

Muswellbrook Coal

MP 30 Environmental Management Strategy

Prepared by	Environmental Superintendent	Signature	<i>Julie Thomas</i> 6C399D3BE6A94E0D49D0EA10F39F0930	Date:	30/09/2025
Approved by	Head of Muswellbrook Site	Signature	<i>Brett O'Kane</i> E4A746C0EDF8CD4C6A7180407A7BBC90	Date:	30/09/2025


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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Muswellbrook Coal Company (MCC) is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Idemitsu Kosan Company Ltd. Group. MCC has a long association with coal mining at Muswellbrook, with underground coal mining commencing in 1907 and open cut operations in 1944. The site is located on Muscle Creek Road, approximately 3 kilometres to the north-east of Muswellbrook.

On September 1, 2003, Development Consent for DA 205/2002 was granted by Muswellbrook Shire Council (MSC) to extend the former MCC No.1 Open Cut. The No.1 Open Cut Extension commenced operations in March 2005 and has a capacity to produce up to 2,000,000 tonnes coal per annum. This approval has subsequently been modified on several occasions with the latest modification granted in 2016 to allow mining in an area known as the “Continuation Project” and to extend the life of the mining operations to 2022. Rehabilitation activities will continue past this date. A modification to the approval was granted on 20 December 2022 to allow the storage, handling and transport of coal to continue until the end of March 2023. An additional modification to the consent was granted on 27 February 2024 to align rehabilitation requirements with updated mining lease conditions and other administrative changes.

Mining activities ceased at MCC in December 2022 with the last coal hauled from site in March 2023. Most of the site has been rehabilitated with minor areas still to be completed.

1.1 SCOPE


The Development Consent requires the preparation, approval and implementation of an Environmental Management Strategy (EMS) and subordinate Environmental Management Plans (EMP). This EMS provides the framework for environmental management of MCC's operations and should be read in conjunction with other EMP's. These management plans include:

- Rehabilitation Management Plan,
- Mine Closure Plan,
- Visual Amenity, Lighting and Landscaping Management Plan,
- Fire Management Plan,
- Water Management Plan,
- Pollution Incident Response Management Plan,
- Spontaneous Combustion Management Plan,

Note: The Air Quality, Blast and Noise Management Plans are no longer required and have been removed from the Environmental Management System.

This EMS has been prepared in consultation with NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI), Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (NSW) (DCCEEW) and the Community Consultative Committee (CCC) to the satisfaction of MSC (see **Appendix 1** for copies of correspondence). Copies of the approved strategy have been supplied to DPHI, EPA, Subsidence Advisory, DCCEEW and the CCC, and a copy has been placed on MCC's website.

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1.2 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Environmental Management Strategy are to:

- Outline legislative and statutory requirements,
- Detail the roles, responsibilities and accountabilities of personnel,
- Outline the environmental objectives and performance outcomes,
- Describe environmental and community objectives,
- Identify cumulative impacts,
- Detail the audit and review process, and
- Outline community consultation processes.


2.0 ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES

Strategies have been developed to effectively manage environmental issues at MCC. These strategies are incorporated into the relevant EMP's for implementation on site.

The general environmental strategies for MCC are:

- Compliance with statutory, legislative and consent conditions that govern operations;
- Minimisation of impacts on the community and environment;
- The timely and efficient response to any environmental incidents and complaints;
- Creation of an economically viable stable landform at the conclusion of operations;
- Rehabilitation of all disturbed land and promotion of habitat re-instatement areas; and
- Continually monitor, review and report on environmental sampling programs.

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3.0 LEGISLATION AND STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

The relevant approval conditions are shown in **Table 1** along with information on where they are addressed in this plan. Note: government agencies have not been updated in this table and have been left as outlined in the development consent.

