# WAMBO COAL PTY LIMITED



# SOUTH BATES EXTENSION UNDERGROUND MINE

EXTRACTION PLAN
LONGWALLS 21 TO 24

APPENDIX G
COAL RESOURCE RECOVERY PLAN



# WAMBO COAL PTY LIMITED SOUTH BATES EXTENSION UNDERGROUND MINE

# COAL RESOURCE RECOVERY PLAN LONGWALLS 21 - 24



PREPARED BY WAMBO COAL PTY LIMITED

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# **DOCUMENT CONTROL**

Document No.	CRRP LW21-24
Title	Coal Resource Recovery Plan for South Bates Extension Underground Mine Longwalls 21 to 24
General Description	A plan demonstrating the effective recovery of the available resource from the mining of Longwalls 21 to 24 at the South Bates Extension Underground Mine
Key Support Documents	Wambo Coal Extraction Plan for South Bates Extension Underground Mine Longwalls 21 to 24

## Revisions

Rev No	Date	Description	Ву	Checked
Α	July 2020	Final for Submission	WCPL and	M. Berry
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The nominated Coordinator for this document is	Technical Services Manager
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#### 1 INTRODUCTION

The Wambo Coal Mine is an open cut and underground coal mining operation located approximately 15 kilometres (km) west of Singleton, near the village of Warkworth, New South Wales (NSW) (**Figure 1**). The Wambo Coal Mine is owned and operated by Wambo Coal Pty Limited (WCPL), a subsidiary of Peabody Energy Australia Pty Limited.

The potential environmental impacts of the existing Wambo Coal Mine were assessed in the *Wambo Development Project Environmental Impact Statement* (the Wambo Development Project EIS) (WCPL, 2003). Development Consent DA 305-7-2003 for the Wambo Coal Mine was granted on 4 February 2004 by the then NSW Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning under Part 4 of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979*.

The South Bates Extension Underground Mine is a component of the approved Wambo Coal Mine. An application to modify the Development Consent (DA 305-7-2003 MOD 17) to allow the development of the South Bates Extension Underground Mine (Longwalls 17 to 25) in the Whybrow Seam was approved in December 2017. The application was accompanied by the *South Bates Extension Modification Environmental Assessment* (WCPL, 2017).

The South Bates Extension Underground Mine commenced in Longwall 17 in December 2018 and involves extraction of coal by longwall mining methods from the Whybrow Seam within Coal Lease (CL) 397, Mining Lease (ML) 1594, ML 1572 and Mining Lease Application (MLA) 557 (**Figure 2**).

#### 1.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Purpose: This Coal Resource Recovery Plan (CRRP) for Longwalls 21 to 24 has been prepared

to demonstrate the effective recovery of the available resource at the South Bates

Extension Underground Mine.

Scope: This CRRP includes Longwalls 21 to 24 of the South Bates Extension Underground

Mine.

This CRRP has been prepared in accordance with Condition B7(e) of Schedule 2 of the Development Consent (DA 305-7-2003) as a component of the South Bates Extension Underground Mine Longwalls 21 to 24 Extraction Plan.

Plans 1 to 7 as described in the Draft Guidelines for the Preparation of Extraction Plans Required under Conditions of Development Consents, Project Approvals and Mining Lease Conditions for Underground Coal Mining (Version 5) (Department of Planning and Environment [now Department of Planning, Industry and Environment] and NSW Trade & Investment – Division of Resources and Energy [now Mining, Exploration and Geoscience (MEG)], 2015) are provided in Attachment 1. Plan 1, Plan 2 and Plan 7 (Attachment 1) present the approved mine plan, Longwalls 21 to 24 Application Area and surface features overlying Longwalls 21 to 24. Plan 5 presents the current WCPL mining tenements and details land ownership.

This CRRP forms part of WCPL's Environmental Management System for the Wambo Coal Mine. The relationship of this CRRP to the Wambo Coal Mine Environmental Management System is described in Section 1.2 of the Extraction Plan.

