

Rix's Creek North Open Cut Mine

Application Number: **02691**

Commencement Date:

Status: **Locked**

15/11/2024

1. About the project

1.1 Project details

1.1.1 Project title *

Rix's Creek North Open Cut Mine

1.1.2 Project industry type *

Mining

1.1.3 Project industry sub-type

Coal

1.1.4 Estimated start date *

01/07/2025

1.1.4 Estimated end date *

31/12/2035

1.2 Proposed Action details

1.2.1 Provide an overview of the proposed action, including all proposed activities. *

Proposed Action

The Proposed Action relates to the mining operations yet to be undertaken at the Rix's Creek North open cut coal mine (RCN) as currently approved under MP 08_0102 (as modified) (State Approved Mining Operations) which was granted under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) on 26 November 2010. MP 08_0102 (as modified) provides approval for the following, as relevant to the Proposed Action:

- Recover coal from eight coal seams within the Camberwell, Dulwich and Falbrook Pits at a rate of up to 6 Million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) of Run of Mine (ROM) coal until the end of 2035;
- Recover the remaining 28.2 Million tonnes (Mt) of ROM coal;
- ROM coal recovery through highwall or auger mining methods (where feasible);
- Construction of overburden emplacement areas within and adjacent to the Camberwell, Dulwich and Falbrook Pits;
- Processing of up to 8.7 Mtpa of ROM coal at the RCN CHPP from RCN, RCS and Integra Underground and transportation of up to 7.3 Mtpa of product coal via the RCM rail loop;
- Transport of coal from RCN to RCS CHPP for processing and rail transport;
- Receipt of coal for processing at the RCN CHPP and rail transport from RCS;
- Receipt of up to 5 million bank cubic metres (Mbcm) per annum of overburden materials from RCS;
- CHPP and infrastructure optimisations, including upgrades to the ROM coal handling infrastructure, installation of tailings dewatering facilities and increased thickener capacity, increased stockpile capacities and other improvements;
- Waste management activities;
- Use of an in pit mobile crusher; and
- Disturbance to approximately 275 hectares (ha) of land within the Proposed Action Boundary which has not been subject to mining operations to date.

A conceptual project layout of the State Approved Mining Operations under MP 08_0102 (as modified) is provided within **Figure 1 of Attachment A - Figures**. A layout of the proposed action area is provided in **Figure 2 of Attachment A - Figures** and a consolidated summary of the State Approved Mining Operations under MP 08_0102 (as modified) is provided within **Attachment B – Consolidated Project Description**. It is important to note that this consolidated summary is to be used to portray the activities approved under MP 08_0102 (as modified) and should be read in conjunction with the relevant approvals documentation which can be found at <https://www.bloomcoll.com.au/sustainability/environmental-management/rixs-creek-assessments/environmental-assessments>

The Proposed Action Area covers an area of approximately 1,417.6 ha, including land within the RCN Project Boundary where 08_0102 authorises the State Approved Mining Operations (see **Figure 2 of Attachment A - Figures**). The Proposed Action Area has been divided into four domains:

Domain 1

Covers approximately 1,061 ha, mostly located within Coal Lease (CL) 357 which was granted on 27 March 1990. The mining and associated activities within this domain subject to the Proposed Action are those from 1 September 2027 until the end of 2035.

Mining activities which are currently undertaken within CL 357 (and are proposed to continue as part of the Proposed Action from 1 September 2027) include overburden emplacement, rehabilitation (including final mine closure, decommissioning, maintenance and final landform development), environmental monitoring, water management, ROM coal stockpiles, coal processing activities at the existing RCN CHPP, tailings disposal and co-disposal of coarse and fine reject materials within the OEAs, maintenance of equipment at the workshop, use of administration buildings, mine access road and other ancillary mining activities, including exploration.

The Falbrook Pit mining operations partially extend into the mine rehabilitation areas within the north western portion of this domain.

The haul roads, overburden emplacement areas and other mining infrastructure within this domain will continue to be utilised between 1 September 2027 and the end of 2035. Existing tailings dams within this domain will continue to be utilised for the management of CHPP tailings and reject materials. As the key infrastructure is already established within this domain, there will be limited vegetation disturbance as a result of the mining and associated activities within this domain subject to the Proposed Action from 1 September 2027 until the end of 2035.

State Approved Mining Operations that do not result in potential significant impacts to MNES will continue to be undertaken prior to 1 September 2027 and are not included within the Proposed Action.

Domain 2

Covers approximately 135 ha and includes the Falbrook Pit void (currently being used to manage mine water), overburden emplacement areas, mine rehabilitation areas, Possum Skin Dam, water management diversion structures and patches of native vegetation.

The Proposed Action entails the remaining open cut mining within the Falbrook Pit (following EPBC Act approval (i.e. no coal will be mined until the requirements of the EPBC Act are addressed)). The remaining coal resource within the Falbrook Pit to be recovered as part of the Proposed Action is estimated at approximately 6.8 Mt of ROM coal (part of which will be recovered from Domain 1).

