



Australian Government
**Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water**

Compliance Audit Report

South Wambo Longwall Mine - Singleton, NSW (EPBC 2016/7636)

Wambo Coal Pty Limited

Report prepared by
Environmental Audit Section

28 May 2026



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Document Control

Version	Description	Approval	Date
0.1	Draft Audit Report	Simone Davey – Lead Auditor	19 May 2026
0.2	Draft released to Auditee	Kim Morgan – Assistant Director	26 May 2026
1	Final Audit Report	Tom Long - Director	28 May 2026

Audit Details

Report Title	Compliance Audit of South Wambo Longwall Mine - Singleton, NSW (EPBC 2016/7636)
Auditee Name	Wambo Coal Pty Limited
Main Auditee Contact Details	Nicole Dobbins, Senior Environmental Advisor (contract), Peabody Energy 300 Watt Street, Warkworth, NSW 2330 0408 969 988 NDobbins@peabodyenergy.com
Other Auditee Personnel	Morgan Katsch, Senior Environmental Advisor, Peabody Energy
Audit Lead	Simone Davey, Senior Auditor audit@dcceew.gov.au
Audit Team	Kim Morgan – Assistant Director - DCCEEW
Audit Date	December 2025 to May 2026
On-site Audit Details	Date of on-site audit: 14 April 2026 300 Watt Street, Warkworth, NSW 2330 Attendees: Micheal Alexander, Director NSW Projects – Peabody Energy Wayne Bower, Complex Manager– Peabody Energy Morgan Katsch, Senior Environmental Advisor – Peabody Energy Nicole Dobbins, Senior Environmental Advisor – contract – Peabody Energy Simone Davey – Lead Auditor – DCCEEW Jacinta Wilson – Senior Auditor - DCCEEW

Background

On 30 April 2017, a delegate for the Minister administering the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) approved the South Wambo Longwall Mine - Singleton, NSW (EPBC 2016/7636). The approval contains eight conditions and includes requirements to implement Biodiversity and Water management plans and maintain an offset. A variation to the approval was endorsed on 3 December 2019. As part of this variation, Conditions 1, 3, 5, 7 and 8 were removed and replaced with revised conditions. The definition of 'commencement' was also replaced, and four additional definitions were incorporated into the approval. The action commenced on 21 October 2024; however, extraction activities have not yet commenced. The approval has effect until 1 March 2037.

On 2 December 2025, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (department) commenced a compliance audit to determine if Wambo Coal Pty Limited (auditee) was complying with the conditions of the EPBC Act 2016/7636 approval. The compliance audit was enabled under condition 4 of the approval and was undertaken by an experienced auditor from the department.

Audit Methodology

This section of the report details the methodology for the compliance audit of South Wambo Longwall Mine - Singleton, NSW against the conditions of the EPBC Act 2016/7636 approval and its associated plans. Information to assess compliance may be gathered from internal holdings, open-source searches, information requests, and on-site audits.

Audit Objective

The objective of the audit was to effectively assess the auditees compliance with the conditions of the approval and associated management plans.

Audit Criteria

The audit checklist and criteria were developed to address obligations required under the relevant approval instrument and measures required by associated management plans. Conditions may have multiple elements and therefore be required to be broken down into separate criteria to assess compliance.

Audit Scope

The audit scope defines the boundaries for both the auditor and auditee for the collection of data and assessment of compliance. The scope of this audit was to assess the compliance status of all eight conditions of approval.

Audit Process

On 2 December 2025, a letter of intent to audit was sent to the auditee to ensure they were suitably informed to participate in the audit. The letter outlined the scope of the audit.

The auditor initially undertook a desktop audit of information available to the department.

An on-site audit was conducted on 14 April 2026 and included an opening meeting, discussions with Wambo Coal Pty limited personnel and relevant project contractors, document review, walk around site, and a closing meeting. Following discussions during the onsite audit, additional information was provided by the auditee to the department on 22 April 2026.

The analysis of all collected data and preparation of audit findings was completed in May 2026.

Audit Terminology

The following terms were used to record findings during this audit.

Compliant	Sufficient and appropriate information presented to demonstrate the compliance of a particular requirement.
Non-compliant	Evidence has been collected to demonstrate that a condition or requirement has not been met and/or the approval holder has not provided sufficient documentation or evidence to substantiate compliance with a condition or requirement.
Not applicable	An element of the criteria was not activated or was not required within the scope of the audit.
Observation	An observation may be made about issues relevant to the protection of a matter of national environmental significance when the issue is not strictly related to compliance or non-compliance with a condition.

Audit Findings

This section details the findings of the compliance audit. Of the eight conditions assessed under the approval, the audit determined the following:

- Compliance with five of the eight conditions of approval examined (conditions 1-5)
- At the time of the compliance audit, three conditions were not applicable (conditions 6-8)

Summary of audit findings

A summary of the audit findings for each condition examined are contained in the table below. For a full list of conditions, please refer to the EPBC Act approval provided at **Attachment A**.

Condition	Audit Finding	Summary
1	Compliant	The auditee has not cleared more than 0.9ha of Central Hunter Valley Eucalypt Forest and 3.4ha foraging habitat for the Regent Honeyeater (<i>Anthochaera phrygia</i>). The auditee has complied with conditions A1, A2, B1-B11, B51-B55, B62-B73 and B75-B77 of Schedule 2 of the state development consent (DA 305-7-2003).
2	Compliant	The auditee notified the department of the commencement of the action within the required timeframe.
3	Compliant	The auditee submitted to the department and published all relevant plans on their website.
4	Compliant	The auditee demonstrated accurate compliance records and provided the records to the department when requested.
5	Compliant	The auditee has published a report on their website addressing compliance with each of the conditions of this approval annually and complied with conditions D10 and D15 of Schedule 2 of the state development consent (DA 305-7-2003).
6	Not Applicable	There have been no potential or actual contravention of the conditions of this approval.
7	Not Applicable	An independent audit has not been requested by the department.
8	Not Applicable	The action is still active.

Auditee comments

The auditee reviewed the draft audit report and did not provide the department with any further comments in relation to this report.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment	
Attachment A	Approval decision notification (EPBC 2016/7636) – dated 30 April 2017
Attachment B	Variation of Approval decision (EPBC 2016/7636) – dated 3 December 2019
Attachment C	Letter of intent to Audit – dated 11 December 2025

FINAL REPORT DISTRIBUTION

- Wambo Coal Pty Limited
- Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.