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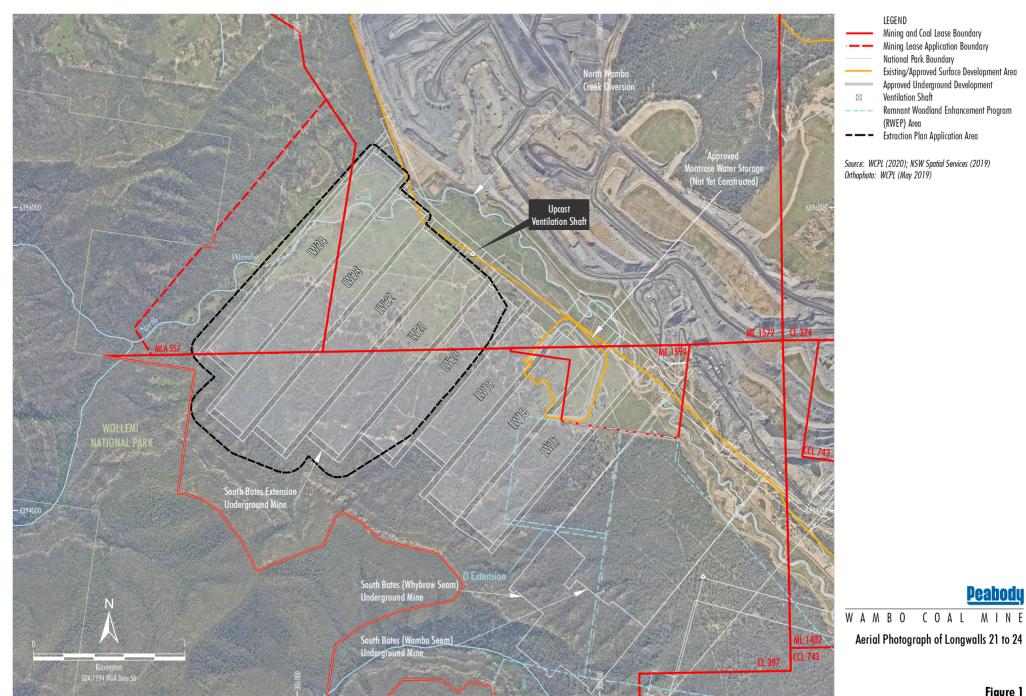
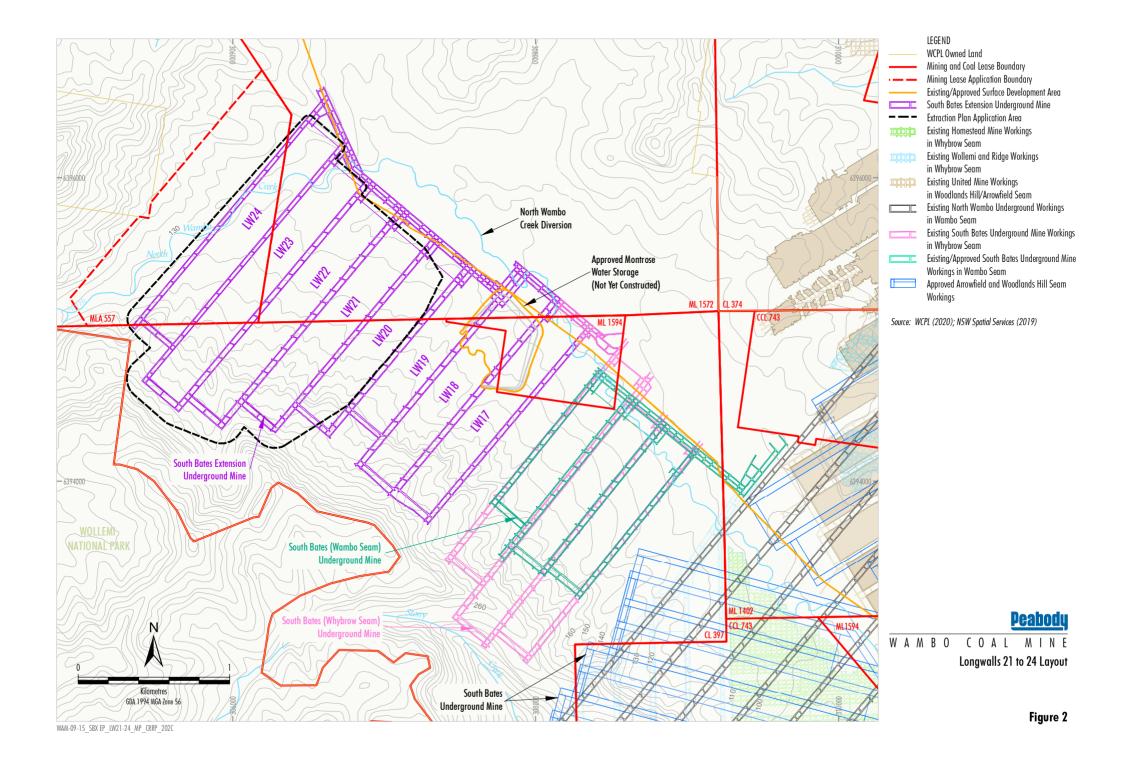


