



Mt Arthur Coal is seeking a new approval to continue mining beyond 30 June 2026

About the approval

Work has commenced on an application to enable the continued operation of Mt Arthur Coal beyond 30 June 2026, which is when the current mining approval expires.

Mt Arthur Coal is an open-cut energy coal mine in the Hunter Valley region of New South Wales, situated approximately five kilometres south of the township of Muswellbrook. It engages a workforce of around 2,000 people.

New State Significant Development (SSD) and Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* approvals as well as a new mining lease are required for operations to continue beyond 30 June 2026.

Mt Arthur Coal has now commenced a comprehensive stakeholder engagement program to ensure there is opportunity for community members and other key stakeholders to have early input into the project.

Key elements

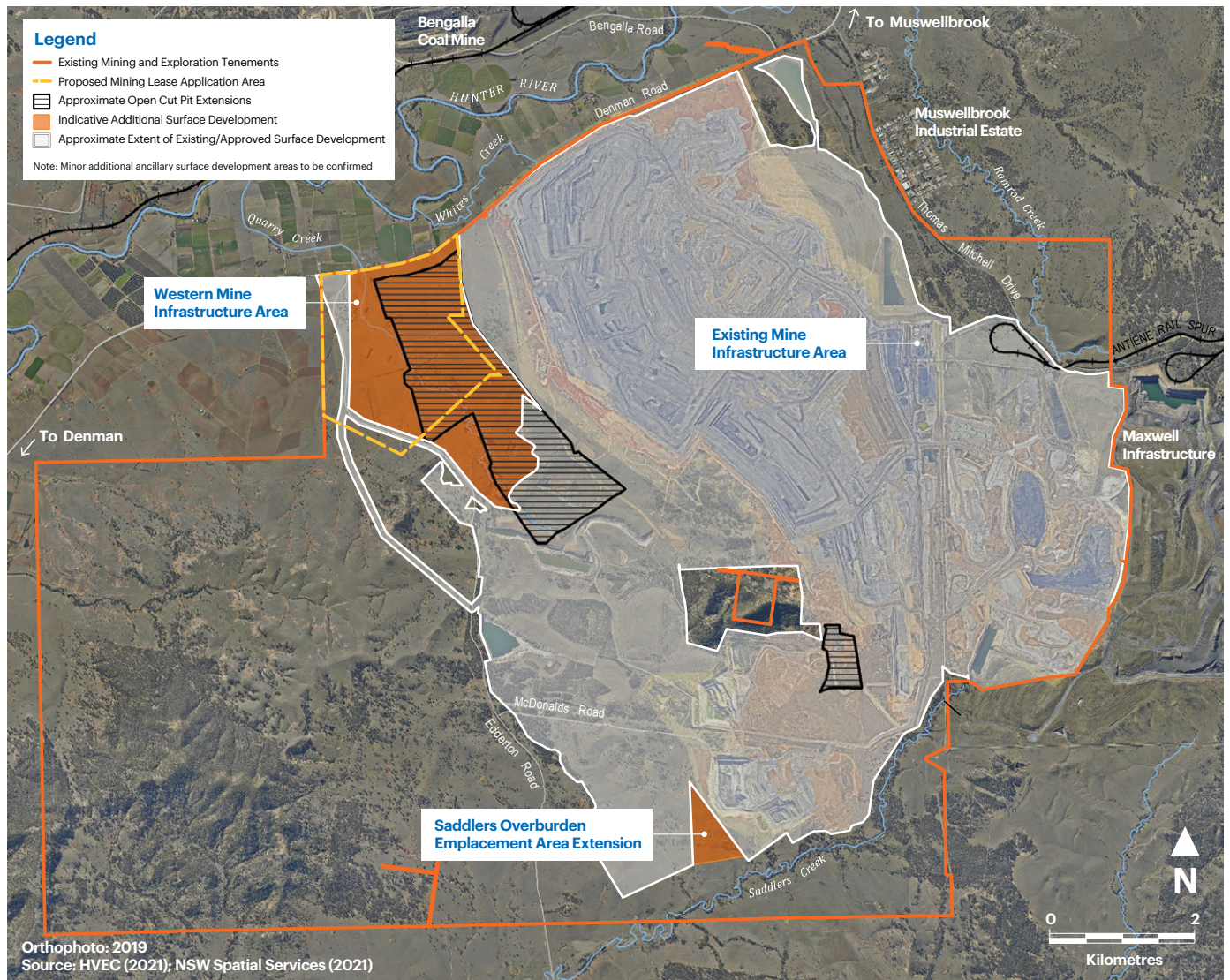
Key elements of the Mt Arthur Coal planning approval include:

- ✓ Approval to continue operating through to 30 June 2045—a total of 19 additional years
- ✓ Continued employment of up to 2,600 people
- ✓ Extension of open-cut operations and additional overburden emplacement
- ✓ Minor extensions to the existing Mining Infrastructure Area (MIA) including upgrades to workshops, stockpiles, electricity distribution and other ancillary infrastructure (see map)
- ✓ Construction and operation of a new Western MIA for ancillary infrastructure including facilities for workforce and administration (see map)
- ✓ Ongoing progressive rehabilitation of landforms, consistent with the geofluvial design

This planning approval will extend the mine further to the west of the township and will not require changes to existing approved hours of operation or coal transportation including rail movements.



