation composition, cover abundances, structure and function values. Dependent on mining and rehabilitation progression and access, analogue sites may be added or moved, in accordance with the Biodiversity Assessment Methodology (BAM).

Pasture is assessed using DPHI approved methodology and non-mined pasture reference sites for comparison. Pasture assessment involves visually estimating the quantity and quality of available pasture by visually assessing the botanical composition and ground cover in the area.

Monitoring sites are listed in the Rehabilitation and Ecological Monitoring Procedure (REMP).

8.2 Rehabilitation Establishment Monitoring

MAC rehabilitation monitoring programs consider statutory obligations, targeted post mining land uses, rehabilitation objectives and nominated completion criteria, as well as the scale of the rehabilitation areas to be monitored.

Following cessation of mining at MAC, the existing environmental monitoring program will be maintained until decommissioning and rehabilitation works have been completed in accordance with PA 09_0176 MOD 3 and EPL 11457.

MAC rehabilitation monitoring programs are implemented to achieve the following objectives:

- Assess the condition and development of rehabilitated/ regenerated vegetation.
- Assess the stability of land surface, landforms and related engineered structures.
- Allow for the comparison of rehabilitated/regenerated areas with reference sites.
- Progress indicators and completion criteria.
- Identify requirements for maintenance or remedial treatment.
- Meet statutory and corporate requirements relating to rehabilitation and ecological monitoring.

The following monitoring programs are implemented at MAC:

- Landform Stability and Rapid Walkover Assessment;
- Revegetation Inspections;
- Ecological Development;
- Visual Amenity Monitoring; and
- Pasture Development.

The rehabilitation monitoring program is reviewed regularly to ensure that sufficient parameters are included to validate completion criteria in **Table 9***Error! Reference source not found.*. Refer to the REMP for more information.

8.3 Measuring Performance Against Rehabilitation Objectives and Rehabilitation Completion Criteria

Landform Stability and Rapid Walkover Assessment

Landform stability monitoring program consists of the completion of routine record keeping of walkover inspections and desktop review of latest remote sensing data (e.g. LiDar). for developing and established rehabilitated areas to monitor long-term stability of rehabilitated and modified natural lands. The aim of this program is to:

- Prove that post-mining landforms are vegetated, relatively stable and represent minimal risk of failure and verify completion criteria with regards to landform stability.
- Identify areas of significant active erosion across MAC site (except operational and infrastructure areas) and evaluate potential for environmental impact.
- Determine the requirement for maintenance, remedial treatment or modification of rehabilitation measures.

Revegetation Inspection

The intent of revegetation inspections is to assess actively revegetated areas to assess the germination of seed, survival and establishment of tubestock, potential issues (i.e. poor germination rates, tubestock mortality or predation, water stress or weed infestation) and requirement for maintenance or remedial management.

The monitoring program consists of the completion of revegetation inspection by a suitably qualified and experienced person to determine if the rehabilitation can progress from the Ecosystem and Land Use Establishment Phase to the Ecosystem and Land Use Development Phase.

Ecological Development Monitoring

The ecological development monitoring program consists of Trajectory Monitoring and Ecological Sustainability and Completion Monitoring (Modified BAM) to:

- Prove that areas designated as providing biodiversity value in the post-mining landscape are trending towards the selected vegetation community composition and structure as described in completion criteria.
- Identify requirement for maintenance activities, remedial action, or modification to rehabilitation, regeneration or land management programs.

Visual Amenity Monitoring

Visual Amenity monitoring consists of inspection of six viewpoints surrounding MAC with a photo to be taken and the completion of a visual assessment checklist. The purpose of monitoring is to ensure mitigation measures are implemented to maintain compliance with modelled predictions.

Pasture Development Monitoring

Pasture development monitoring consists of assessment of composition, condition, soil sampling and productivity across areas of pasture rehabilitation and buffer land that are designated as post-mining grazing areas. The aims of the program are to show that proposed grazing pasture displays the landscape, soil and pasture characteristics suitable for supporting sustainable grazing, and identify maintenance and remedial requirements that would further improve grazing potential.

Measuring Performance

Discussion on performance is provided in the Annual Review. The Annual Review is the reporting mechanism for rehabilitation and is available on the BHP website.

9 Rehabilitation Research, Modelling and Trials

Key learnings from rehabilitation trials will be incorporated into rehabilitation planning at MAC including:

- Rehabilitation planning;
- Landform design;
- Temporary stabilisation;
- Erosion modelling;
- Growth Medium
- Seed mixes; and
- Use of ameliorants (e.g. compost).

9.1 Current Rehabilitation Research, Modelling and Trials

MAC have undertaken numerous rehabilitation trials in the past, with rehabilitation outcomes achieved from some of these trials. Current trials being undertaken at MAC include:

- **Temporary Stabilisation** trials of amended cover crop to increase surface stabilisation and reduce short term erosion risks.
- **Growth Medium** trials to refine standard growth media alternatives to topsoil to:
 - o reduce risk of topsoil deficit;
 - o eliminate risk of weed seed bank risk within topsoil out competing the native species;
 - o reduce initial erosion; and
 - o increase germination and cover of desired native species.
- **Agricultural Grazing** trials are undertaken on rehabilitated land south of McDonald Pit, with a reference site established on adjacent non-mined grazing land. This trial area originally formed part of an industry-wide rehabilitation grazing trial being coordinated by NSW Minerals Council, as part of the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue. Grazing of cattle on this land is now undertaken by a lessee.