Table 1: Statutory Requirements

Approval/ Licence Condition No.	Condition	Section
Development Consent Requirement		
14 (a)	The Applicant must prepare an Environmental Management Strategy, providing a strategic context for the Environmental Management Plans. The Environmental Management Strategy must be prepared following consultation with the DPHI, EPA, DCCEEW and the CCC and be to the satisfaction of Council.	This document
14 (b)	The Environmental Management Strategy must include, but not be limited to:	This document
14 (b) (i)	statutory and other obligations which the Applicant is required to fulfil during mining, including all approvals and consultations and agreements required from authorities and other stakeholders, and key legislation and policies;	3.0
14 (b) (ii)	definition of the role, responsibility, authority, accountability and reporting of personnel relevant to environmental management, including the Environmental Officer;	7.0
14 (b) (iii)	overall environmental management objectives and performance outcomes, during mining and decommissioning of the mine, for each of the key environmental elements for which management plans are required under this consent;	2.0
14 (b) (iv)	identification of cumulative environmental impacts and procedures for dealing with these at each stage of the development;	8.0
14 (b) (v)	steps to be taken to ensure that all approvals, plans, and procedures are being complied with, namely procedures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to receive, handle, respond to and record complaints; • to respond to any non-compliances; and • to respond to emergencies. 	11.0, 13.0
14 (b) (vi)	processes for conflict resolution in relation to the environmental management of the project; and	11.2
14 (b) (vii)	documentation of the results of consultations undertaken in the development of the Environmental Management Strategy.	Appendix 1
14 (c)	The Applicant must make copies of the Environmental Management Strategy available to EPA, DPHI, SA, DCCEEW and the CCC and be placed on the Applicant's website following approval by Council.	1.1

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3.1 OTHER STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS

Whilst the Development Consent establishes criteria that are specific to MCC's operations, there is a range of other legislation, policies, guidelines and standards that apply in a more general context. These other requirements are also incorporated into the development of this EMS and the supporting EMP's. A summary of these other statutory obligations is provided below.

3.1.1 Legislation

The development of the EMS and subordinate EMP's conform to applicable legislation, regulations, planning policies and guidelines. The key documents are:

- Mining Act 1992,
- Mining Regulation 2016,
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979,
- Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991,
- Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997,
- Water Act 1912, and
- Water Management Act 2000.

3.1.2 Local Environmental Plans

The Muswellbrook Local Environmental Plan 2009 (LEP) was consulted during the preparation of the EMS and EMP's.

3.1.3 Applicable Policies and Guidelines for Mining – Resources Regulator Guidelines

The Resources Regulator has issued a number of environmental policies and guidelines in relation to the development of coal mines that are applicable to MCC. These include:

- Form and Way: Rehabilitation Management Plan (large mines),
- Form and Way: Annual Rehabilitation Report and Forward Program (large mines),
- Form and Way: Rehabilitation objectives, rehabilitation completion criteria and final landform and rehabilitation plan for large mines,
- Rehabilitation cost estimation tool,
- Rehabilitation cost estimation tool handbook – July 2024, and
- Rehabilitation cost estimate guideline.

3.1.4 NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

DCCEE administers the Aquifer Interference Policy, which is applicable to MCC.

3.1.5 Muswellbrook Shire Council

MSC have a Land Use Development Strategy 2010 (Coal Mining Land Use Strategy), which is applicable to MCC.

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4.0 REFERENCES

- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.*
- Development Consent DA 205/2002.

5.0 DEFINITIONS/ACRONYMS

CCC	Community Consultative Committee
DA	Development Application
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (NSW)
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority
MCC	Muswellbrook Coal Company Ltd
MSC	Muswellbrook Shire Council
NRAR	NSW Department of Natural Resources Access Regulator
NSW	New South Wales
RR	Resources Regulator
SA	Subsidence Advisory

6.0 SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- Development Consent DA 205/2002,
- MP 29 Pollution Incident Response Management Plan,
- MP 33 Fire Management Plan,
- MP 35 Rehabilitation Management Plan,
- MP 36 Spontaneous Combustion Management Plan,
- MP 37 Visual Amenity, Lighting and Landscaping Management Plan,
- MP 38 Water Management Plan, and
- MP 39 Mine Closure Plan.

7.0 PERSONNEL WITH ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsibility for environmental management at MCC is designated to a suitably qualified or experienced person. Listed below are the general responsibilities for this role. .

