METROPOLITAN COAL LONGWALLS 301-303

COAL RESOURCE RECOVERY PLAN



















METROPOLITAN COAL

LONGWALLS 301-303

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Revision Status Register

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1 INTRODUCTION

Metropolitan Coal is a wholly owned subsidiary of Peabody Energy Australia Pty Ltd (Peabody). Metropolitan Coal was granted approval for the Metropolitan Coal Project (the Project) under section 75J of the New South Wales (NSW) *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979* (EP&A Act) on 22 June 2009. A copy of the Project Approval is available on the Peabody website (http://www.peabodyenergy.com).

The Project comprises the continuation, upgrade and extension of underground coal mining operations and surface facilities at Metropolitan Coal. The underground mining longwall layout is shown on Figure 1. Following the anticipated completion of Longwall 27 in 2017, Longwalls 301, 302 and 303 (herein referred to as Longwalls 301-303) define the next mining sub-domain within the Project underground mining area (Figures 1 to 3).

1.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

In accordance with Condition 6(e), Schedule 3 of the Project Approval, this Coal Resource Recovery Plan (CRRP) has been prepared as a component of the Metropolitan Coal Longwalls 301-303 Extraction Plan to demonstrate effective recovery of the available resource.

The relationship of this CRRP to the Metropolitan Coal Environmental Management Structure and to the Metropolitan Coal Longwalls 301-303 Extraction Plan is shown on Figure 4.

The following graphical plans (Attachment 1) have been prepared in accordance with Department of Planning and Environment (DP&E) and Division of Resources and Energy (DRE) (2015) *Guidelines for the Preparation of Extraction Plans*:

- Plan 1 Longwalls 301-303 Proposed Extraction.
- Plan 2 Natural and Man-Made Surface Features.
- Plan 3 Geological and Seam Data.
- Plan 5 Mining Titles and Land Ownership.
- Plan 6 Geological Section and Geotechnical Log.

As there are currently no existing and/or planned future workings in seams above and/or below the proposed workings, Plan 4 referred to in the DP&E and DRE (2015) *Guidelines for the Preparation of Extraction Plans* has not been included in this CRRP. Plan 7 (Subsidence Monitoring Locations) is included in the Metropolitan Coal Longwalls 301-303 Subsidence Monitoring Program.

2 CRRP REVIEW AND UPDATE

In accordance with Condition 4, Schedule 7 of the Project Approval, this CRRP will be reviewed within three months of the submission of:

- an audit under Condition 8, Schedule 7;
- an incident report under Condition 6, Schedule 7;
- an annual review under Condition 3, Schedule 7; and

if necessary, revised to the satisfaction of the Director-General (now Secretary) of the DP&E.

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LEGEND

LLULIND	
	Mining Lease Boundary
	Woronora Special Area
+	Railway
	Project Underground Mining Area
	Longwalls 20-27 and 301-317
	Longwalls 301 - 303 Secondary Extraction
	35° Angle of Draw and/or Predicted
	20 mm Subsidence Contour
	600 m from Secondary Extraction of
	Longwalls 301-303
111	Woronora Notification Area
	Existing Underground Access Drive (Main Drift)

Source: Land and Property Information (2015); Department of Industry (2015); Metropolitan Coal (2016); MSEC (2016)

METROPOLITAN COAL

Project Longwalls 20 - 27 and Longwalls 301 - 317 Layout



LEGEND

LEGEND	
	Mining Lease Boundary
	Woronora Special Area
	Railway
	Project Underground Mining Area
	Longwalls 20-27 and 301-317
	Longwalls 301 - 303 Secondary Extraction
	35° Angle of Draw and/or Predicted
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0.00	Woronora Notification Area
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Source: Land and Property Information (2015); Department of Industry (2015); Metropolitan Coal (2016); MSEC (2016)

> METROPOLITAN COAL Longwalls 301 - 303 Layout



LEGEND

LEGEND	
	Mining Lease Boundary
	Railway
	Project Underground Mining Area
	Longwalls 20-27 and 301-317
	Longwalls 301 - 303 Secondary Extraction
	35° Angle of Draw and/or Predicted
	20 mm Subsidence Contour
	600 m from Secondary Extraction of
	Longwalls 301-303
	Estational Handressen of Assess Dates (Marta D

---- Existing Underground Access Drive (Main Drift)

Source: Land and Property Information (2015); Date of Aerial Photography 1998; Department of Industry (2015); Metropolitan Coal (2016); MSEC (2016)

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Project Longwalls 20 - 27 and Longwalls 301 - 317 Layout -Aerial Photograph





Figure 4

The CRRP will also be reviewed within three months of approval of any Project modification and if necessary, revised to the satisfaction of the DP&E.