9.2 Future Rehabilitation Research, Modelling and Trials

The following research, modelling, trials are proposed:

- **Native Ecosystem:** MAC will utilise the results of other research initiatives completed in the Hunter Valley to help develop and inform establishment of box gum woodland.
- **100Overburden emplacement area (OEA) cover study:** material characterisation and AMD Risk Assessment was undertaken in 2025 focused on the likelihood for AMD generation from spoil, rejects material and tailings and OEA cover modelling focused on the technical need for a cover was undertaken in 2025. MAC will engage an AMD specialist to peer review and critically assess the findings and recommendations of these studies, prior to committing to undertake infield cover trial.
- **Landform Evolution Modelling:** Completion of a Landform Evolution Model for MAC to inform landform design and confirm long term stability.

10 Intervention and Adaptive Management

Potential threats to rehabilitation once constructed have been identified as part of the RMP Risk Assessment discussed in **Section 3**. MAC undertake and record rehabilitation monitoring and inspections to assess the trajectory of rehabilitation and identify areas that require improvement.

Where rehabilitation monitoring indicates that rehabilitation outcomes are not trending toward the nominated completion criteria, MAC instigates early intervention and adaptive management to identify the cause and minimise the potential for rehabilitation failure.

Mitigation actions are recorded on the MAC document control system for implementation. Where necessary, rehabilitation procedures are reviewed to improve rehabilitation outcomes.

The Project-specific TARP shown in **Table 13** identifies the proposed contingency strategies in the event of unexpected variations or impacts to rehabilitation outcomes. The TARP outlines the key identified risks, their trigger and proposed mitigation measures to reduce the identified risks.

MAC also use a State Transition Model (STM) to understand the trajectory of discrete rehabilitation management areas through different ecological states toward ultimately achieving completion criteria. While each sub-criteria within the STM is not reflected in the TARP, deviation from the desired ecological state is incorporated into the TARP using an STM performance matrix.

Table 13: Trigger Action Response Plan for Rehabilitation

RMP Category / Aspect	Key Element	Monitoring	Trigger/ Response	Acceptable Rehabilitation Parameters	Level 1 Trigger	Level 2 Trigger
Landform Stability	Erosion control: Rills and gully's.	Erosion Modelling Erosion features	Trigger	Minor sheet erosion or rills <100mm width and <10m length.	Minor sheet erosion or rills >100mm <300mm width and <10m length.	Gullies >300mm width or >10m length.
			Response	Continue routine inspections and erosion monitoring.	Targeted monitoring	Scope to be included in Erosion Action Plan e.g.: - Engage SQP to assess soil parameters - Review upslope run off
	Erosion control: Bare ground coverage (exposed soil).	Ecological Walkover Transect and Pasture Walkover Monitoring (Bare_C)	Trigger	>50% vegetation cover for rehab > 3 years old.	Between 30% and 50% vegetation cover for rehab > 3 years old	<30% vegetation cover for rehab > 3 years old
			Response	Continue routine inspections and erosion monitoring.	- Targeted monitoring - Scope and schedule management actions (e.g. mulch, cover crop seeding, re-seeding target species).	Scope to be included in Erosion Action Plan e.g.: - Engage SQP to assess soil parameters - Engage as agronomy specialist to review
	Rock weathering of drains in rehabilitation.	Site observations	Trigger	Rock drains have no advanced weathering or signs of scour	Advanced weathering is observed (drains <5 years old)	Scouring observed
			Response	Continue routine inspections and erosion monitoring.	Targeted monitoring	Scope to be included in Erosion Action Plan e.g.: Engage an engineer to review design and cause of failure.
Ecosystem and Land Use Development	Weed presence.	Walkover inspections and Ecological Monitoring - Exotic High Threat Total Coverage (HTW_C) (woodland areas only) - Total Exotic coverage (Exotic_C)	Trigger	- High threat perennial weeds coverage <5%. - Total weed coverage <30%.	- High threat perennial weeds coverage <15%. - Total weed coverage >30% <50%.	- High threat perennial weeds coverage >25%. - Total weed coverage >50%.
			Response	Continue routine monitoring.	Targeted monitoring	Scope to be included in Weed Action Plan e.g.: Engage a rehabilitation specialist to assess most efficient maintenance action.
	Trajectory	STM Assessment	Trigger	STM assessment is >75% of State Criteria based on rehabilitation phase	STM assessment is <75% but >50% of State Criteria based on rehabilitation phase.	STM assessment is <50% of State Criteria based on rehabilitation phase.
			Response	Continue routine monitoring.	Targeted monitoring	Scope to be included in Weed Action Plan e.g.: Engage a rehabilitation specialist to assess most efficient maintenance action.
	Woodland development	Ecological Walkover Transect Native trees richness (Tree_R)	Trigger	Native tree richness is >4	Native tree richness is 1-3	Native tree richness is 0
			Response	Continue routine monitoring.	Targeted monitoring.	Scope to be included in Revegetation Action Plan e.g.: - Engage SQP to assess soil parameters - Engage an ecologist/rehabilitation specialist to review.
		Ecological Walkover Transect Native shrub richness (Shrub_R)	Trigger	Native shrub richness is >4	Native shrub richness is 1-3	Native shrub richness is 0
			Response	Continue routine monitoring.	Targeted monitoring.	Scope to be included in Revegetation Action Plan e.g.: Engage SQP to assess soil parameters.