The Proposed Action also includes overburden emplacement, rehabilitation (including final mine closure, decommissioning, maintenance and final landform development), environmental monitoring, co-disposal of coarse and fine reject materials within the OEAs, internal haul roads and other ancillary mining activities, including exploration that are proposed to take place after 1 September 2027. The Proposed Action also includes water management in connection with mining within this domain from 1 September 2027.

State Approved Mining Operations that do not result in potential significant impacts to MNES will continue to be undertaken prior to 1 September 2027 and are not included as part of the Proposed Action.

Domain 3

Covers approximately 81.6 ha and includes the existing mining operations within the Camberwell Pit (and southern portion of the Dulwich Pit). No native vegetation remains within this domain. The Proposed Action includes the mining operations within this domain from 1 September 2027 until the end of 2035. This includes the recovery of any remaining ROM coal, overburden emplacement, rehabilitation (including final mine closure, decommissioning, maintenance and final landform development), environmental monitoring, co-disposal of coarse and fine reject materials within the OEAs, internal haul roads and other ancillary mining activities, including exploration.

State Approved Mining Operations that do not result in potential significant impacts to MNES will continue to be undertaken prior to 1 September 2027 and are not part of the Proposed Action.

Domain 4

Covers approximately 140 ha which encompasses existing topsoil stockpiles, water management structures and access tracks previously installed in connection with mining operations as well as pasture lands (part of which is currently privately owned) and a section of Middle Falbrook Road. The Proposed Action includes the ongoing mining operations within the Camberwell and Dulwich Pits to the west and the north of existing operations, respectively. The Proposed Action also includes ongoing water management activities and topsoil recovery within this domain in conjunction with State Approved Mining Operations from 1 September 2027 until the end of 2035.

State Approved Mining Operations that do not result in potential significant impacts to MNES will continue to be undertaken prior to 1 September 2027 and are not included as part of the Proposed Action.

Proposed Action Summary

The Proposed Action may result in potential direct and/or indirect impacts to MNES in the following way:

- Approximately 87.5 ha of land containing native vegetation (within Domains 2 and 4) that conforms to three Plant Community Types (PCTs). Limited native vegetation disturbance may also occur within Domain 1. This 87.5 ha of native vegetation disturbance may potentially directly and indirectly impact:
 - Listed flora and fauna threatened species, their habitat, or threatened ecological communities; and
 - Listed fauna migratory species or their habitat.
- Continued mining activities at RCN from 1 September 2027 until the end of 2035 within the Project Action Area which may result in direct and indirect impacts to:
 - Listed flora and fauna threatened species, their habitat, or threatened ecological communities;
 - Listed fauna migratory species or their habitat; and
 - Water resources in connection with an open cut coal mine.

Background

RCN (previously known as Camberwell, Glennies Creek and Integra) forms part of the Rix's Creek Mine (RCM) located in the Hunter Valley of NSW. Bloomfield Collieries Pty Ltd (Bloomfield) owns and operates the RCM which is located approximately 5 km north of Singleton at its closest point and both east and west of the New England Highway (see **Figure 1** within **Attachment A** - Figures).

RCM is the collective name for RCN and the Rix's Creek South Open Cut Mine (RCS) (the original Rix's Creek Mine). RCN and RCS operate under separate development consent approvals under the EP&A Act, albeit is managed as a single mining complex.

1.2.2 Is the project action part of a staged development or related to other actions or proposals in the region?

Yes

1.2.3 Is the proposed action the first stage of a staged development (or a larger project)?

Yes

1.2.5 Provide information about the staged development (or relevant larger project).

The Proposed Action seeks approval under the EPBC Act for the State Approved Mining Operations which are undertaken for RCN pursuant to MP 08_0102 (as modified). The Proposed Action seeks to align the approvals platform under the EPBC Act with the existing approvals held under the NSW EP&A Act.

The need for a Referral under the EPBC Act for the State Approved Mining Operations has recently been identified as part of the consideration of the EPBC Act for Bloomfield's State Significant Development application (SSD 60774228) for the RCN Continuation Project. The RCN Continuation Project proposes the following activities to continue mining operations beyond those previously approved under MP 08_0102:

- The relocation of an approximate 4 kilometre (km) section of the New England Highway to the west, including Bloomfield removing and accepting some material associated with the formation of the new road alignment at Rix's Creek South (RCS);
- The westerly advancement of the operations within the Camberwell Pit mining through the current New England Highway alignment;
- The advancement of mining to the north and west of the Falbrook Pit out to Middle Falbrook and Stoney Creek Roads;
- Maintain the overall combined peak Run of Mine (ROM) extraction rate of 6 Million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) at RCN:
 - Falbrook Pit to reach 3.3 Mtpa (from the currently approved 1.5 Mtpa); and
 - Camberwell Pit to reach 4.5 Mtpa (as currently approved);
- A revised final landform, including changes to the number, location and volumes of the final voids;
- Ability to mine 24/7 in all areas, including in the Falbrook Pit (currently approved between 7 am and 10 pm);
- Ability to take overburden from RCN to RCS which will assist in improving rehabilitation outcomes;
- The extension of mine life from that currently approved for RCN (i.e. end 2035) by approximately 14 years until the end of 2049.