The revision status of this CRRP is indicated on the title page of each copy. The distribution register for controlled copies of the CRRP is described in Section 2.1.

Revisions to any documents listed within this CRRP will not necessarily constitute a revision of this document.

2.1 DISTRIBUTION REGISTER

In accordance with Condition 10, Schedule 7 of the Project Approval 'Access to Information', Metropolitan Coal will make the CRRP publicly available on the Peabody website. A hard copy of the CRRP will also be maintained at the Metropolitan Coal site.

Metropolitan Coal recognises that various regulators have different distribution requirements, both in relation to whom documents should be sent and in what format. An Environmental Management Plan and Monitoring Program Distribution Register has been established in consultation with the relevant agencies and infrastructure owners that indicates:

- to whom the Metropolitan Coal plans and programs, such as the CRRP, will be distributed;
- the format (i.e. electronic or hard copy) of distribution; and
- the format of revision notification.

Metropolitan Coal will make the Distribution Register publicly available on the Peabody website.

Metropolitan Coal will be responsible for maintaining the Distribution Register and for ensuring that the notification of revisions is sent by email or post as appropriate.

In addition, Metropolitan Coal employees with local computer network access will be able to view the controlled electronic version of this CRRP on the Metropolitan Coal local area network. Metropolitan Coal will not be responsible for maintaining uncontrolled copies beyond ensuring the most recent version is maintained on Metropolitan Coal's computer system and the Peabody website.

3 MINING GEOMETRY

During the NSW Government's assessment phase of the Metropolitan Coal Project Environmental Assessment (Project EA) (Helensburgh Coal Pty Ltd [HCPL], 2008), and in recognition of concerns raised by key stakeholders during the formal Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) assessment process, Metropolitan Coal (previously HCPL) considered it appropriate to reduce the proposed extent of the original Project longwall mining area (i.e. Longwalls 20-44).

Metropolitan Coal was granted Project Approval (08_0149) by the Minister for Planning on the 22 June 2009. The Project Approval included a layout for Longwalls 301 to 317 referred to as the Preferred Project Layout (as described in the Preferred Project Report [HCPL, 2009]). Longwalls 302 and 303 based on the Preferred Project Layout comprised 163 metres (m) panel widths (void) with 45 m pillars (solid) beyond 500 m from the Woronora Reservoir, and 138 m panel widths (void) with 70 m pillars (solid) within 500 m of the Woronora Reservoir.

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Following further mine planning investigations, Metropolitan Coal identified that significant operational efficiencies and consequently a significant economic benefit would be achieved by rotating the first workings of Longwalls 301-317 to be square with the 300 Mains (a rotation of approximately six degrees). The Secretary of the DP&E approved the revised first workings in accordance with Condition 5, Schedule 3 of the Project Approval in April 2015.

In May 2016, Metropolitan Coal requested the approval of the Secretary of the DP&E to further amend the first workings layout for Longwalls 301-303. The proposed changes to the first workings layout for Longwalls 301-303 were as follows:

- Longwall 301 reduce the panel void length from 1,680 m to 1,428 m, with no change to the tailgate pillar dimensions.
- Longwall 302 reduce the panel void length from 2,637 m to 1,954 m, with a reduction in the tailgate pillar width by 25 m for approximately 608 m of the panel length.
- Longwall 303 reduce the panel void length from 2,760 m to 2,122 m, with a reduction in the tailgate pillar width by 25 m for approximately 728 m of the panel length.