Figure 1



### 2 RESOURCE DESCRIPTION

#### 2.1 SITE GEOLOGY OVERVIEW

The Wambo Coal Mine is situated within the Hunter Coalfield subdivision of the Sydney Basin, which forms the southern part of the Sydney-Gunnedah-Bowen Basin (WCPL, 2003). The coal-bearing rocks of the Sydney Basin are Permian in age and are typically associated with low-lying gentle topography (WCPL, 2003). The overlying rocks of Triassic age cover large parts of the Sydney Basin and tend to form prominent escarpments where they outcrop (WCPL, 2003).

Mining activities at the Wambo Coal Mine include both open cut and underground mining of several coal seams from the Wittingham Coal Measures, which combine with the Newcastle Coal Measures to form the Singleton Supergroup (**Figure 3**). A summary of the coal measure stratigraphy underlying the Wambo Coal Mine area is provided in **Figure 3**.

The Wittingham Coal Measures are divided into the Jerrys Plains Subgroup, Vane Subgroup, Denman Formation and Archerfield Sandstone (WCPL, 2003). The Jerrys Plains Subgroup contains eight formations with 15 named coal seams (WCPL, 2003). The Jerrys Plains Subgroup is up to 800 metres (m) thick and generally consists of relatively coarse clastic sediments (Department of Mineral Resources, 1993). The sedimentary rock layers above and between coal seams are typically lithic sandstone, siltstone and conglomerate, while minor carbonaceous claystone and tuff occurs throughout the sequence (WCPL, 2003).

Coal seams previously, currently and approved to be mined at the Wambo Coal Mine include (Figure 3):

- Whybrow Seam;
- Redbank Creek Seam;
- Wambo Seam;
- Whynot Seam;
- Arrowfield Seam; and
- Woodlands Hill Seam.

These seams dip gently to the south-west at approximately 2 to 3 degrees, with minor local variations due to varying thicknesses of inter-seam sediments and fault zones (WCPL, 2003). Faulting usually trends north or north-east to south-west with normal throws of up to 10 m, with some low angle thrusts (i.e. reverse faults) of variable throw (MineConsult, 2001).

The South Bates Extension Underground Mine targets the Whybrow Seam, which produces a low ash thermal coal. Run-of-mine (ROM) coal will be crushed and washed at the Wambo Coal Mine Coal Handling and Preparation Plant. Product coal from the South Bates Extension Underground Mine will be considered suitable for export and domestic markets.

