



## SECTION 3

# CONSULTATION AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

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### 3 CONSULTATION AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

#### 3.1 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT CONSULTATION

This section describes the consultation undertaken prior to and during the preparation of this EIS, including a summary of the issues raised by stakeholders. Where relevant, references are provided to the EIS sections and/or specialist appendices where the issues raised are considered and addressed.

##### 3.1.1 Objectives

The consultation undertaken during the preparation of this EIS is in accordance with the SEARs (Attachment 1) and is adequate and appropriate for a State Significant Development under Division 4.1 of Part 4 of the EP&A Act.

Open communication with stakeholders has been encouraged during consultation. Consultation conducted during the preparation of this EIS has provided the opportunity to identify issues of concern or interest to stakeholders.

##### 3.1.2 State Government Agencies

Peabody Energy consults with relevant NSW State Government agencies on a regular basis in relation to the current operations of the Wilpinjong Coal Mine.

Consultation with key NSW State Government agencies in relation to the Project commenced in 2012, well prior to submission of the Project Application and supporting Project Summary and Preliminary Environmental Assessment in October 2014.

##### *Department of Planning and Environment*

The DP&E has been consulted regularly during the operation of the Wilpinjong Coal Mine on implementation of the existing Project Approval, assessment of various section 75W modifications and with respect to the Project.

A summary of the consultation with the DP&E regarding the Project, which commenced in November 2012, is provided in Table 3-1, along with references to the relevant part of the EIS where issues raised have been considered and addressed.

##### *Office of Environment and Heritage*

Consultation undertaken with the OEH during the preparation of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment is summarised in Appendix G.

Consultation with the OEH regarding the Project commenced in 2012 during consultation for Modification 5 and continued during consultation for Modification 6. Consultation specific to the Project commenced with the receipt of the OEH's comments and specific input to the Project SEARs, which were documented in a letter dated 18 November 2014. A copy of the correspondence is provided in Attachment 2 of the SEARs (Attachment 1).

A letter style briefing was provided to the Heritage Division in May 2015 describing the Project and summarising key findings of the Historical Heritage Assessment. A copy of the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment was also provided to the OEH in April 2015.

Updates on the Project were also given to the OEH during consultation regarding securing the Modification 5 biodiversity offsets and Crown Road closure negotiations pertinent to alternative access arrangements to the National Park Estate.

A representative of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) – Mudgee Office is also an active member of the Wilpinjong Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee (CCC), where regular updates on the Project have been provided since 2013.

A Project meeting was held with the OEH in October 2015 to discuss a number of Project matters, including:

- key findings of the flora and fauna surveys;
- the proposed biodiversity offset strategy; and
- proposed management measures (e.g. minor amendment to the existing ECAs and associated voluntary conservation agreement).

**Table 3-1  
Consultation Summary – NSW Department of Planning and Environment**

Date of Consultation	Consultation Context	Key Issues Raised
November 2012	Briefing for Modification 5 and the Project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water licensing requirements (Section 4.7, Appendices C and D and Attachment 6).</li> <li>The number and proposed locations of final voids (Section 2.13).</li> <li>TransGrid Wollar to Wellington 330 kV ETL relocation approval process (Section 2.6.3).</li> <li>The status of rehabilitation at the existing mine (Section 5.1.2).</li> <li>Potential amenity impacts on private receivers in the Village of Wollar (Section 4).</li> </ul>
June 2013	Site visit, briefing for Modification 5 and the Project and Wilpinjong Coal Mine CCC attendance.	
October 2013	Briefing for Modification 5 and the Project.	
December 2013	Briefing for Modification 6 and the Project.	
February 2014	Site familiarisation visit.	
March 2014	Briefing for Modification 6 and the Project.	
June 2014	Briefing for Modification 6 and the Project.	
August 2014	Submission of Project Site Verification Certificate application.	
September 2014	Status update focussed on the Project and Modification 6.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spontaneous combustion management (Sections 2.10.5 and 4.6 and Appendix B).</li> <li>Potential operational noise impacts on the Village of Wollar (Section 4.3.2 and Appendix A).</li> </ul>
September 2014	DRE supports the Project proceeding through the EP&A Act assessment process.	
October 2014	Notice of Determination for Wilpinjong Coal Mine Site Verification Certificate (SVC 6667).	
October 2014	Submission of Project Summary and Preliminary Environmental Assessment request for SEARs.	
December 2014	Draft SEARs issued.	
February 2015	Project briefing meeting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EIS noise management strategy (Section 4.3 and Appendix A).</li> <li>Cumulative assessment of rail movements (i.e. capacity of the Sandy Hollow Gulgong Railway) (Sections 4.3.2, 4.4.2, 4.13.2 and 4.14.2 and Appendices A, B and J).</li> <li>Rehabilitation and final land use targets (native vegetation versus pasture) (Section 5.2.1).</li> <li>Project biodiversity offsets (Section 4.9 and Appendix E).</li> <li>Characteristics of the final landform (Section 5).</li> </ul>
June 2015	Supplementary SEARs (EPBC Act) issued.	
October 2015	Project briefing meeting and liaison regarding submission of this EIS and public exhibition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project biodiversity offset strategy (Section 4.9 and Appendix E).</li> </ul>