The commencing (i.e. northern) ends of Longwalls 301 to 303 were proposed to be shortened based on geological considerations. The finishing end of Longwall 301 was determined in consultation with the Roads and Maritime Services based on the presence of Bridge 2 (M1 Princes Motorway), which is located approximately 330 m to the south-east of the end of Longwall 301 and which is sensitive to small differential movements. The changes to the first workings layout for Longwalls 301-303 described above were approved by the Secretary of the DP&E in June 2016.

During the preparation of the Metropolitan Coal Longwalls 301-303 Extraction Plan, Metropolitan Coal further shortened the commencing ends of Longwalls 302 and 303 to reduce subsidence impacts to the Garrawarra Centre Complex, such that they have the same alignment with the commencing end of Longwall 301. The panel void length of Longwall 302 was reduced from 1,954 m to 1,775 m, and the panel void length of Longwall 303 was reduced from 2,122 m to 1,788 m.

The proposed layout of Longwalls 301-303 is shown on Plan 1 in Attachment 1. Longwall extraction will occur from north to south. A summary of the longwall dimensions for Longwalls 301-303 is provided in Table 1. The longwall layout includes 163 m panel widths (void) with 45 m pillars (solid).

Longwall	Longwall Length (m)	Total Void Width (m)	Tailgate Chain Pillar Width (m)
LW301	1,428	163	0
LW302	1,775	163	45
LW303	1,788	163	45

Table 1Summary of Longwall Dimensions for Longwalls 301-303

m = metres.

Plan 1 in Attachment 1 shows existing Metropolitan Coal longwalls located within 500 m of Longwalls 301-303, as well as future longwalls (i.e. Longwall 304 on). Figure 1 also shows previous mining areas at Metropolitan Coal.

Longwalls 301-303 and the area of land within 600 m of Longwalls 301-303 secondary extraction are shown on Figures 1 to 3. Plan 2 in Attachment 1 shows the natural and man-made surface features proximal to Longwalls 301-303.

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3.1 DEPTH OF COVER

The surface level contours and depth of cover contours to the Bulli Seam are shown on Plan 3 in Attachment 1. The depth of cover within the 35 degree (°) angle of draw and/or 20 mm subsidence contour varies between a minimum of 395 m (in the base of the Eastern Tributary) and a maximum of 555 m at the northern end of Longwall 303.

3.2 BULLI SEAM GEOMETRY

The seam floor within the 35° angle of draw and/or 20 mm subsidence contour area generally dips from the south-east to the north-west. The seam thickness within the Longwalls 301-303 goaf areas varies between a minimum of 2.7 m in the west and a maximum of 2.9 m in the south-east. The proposed longwalls will extract the full height of the seam, with localised extraction up to 3.2 m around development headings. The seam floor contours and seam thickness contours are shown on Plan 3 in Attachment 1.

3.3 GEOLOGICAL DETAILS

Metropolitan Coal is located within the Southern Coalfield, within the southern part of the Sydney Basin, which is infilled with sedimentary rocks of Permian age (<270 million years ago) and of Triassic age (<225 million years ago) (HCPL, 2008).

Three formally named coal seams of the Ilawarra Coal Measures are present in the Southern Coalfield, namely the Bulli, Balgownie and Wongawilli Seams (HCPL, 2008).

Immediately overlying the Bulli Coal unit of the Illawarra Coal Measures are sandstones and claystones of the Narrabeen Group. The Narrabeen Group contains the Newport Formation (sometimes referred to as the Gosford Formation), the Bald Hill Claystone (also referred to as Chocolate Shale), the Bulgo Sandstone, the Stanwell Park Claystone/Shale, the Scarborough Sandstone, the Wombarra Shale and the Coal Cliff Sandstone.

At the top of the sequence in the area of interest is the Hawkesbury Sandstone (HCPL, 2008).

The major geological features at seam level are shown on Plan 3 in Attachment 1. The nearest longwall is located approximately 500 m from the Metropolitan Fault. The Metropolitan Fault has a north-west to south-east strike and dips to the north-east. The Powell Fault has been projected into the 35° angle of draw and/or 20 mm subsidence contour area, but not above Longwalls 301-303. Most of the faults have been identified at seam level.