Unlike the State Approved Mining Operations which are currently being undertaken pursuant to MP 08_0102 which was granted under the NSW EP&A Act in 2010, the RCN Continuation Project is currently preparing an application under Division 4.7 of the EP&A Act to seek State approvals to proceed.

The RCN Continuation Project relates to the continuation of mining operations for a further 14 years beyond those currently approved for RCN under MP 08_0102 (as modified). Accordingly, the EPBC Referral for the RCN Continuation Project will be submitted separate to and will come after this EPBC Referral for the State Approved Mining Operations. It is also envisaged that the RCN Continuation Project approvals process will take a number of years, where the EPBC Act approvals for the State Approved Mining Operations are required to avoid suspension of existing mining operations.

1.2.6 What Commonwealth or state legislation, planning frameworks or policy documents are relevant to the proposed action, and how are they relevant? *

NSW Legislation

MP 08_0102 was granted on 26 November 2010 under the former Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). MP 08_0102 was originally granted to the previous owners of RCN, which operated the site as the Integra Open Cut Mine.

Prior to the grant of MP 08_0102, the site was known as Camberwell Coal Mine and operated pursuant to development consent DA 86/2889 (granted on 19 March 1990). The approved development under DA 86/2889 is described in the '*Camberwell Coal Project Environmental Impact Statement*' (Epps & Associates, 1989) (Camberwell EIS). DA 86/2889 was surrendered in 2017 following the grant of MP 08_0102.

The neighbouring Integra Underground Mine was formerly Glennies Creek Colliery and initially operated under DA 105/90 (granted under 1 November 1999). Although Glennies Creek Colliery was originally an underground mine, open cut mining was approved through PA 06_0073 for the Glennies Creek Open Cut Coal Project. PA 06_0073 was granted on 2 December 2008 and facilitated open cut mining of the area now known as the Falbrook Pit. PA 06_0073 was surrendered in 2017 following the grant of MP 08_0102 which encompassed the activities previously approved under PA 06_0073.

Mining Act 1992

The approved mining activities under MP 08_0102 are located within the boundaries of Coal Lease (CL) 357, ML 1630, ML 1648, ML 1649, ML 1650, ML 1651 and ML 1725. A new ML is required to cover the part of the surface title of CL 357 in the event that the approved RCN Full Pit Extent (Dulwich Pit) mine plan option is pursued. (see **Figure 1** within **Attachment A** - Figures).

Permissibility

Pursuant to clause 2.9(1)(b)(i) of the Resources and Energy SEPP, development for the purposes of mining can be carried out with development consent on land where development for the purposes of agriculture or industry may be carried out (with or without consent).

Under the *Singleton Local Environment Plan 2013* (Singleton LEP), the whole of the land on which the components of State Approved Mining Operations are proposed to be carried out is zoned RU1 (Primary Production) and SP2 (Infrastructure). Both land zoning classifications permit agricultural production and hence open cut mining is permissible with consent on land zoned RU1 (Primary Production) and SP2 (Infrastructure) in the Singleton LEP.

Gateway Process

Whilst a new ML is required over a small area of surface area where the existing ML doesn't extend to the surface within part of the State Approved Mining Operations, it is important to note that these mining operations have already been approved under the EP&A Act in 2010. Accordingly, the gateway process provisions do not apply to the State Approved Mining Operations under MP 08_0102 (as modified).

OTHER RELEVANT NSW POLICIES

Hunter Regional Plan 2041

The *Hunter Regional Plan 2041* (NSW Government, 2022) (HRP) aims to guide the NSW Government's land use planning priorities and decisions over the next 13 years in the Hunter Region. It provides an overarching framework to guide subsequent and more detailed land use plans, development proposals and infrastructure funding decisions.

The HRP includes actions to identify the land and infrastructure requirements to develop the Hunter's coal and alternative energy resources.

The State Approved Mining Operations are aligned with the following HRP's key goals:

- To continue contributing to developing the Hunter region as the leading regional economy;

- To provide ongoing opportunities for Hunter communities to thrive; and
- To ensure the ongoing employment within the region.

Singleton Local Strategic Planning Statement 2041

The *Singleton Local Strategic Planning Statement 2041* (Singleton Council, 2020) (SLSPS) is a local land use strategy that applies to the Singleton LGA, guiding land use policies and principles to 2041. The SLSPS was adopted by council in July 2020. The SLSPS aims to provide clear direction for Singleton Council and NSW Government agencies to guide decisions relating to future use of land within the Singleton LGA. It establishes a policy framework to facilitate opportunities as they emerge in the future.