Key issues raised by the OEH at the meeting were generally consistent with the comments and input to the Project SEARs documented in the letter dated 18 November 2014 (Attachment 1). In summary these included:

- biodiversity impacts and associated offset requirements (Section 4.9 and Appendix E);
- proximity to NPWS managed land, particularly the Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve (Section 4);
- Aboriginal cultural heritage (Section 4.10 and Appendix G); and
- cumulative impacts (Section 4).

WCPL raised concerns with the OEH on some offset credit requirements derived from the Framework for Biodiversity Assessment in accordance with the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Policy for Major Projects (i.e. perverse offset requirements associated with some species credit species).

**Environment Protection Authority**

The EPA is consulted regularly during the operation of the Wilpinjong Coal Mine (e.g. in relation to EPL 12425).

A summary of the consultation with the EPA in relation to the Project is provided in Table 3-2, along with references to the relevant part of the EIS where issues raised have been considered and addressed.

**Table 3-2  
Consultation Summary – NSW Environment Protection Authority**

Date of Consultation	Consultation Context	Key Issues Raised
December 2012	Briefing for Modification 5 and the Project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Details of the various aspects of the Project (Section 2) and potential impacts on the environment (Section 4).</li> </ul>
June 2013	Briefing for Modification 5 and the Project.	
July 2013	Briefing for Modification 5 and the Project.	
March 2014	Briefing for Modification 6 and the Project.	
June 2014	Briefing for Modification 6 and the Project.	
November 2014	Comments and specific input to the Project SEARs documented in a letter dated 13 November 2014.	
March 2015	Project briefing meeting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air quality (Section 4.4 and Appendix B).</li> <li>• Noise and blasting (Sections 4.3 and 4.5 and Appendix A).</li> <li>• Water quantity and quality (surface and groundwater), including the requirement for continued off-site discharges of excess water (Sections 4.7 and 4.8 and Appendices C and D).</li> <li>• Status of remaining private ownership in the Village of Wollar (Section 4).</li> </ul>
June 2015	Site visit and status update on the Project.	
September 2015	Air quality, noise and blasting modelling results briefing and update on existing operations.	

***Department of Primary Industries (within the New South Wales Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development)***

Within the DPI; DPI Water (formerly NOW), the Office of Agricultural Sustainability and Food Security and DPI Fisheries were consulted during the preparation of this EIS. Comments and specific input to the Project SEARs were documented in correspondence from the DPI dated 25 November 2014 (Attachment 1).

Project summary letters were sent to the DPI Office of Agricultural Sustainability and Food Security and DPI Fisheries in April 2015.

Consultation with DPI Water and NSW Crown Lands (within Land and Natural Resources) is discussed below.

***DPI Water***

DPI Water has been consulted during the operation of the Wilpinjong Coal Mine, specifically in relation to the existing groundwater licensing requirements (administered by DPI Water).

The Project was introduced to DPI Water in February 2012 during a briefing for Modification 5.

In July 2013, comments were provided by DPI Water on the Groundwater Monitoring and Modelling Plan prepared for EL 7091. Amendments to the Groundwater Monitoring and Modelling Plan to include EL 6169 were accepted by DPI Water in February 2014.

WCPL has conducted extensive consultation with DPI Water over 2014 and 2015 in relation to Water Access Licence (WAL) certificates, monitoring bores, combining supply entitlements and revising the associated licence terms and conditions.

WCPL also hosted DPI Water for a site tour and provided officers with an overview of the Project in June 2015.

A letter was sent to DPI Water in November 2015 to outline key findings of the Project, including:

- groundwater modelling predictions; and
- surface water modelling predictions.

Key issues raised by DPI Water during consultation relating to the Project were generally consistent with the comments and input to the Project SEARs documented in the letter dated 25 November 2014 (Attachment 1). In summary these included:

- potential impacts on groundwater and surface water resources (Sections 4.7 and 4.8 and Appendices C and D);
- GDEs (Sections 4.7 and 4.9 and Appendices C and E);
- on-site water management and general mitigation and management measures (Sections 4.7, 4.8 and 7 and Appendices C and D); and
- final landform and rehabilitation (Section 5.2).