RMP Category / Aspect	Key Element	Monitoring	Trigger/ Response	Acceptable Rehabilitation Parameters	Level 1 Trigger	Level 2 Trigger
		Ecological Walkover Transect Native ground cover richness (Ground_R)	Trigger	Native ground cover richness is >4	Native ground cover richness is 1-3	Engage an ecologist/rehabilitation specialist to review.
			Response	Continue routine monitoring.	Targeted monitoring.	Native ground cover richness is 0
	Pasture development	Walkover inspections and Pasture Monitoring Pasture species (legumes and grasses (Past_R)	Trigger	Pasture species >6	Pasture Species 2-5	Scope to be included in Revegetation Action Plan e.g.: - Engage SQP to assess soil parameters. - Engage an ecologist/rehabilitation specialist to review.
			Response	Continue routine monitoring.	Targeted monitoring.	Pasture species 1 or less
	Pest animal predation	Walkover inspections and Ecological Monitoring	Trigger	Pest animal species are not causing damage to rehabilitation.	Pest animal predation has been observed.	Scope to be included in Revegetation Action Plan e.g.: - Engage SQP to assess soil parameters. - Engage an agronomy specialist to review.
			Response	Continue routine monitoring.	Targeted monitoring	Pest animal predation has been observed at multiple locations
						Include in Pest Animal Action Plan

11 Review, Revision and Implementation

In accordance with Clause 11 of Schedule 8A to the Mining Regulation 2016, MAC will amend this RMP in the following circumstances:

- To substitute the proposed version of a rehabilitation outcome document with the version approved by the Secretary – **within 30 days after the document is approved.**
- As a consequence of an amendment made to the rehabilitation objectives, rehabilitation completion criteria or final landform and rehabilitation plan – **within 30 days after the amendment is made.**
- To reflect any changes to the risk control measures in the rehabilitation management plan that are identified in a rehabilitation risk assessment – **as soon as practicable after the risk assessment.**
- Whenever given a written direction to do so by the Secretary – **in accordance with the direction.**

In addition to this, the RMP should be reviewed whenever there are significant changes to mining or rehabilitation processes.

The Lease holder must ensure the RMP remains current and relevant to ensure it defines the rehabilitation outcomes to be achieved in relation to the mining area and sets out the strategy to achieve those outcomes. The RMP must be uploaded to the website within 14 days of finalisation.

Whenever any foreseeable hazard is identified that presents a risk to achieving the rehabilitation objectives, the rehabilitation completion criteria and the final landform and rehabilitation plan, the lease holder is required to update the Rehabilitation Risk Assessment and the RMP.

Version Management

Date	Version Control		Page(s)	Details
	Major	Minor		
June 2019	1.0		All	New RMP format and separated from the Mine Operations Plan as per the new Resource Regulator Guidelines.
April 2020	2.0		All	Update RMP for submission with Annual Forward Plan, to align with Resource Regulator guidelines
June 2021	3.0		All	Update RMP following rehabilitation risk assessment
September 2023	4.0		All	Update to RMP based on new Form and Way Document. Key changes included: • Restructure; • Updated Risk Assessment Summary • Updated TARP • Updated Rehabilitation Objectives and Criteria • Align to RR Form and Way Guidance (2021); and • Align to commitments in the Mt Arthur Coal Rehabilitation Strategy.
June 2024		4.1	31-37 39 40 54,58-60 lxxxiii	Updated Table 4-1 (now Table 9) in line with approved Rehabilitation Objectives Replaced Final Landuse and Rehabilitation Plan: Final Landforms with Plan approved by the NSW Resources Regulator Replaced Final Landuse and Rehabilitation Plan: Final Contours with Plan approved by the NSW Resources Regulator Updates which take into consideration 2023 consultation feedback Inclusion of Schedule of Lands Table in Appendix 1
July 2026	5.0		All	Update RMP for: • PA 09_0062 MOD 2 updates to landform and land use • September 2025 Form and Way: Rehabilitation management plan for large mines • Amended and new ROBJ • Revised rehabilitation risk assessment
25 August 2026		5.1	Various	Reformat cross reference errors in published document.