The SLSPS recognises coal mining as a significant land use and economic driver of the Singleton LGA for the foreseeable future. The State Approved Mining Operations are aligned with the SLSPS as it aims to support continual economic development in the Singleton LGA.

Commonwealth Legislation, Policies and Guidelines

No approvals under the EPBC Act have been obtained for RCN (or the preceding Integra Open Cut Mine, Glennies Creek Open Cut Coal Project or Camberwell Coal Mine).

Section 68 of the EPBC Act requires a proponent to submit a Referral for any action that may have a significant impact on the matters of national environmental significance (MNES) protected under the Act. If a proponent considers that their action will not have a significant impact on MNES, they may also submit a Referral under Section 68 to seek the Minister's decision on whether their proposal is a 'controlled action'. If the Minister decides that the proposal is not a controlled action (i.e. it will not have a significant impact on MNES), approval under Part 9 of the EPBC Act is not required.

The previous owner considered the impacts of the Integra Open Cut Project and Glennies Creek Open Cut Coal Project on MNES when preparing the application for MP 08_0102. The previous owner concluded that the Project will not have a significant impact on MNES and as such, did not lodge a Referral under section 68 of the EPBC Act.

In addition to the requirement to make a Referral under Section 68 of the EPBC Act if the proposed action has the potential to result in significant impacts to MNES, there are a number of policies under the EPBC Act that will apply to the proposed action, including the:

- *EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy, 2012;*
- The Commonwealth Safeguard Mechanism, which was subject to reforms that commenced in July 2023, is enacted through the *National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007* (the NGER Act). The details are provided in the *National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (Safeguard Mechanism) Rule 2015*, the *Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Rule 2015* (CFI Rule) and the *Australian National Registry of Emissions Units Regulations 2011*; and
- *Significant Impact Guidelines 1.3 - Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Developments - Impacts on Water Resources, 2022.*

The Commonwealth Government released the *Nature Positive Plan: Better for the Environment, Better for Business* (Nature Positive Plan) (DCCEEW, 2022) on 8 December 2022 as a plan to respond to Professor Graeme Samuel's independent review of the EPBC Act, which was provided to the Government in October 2020. The Nature Positive Plan establishes three principles upon which the EPBC Act reform is seeking to achieve:

- The need to better protect Australia's environment and prevent further extinction of native plants and animals;
- Faster decision-making and clear priorities to provide certainty to project proponents, de-risk investments and promote sustainable economic development; and
- A commitment to restoring public accountability and trust in environmental decision-making through an independent Environment Protection Authority (EPA), regular reporting on progress towards

environmental goals and making environmental data publicly accessible.

The Commonwealth Government has proposed the rollout of the Nature Positive Plan over three key stages,:

- Stage 1 (Complete) - establishing the Nature Repair market and expanding the water trigger;
- Stage 2 establish the Commonwealth EPA, Environment Information Australia (EIA) and provide more support for faster environmental approval decisions on projects; and
- Stage 3 finalise environmental law reforms as outlined within the Nature Positive Plan.

Depending upon the ultimate timing of the environmental law reforms, the Project may need to be assessed under the transitional provisions of this law. Notwithstanding, it is noted that the Commonwealth Government has been progressively releasing draft National Environmental Standards for stakeholder review and comment. Bloomfield will review and provide inputs to these National Environmental Standards as required.

This referral for consideration of impacts for State Approved Mining Operations which were originally granted approval in 2010 is being made concurrent with an EPBC Referral for a separate but related action which is subject to a new SSD application (SSD 60774228) for which an Environmental Impact Statement is currently being prepared. In the event that the Proposed Action subject to this Referral is deemed a controlled action, it is envisaged that the proposed action may need to be assessed utilising a combination of existing documentation and contemporary assessments (i.e. the Bilateral Agreement will not be able to be relied upon).

There are no Strategic Assessments currently defined under the EPBC Act relevant to the proposed action or location.

1.2.7 Describe any public consultation that has been, is being or will be undertaken regarding the project area, including with Indigenous stakeholders. Attach any completed consultation documentations, if relevant. *

Bloomfield is a long-standing member of the community, providing employment opportunities, supporting local businesses, and developing strong relationships across the region. Bloomfield work with the local communities of Singleton and the surrounding areas where staff and suppliers reside.

Bloomfield recognises the importance of undertaking the proposed action in a manner that avoids and minimises potential impacts on the environment and local communities.

Bloomfield works with an open and transparent Community Consultative Committee (CCC), hosting two CCC meetings per year. The CCC Meetings provide a forum for discussions between the Mine and representatives of the community, stakeholder groups and Singleton Council. Minutes of CCC meetings are available on the Bloomfield website: limited concerns from the community representatives and other key stakeholders have been raised over the operations at RCN in recent years.