7.1 SUITABLY QUALIFIED OR EXPERIENCED PERSON

Condition 13 of Development Consent DA205/2002 requires that a Suitably Qualified or Experienced Person is available throughout the life of the Development. In accordance with the development consent, the role and responsibility of the Suitably Qualified or Experienced Person is outlined below:

- Be responsible for the preparation of the Environmental Management Plans,
- Be responsible for considering and advising on matters specified in the conditions of consent and compliance with such matters,

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- Be responsible for establishing systems to receive and respond to complaints,
- Facilitate an environmental induction and training program for all persons involved with rehabilitation activities,
- Take reasonable steps to avoid and minimise adverse environmental impacts. This person shall advise site supervisors to issue instructions to stop work if a significant adverse impact on the environment is likely to occur.
- Provide adequate resources to manage regulatory compliance, and
- Reporting to Idemitsu Australia on any significant environmental incidents.

The name and contact details of the Suitably Qualified or Experienced Person have been provided to the MSC. Any changes to the appointment of the suitably qualified or experienced person, along with their name and contact details, is to be notified to MSC.

8.0 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The Upper Hunter Region has extensive coal resources, and a number of mines have been developed in the area. Potential therefore exists for a number of these mines to develop cumulative impacts that need to be identified and managed in a responsible manner. As MCC is no longer operational, there will be minimal cumulative impacts attributable to MCC in the region.

9.0 AUDIT AND REVIEW PROCESS

The audit and review process will incorporate a range of audits and reviews. The following steps shall be undertaken to manage compliance with all approvals, licences, plans and procedures.

9.1 MONITORING

MCC will continue to maintain a comprehensive water monitoring program to identify any unauthorised impacts on the environment. Details on the water monitoring programs are found in the Water Management Plan (WMP). The results from this monitoring program are reviewed on a regular basis as per the requirements outline in the WMP.

9.2 INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AUDIT

In accordance with the Project Approval, every five years (or as otherwise agreed to by MSC) MCC will fund an Independent Environmental Audit that will be performed by an independent third party that has been endorsed by MSC. The audit will include consultation with relevant agencies.

These environmental audits will assess the environmental performance of MCC and compliance against the conditions of the Project Approval, mining leases, water licences and Environmental Protection Licence, and review the adequacy of strategies, plans and/or programs and recommend measures or actions to improve the environmental performance of MCC.

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10.0 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

MCC has maintained a close relationship with the Muswellbrook community since mining began in 1907. MCC acknowledges the importance of consulting with landowners and residents in the area. MCC is committed to providing a timely and professional response to questions raised by community members in relation to operations.

11.0 COMPLAINT MANAGEMENT AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

11.1 COMPLAINT MANAGEMENT

MCC operate a free 24-hour Environmental Contact Line (1800 600 205), where residents can leave details about an inquiry they may have and this message is passed onto relevant personnel.

As part of the response to any complaint a review of any activities occurring on site will be undertaken. If required and possible, immediate changes to the activities will be made to reduce any impact on the community. In some cases, the issues cannot be resolved immediately, and ongoing actions might be required to resolve the issue. All complaints are recorded and maintained for at least four years. The following information is recorded for each complaint.

- a) the date and time of the complaint,
- b) the method by which the complaint was made,
- c) any personal details of the complainant which were provided by the complainant or, if no such details were provided, a note to that effect,
- d) the nature of the complaint,
- e) the action taken by MCC in relation to the complaint, including any follow-up contact with the complainant, and
- f) if no action was taken by MCC, the reasons why no action was taken.

11.2 CONFLICT RESOLUTION

If a dispute arises, MCC will explore all feasible actions that may be possible to resolve the dispute between the parties involved. If the dispute cannot be resolved either party can refer the dispute to MSC who may initiate the Independent Dispute Resolution Process, which forms part of the Conditions of Consent.

12.0 EXTERNAL REPORTING


12.1 ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT REPORT

An Annual Environmental Management Report (AEMR) is to be prepared and submitted throughout the mining operations and for five years after the completion of mining (or as otherwise agreed by MSC) in accordance with Condition 42 of the Development Consent Conditions. The last AEMR for MCC will be the 2027 AEMR.

12.1.1 Annual Compliance Review

A detailed compliance review of the performance of the project against the conditions of the consent and statutory approvals will be completed annually. From this detailed

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review, a summary of any non-compliances and actions taken to address the non-compliances will be included in the AEMR.

12.2 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION LICENCE ANNUAL RETURN

As a condition of Environmental Protection Licence (EPL) 656, MCC is required to submit an annual report to EPA detailing compliance (or otherwise) with the conditions of the EPL.