***NSW Crown Lands***

Project meetings were held with NSW Crown Lands in February 2013, April 2013, June 2014 and July 2015. The key issues discussed in the meetings were:

- the development of Crown Land licences or agreements relevant to the Project in conjunction with closures of Crown and council roads; and
- alternative access arrangements to reserved lands for the existing operations of the Wilpinjong Coal Mine (Section 6.4.1).

***Division of Resources and Energy (within the New South Wales Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development)***

Consultation with the DRE continues to be undertaken regularly during the operation of the Wilpinjong Coal Mine in relation to the existing ML 1573 and exploration tenements (EL 6169 and EL 7091).

A summary of the consultation with the DRE in relation to the Project is provided in Table 3-3, along with references to the relevant part of the EIS where issues raised have been considered and addressed.

**Table 3-3  
Consultation Summary – NSW Division of Resources and Energy**

Date of Consultation	Consultation Context	Key Issues Raised
October 2012	Briefing for Modification 5 and the Project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mining titles (Section 6).</li> <li>• Mine infrastructure (Section 2).</li> </ul>
June 2013	Briefing for Modification 5 and the Project.	
July 2013	Approval from the DRE for the Groundwater Monitoring and Modelling Plan prepared for EL 7091.	
February 2014	Approval from the DRE for the Groundwater Monitoring and Modelling Plan (EL 7091 and EL 6169).	
February 2014	Briefing for Modification 6 and the Project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mine layouts and scheduling (Section 2).</li> <li>• MLAs (Sections 2 and 6).</li> <li>• Environmental Management (Sections 2, 4, 5 and 7).</li> <li>• Spontaneous Combustion (Sections 2.10.5 and 4.6).</li> <li>• Coal resources (Section 2).</li> <li>• Rehabilitation (Section 5).</li> </ul>
March 2014	Briefing for Modification 6 and the Project.	
June 2014	Briefing for Modification 6 and the Project.	
September 2014	Presentation of Conceptual Project Development Plan.	
September 2014	DRE supports the Project proceeding through the EP&A Act assessment Process.	
October 2014	Meeting regarding Wilpinjong Coal Mine life of mine.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mine closure (Section 5.6).</li> </ul>
November 2014	Comments and specific input to the Project SEARs documented in a letter dated 21 November 2014.	
February 2015	Project briefing meeting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment of the significance of the resource to be conducted by the DRE (Section 6.7).</li> <li>• The number and proposed locations of final voids (Section 2.13).</li> </ul>
June 2015	Site visit and update on the Project.	
September 2015	Site tour and provision of information to inform the assessment of the significance of the resource and discussion of MLAs.	
October 2015	Update on the Project and discussion of MLAs.	
November 2015	Update on the Project.	

### ***Roads and Maritime Services (within the New South Wales Department of Transport)***

The NSW Roads and Maritime Services' (RMS) comments and specific input to the Project SEARs were documented in a letter dated 18 November 2014 (Attachment 1). In summary, the issues raised by the RMS were in relation to:

- potential traffic impacts and the capacity of local and classified road networks (Section 4.13 and Appendix J);
- parking arrangements for the Project (Sections 2.6.6 and 4.13 and Appendix J); and
- requirements for road and electrical infrastructure realignments (Sections 2.6.1, 2.6.2, 2.6.3 and 4.13 and Appendix J).

A Project summary letter was sent to the RMS in April 2015 and a Project meeting was held on-site with the RMS in June 2015. No additional Project issues were raised during the on-site meeting.

The issues raised by the RMS have been considered during the preparation of this EIS and are addressed in Section 4.13 and Appendix J.

### ***New South Wales Department of Education***

A meeting was held with the NSW Department of Education in October 2014 to introduce the Project.

An interview was conducted with a representative of the Department of Education in February 2015 for the Social Impact Assessment. Representatives of Wollar Public School and Ulan Public School were also interviewed as part of this assessment (Appendix N).

Further consultation with the Department of Education on the status of the Wollar Public School was undertaken in June and September 2015.

Issues raised by the Department of Education have been considered during the preparation of this EIS (Section 4.17 and Appendix N).

### ***New South Wales Local Land Services (within the New South Wales Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development)***

A Project summary letter was sent to the NSW Local Land Services in April 2015, and no issues were raised in response.

### ***New South Wales Heritage Council***

A Project summary letter was sent to the NSW Heritage Council in April 2015, and no issues were raised in response.

### ***New South Wales Dams Safety Committee***

A Project summary letter and description of proposed dams and dam modifications was sent to the NSW Dams Safety Committee in July 2015 and no issues were raised in response.

### ***New South Wales Rural Fire Service***

Comments and specific input to the Project SEARs were documented in correspondence from the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) dated 19 November 2014 (Attachment 1). The comments, regarding bushfire protection, have been taken into consideration in this EIS.

In addition, a representative of the NSW RFS was interviewed as part of the Social Impact Assessment (Appendix N).