### 2.2 OVERBURDEN LITHOLOGICAL AND GEOTECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS

The overburden of the Longwalls 21 to 24 Application Area consists predominately of interbedded sandstone and siltstone layers, with minor claystone, mudstone, shale, tuffaceous and coal layers (Mine Subsidence Engineering Consultants [MSEC], 2020).

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SUPERGROUP	GROUP	SUBGROUP	FORMATION	SEAM
	NARRABEEN GROUP		WIDDEN BROOK CONGLOMERATE	
		CIEN CALLIC	Greigs (	reek Coal
		GLEN GALLIC Subgroup	Redmanvale (	Creek Formation
			Dights (	Creek Coal
		DOYLES CREEK	Waterfall Gu	lly Formation
		SUBGROUP	Pinegrove	e Formation
	NEWCASTLE COAL		Lucern	ia Coal
	MEASURES <sup>7</sup>	HORSESHOE	Strathmor	e Formation
		CREEK SUBGROUP	Alcherin	ga Coal
			Clifford I	Formation
		APPLETREE FLAT		Formation
		SUBGROUP	Abbey G	reen Coal
			WATTS SANDSTONE	
			DENMAN FORMATION	
			Mount Leonard Formation	Whybrow Seam <sup>2</sup>
		Althorpe	Formation	
		Malabar Formation		Redbank Creek Seam <sup>2</sup>
				Wambo Seam²
SINGLETON SUPERGROUP			Malabar Formation	Whynot Seam <sup>2</sup>
<i>SUI LKUKUUI</i>			Blakefield Seam	
			Mount Ogilvie	Glen Munro Seam
		JERRYS PLAINS	Formation	Woodlands Hill Seam <sup>2</sup>
	WITTINGHAM COAL	SUBGROUP	Milbrodal	e Formation
	MEASURES		Marrie Thadar	Arrowfield Seam <sup>2</sup>
			Mount Thorley Formation	Bowfield Seam³
				Warkworth Seam³
			Fairford I	Formation
				Mount Arthur Seam³
			Burnamwood	Piercefield Seam³
			Formation	Vaux Seam³
				Broonie Seam
				Bayswater Seam
			ARCHERFIELD SANDSTONE	
			Bulga	Formation
		VANE SUBGROUP	Foybrool	k Formation
			Saltwater C	reek Formation

After: DMR (1993)



Previously known as the Wollombi Coal Measures.
 Coal reserves currently approved to be mined at the Wambo Coal Mine.
 Coal reserves proposed to be mined by the United Wambo Open Cut Coal Mine Project (SSD 7142).

There are no massive sandstone or conglomerate units within the overburden. The largest is a 17 m thick sandstone layer located approximately 30 m above the Whybrow Seam. Otherwise, the thicknesses of the formations within the overburden are typically less than 10 m. Other boreholes in the vicinity of the mining area indicate the presence of other larger sandstone units with thicknesses up to 20 m in the lower part of the overburden (MSEC, 2020).

No adjustment factors have been applied in the subsidence prediction model for any massive strata units or for softer floor conditions, as the longwalls are supercritical in width and therefore are predicted to achieve the maximum subsidence for single-seam mining conditions (MSEC, 2020).

Estimates of the range of material strength and stiffness properties present in the overburden materials are summarised in **Table 1**.

Table 1
Strength Property Estimates for Lithology in the Vicinity of the South Bates Extension Underground Mine

Unit Lithology	Unit Thickness Range (m)	UCS Range (MPa)	Laboratory Elastic Modulus* Range (GPa)	Poisson's Ratio
Roof Material above Whybrow Seam	10 – 13	24 – 43 [36 mean]	11.5 – 12.2	0.155

Young's Modulus (E) derived from laboratory and sonic UCS data, E = 300 x UCS (units are in GPa).

Note: UCS = unconfined compressive strength. MPa = megapascal. GPa = gigapascal.