The sedimentary stratigraphic section at Borehole S225 is shown on Plan 6 in Attachment 1. The location of the borehole is also shown on Plan 6 in Attachment 1. The sandstone and shale units vary in thickness from a few metres to over 160 metres. The major sandstone units are interbedded with other rocks and, though shales and claystones are quite extensive in places, the sandstone predominates.

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4 RESOURCE RECOVERY

4.1 MINING METHOD

Longwalls 301-303 will be extracted using retreating longwall mining methods for secondary extraction of panels with a 163 m void width. The longwall panels will be formed by driving two sets of gate roads (the tailgate and maingate roads). Each gate road requires two roadways (headings) to be driven parallel to each other. The two roadways will be used for ventilation purposes, with one of the roadways utilised as a transport road and the other roadway used to convey the coal that will be mined back to the main conveyors. Construction of development main headings and gateroads are mined using continuous miners.

The dimensions of the headings will be approximately 5.2 m wide and 3.2 m in height. The headings are connected approximately every 120 m by driving a cut-through from one heading to another which forms pillars of coal along the length of the gate road. The tailgate and maingate roads are separated by the 158 m wide longwall panel (measured between roadway centrelines). The maingate roads and tailgate roads are then linked together by driving an installation road and bleeder road at the top end of the longwall panels. ROM coal will be conveyed by the maingate conveyor to the main conveyor which will carry coal to the surface of the mine.

4.2 MINE PLAN

4.2.1 Justification

As described in Section 3.2, the seam thickness within the Longwalls 301-303 goaf areas varies from 2.7 m to 2.9 m. Longwalls 301-303 will extract the full height of the seam, with localised extraction up to 3.2 m around development headings. Using the proposed mining method, the recovery of run-ofmine (ROM) coal from the Bulli Seam in Longwalls 301-303 is estimated to be 61 percent. The total amount of ROM coal anticipated to be extracted is estimated to be approximately 3.345 million tonnes (Mt).

Subsequent to the Project Approval, the length of Longwalls 301-303 has been constrained by the Metropolitan Fault to the north-east, the Garrawarra Centre Complex to the north, and the presence of Bridge 2 (M1 Princes Motorway) to the south-east. Metropolitan Coal considers the layout of Longwalls 301-303 to provide the most efficient resource recovery given the constraints.

4.2.2 Mining Schedule

Metropolitan Coal operates seven days a week, 24 hours a day on a rotating shift basis. The extraction of Longwalls 1 to 26 is complete, with extraction of Longwall 27 underway.

The proposed sequence of mining for Longwalls 301-303 and anticipated start and completion dates are summarised in Table 2.

Longwall	Estimated Start Date	Estimated Duration	Estimated Completion Date
Longwall 301	April 2017	6 months	September 2017
Longwall 302	November 2017	7 months	May 2018
Longwall 303	June 2018	7 months	December 2018

Table 2Provisional Extraction Schedule

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4.2.3 Future Mine Plans

Longwalls 301-303 form the first block of longwalls within the 300 longwall series. The layout for Longwalls 301-303 (i.e. 163 m panel widths [void] and 45 m pillars [solid]) will be trialled to build on the experience and dataset obtained from Longwalls 20-27. The outcomes of the trial will be used to inform the potential for a similar mine layout to be applied to the next Extraction Plan (i.e. Longwall 304 onwards). The current layout of Longwalls 304-317 is shown on Figures 1 and 3, and on Plan 1 in Attachment 1.

4.2.4 Effects on Future Resource Recovery

The Bulli Seam is the upper seam of the Illawarra Coal Measures of the Southern Coalfields. The interburden thickness between the base of the Bulli Seam and the top of the seam below (Balgownie Seam) varies between 7.9 m and 13.9 m. The planned mining of Longwalls 301-303 is not expected to impede on any future mining of the lower seams. Currently there are no plans for mining of these seams within the Longwalls 301-303 mining area.

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ATTACHMENT 1

PLANS 1, 2, 3, 5 AND 6 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT AND DIVISION OF RESOURCES AND ENERGY (2015) GUIDELINES FOR THE PREPARATION OF EXTRACTION PLANS

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Plan 6 - Longwalls 301-303 Geological Section and Geotechnical Logs