## **3.1.3 Local Government Agencies**

### ***Mid-Western Regional Council***

Consultation with the MWRC continues to be undertaken regularly in relation to the Wilpinjong Coal Mine, particularly regarding the implementation of the Ulan Road Strategy and WCPL's existing Voluntary Planning Agreement.

A summary of the consultation with the MWRC in relation to the Project is provided in Table 3-4, along with references to the relevant part of the EIS where issues raised have been considered and addressed.

## **3.1.4 Federal Government Agencies**

### ***Commonwealth Department of the Environment***

A summary of the consultation with the Commonwealth Department of the Environment (DotE) in relation to the Project is provided in Table 3-5, along with references to the relevant part of the EIS where issues raised have been considered and addressed.



**Table 3-4  
Consultation Summary – Mid-Western Regional Council**

Date of Consultation	Consultation Context	Key Issues Raised
December 2012	Briefing for Modification 5 and the Project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biodiversity offsets (Sections 4.9 and Appendix E).</li> </ul>
February 2014	Briefing for Modification 6 and the Project.	
November 2014	Comments and specific input to the Project SEARs documented in a letter dated 20 November 2014.	
February 2015	Interviews for the Social Impact Assessment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cumulative impacts, in the context of potentially concurrent other projects and associated timeframes (Section 4.17.2 and Appendix N).</li> <li>Future of Village of Wollar – population and service access (Section 4.17.2 and Appendix N).</li> </ul>
March 2015	Project meeting with the General Manager.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Impacts on local roads (Section 4.13.2 and Appendix J).</li> <li>Sealing sections of Ulan-Wollar Road (Section 4.13.2 and Appendix J).</li> <li>Voluntary Planning Agreement.</li> </ul>
March 2015	Project meeting with the Councillors.	
April 2015	Project briefing meeting.	
May 2015	Letter sent to MWRC regarding land contamination records for the Project's provisional development application area.	
May 2015	Letter received from MWRC stating that the Council does not have a Contaminated Lands Register.	
September 2015	Project meetings with the Councillors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noise (Section 4.3 and Appendix A).</li> <li>Air quality (Section 4.4 and Appendix B).</li> <li>Transport (Section 4.13 and Appendix J).</li> <li>Community infrastructure and associated contributions (Voluntary Planning Agreement) (Section 4.17 and Appendix N).</li> </ul>
December 2012 to September 2015 (quarterly)	CCC meetings (MWRC is represented on the Wilpinjong Coal Mine CCC).	
October 2015	Project consultation and meetings regarding the Voluntary Planning Agreement.	

**Table 3-5  
Consultation Summary – Commonwealth Department of the Environment**

Date of Consultation	Consultation Context	Key Issues Raised
February 2015	Referral of the Project under the EPBC Act lodged with DotE.	
March 2015	Project meeting to discuss aspects of the Referral.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential impacts on listed threatened species and communities (Sections 4.9.2 and Appendix E).</li> <li>Potential impacts on water resources (Sections 4.7.2 and 4.8.2 and Appendices C and D).</li> </ul>
March 2015	Declaration of a Controlled Action decision under the EPBC Act in a letter dated 12 March 2015, with the following controlling provisions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 and 18A of the EPBC Act); and</li> <li>a water resource, in relation to coal seam gas development or large coal mining development (sections 24D and 24E of the EPBC Act).</li> </ul>	
June 2015	Comments and specific input to the Project SEARs in a letter dated 22 June 2015.	
July 2015	Telephone discussion regarding Commonwealth biodiversity offset requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Federal biodiversity offset requirements under the bilateral assessment system (Section 4.9 and Appendix E).</li> </ul>
October 2015	Telephone discussion regarding biodiversity offset calculators.	

**3.1.5 Infrastructure Owners and Service Providers**

***TransGrid***

TransGrid owns and maintains the Wollar to Wellington 330 kV ETL located in Slate Gully and to the north of the Sandy Hollow Gulgong Railway, which would require relocation for the Project (Section 2.6.3) (Figure 1-4).

Consultation with TransGrid regarding the relocation of the ETL commenced in early 2013. WCPL consulted regularly with TransGrid throughout 2013 in relation to the approval process required for the ETL relocation.

A meeting was held in May 2014 with TransGrid representatives to discuss the Project and the conceptual relocation design for the ETL.

Additional meetings either on-site at the Wilpinjong Coal Mine or at TransGrid's offices were held in July, September, October and November 2014 and February 2015. Liaison via telephone discussion and email has continued thereafter until the time of submission of this EIS.

***Australian Rail Track Corporation***

A Project summary letter was sent to the ARTC in February 2015, and no issues were raised in response.

A second letter was sent to the ARTC in March 2015 requesting confirmation of WCPL's access to the Sandy Hollow Gulgong Railway for the duration of the Project, and information regarding the capacity of the line.