# 2.3 LITHOLOGICAL AND GEOTECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS (ROOF AND FLOOR STRATA)

The overburden of the Whybrow Seam predominately comprises of interbedded sandstone and siltstone layers, with minor claystone, mudstone, shale, tuffaceous and coal layers throughout the overburden (MSEC, 2020). Longwalls 21 to 24 will mine the Whybrow Seam.

Historical workings are discussed in **Section 2.6**.

Estimates of the range of material strength and stiffness properties present in the roof of the mine workings coal seams are summarised in **Table 1**.

## 2.4 EXISTENCE AND CHARACTERISTICS OF GEOLOGICAL STRUCTURE

Regional geological structure in the Longwalls 21 to 24 Application Area consists of several faults. The largest structure in the area is the Redmanvale Fault which has a throw greater than 20 m and is located to the south-west of the longwalls.

The first longwall in the series (i.e. Longwall 21) is located at a distance of 540 m from the interpreted location of the Redmanvale Fault at seam level. The successive longwalls in the series (i.e. Longwalls 22 to 23) progressively approach the fault with the distance becoming greater again at Longwall 24. Longwall 23 is located closest to the fault at a distance of 110 m at seam level. The progressive mining towards the fault will allow the surface movements in the vicinity of the fault to be continually monitored and reviewed (MSEC, 2020).

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There are no major faults that have been identified within the extents of the proposed Longwall 21 to Longwall 24. Minor faults have been identified within the mining area with throws typically up to 1 m. A series of faults cross the commencing (i.e. south-western) ends of Longwalls 19 and 20 and the finishing (i.e. north-eastern) ends of Longwalls 18 to 21. These faults could extend through Longwalls 21 to 24. The faults within the proposed mining area will be better defined through ongoing investigations and the development of first workings.

No adjustment factors have been applied in the subsidence prediction model for any potential minor faults within the mining area, as the proposed longwalls are generally supercritical in width and, therefore, they are predicted to achieve the maximum subsidence for single-seam mining conditions (MSEC, 2020).

#### 2.5 STABILITY OF UNDERGROUND WORKINGS

The design intent of the workings and method of extraction is such that the first workings provide long-term stable access to the longwall blocks or pillar panels, and the second workings are mined such that the overburden collapses (i.e. "goafs") in a controlled manner as the coal is removed. All of the subsidence movements that occur at the surface are generally the result of a new equilibrium being achieved (i.e. chain pillars and overlying strata compress elastically and overburden caves and eventually 're-supports' itself on bulked and broken ground).

On 27 March 2018, DRG (now Mining, Exploration and Geosciences) indicated it was satisfied that WCPL would achieve the required outcomes of the first workings condition of the Development Consent (DA 305-7-2003, Condition 22E of Schedule 4 [now Condition B6 of Schedule 2]) for Longwalls 17 to 21, subject to the following condition:

The Mine Manager must undertake adequate monitoring of the stability of first workings in the subject area and to implement appropriate ground support of the roadways in accordance with the results of the said monitoring, to ensure compliance with the outcome requirements of Schedule 4, Condition 22E of the Development Consent for DA 305-7-2003 (MOD12).

On 29 May 2020, WCPL submitted correspondence to the NSW Resources Regulator requesting confirmation that the first workings for Longwalls 22 to 24 were considered to be long-term stable and long-term non-subsiding. On 7 July 2020, the NSW Resources Regulator confirmed that it was satisfied that WCPL could achieve the required outcomes of the first workings condition of the Development Consent (DA 305-7-2003, Condition B6 of Schedule 2) for Longwalls 22 to 24 on 27 March 2018, subject to the following condition:

The mine operator must undertake adequate monitoring of the stability of first workings in the subject area and to implement appropriate ground support of the roadways in accordance with the results of the said monitoring, to ensure compliance with the outcome requirements of Schedule 2, Condition 6B of the Development Consent for DA 305-7-2003.

The longwall blocks are also designed with barrier pillars at the ends of the blocks to protect the adjacent first workings pillars and remnant pillars left between the augered areas from any abutment loading. Adequate set-back from highwall crests is also provided.