Map of the continuation project footprint



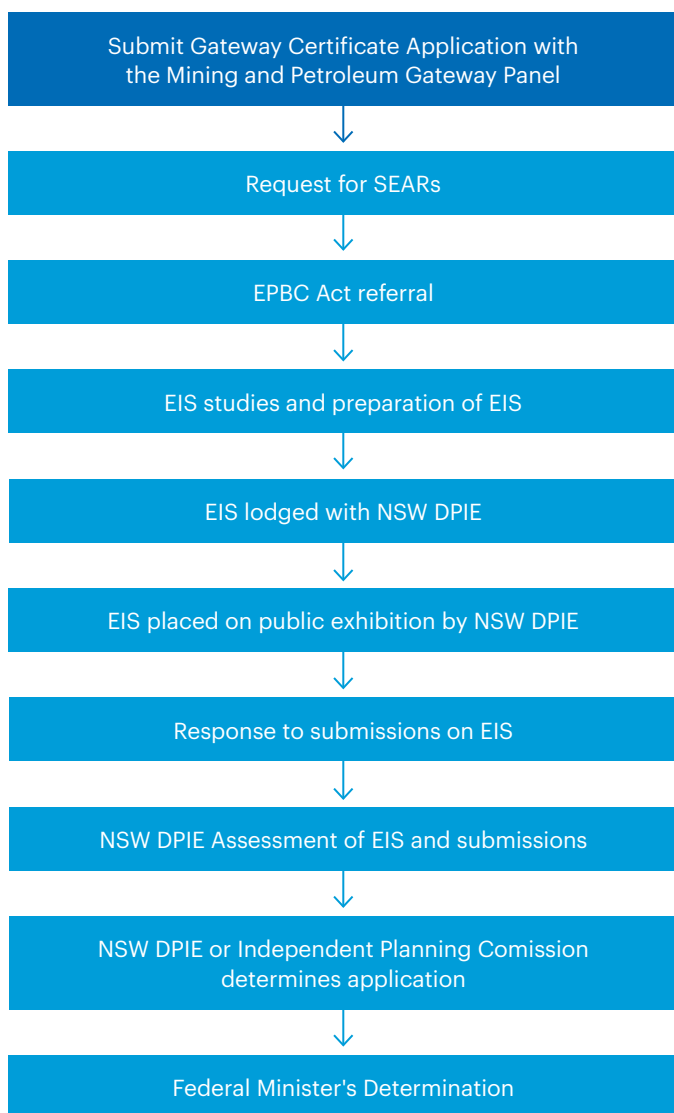
Continuation project progress

The continuation project is considered a State Significant Development and governed under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared to accompany the Development Application in accordance with Part 4 of the EP&A Act.

The EIS will involve the completion of a number of specialist studies to assess the likely impacts of the continuation project and to identify impact mitigation measures. Feedback from the local community and key stakeholders will also inform the EIS.

A summary of the approval process including key milestones for the continuation project is outlined below.

Key milestones in the approval process



We are here

Community feedback will be considered in the development of the Scoping Report in support of a Request for Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs).

The local community will be engaged during the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to ensure community feedback has been gathered, considered in our future plans and concerns are addressed.

At this point, the community has the opportunity to submit feedback directly to the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and the Environment (DPIE).

The local community will be engaged to address any concerns raised and a formal response to any issues raised will be prepared.

An approved application may include conditions that address any outstanding concerns.



Benefits of Mt Arthur Coal's continued operation

The Mt Arthur Coal planning approval process marks the next step in the life of a significant open-cut coal operation that has played a crucial role in the Hunter Valley since the 1960s.

The benefits of continued operation include:



Ongoing employment opportunities for a workforce who predominantly live and work in the region, as well as new jobs associated with project-related construction activities



Ongoing delivery of shared value for communities in the Hunter Valley and associated local investment



Generation of additional royalties to NSW

Community involvement

Community involvement and consultation is a crucial part of this approval. Mt Arthur Coal has commenced a comprehensive engagement program to ensure the community and our stakeholders are consulted and can provide feedback on the proposal.

During this process, potential social impacts associated with the proposal will be identified and where possible addressed through mitigation measures.

Public feedback received will be included in the EIS associated with the SSD application which is expected to be lodged with the NSW Government in the second half of 2022.

For more information on the continuation project or to arrange a meeting, please call **1800 882 044** or email NSWEC.Community@bhp.com

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