A response letter was received in June 2015. The letter confirmed Wilpinjong Coal Mine rail access to the Sandy Hollow Gulgong Railway would remain available for the duration of the Project.

In October 2015, ARTC was provided additional information regarding the relocation of the rail crossing required for the Project, and no issues were raised in response.

### **Essential Energy**

A Project summary letter was sent to Essential Energy in February 2015.

A response letter was received from Essential Energy in March 2015 noting requirements for ETL relocation.

A further update on the Project was provided to Essential Energy in October 2015.

Consultation with Essential Energy regarding continuing Project energy requirements and the existing agreed electrical transfer capacity for the Wilpinjong Coal Mine is ongoing.

### **Coal Transport Service Providers**

A Project summary letter was sent to the following coal transport service providers in February 2015:

- Aurizon;
- Newcastle Coal Infrastructure Group;
- Pacific National; and
- Port Waratah Coal Services.

No issues were raised by any of these service providers in response.

### **Telstra**

The Project would require relocation of Telstra fibre optic cables situated near Ulan-Wollar Road. A letter was sent to Telstra in October 2015 introducing the Project and providing additional detail regarding the proposed fibre optic cable relocations for the Project, and no issues were raised in response.

### **Other Social Infrastructure Providers**

In addition to those described above, a number of other social infrastructure providers were interviewed as part of the Social Impact Assessment (Appendix N), including:

- Mudgee Medical Clinic;
- NSW Ambulance Service; and
- NSW Police.

### **3.1.6 Other Resource Companies**

#### **Moolarben Coal**

WCPL meets with Moolarben Coal regularly to discuss specific and cumulative impact issues (i.e. Ulan Road upgrades). Additionally, a Project summary letter was sent to Moolarben Coal in February 2015, and no issues were raised in response.

Consultation with Moolarben Coal is ongoing regarding potential for mining barrier coal between the approved Moolarben Coal Complex Open Cut 4 and the extensions to Pit 6 for the Project, as well as the potential for rationalisation of final voids between the two mines. Consultation has included various communications, emails and meetings from March 2015 until the submission of this EIS.

#### **Ulan Coal Mines Limited**

WCPL meets with UCML regularly to discuss specific and cumulative impact issues (i.e. Ulan Road upgrades). Additionally, a Project summary letter was sent to UCML in February 2015, and no issues were raised in response.

#### **KEPCO**

A meeting was held with KEPCO in April 2015 to introduce the Project and discuss the status of the Bylong Coal Project.

A letter was sent to KEPCO in July 2015 to confirm aspects of the Bylong Coal Project that would be relevant to potential cumulative impact considerations for the Project.

On 23 September 2015, KEPCO commenced exhibition of the Bylong Coal Project EIS (KEPCO, 2015). WCPL also met with KEPCO to discuss the Bylong Coal Project in October 2015 and provided a submission to the DP&E on the Bylong Coal Project EIS in November 2015.

#### **AGL Macquarie**

WCPL consults regularly with AGL Macquarie for provision of domestic product coal from the Wilpinjong Coal Mine for NSW electricity generation.

In October 2015, AGL Macquarie participated in a site tour and briefing on the Project and no issues were raised following the site tour and briefing.

### ***Dart Energy (Apollo) Pty Ltd***

Dart Energy (Apollo) Pty Ltd holds PEL 456, which covers the Development Application area for the Project.

A Project summary letter was sent to Dart Energy (Apollo) Pty Ltd in October 2015, and no issues were raised in response.

### **3.1.7 Public Consultation**

#### ***Local Community and Affected Landholders***

One on one consultation with local landholders conducted for Modification 5 and Modification 6 during 2013 and 2014 included provision of an outline of the Project.

Letters were sent to a number of residents in December 2014 to introduce the Project and to invite them to participate in interviews for the Social Impact Assessment (Appendix N). A number of current and former residents of the Village of Wollar and the immediate surrounding area were interviewed in February and March 2015 as part of the Social Impact Assessment.

During the preparation of this EIS, Project-specific newsletters were produced by WCPL in December 2014, May 2015 and September 2015 and distributed to inform the local community about the Project, and to provide updates on the progress of the EIS and specialist studies. A newsletter, focussing on WCPL's management of spontaneous combustion associated with legacy temporary waste rock emplacement landforms, was also distributed in November 2014.

The Project newsletters were distributed to:

- local residents in the Village of Wollar and the immediate surrounding area;
- the Wilpinjong Coal Mine CCC;
- the local RFS;
- the MWRC;
- Moolarben Coal;
- UCML;
- the Mudgee Chamber of Commerce;
- WCPL employees; and
- the broader community through placement on the WCPL website (Section 3.2.3) and by making the newsletters available at the Wollar General Store.