Appendix 1 – Schedule of Lands

Row Labels	Layer	Plan Label	Sum of Area (ha)
CCL744	Consolidated Coal Lease	DP1078759	0.012306
		DP726248	3.633652
		DP727767	45.520783
		DP752449	172.835571
		DP793428	45.695323
		DP842045	252.732574
		DP843634	0.184924
		DP850818	24.496660
		(blank)	0.004937
CCL744 Total			545.116730
CL229	Coal Sub Lease	DP843634	0.151903
		DP850818	287.433222
CL229 Total			287.585125
CL395	Coal Sub Lease	DP842045	0.356609
		DP850818	9.987432
CL395 Total			10.344042
CL396	Coal Lease	DP842045	28.830556
		DP850818	0.063057
CL396 Total			28.893614
ML1358	Mining Lease	DP1090735	8.000223
		DP1159371	1.146909
		DP1259663	321.691828
		DP1272416	3.063587
		DP133634	1.263513
		DP204369	1.584072
		DP249536	154.335029
		DP26211	354.080076
		DP29950	1254.720048
		DP385720	16.312223
		DP47302	0.339473
		DP48776	29.750750

		DP514759	15.422183
		DP752500	46.180262
		DP802124	90.922145
		DP843634	338.095361
		DP843635	706.534954
		(blank)	54.014610
ML1358 Total			3397.457248
ML1487	Mining Lease	DP1212588	72.470061
		DP1267365	0.001398
		DP1272416	4.703385
		DP223018	0.006602
		DP228159	166.916550
		DP246348	78.492163
		DP27346	502.146940
		DP385720	48.654223
		DP390143	225.213801
		DP407349	73.257487
		DP550431	30.103020
		DP573259	116.994585
		DP575515	80.986554
		DP601359	82.596681
		DP722249	3.661743
		DP802124	697.018373
		DP806149	236.111504
		DP843634	1022.894250
		(blank)	12.663496
ML1487 Total			3454.892818
ML1548	Mining Lease	DP1272416	0.235668
		DP29950	2.009568
		DP385720	0.930319
		DP48776	0.456949
		DP802124	37.680034
		DP843634	245.302855
		(blank)	4.233652
ML1548 Total			290.849046

ML1655	Mining Lease	DP1212588	145.701590
		DP726248	0.046124
		DP727767	0.422144
		DP752449	2.617206
		DP802124	0.010271
		DP842045	0.004240
		DP850818	0.171050
		(blank)	0.068871
ML1655 Total			149.041497
ML1739	Mining Lease	DP843634	11.615504
		DP850818	33.592380
		(blank)	0.851172
ML1739 Total			46.059056
ML1757	Mining Lease	DP387021	2.453554
		(blank)	0.000861
ML1757 Total			2.454415
MPL263	Mining Lease	DP726248	0.341412
		DP802124	0.544607
		DP842045	1.049744
		DP843634	0.376031
		DP850818	114.455554
		(blank)	6.597982
MPL263 Total			123.365330
Grand Total			8821.215404

Appendix 2 – Consultation

Summary of comments following stakeholder engagement: Nil for this RMP version.