13.0 EMERGENCY AND POLLUTION INCIDENT RESPONSE

All environmental emergencies are managed in accordance with MCC's Emergency Management Plan. All pollution incidents are managed in accordance with MCC's Pollution Incident Response Management Plan.

14.0 REVIEW OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Environmental Management Strategy will be reviewed:

- Within 6 months of changes to relevant Development Consent conditions, and
- Following an independent environmental audit which recommends changes to the Environmental Management Strategy.

15.0 ACCOUNTABILITIES

In addition to the responsibilities shown in **Section 7.0, Table 2** outlines the direct responsibilities relating to the EMS.


Table 2: Organisational Responsibilities

Role	Accountability
Suitably Qualified or Experienced Person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide adequate resources to implement the requirements of the EMS • Coordinate reviews of the EMS

16.0 LIST OF APPENDICIES

Appendix 1: Correspondence Regarding Environmental Management Strategy

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17.0 REVISION DETAILS

Revision No.	Date	Reviewed By	Details/Reason for Revision
1	February 2005	MCC Technical Services Department, Carbon Based Environmental	Original Management Plan
2	December 2010	MCC Technical Services Department, Carbon Based Environmental	5 Yearly Review
3	December 2015	MCC Environmental, Technical Services and Production Departments	5 Yearly Review
4	June 2017	MCC Environmental, Technical Services and Production Departments	Update following modification for Continuation Project
5	October 2020	MCC Environmental, Technical Services and Production Departments	3 Yearly Review
6	April 2023	Environmental, Production, Administration and Maintenance Departments	End of mining operations
7	June 2024	Environmental and Production, Departments	Consent Modification 9
8	August 2025	Environmental Department	Completion of bulk rehabilitation activities

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Appendix 1: Correspondence Regarding Environmental Management Strategy



Enquiries
Please ask for Tracy Ward
Direct 02 6549 3778
Our reference CM 25/73746

26 September 2025

Julie Thomas
Environmental Superintendent
Muswellbrook Coal

Dear Ms Thomas,

Muswellbrook Coal Mine Environmental Management Strategy (MP30) – Approval Letter

Reference is made to the '*Muswellbrook Coal Mine Environmental Strategy (MP30)*'.

Staff have carefully reviewed this document and are satisfied with all aspects proposed.

Accordingly, Council Staff approve the '*Muswellbrook Coal Mine Environmental Strategy (MP30)*'.

Please ensure that the approved plan is placed on the project website at the earliest opportunity.

Should you need to discuss the above, please contact Tracy Ward (Sustainability Officer) on 02 6549 3778 or email tracy.ward@muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au.

Yours faithfully



Theresa Folpp
Environmental Planning Officer

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From: [Julie Thomas](#)
To: information@planning.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Muswellbrook Coal - Environmental Management Strategy for Review
Date: Monday, 25 August 2025 11:48:00 AM
Attachments: [MP 30 Environmental Management Strategy for consultation.pdf](#)
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[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)

Hello

Muswellbrook Coal Company (MCC) has a requirement in our development consent to develop an Environmental Management Strategy (EMS) in consultation with the **Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI)**. MCC has recently reviewed this document due to the end of bulk rehabilitation activities on site. A draft copy is attached for your review and comment.

If there are any comments DPHI would like to make on this plan, please provide them to me by Friday 12th September 2025.

When the plan is approved by Muswellbrook Shire Council (MSC), a final version of the plan will be sent to DPHI.

If you have any questions regarding this plan, please let me know.

Regards

Julie

Julie Thomas
Environmental Superintendent

Muswellbrook Coal Company Ltd

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☐ julie.thomas@muscoal.com.au
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From: [Jack Turner](#)
To: [Julie Thomas](#)
Subject: RE: Customer Service Enquiry (P-1454063)
Date: Thursday, 4 September 2025 10:47:38 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
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Hi Julie,

The Department has reviewed the EMS and has one comment on the document:

1. Ensure mitigation measures that were included in the former Air Quality, Blast, and Noise Management Plans that remain relevant to the current operations are captured in the EMS or other sub-plans.

We do not require further consultation on this strategy.

