

Muswellbrook Coal Community Newsletter



Infrastructure Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Activities

Over the past 12 months, rehabilitation efforts have continued across the Open Cut 1 and Coal Handling and Preparation Plant (CHPP) areas.

In 2024, approximately 52 hectares of land were successfully seeded with a combination of native vegetation and pasture. An additional 102 hectares of land are scheduled for seeding in 2025, following the same vegetation approach.

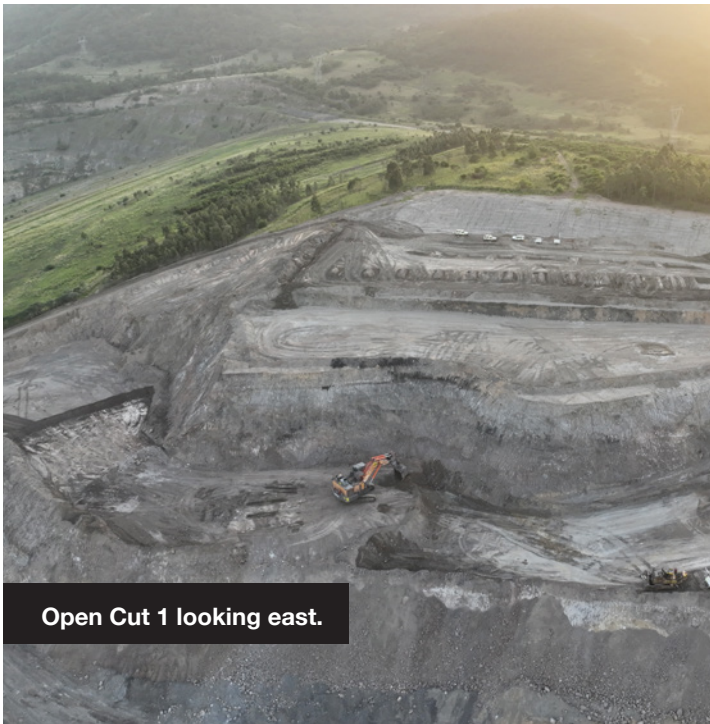
As part of the site rehabilitation program, water management control structures including contour drains and drop structures, have been installed to manage water flow around the site and reduce erosion across the rehabilitated areas.

The rehabilitation of the Open Cut and CHPP areas is expected to be completed by the end of 2025. However, office buildings and maintenance areas will remain temporarily, pending assessment for potential repurposing.

Truck movements continue as necessary, transporting rehabilitation materials and heavy equipment to and from site.

All rehabilitation activities are being carried out in full compliance with development consent conditions, mining lease obligations, and the relevant Environmental Management Plans and monitoring programs.





Open Cut 1 looking east.



Open Cut 1 looking northwest towards Aberdeen.

Rehabilitation Progress



Former Coal Handling and Preparation Plant area looking southeast towards Bayswater Power Station.

Spontaneous Combustion Management Update

Muswellbrook Coal Company (MCC) continues to manage spontaneous combustion in line with its approved Spontaneous Combustion Management Plan (SCMP). As of now, all carbonaceous material on site has been capped with inert material, and no areas require ongoing spontaneous combustion management.

MCC also continues to monitor air quality, specifically Hydrogen Sulphide (H₂S) and Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂) in the surrounding community. Monitoring stations are strategically placed upwind and downwind of the site to reflect prevailing wind directions. Over the past 12 months, no exceedances of the air quality criteria specified in the development consent have been recorded.

A monthly summary of monitoring data is available on MCC's website under the Monitoring Results – Spontaneous Combustion section: www.idemitsu.com.au/mining/operations/muswellbrook-coal/approvals-plans-reports/.

Upon completion of bulk rehabilitation activities in 2025, MCC will decommission the gas monitoring locations, as the monitoring program will no longer be required.

Muswellbrook Solar Farm Project

In partnership with Idemitsu Australia, OX2 is advancing plans for the Muswellbrook Solar Farm, a large-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) generation facility including a 135 MWac of solar PV generation and a 2-hour battery energy storage system.

The site is located approximately 2.5km east of Muswellbrook, adjacent to the Muswellbrook Coal Mine.

The proposed solar farm will be constructed on land formerly associated with coal mining operations, which ceased early 2023 after 115 years of operation. This marks a pivotal opportunity to repurpose the site, attract new investment, and create sustainable employment in the region.

The project has been referred to the NSW Independent Planning Commission (IPC) for assessment and determination. Additional project information is available via the IPC website: www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au/cases/2024/12/muswellbrook-solar-farm.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.ox2.com/australia/projects/muswellbrook-solar-farm/

T: 03 8595 2406 E: info-au@ox2.com

Muswellbrook Pumped Hydro Energy Storage Project

Muswellbrook Pumped Hydro Pty Ltd, a joint venture between AGL and Idemitsu Australia, is progressing an innovative Pumped Hydro Energy Storage (PHES) project. The proposal involves repurposing a rehabilitated mine void at the Muswellbrook Coal site as the lower reservoir, with Bells Mountain identified as the proposed upper reservoir site.

The project aims to deliver:

400MW
of generation
capacity

8 hours (3,200MWh)
of energy storage

**Reliable support
for the grid**
as coal-fired
power stations
retire, providing
firming capacity for
renewable energy

PROJECT STATUS

- The project has been referred to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water for review under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).
- Development of the project's Environmental Impact Statement is well advanced, with most fieldwork complete.
- Geo-technical drilling at both the proposed upper and lower reservoir sites is nearing completion, with in-pit geotechnical drilling progressing.
- Socio-economic and visual impact studies are underway, alongside biodiversity stewardship surveys.