Whilst Bloomfield was not involved in the initial approvals processes for the Camberwell Coal Project EIS, Glennies Creek EIS or Integra EA, extensive consultation had been undertaken as part of these approvals processes by both the proponent and the NSW Government.

Stakeholder consultation and engagement has been undertaken for the currently approved RCN in 2007 as part of the Glennies Creek Open Cut Project EIS and in 2009 as part of the Integra Open Cut EA. The key objective of the stakeholder engagement for the Project were to ensure key stakeholders were:

- Appropriately inform stakeholders of the project parameters;
- Inform stakeholders of the approvals processes; and
- Provide opportunities for stakeholder to ask questions and identify areas of concern.

The previous community consultation completed for the RCN State Approved Mining Operations involved consultation with near neighbours via phone call to provide project information and presented an opportunity to provide feedback. Further face to face meetings were arranged with landholders who requested further discussion. Community newsletters were distributed to residents, community members and regulatory stakeholders to provide information and provide progress updates throughout the Project approvals process. Newspaper advertisements were placed and public information sessions to provide present the project and provide an opportunity to give feedback.

Ongoing consultation with regulatory agencies has taken place since the original approval of MP 08_0102 in relation to subsidiary approvals of management plans, strategies and monitoring programs, approved activities and modifications. Consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders has also been undertaken throughout the project approvals processes and during the operational period.

Some of the issues raised for the Project during consultation undertaken during the Glennies Creek EIS and Integra EA include:

- Noise and vibration;
- Air quality;
- Aboriginal heritage;
- Water resources;
- Ecology; and
- Cumulative impacts from surrounding operations.

Bloomfield reports the Community Complaints received in relation to the operations on an annual basis within its Annual Review. Since 2016 (when Bloomfield took over the management of RCN, the complaints have been predominantly related to noise and blasting, air quality and some lighting concerns. Bloomfield investigates all complaints and implements the necessary actions to manage impacts, where required. RCM received 13 complaints during 2024. These complaints related to lighting (3), noise (4), blasting (2), dust emissions (4) and vehicle speeds on the RCM access roads (1).

1.3.1 Identity: Referring party

Privacy Notice:

Personal information means information or an opinion about an identified individual, or an individual who is reasonably identifiable.

By completing and submitting this form, you consent to the collection of all personal information contained in this form. If you are providing the personal information of other individuals in this form, please ensure you have their consent before doing so.

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (the department) collects your personal information (as defined by the Privacy Act 1988) through this platform for the purposes of enabling the department to consider your submission and contact you in relation to your submission. If you fail to provide some or all of the personal information requested on this platform (name and email address), the department will be unable to contact you to seek further information (if required) and subsequently may impact the consideration given to your submission.

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Confirm that you have read and understand this Privacy Notice *

1.3.1.1 Is Referring party an organisation or business? *

Yes

Referring party organisation details

ABN/ACN 73112994715
Organisation name XENITH CONSULTING PTY LTD
Organisation address Eagle Street, Brisbane 4000 QLD

Referring party details

Name Nathan Cooper
Job title
Phone +61475679339
Email Nathan.Cooper@Xenith.com.au
Address Shops 4-6, Mezzanine Level, The Singleton Centre, 157-159 John Street
Singleton NSW

1.3.2 Identity: Person proposing to take the action

1.3.2.1 Are the Person proposing to take the action details the same as the Referring party details? *

No

1.3.2.2 Is Person proposing to take the action an organisation or business? *

Yes

Person proposing to take the action organisation details

ABN/ACN 76000106972
Organisation name BLOOMFIELD COLLIERIES PTY LTD
Organisation address 2323 NSW

Person proposing to take the action details

Name Brett Lewis
Job title Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer
Phone 02 4930 2600
Email Approvals@bloomcoll.com.au
Address Four Mile Creek Road, Ashtonfield NSW 2323

1.3.2.14 Are you proposing the action as part of a Joint Venture? *

No

1.3.2.15 Are you proposing the action as part of a Trust? *

No

1.3.2.17 Describe the Person proposing the action's history of responsible environmental management including details of any proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources against the Person proposing to take the action. *

Bloomfield and its subsidiaries are a reputable company having operated in Australia for over 80 years. Bloomfield is a proud and successful mining and engineering group, which is fully Australian owned and operated. The mining operations include the RCM and the Bloomfield Mine east of Maitland. The Hunter based Kings Engineering business is also owned by Bloomfield, who are also the owner of Biodiesel Industries Australia.

Bloomfield has operated the RCS (formally Rix's Creek Open Cut Mine) since 1990 and RCN since acquiring RCN (formally known as the Integra Mine) in 2015. RCS and RCN are operated together as part of the RCM.