Bullet Point #	Department	Date	Comment	BHP Response

Appendix 3 – Rehabilitation Schedule Figures

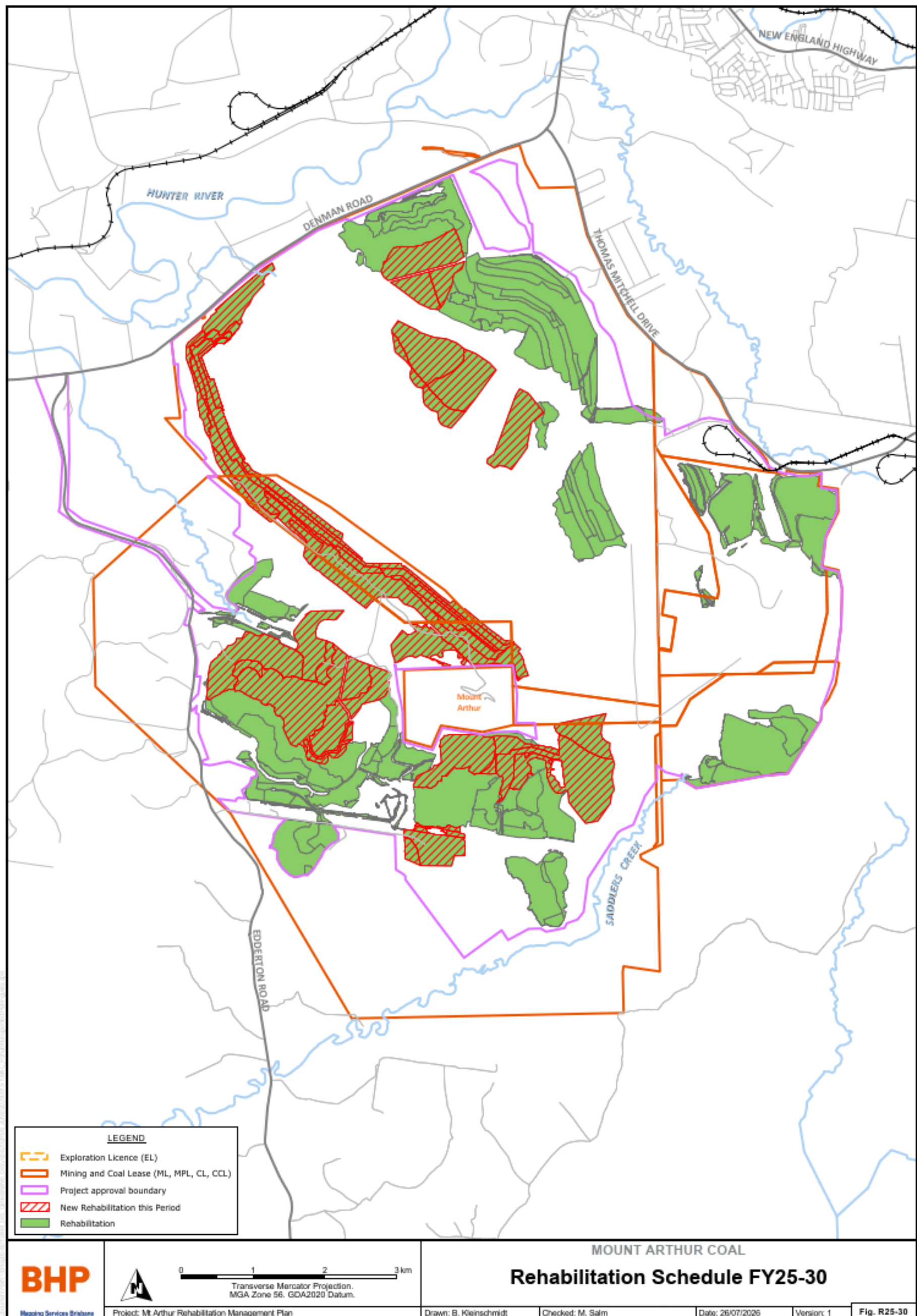