The chain pillars are designed to provide serviceable gate roads for access and ventilation and may yield or crush out after mining is completed.

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#### 2.6 HISTORICAL MINING

There are no other currently existing longwalls immediately above or below Longwalls 21 to 24. The closest extracted longwalls are Longwalls 17 to 20 in the South Bates Extension (Whybrow) Seam Underground Mine and in the adjacent South Bates (Whybrow and Wambo Seam) Underground Mine, which are to the south-east of Longwall 21. WCPL is currently extracting Longwalls 17 to 20 in the Whybrow Seam. Extraction in the Whybrow Seam (Longwalls 11 to 13) was completed in June 2017. Extraction in the Wambo Seam (Longwalls 14 to 16) was completed in November 2018.

#### 3 RESOURCE RECOVERY

#### 3.1 MINING GEOMETRY

The currently approved orientation and footprint of the South Bates Extension Underground Mine was assessed as part of the South Bates Extension Modification Environmental Assessment (WCPL, 2017).

Extraction of Longwalls 17 to 20 is in progress at the South Bates Extension Underground Mine.

The layout of Longwalls 21 to 24 is presented in **Plan 1** (**Attachment 1**), and key panel dimensions for Longwalls 21 to 24 are presented in **Table 2**.

Table 2
Key Longwall Panel Dimensions

Dimension	Longwall 21	Longwall 22	Longwall 23	Longwall 24
Gate Road Width (m)	5.4			
Gate Road Height (m)	2.5 to 2.8			
Maingate Chain Pillar Width (m)	37.2	36.2	26	27.7
Tailgate Chain Pillar Width (m)	26	30	29	21
Longwall Void Width (m) <sup>1</sup>	261	261	261	261
Longwall Void Length (m) <sup>2</sup>	1,505	1,705	1,870	1,705
Extraction Height (m)	2.3 to 2.7	2.3 to 2.8	2.3 to 2.9	2.3 to 3.0

Including gate roads.

#### 3.2 COVER DEPTH

The depth of cover above Longwalls 21 to 24 ranges from a minimum of 60 m above the finishing (north-eastern) ends of the longwalls, up to a maximum of 290 m above the commencing (south-western) ends of the longwalls.

The cover depth increases to the south-west, consistent with the seam dip and topography.

### 3.3 MINING METHOD

Longwalls 21 to 24 will be extracted using retreating longwall mining methods for secondary extraction of panels with approximately 261 m void width (extraction face of approximately 250 m). Construction of development main headings, maingates and tailgates will be undertaken using continuous miners.

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Including installation headings.

#### 3.4 MINING SCHEDULE

WCPL operates its mines seven days per week, 24 hours per day on a rotating shift basis. The proposed sequence of mining for Longwalls 21 to 24 at the South Bates Extension Underground Mine and anticipated/actual start and completion dates are summarised in **Table 3**.

Table 3
Proposed Mining Schedule (Secondary Extraction)

Longwall	Estimated Start Date	Estimated Duration	Estimated Completion Date
Longwall 21	February 2021	6 months	August 2021
Longwall 22	September 2021	6 months	March 2022
Longwall 23	March 2022	5 months	August 2022
Longwall 24	September 2022	7 months	April 2023

## 3.5 FUTURE MINING

Longwall 25 at the approved South Bates Extension Underground Mine will be the subject of a future Extraction Plan.

In addition to the approved South Bates Extension Underground Mine, the Development Consent (DA 305-7-2003) provides consent for underground mining by longwall methods in the Arrowfield and Woodlands Hill Seams (**Figure 1**). The future workings in the Arrowfield and Woodlands Hill Seams are located to the south-east of Longwalls 21 to 24 (**Figures 1 and 2**). The approved future underground longwall workings are described in the Wambo Development Project EIS (WCPL, 2003) and *South Wambo Underground Mine Modification Environmental Assessment* (WCPL, 2016) and will be the subject of a future Extraction Plan.