The RCM operates in accordance with the requirements of its licences and approvals held by Bloomfield including the NSW development consent approvals held under the EP&A Act (see Section 1.2.6). Bloomfield also has an Environmental Management Strategy (EMS) prepared for the RCM (**Attachment C - EMS**). This EMS forms part of a series of Environmental Management Plans for the RCM. It outlines the processes implemented and the persons responsible in order for Bloomfield to effectively manage environmental best practice and compliance through audits and reviews and the establishment of a process for continual improvement of environmental performance. The EMS has been developed to:

- Facilitate the management of environmental issues;
- Ensure compliance with regulatory requirements;
- Improve environmental performance; and
- Meet stakeholder and community expectations.

Environmental performance of the RCM is monitored through regular inspections and environmental audits that determine whether the environmental objectives and targets are being met and identify areas of improvement. Bloomfield has not received any fines, infringements or penalties for environmental incidents at the RCM over the last five years.

However, it should be noted that Bloomfield's ultimate holding company, Big Ben Holdings Pty Ltd, also holds all issued shares in McDougall's Hill Development Holdings (ACN 114 577 383).

McDougall's Hill Development Holdings is part of a partnership with Hunter Land Developments Pty Ltd (ACN 094 895 093), under the name McDougall Business Park (ABN 13 549 455 840) (the Partnership).

The Partnership is currently corresponding with DCCEEW in relation to a potential inadvertent breach of the EPBC Act in relation to the suspected unlawful clearing of approximately 8.5 hectares of native vegetation (Reference CR-24-004922). This clearing was undertaken in accordance with DA8.2005.507.1, granted by Singleton Council on 3 April 2006 (as modified), to construct Stage 4 of the McDougall Business Park.

There have been no proceedings filed to date and the Partnership remain committed to working with DCCEEW to satisfactorily resolve this issue.

1.3.2.18 If the person proposing to take the action is a corporation, provide details of the corporation's environmental policy and planning framework

Bloomfield, its subsidiary and associated companies operate in accordance with the 'Bloomfield Group Environmental Policy', which is a core document in the EMS which establishes the framework for environmental management at the RCM (refer to **Attachment C** – EMS, Section 6, Pages 17-19). Bloomfield's goal is to achieve a high standard of care for the natural environment in all activities during the production of quality coal and the provision of engineering related services. Bloomfield aims to ensure all operations are conducted in an ecologically sustainable manner.

Environmental issues are managed at RCM to allow Bloomfield to:

- Ensure compliance with regulatory requirements;
- Continually improve its environmental performance; and
- Satisfy the expectations of stakeholders and the local community.

Environmental management plans and procedures have been developed for the EMS. These documents:

- Describe the core element of the management system and interactions; and
- Provide direction to related documentation and other references.

The levels of documentation within the EMS include:

- Environmental policy;
- Environmental objectives and targets;
- Management Plans;
- Procedures;
- Forms; and
- Registers.

The RCM EMS encompasses the following key Management Plans:

- RCM Environmental Management Strategy (**Attachment C** - EMS);
- RCM Bushfire Management Plan;
- RCM Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan;
- RCN Biodiversity Management Plan (**Attachment D** - BMP);
- RCN Heritage Management Plan;
- RCN Riparian Management Program;
- RCM Blast Management Plan;
- RCM Noise Management Plan;
- RCM Water Management Plan;
- RCM Rehabilitation Management Plan (**Attachment E** - 2025 RMP);
- 2024 RCM Annual Rehabilitation Report and Forward Program;
- RCM Explorations Activities Management Plan; and
- RCM Pollution Incident Response Management Plan.

RCM also implements an extensive environmental monitoring network for all relevant aspects of environmental management including air quality, noise, water, blasting, ecology and rehabilitation. The data collected by the monitoring network is used to inform day-to-day operations and establish compliance with regulatory requirements to ensure RCM is performing in accordance with the EMS, policy and the objectives and targets. Bloomfield has also established data sharing arrangements with the neighbouring mines to assist in managing cumulative impacts.

1.3.3 Identity: Proposed designated proponent

1.3.3.1 Are the Proposed designated proponent details the same as the Person proposing to take the action? *

Yes

Proposed designated proponent organisation details

ABN/ACN	76000106972
Organisation name	BLOOMFIELD COLLIERIES PTY LTD
Organisation address	2323 NSW

Proposed designated proponent details

Name	Brett Lewis
Job title	Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer
Phone	02 4930 2600
Email	Approvals@bloomcoll.com.au
Address	Four Mile Creek Road, Ashtonfield NSW 2323

1.3.4 Identity: Summary of allocation

✔ Confirmed Referring party's identity

The Referring party is the person preparing the information in this referral.