Figure A 1 Rehabilitation schedule FY25 - 30

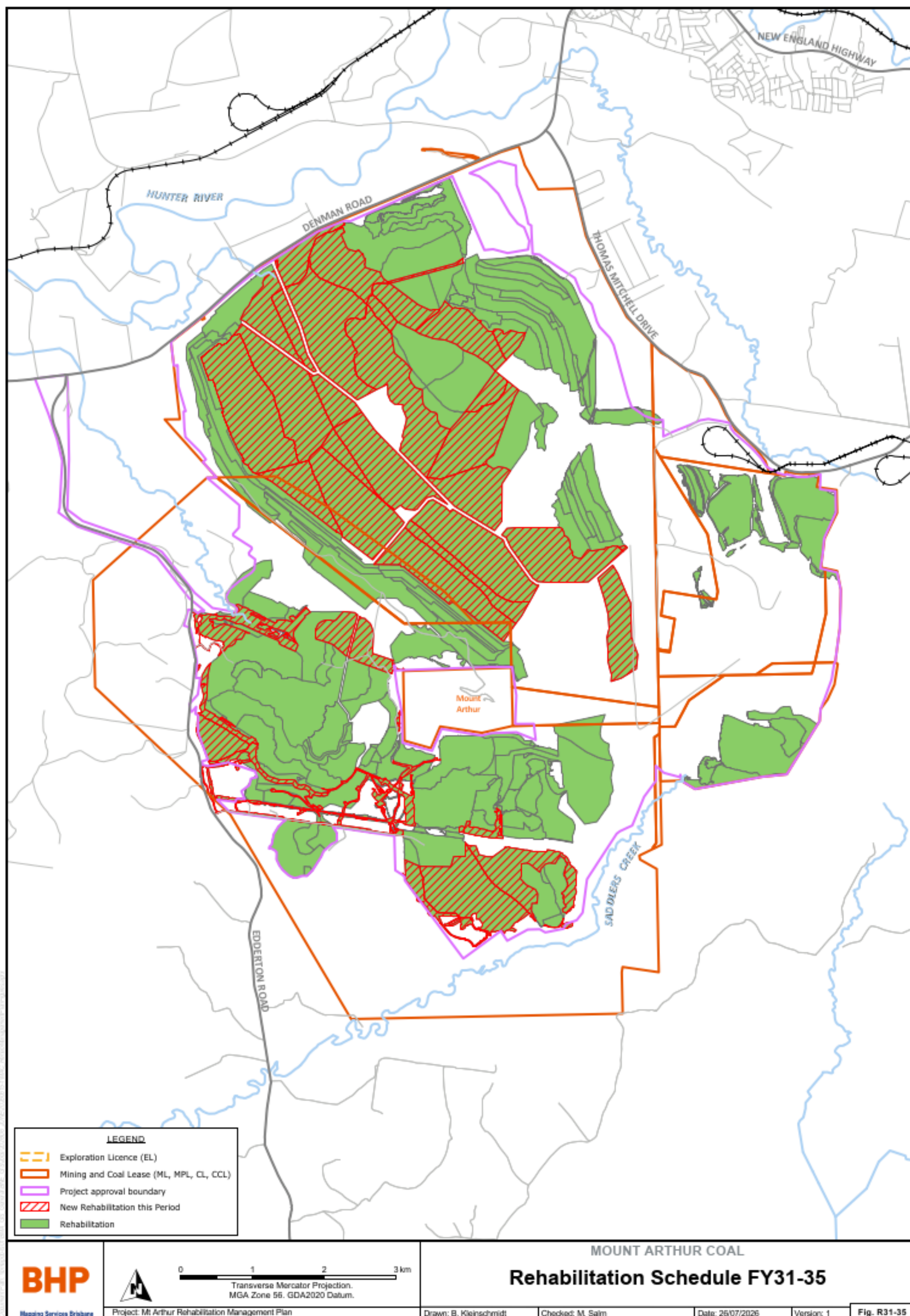


Figure A 2 Rehabilitation schedule FY31 - 35

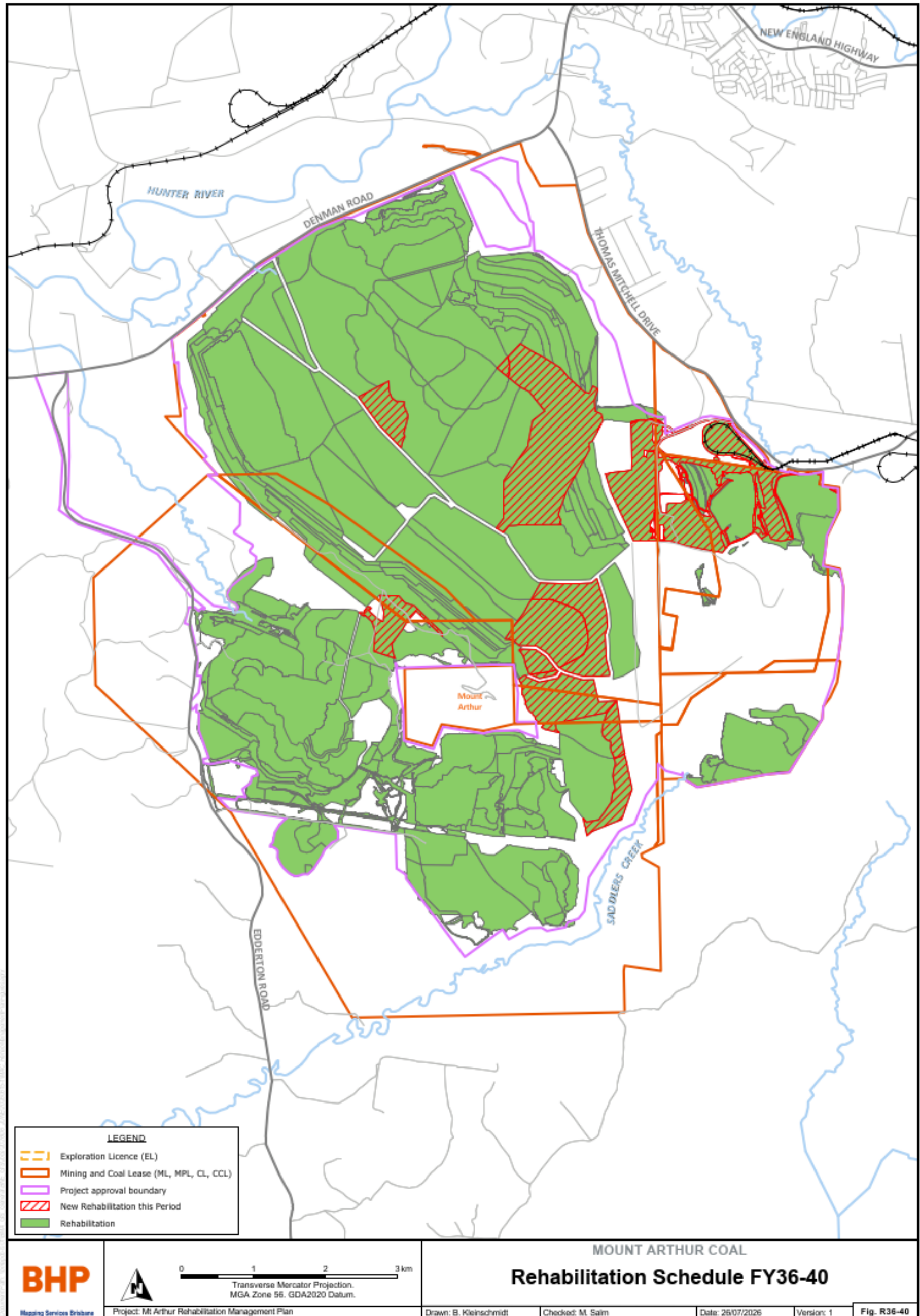