Copies of the Project newsletters are provided in Attachment 9.

Since 2012 and throughout the development of this EIS, WCPL continued to consult with the local community through monthly 'Have A Chat' sessions held at the Wollar general store. Local residents are encouraged to use the sessions to voice any questions or concerns they may have in relation to the existing Wilpinjong Coal Mine or the Project.

In addition, WCPL continues to liaise with the local community through the established Wilpinjong Coal Mine CCC (Section 3.2.2).

At the Wilpinjong Coal Mine CCC meeting held in November 2012, WCPL introduced the Project to the CCC members. At CCC meetings throughout 2013 and 2014, WCPL provided progressive updates on the Project.

After submission of the Project Summary and Preliminary Environmental Assessment, WCPL presented an overview of the Project and described the key milestones in the planning and assessment process at the Wilpinjong Coal Mine CCC meeting held in December 2014.

At subsequent Wilpinjong Coal Mine CCC meetings held in March, June and September 2015, WCPL provided updates on the EIS and specialist studies and described refinements to the Project since the Project Summary and Preliminary Environmental Assessment was lodged. The March 2015 CCC meeting included a briefing on noise assessment methodology by the Project's noise specialist (SLR Consulting). The September 2015 CCC meeting included presentations by the Project's air quality, noise and blasting and groundwater specialists on the draft results of their respective assessments (Todoroski Air Sciences, SLR Consulting and HydroSimulations, respectively).

A community information session for the Project was held in September 2015 at the Wollar general store. Notification of the community information session was provided directly to approximately 50 stakeholders on WCPL's stakeholder register via the third Project newsletter, as well as notices distributed via the CCC and placed in the general store. Six community members attended the information session.

The community information session provided members of the local community with the opportunity to raise any specific questions or issues of concern relating to the Project with WCPL representatives and talk directly with key technical specialists about draft study results.

Issues raised by members of the local community have been considered during the preparation of this EIS. Issues raised during the Project community information session relevant to the EIS included, but were not limited to potential:

- operational and rail noise impacts on residents of the Village of Wollar and rural areas (Sections 4.3.2 and 4.14.2 and Appendix A);
- blasting vibration and overpressure impacts on residents of the Village of Wollar and rural areas (Section 4.5.2 and Appendix A);
- air quality and spontaneous combustion impacts on residents of the Village of Wollar and rural areas (Sections 4.4.2 and 4.6.2 and Appendix B); and
- social impacts on the Village of Wollar and the surrounding area (Section 4.17.2 and Appendix N).

In addition, a number of landholders in the Village of Wollar who were considered likely to have existing groundwater bores were invited to participate in an update of the bore census that had previously been completed for the Wilpinjong Coal Mine.

WCPL has also consulted with landholders in the immediate vicinity of the mine with regard to potential property acquisitions.

### **Community Survey**

In February and March 2015 a community survey was conducted as part of the Project Social Impact Assessment.

The local and wider regional community was encouraged to participate through the distribution of approximately 100 reply-paid surveys to local residents, and the advertising of an online survey in the Mudgee Guardian with an accompanying editorial article.

A total of 51 survey responses were received, with 50 from residents of the Mid-Western Regional LGA. Some 13 survey responses were from the Wollar area, and 37 survey responses were from the wider Mid-Western Regional LGA.

The issues raised by the survey responses are presented and addressed in the Social Impact Assessment (Appendix N) and Section 4.17.2.

### **Aboriginal Community**

Aboriginal community consultation (Plate 3-1) was undertaken in accordance with OEH's *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010a) and the *Draft Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment and Community Consultation* (DEC, 2005b).

In accordance with these guidelines, WCPL notified the following parties regarding the Project:

- the Office of the Registrar (NSW *Aboriginal Land Rights Act, 1983*);
- the OEH;
- the MWRC;
- the Native Title Services Corporation Ltd (NTSCORP);
- the Mudgee Local Aboriginal Land Council (Mudgee LALC);
- the Hunter – Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority (now the Central Tablelands Local Land Services); and
- the National Native Title Tribunal.

In addition to the written notifications, a public notice was placed in the Mudgee Guardian (9 November 2012) seeking registrations from interested Aboriginal parties. The public notice invited Aboriginal persons or groups who wished to be consulted in relation to the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the Project to contact WCPL.



**Plate 3-1: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Visit**

Subsequent to the above, the following Aboriginal parties/groups registered their interest in being involved in the consultation process:

- Binjang Wellington Wiradjuri Heritage Survey (Binjang WWHS);
- the Mudgee LALC;
- Murong Gialinga Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Corporation (MGATSIC);
- North East Wiradjuri Company Ltd (NEWCO);
- Paul Brydon;
- Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council (Wanaruah LALC);
- Warrabinga Native Title Claimants Aboriginal Corporation (WNTCAC); and
- Wellington Valley Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation (WVWAC).