In 2022, Muswellbrook Pumped Hydro Pty Ltd received \$9.45 million in funding through the NSW Government's Pumped Hydro Recoverable Grants Program. This funding is being used for targeted geotechnical due diligence, detailed project design and grid connection studies in preparation for a final investment decision.

The Project was declared Critical State Significant Infrastructure by the NSW Government in 2024.

FOR MORE INFORMATION



Visit the project website:
[emm.mysocialpinpoint.com/
muswellbrook-pumped-hydro](http://emm.mysocialpinpoint.com/muswellbrook-pumped-hydro)

Email Melissa Cleary:
Mcleary2@agl.com.au

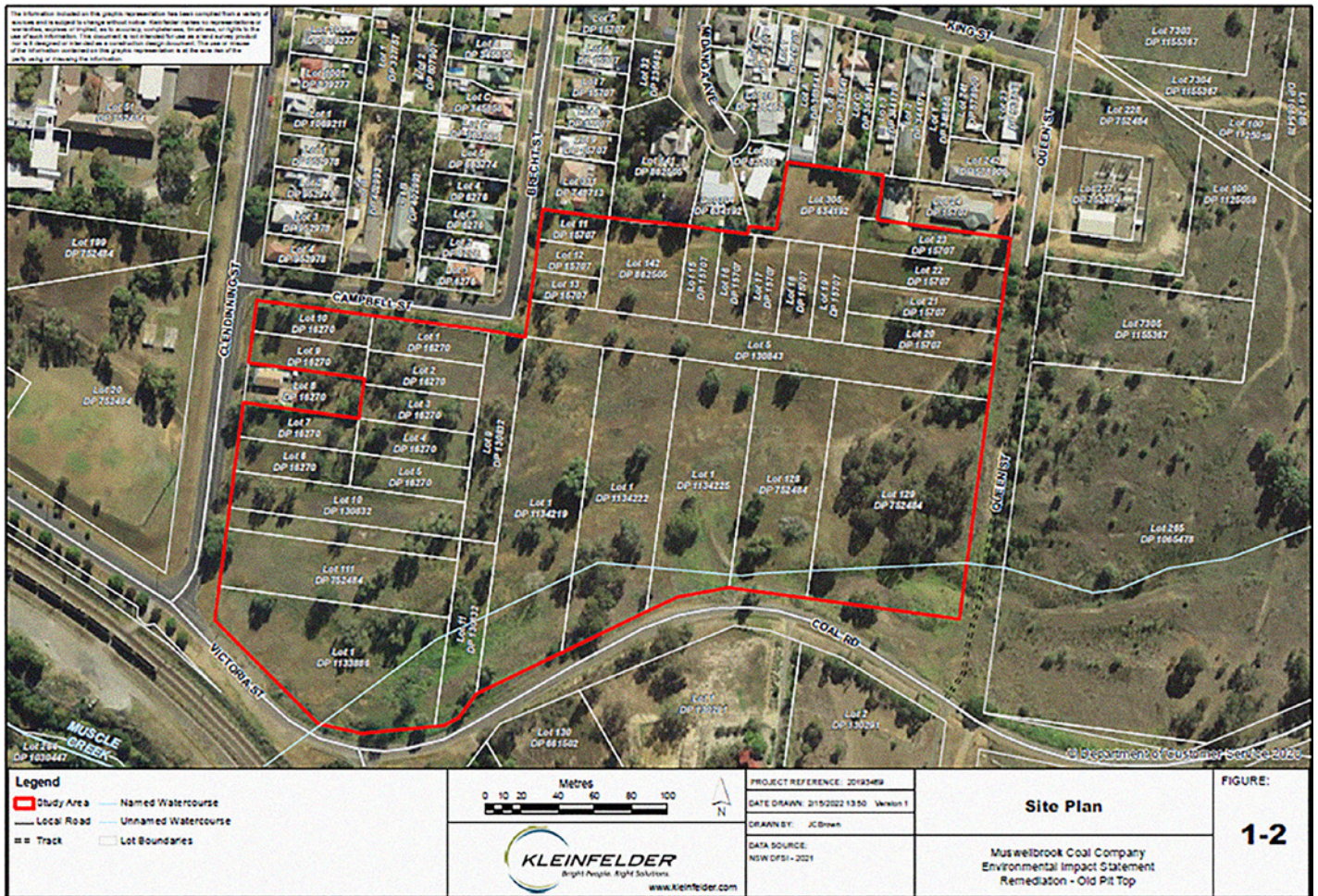
Old Pit Top Remediation

Muswellbrook Coal Company (MCC) continues to undertake planning and approvals for the remediation of the Old Pit Top area. Following approval from Muswellbrook Shire Council, MCC has been actively working to secure additional approvals from relevant government agencies throughout 2024. This process is expected to conclude in the first half of 2025.

A contracting company was engaged in 2024 to carry out remediation works. The company is currently finalising required Works Plans and Management Plans to support the completion of remediation activities.

Once all necessary approvals are obtained, on-ground remediation works will commence, with targeted completion in 2025. Residents living in close proximity to the site will be notified of any works ahead of any activity commencing.

For public safety, a security fence has been installed around the Old Pit Top to restrict access until remediation works are fully completed.



Further Information

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTACT LINE

1800 600 205

Please do not hesitate to call the Environmental Contact Line if you wish to raise an environmental concern or have an enquiry about the operation. This line operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. A message will be passed onto a site representative who will respond to your call.

MCC WEBSITE

For more information on MCC's approvals, environmental management plans, activities and monitoring results please visit our website at:
idemitsu.com.au/mining/operations/muswellbrook-site.

DIRECT CALL

02 6542 2300

(during business hours only)