ABN/ACN	73112994715
Organisation name	XENITH CONSULTING PTY LTD
Organisation address	Eagle Street, Brisbane 4000 QLD
Representative's name	Nathan Cooper
Representative's job title	
Phone	+61475679339
Email	Nathan.Cooper@Xenith.com.au
Address	Shops 4-6, Mezzanine Level, The Singleton Centre, 157-159 John Street Singleton NSW

● Awaiting Person proposing to take the action's identity confirmation

The Person proposing to take the action is the individual, business, government agency or trustee that will be responsible for the proposed action.

ABN/ACN	76000106972
Organisation name	BLOOMFIELD COLLIERIES PTY LTD
Organisation address	2323 NSW
Representative's name	Brett Lewis
Representative's job title	Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer
Phone	02 4930 2600
Email	Approvals@bloomcoll.com.au
Address	Four Mile Creek Road, Ashtonfield NSW 2323

✔ Confirmed Proposed designated proponent's identity

The Person proposing to take the action is the individual or organisation proposed to be responsible for meeting the requirements of the EPBC Act during the assessment process, if the Minister decides that this project is a controlled action.

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

Check this box to confirm these are the correct identity details. *

1.4 Payment details: Payment exemption and fee waiver

1.4.1 Do you qualify for an exemption from fees under EPBC Regulation 5.23 (1) (a)? *

No

1.4.3 Have you applied for or been granted a waiver for full or partial fees under Regulation 5.21A? *

No

1.4.5 Are you going to apply for a waiver of full or partial fees under EPBC Regulation 5.21A?

No

1.4.7 Has the department issued you with a credit note? *

No

1.4.9 Would you like to add a purchase order number to your invoice? *

No

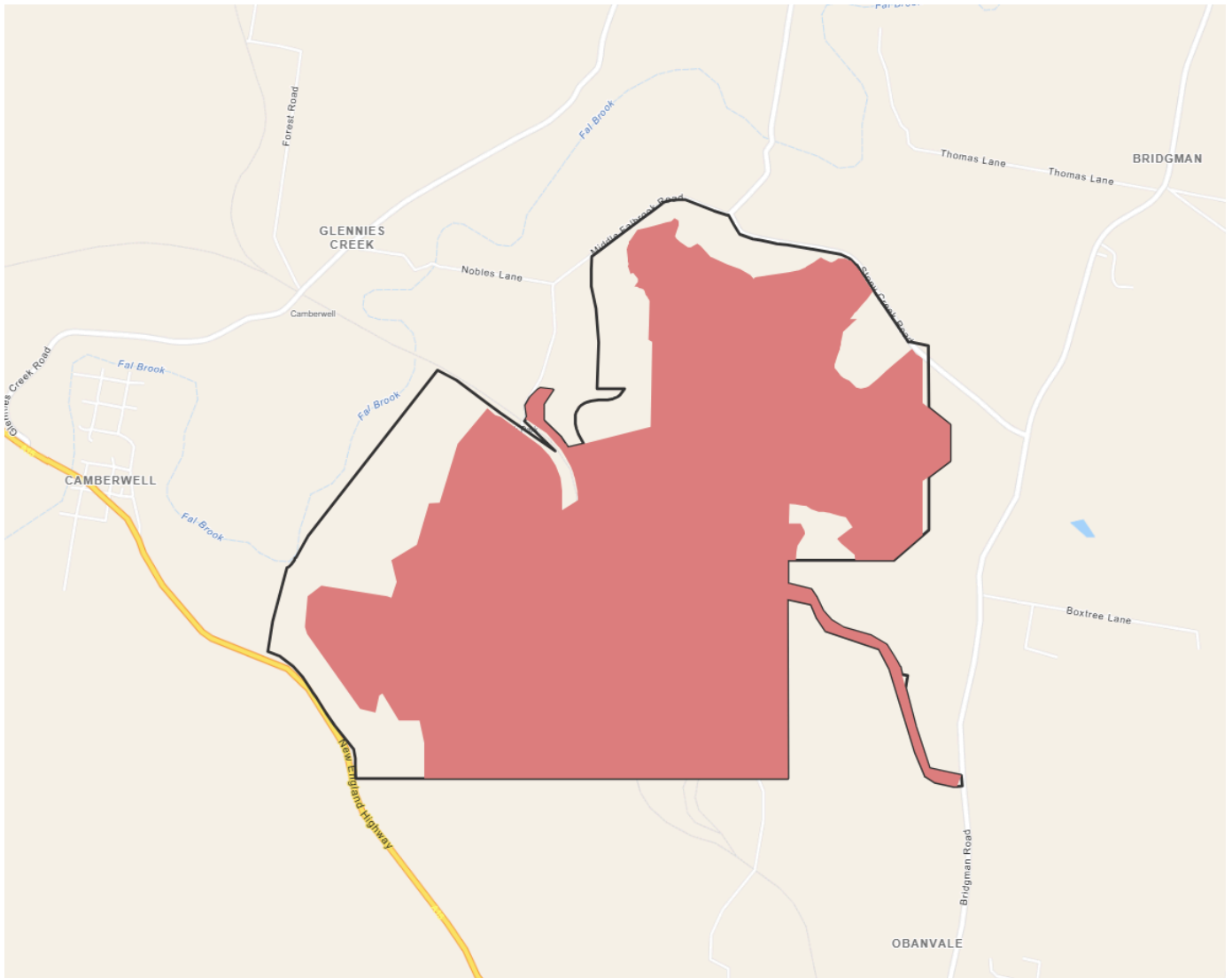
1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