Further to underground mining activities, the Development Consent (DA 305-7-2003) provides consent for open cut mining. The seams approved for open cut mining include the Whybrow, Redbank Creek, Wambo and Whynot Seams.

An application to modify the Development Consent (DA 305-7-2003 MOD 16) was lodged in November 2016 to support the proposed United Wambo Open Cut Coal Mine Project. The Modification was approved in August 2019 and allows for integrated open cut mining at the United Coal Mine and Wambo Coal Mine.

Mining of the Whybrow Seam by open cut mining methods in the South Bates Extension Underground Mine area is not viable due to increasing depth of cover and the presence of Remnant Woodland Enhancement Program (RWEP) areas.

#### 3.6 RESOURCE RECOVERY

Resource estimates and proposed recovery for Longwalls 21 to 24 are summarised in **Table 4**. The mining layout for Longwalls 21 to 24 maximises resource recovery, which is estimated to be approximately 84%.

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Table 4
Estimated Resource Recovery from Longwalls 21 to 24

Aspect	Million Tonnes
Available Resource	7.91
Development ROM Coal	0.46
Longwall ROM Coal	6.20
Total ROM Coal Recovered	6.66

The extent of Longwalls 21 to 24 is constrained by the extent of the previous longwalls (i.e. Longwalls 17 to 20) in the South Bates Extension Underground Mine to the south-east, faults to the north-west of the longwalls (Section 2.4), the extent of the approved Montrose West open cut pit and geological structures to the north-east and the Wollemi National Park escarpment to the south-west.

#### 3.7 MINE PLAN JUSTIFICATION

The sequence of underground mining at the Wambo Coal Mine has been adopted to minimise the potential for sterilisation of coal reserves. The **Approved Plan** (**Attachment 1**) presents the Longwalls 21 to 24 layout which has been developed in consideration of detailed exploration drilling and key environmental studies, as described in the *South Bates Extension Modification Environmental Assessment* (WCPL, 2017).

The monitoring of subsidence impacts associated with the extraction of Longwalls 21 to 24 is described in the Subsidence Monitoring Program for Longwalls 21 to 24 (Appendix H of the Extraction Plan) and the relevant management plans summarised in Section 3 of the Extraction Plan.

#### 4 REFERENCES

- Department of Mineral Resources (1993) *Hunter Coalfield Regional Geology 1:100 000 Sheet.* New South Wales.
- Department of Planning and Environment and NSW Trade & Investment Division of Resources and Energy (2015) Guidelines for the Preparation of Extraction Plans Required under Conditions of Development Consents, Project Approvals and Mining Lease Conditions for Underground Coal Mining. Version 5. Draft.
- MineConsult (2001) Wambo Strategic Mine Plan Vol 1. Report prepared for Wambo Mining Corporation Ltd.
- Mine Subsidence Engineering Consultants (2020) South Bates Extension Subsidence Assessment Subsidence Predictions and Impact Assessments for the Natural and Built Features in Support of the Extraction Plan Application for WYLW21 to WYLW24 at the South Bates Extension Underground Mine. Report prepared for Wambo Coal Pty Limited.
- Wambo Coal Pty Limited (2003) Wambo Development Project Environmental Impact Statement.
- Wambo Coal Pty Limited (2016) South Wambo Underground Mine Modification Environmental Assessment.
- Wambo Coal Pty Limited (2017) South Bates Extension Modification Environmental Assessment.

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## **ATTACHMENT 1**

# LONGWALLS 21 TO 24 PLANS 1 TO 7

Plan 1 – Proposed and Existing Workings
Plan 2 – Surface Features
Plan 2a – Surface Features (Aerial Photo)
Plan 3 –Whybrow Seam Structure
Plan 4 – Existing and Proposed Wambo Seam Workings
Plan 5 – Mining Titles and Land Ownership
Plan 6 – Geological Sections (Boreholes)
Plan 7 – Proposed and Existing Subsidence Monitoring

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