All stakeholders who registered were invited to participate in the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (i.e. the Registered Aboriginal Parties [RAPs]).

Following discussion with WCPL, the Wanaruah LALC requested to only be provided with a copy of the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for review and did not seek further involvement in the consultation process associated with the Project.

Following completion of the registration period for the Project, an expression of interest and registration for the Project was received from Yinarr Cultural Services. Yinarr Cultural Services was invited to participate in the consultation process as an Interested Stakeholder and was provided with copies of relevant documentation for review.

All of the RAPs and Interested Stakeholders were provided with a copy of the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for review and comment in April 2015. A detailed description of the consultation undertaken with the RAPs and Interested Stakeholders during the preparation of this EIS is provided in the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (Appendix G) and Section 4.10.1.

### **Staff and Contractors**

Up to approximately 550 people are employed at the Wilpinjong Coal Mine. This includes WCPL staff and on-site contractors' personnel.

An employee survey was conducted as part of the Social Impact Assessment, with 325 employee responses obtained. The issues raised by the survey responses are presented and addressed in the Social Impact Assessment (Appendix N) and Section 4.17.2.

In addition to the mechanisms described in Section 3.2 and the employee survey, regular meetings and briefings for employees have been conducted during the preparation of this EIS.

### **Community Groups**

WCPL has consulted with a range of community groups in regard to the Project, including, but not limited to:

- the Mudgee Historical Society;
- the Anglican Church (Bathurst Diocese);
- the Catholic Church (Bathurst Diocese);
- the NSW RFS; and
- the Mudgee and Gulgong Chambers of Commerce.

Where relevant to the Project, issues raised by the various community groups during consultation have been addressed during the preparation of this EIS.

## **3.2 COMMUNITY INITIATIVES AND INVOLVEMENT**

### **3.2.1 Community Relations**

Peabody Energy's corporate stewardship approach with respect to community relations is as follows:

*The communities in which Peabody operates are critical to the successful management of our mines and the welfare of our employees across Australia. We take a proactive approach to communicating with community groups and we support their efforts to improve local facilities and services.*

*Our sponsorship program in Australia is aligned with our corporate objectives and strategies, and broadly encompasses five categories:*

- *Community projects in the regions where we operate, such as local festivals and shows, school sports and infrastructure*
- *Environmental awareness through local conservation groups*
- *Education and training, such as trade programs in local schools and graduate programs*
- *Youth development in areas of arts, sports, health and safety*
- *Employee involvement in the regions in which we operate.*

*In addition to financial support at a corporate level, our employees contribute their time, energy and skills to a range of community projects.*

### **3.2.2 Community Consultative Committee**

The CCC is established and operates in accordance with Project Approval 05-0021.

The CCC meets quarterly and the meeting minutes are available publicly on the WCPL website. Members of the CCC were selected based on nominations from community representatives and other stakeholders and includes local residents, and MWRC and WCPL representatives approved by the DP&E.

As described in Section 3.1.7, during the preparation of this EIS, briefings on the status and progress of the Project were provided and discussed with the members of the CCC.

### **3.2.3 Website and Community Hotline**

WCPL maintains a website within the Peabody Energy web domain (<http://www.peabodyenergy.com>) for the general public to keep up to date with the operations of the Wilpinjong Coal Mine.

The web domain is a significant source of information including:

- mine operations;
- environmental management plans;
- environmental monitoring results;
- independent environmental audits;

- annual reviews;
- complaints register;
- Wilpinjong Coal Mine CCC meeting minutes;
- Project newsletters;
- upcoming 'Have A Chat' session dates;
- blasting schedule and Blasting Hotline;
- Community Hotline; and
- contact details.

WCPL maintains a dedicated community hotline (1300 606 625) for residents to contact WCPL with any questions or concerns they may have regarding the Wilpinjong Coal Mine.

### 3.2.4 Community Contributions, Programmes and Sponsorships

WCPL financial contributions to the MWRC in accordance with Wilpinjong Coal Mine Planning Agreements and Project Approval 05-0021 include:

- an initial payment of \$450,000 prior to the first shipment of coal from the site;
- an annual payment of \$70,000 per year for community infrastructure and road maintenance contributions;
- \$20,000 per year for the period 2007 to 2009 to assist with the development of school bus lay-by areas along Ulan Road;
- a \$600,000 contribution to road upgrades that was negotiated as a component of the Mining Rate Modification;
- either \$50,000 cash or the equivalent value in gravel to be used by MWRC for the upgrading of Ulan-Wollar Road; and
- additional annual community infrastructure and amenity contributions that are calculated using a formula in Project Approval 05-0021 that correlates the relative monetary contribution to the total site workforce (WCPL contributions under this formula in 2013 and 2014 totalled approximately \$525,000).