Kind regards,

Jack

Jack Turner
 Team Leader
 Resource Assessments
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

T 9995 5387 E jack.turner@planning.nsw.gov.au

dphi.nsw.gov.au

6 Stewart Avenue
 Newcastle NSW 2300

Working days Mon-Fri 8.30am-4.00pm, out of the office every second Friday



Note: mitigation measures for Air Quality, Blast and Noise management are no longer required on site due to the current status of the operations.

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From: [Julie Thomas](#)
To: info@epa.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Muswellbrook Coal - Environmental Management Strategy for Review
Date: Monday, 25 August 2025 11:49:00 AM
Attachments: [MP 30 Environmental Management Strategy for consultation.pdf](#)
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[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)

Hello

Muswellbrook Coal Company (MCC) has a requirement in our development consent to develop an Environmental Management Strategy (EMS) in consultation with the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). MCC has recently reviewed this document due to the end of bulk rehabilitation activities on site. A draft copy is attached for your review and comment.

If there are any comments the EPA would like to make on this plan, please provide them to me by Friday 12th September 2025.

When the plan is approved by Muswellbrook Shire Council (MSC), a final version of the plan will be sent to the EPA.

If you have any questions regarding this plan, please let me know.

Regards

Julie

Julie Thomas

Environmental Superintendent

Muswellbrook Coal Company Ltd

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DOC25/723424-1, EF13/3318

Muswellbrook Coal Company Ltd

By email: muswellbrookcoal@idemitsu.com.au

Attention: Ms Julie Thomas

1 September 2025

Dear Ms Thomas

Muswellbrook Coal – Environmental Management Strategy

I refer to your email to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) on 25 August 2025 providing the Environmental Management Strategy for Muswellbrook Coal.

The EPA encourages the development of such strategies to ensure that proponents and licensees have determined how they will meet their statutory obligations and designated environmental objectives.

Being a regulatory authority, the EPA's role is to administer and regulate statutes for environmental management and protection. As such, the EPA does not directly get involved in the development of strategies to achieve those objectives and does not review or comment on such strategies.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Zoe Lobb on 02 8275 1019 or email info@epa.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,



HAMISH RUTHERFORD
A/Unit Head – Operations
Environment Protection Authority

NSW Environment Protection Authority
As the environmental steward and regulator of our
State we are committed to a sustainable future.
Join us on our mission to protect tomorrow together.

Phone:
131 555
Website:
epa.nsw.gov.au

Email:
info@epa.nsw.gov.au
Mail:
Locked Bag 5022
Parramatta NSW 2124



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From: [Julie Thomas](#)
To: huntercentralcoast@environment.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Muswellbrook Coal - Environmental Management Strategy for Review
Date: Monday, 25 August 2025 11:45:00 AM
Attachments: [MP 30 Environmental Management Strategy for consultation.pdf](#)
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Hello

Muswellbrook Coal Company (MCC) has a requirement in our development consent to develop an Environmental Management Strategy (EMS) in consultation with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW). MCC has recently reviewed this document due to the end of bulk rehabilitation activities on site. A draft copy is attached for your review and comment.

If there are any comments DCCEEW would like to make on this plan, please provide them to me by Friday 12th September 2025.

When the plan is approved by Muswellbrook Shire Council (MSC), a final version of the plan will be sent to DCCEEW.

If you have any questions regarding this plan, please let me know.

Regards

Julie

Julie Thomas

Environmental Superintendent

Muswellbrook Coal Company Ltd

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No comments have been received from DCCEEW.

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From: [Julie Thomas](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Muswellbrook Coal - Environmental Management Strategy for Review
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[image007.png](#)

Hi All

Muswellbrook Coal Company (MCC) has a requirement in our development consent to develop an Environmental Management Strategy (EMS) in consultation with the Community Consultative Committee (CCC). MCC has recently reviewed this document due to the end of bulk rehabilitation activities on site. A draft copy is attached for your review and comment.

If there are any comments you would like to make on this plan, please provide them to me by Friday 12th September 2025.

When the plan is approved by Muswellbrook Shire Council (MSC), a final version of the plan will be sent out to the CCC members.

If you have any questions regarding this plan, please let me know.

Regards

Julie

Julie Thomas

Environmental Superintendent

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Please note my working days are Monday-Thursday.

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No comments have been received from the CCC.

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