Figure A 3 Rehabilitation schedule FY36 - 40

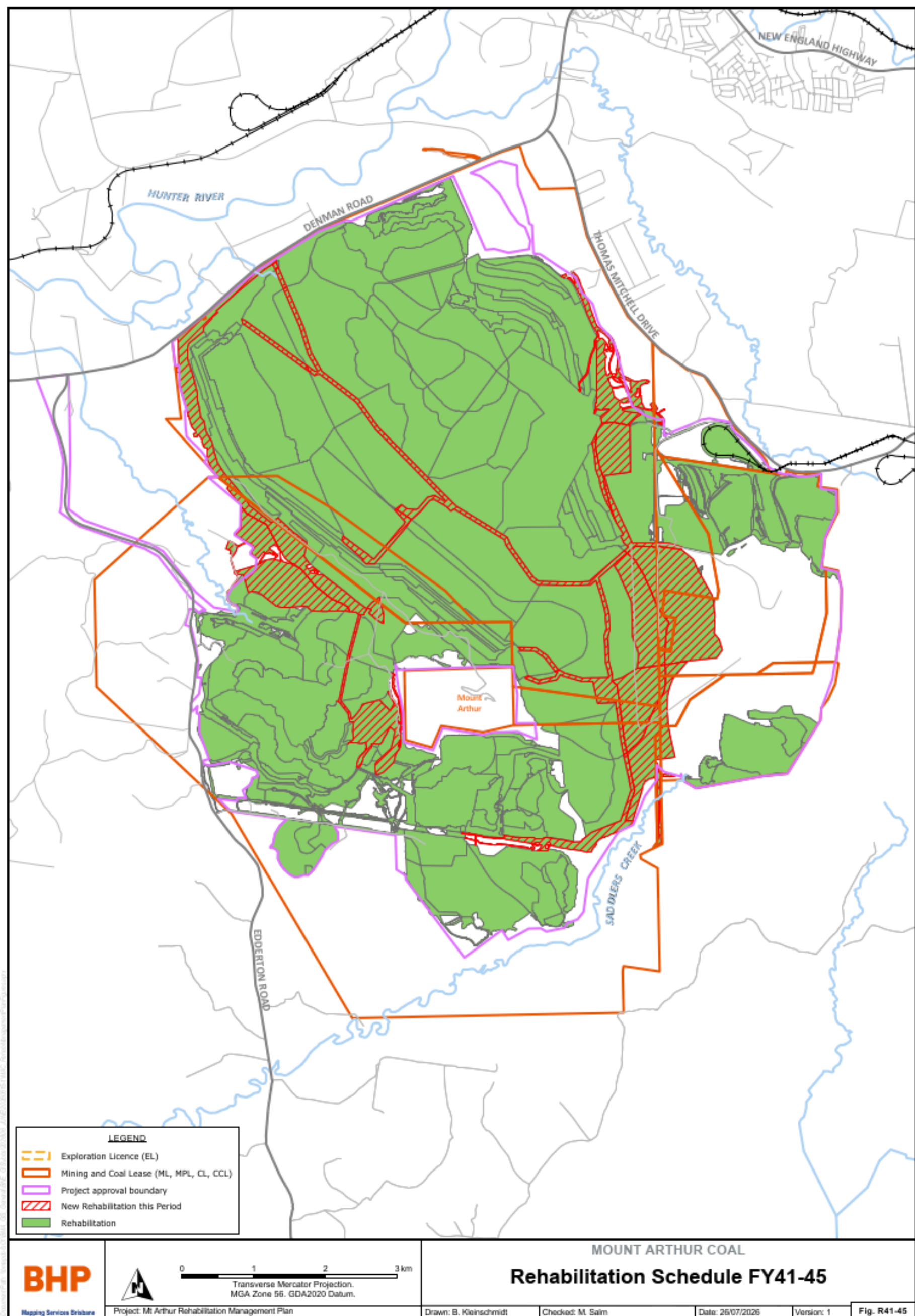


Figure A 4 Rehabilitation schedule FY41 - 45