UCML, Moolarben Coal, MWRC and WCPL are also co-funding implementation of the Ulan Road Strategy that will result in significant upgrades to Ulan Road.

WCPL also makes financial and in-kind contributions to a number of non-government and community organisations in the region. WCPL financial contributions (in the form of sponsorships, donations and in-kind support) to various education, community development, health, environmental, arts, culture and youth services causes in the region totalled over \$200,000 in 2013 and 2014 combined. It is expected that financial and in-kind contributions in 2015 will total approximately \$100,000.

Past recipients of financial contributions have included:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Mudgee Scouts;
- Barnardos – Mudgee Branch;
- Can Assist Mudgee & District;
- Cancer Council NSW (Mudgee Relay for Life);
- Central Tablelands Local Land Services;
- Cooks Gap Fire Brigade;
- Cooyal Bushfire Brigade;
- Cooyal Parents Association;
- Cudgegong Learning Committee;
- Fun4Funds;
- Future Achievement Australia Foundation (Max Potential);
- Gulgong Folk Club Inc;
- Gulgong Polocrosse;
- Gulgong Returned and Services League;
- Gulgong Turf Club;
- Leukaemia Foundation of Queensland;
- Little Wings – Everyday Hero;
- Mudgee Airport;
- Mudgee District Tennis Club;
- Mudgee Lions Club;
- Mudgee Show Society;
- Mudgee Tourism;
- NSWERA Endurance Ride;
- Police Citizens Youth Club Mudgee;
- Rotary Club of Mudgee – Sunrise;
- University of Wollongong;
- Watershed Landcare;
- Wollar Progress Association;
- Cudgegong Public School;
- Gulgong All Hallows School;



- Gulgong High School;
- Kandos Public School;
- Mudgee High School;
- St Matthews Catholic College;
- Ulan Public School;
- Wollar Public School;
- Black Nugget Cup (local charity fundraising event);
- Bylong Mouse Races (local charity fundraising event);
- Life Skills Plus (local disability service provider);
- Lifehouse (cancer treatment centre);
- Movember (charity fundraising event);
- Mudgee Hospital;
- Mudgee Veteran Golfers (local charity fundraising event);
- Ride for Jade (local charity fundraising event);
- Gulgong Prince of Wales Eisteddfod;
- Henry Lawson Festival;
- Mudgee Agricultural Show;
- Mudgee Readers Festival;
- MWRC Seniors Week; and
- Rylstone Street Festival.

WCPL would continue to provide funding contributions to community programmes and groups during the life of the Project.

### 3.2.5 Public Reporting

In accordance with Project Approval 05-0021 for the Wilpinjong Coal Mine, WCPL produces an Annual Review and an Annual Environmental Management Report (AEMR) to review the environmental performance of the mine. Copies of historical AEMRs and WCPL's monthly environmental monitoring reports are available on the WCPL website (Section 3.2.3).

Peabody Energy also publishes Annual and Quarterly reports for investors which are made available within the Peabody Energy web domain (Section 3.2.3).

Peabody Energy is registered on the National Greenhouse and Energy Register (established under section 16 of the Commonwealth *National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act, 2007* [NGER Act]), which is publicly available on the Commonwealth Clean Energy Regulator website (<http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/>). Peabody Energy's reporting requirements under the NGER Act are described in Sections 4.18 and 6.4.2.

Information relevant to the Wilpinjong Coal Mine EPL (EPL 12425) is available via a public register on the EPA's website ([www.epa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au)).

WCPL also produces annual National Pollutant Inventory (NPI) reports, which are publicly available on the Federal Government's NPI website ([www.npi.gov.au](http://www.npi.gov.au)).

### 3.2.6 Contractors and Suppliers

WCPL engages more than 80 contractors and suppliers in the region at the existing Wilpinjong Coal Mine, including:

- BB'S Hydraulics;
- CR Engineering Australia;
- Coates Hire – Mudgee;
- Double R Heavy Equipment Repairs;
- Fence U Pty Ltd;
- Furneys;
- GB Auto Electrics – Mudgee;
- I&A Hire Pty Ltd;
- Jaycee's Advance Concretors Pty Ltd;
- Mid West Earthworks;
- Mudgee Bearing Industrial & Safety;
- Mudgee Cranes;
- Mudgee Dolomite and Lime Pty Ltd;
- P&A Engineering;
- RB Irrigation Technology;
- Stainless Systems Pty Ltd; and
- Westrac Pty Ltd.

Wherever practicable, WCPL endeavours to utilise the services of local providers. Approval of the Project would allow WCPL to continue to support local suppliers and contractors at the Wilpinjong Coal Mine, providing additional security and longevity of employment in the region.