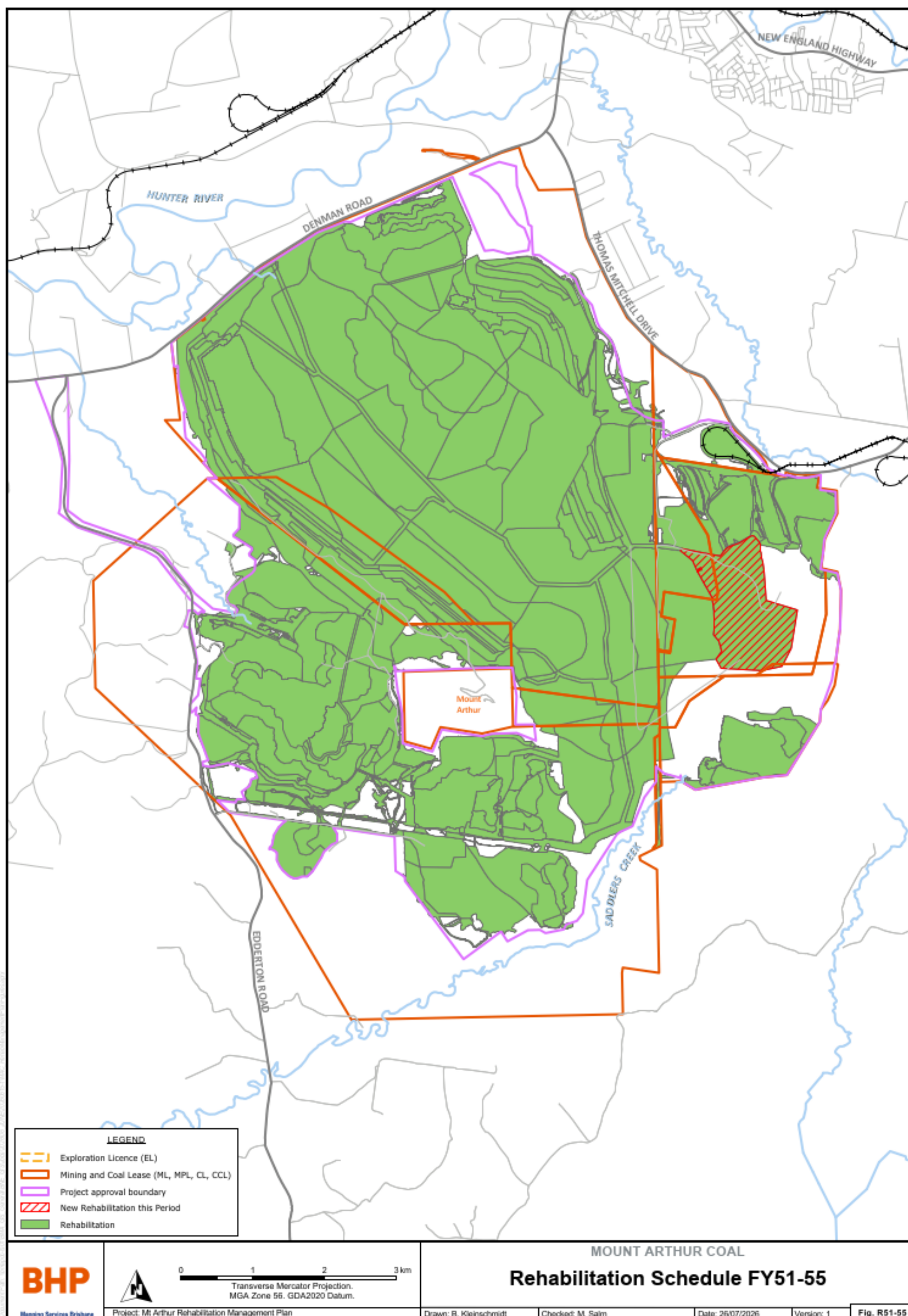


Figure A 5 Rehabilitation schedule FY51 - 55

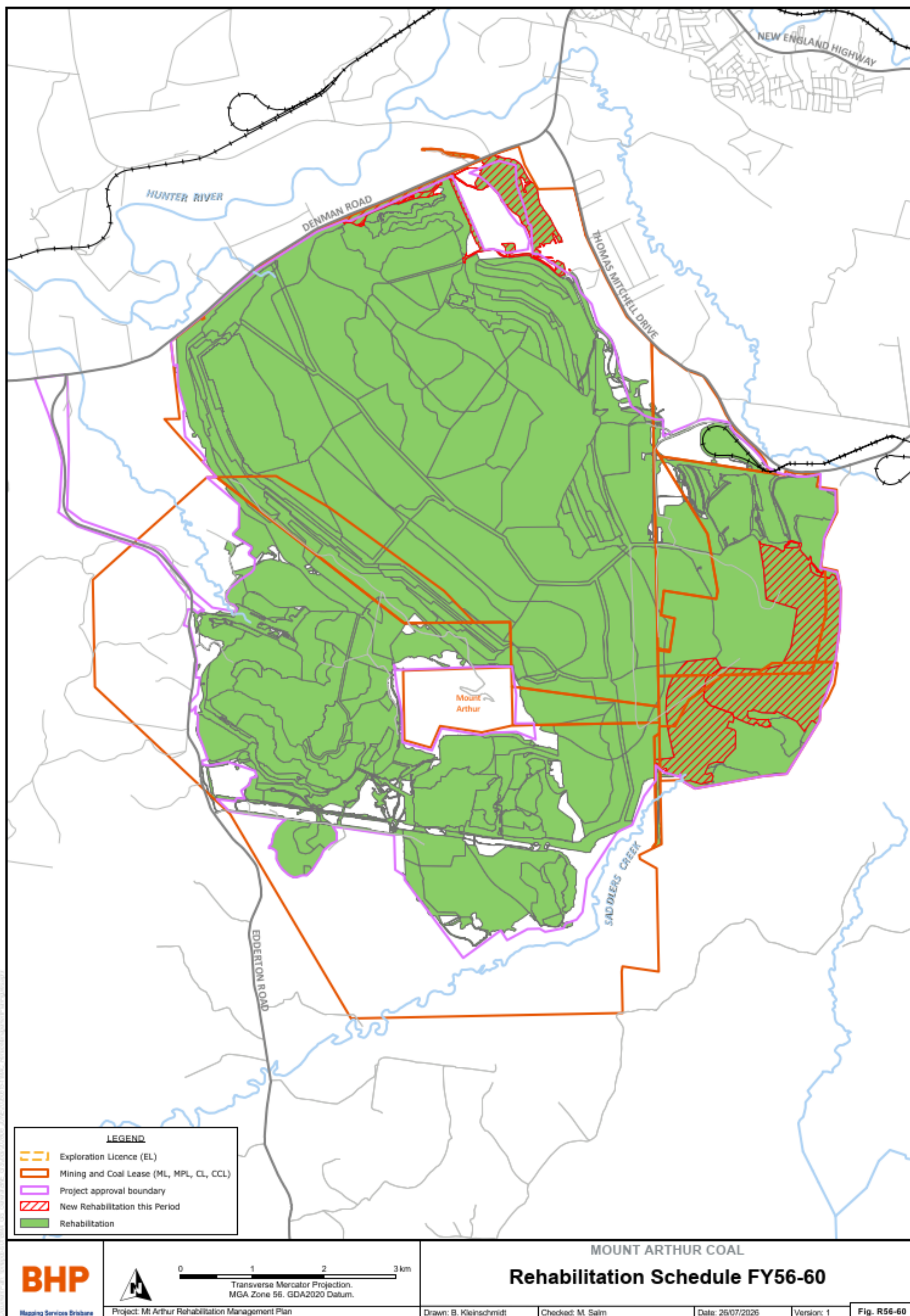


Figure A 6 Rehabilitation schedule FY56 - 60