1.4.11 Who would you like to allocate as the entity responsible for payment? *

Person proposing to take the action

2. Location

2.1 Project footprint



Project Area: 1807.31 Ha Disturbance Footprint: 1417.11 Ha

2.2 Footprint details

2.2.1 What is the address of the proposed action? *

Bridgman Road, Bridgman NSW 2330

2.2.2 Where is the primary jurisdiction of the proposed action? *

New South Wales

2.2.3 Is there a secondary jurisdiction for this proposed action? *

No

2.2.5 What is the tenure of the action area relevant to the project area? *

Land ownership within and surrounding the Project Boundary is shown on **Figure 3** within **Attachment A - Figures**. The proposed action is situated entirely on freehold land owned by Bloomfield, except for one block of privately owned land that encompasses the 'Kangory' (otherwise known as Dulwich) homestead and the section of Middle Falbrook Road and crown roads.

The land within the approved project boundary that is owned by Bloomfield is held under the trading names of Rix's Creek Pty Ltd, Four Mile Pty Ltd, Bloomfield Collieries Pty Ltd or Big Ben Holdings Pty Ltd (all subsidiaries of the Bloomfield Group).

3. Existing environment

3.1 Physical description

3.1.1 Describe the current condition of the project area's environment.

RCN is located within the Hunter Coalfields, approximately 5 km north west of the township of Singleton in the Hunter Region of NSW and is within the Singleton Shire Council Local Government Area (LGA) (refer to **Figure 4** within **Attachment A** - Figures). The village of Camberwell is located 1.5 km from the RCN Project Boundary at its closest point. Maison Dieu, Rixs Creek, Glennies Creek and Bridgman are other nearby hamlets to the Project.

The highest density of private residences is located to the south east and the industrial precinct at Maison Dieu, located to the south of RCM. Other private residences are more sparsely located in areas to the west, north and north east.

There are a number of operational coal mines within the vicinity (~10 km radius) of RCM as shown on **Figure 4** within **Attachment A** - Figures. Operations within the immediate locality (~5 km) include:

- Integra Underground immediately north;
- Mt Owen Complex (MOC) (Glendell, Mt Owen and Ravensworth East) to the north west;
- Ashton Coal Mine (Ashton) to the west; and
- Ravensworth Open Cut Operations (Ravensworth) to the north west.

Land within the vicinity of the proposed action has historically been used for a mix of land uses which primarily relate to mining and agriculture. These existing land uses have resulted in moderate levels of landscape disturbance, mostly due to large scale vegetation clearance. There have been no recent bushfires or flooding events that have affected the condition of the area.

The *Singleton Local Environmental Plan* (LEP) (2013) describes the land zoning within the approved project area as RU1 (Primary Production) and SP2 (Infrastructure). Open cut mining is permissible with consent on land zoned RU1 and SP2 and therefore no changes to zoning are required to facilitate the proposed action. The Proposed Action is located entirely within the Project Boundary for MP 08_0102 and accordingly open cut mining operations is permissible and land zoning is not of relevance.

The primary access to the RCN offices and facilities is via the RCN Access Road, with a designated left turn off Bridgman Road, approximately 6.5 km from Singleton. The proposed action is seeking approval to disturb areas within the already approved Project Boundary and therefore no changes are proposed for access to site.

The Main Northern Rail Line runs through the existing Project Boundary for MP 08_0102. RCM has its own rail loop and train loadout facilities for transporting coal, which will continue to be utilised for the proposed action.

The land within the Proposed Action Boundary has varying levels of ecological condition and disturbance, including:

- Areas which have been subject to historic disturbance by the approved open cut mining operations at RCN and have either been subject to rehabilitation activities (for grazing post mining land use) or comprise active mining operations (overburden emplacement, active mining void, infrastructure, water management structures, etc). Plan 1A in Attachment 5 of the Rix's Creek Mine Annual Rehabilitation Report 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 (**Attachment K** - RCM Annual Rehabilitation Report) illustrates the status of mining related disturbance and rehabilitation activities at the RCM as at end of March 2024. Please note the figure illustrates the mining disturbance across the RCM which includes mining operations at both the RCS mine and RCN mine. The disturbance and rehabilitation which is shown at RCS is largely outside of the Proposed Action Boundary and does not form part of the Proposed Action.
- Areas within the approved Mine Disturbance Boundary for RCN and have not been impacted by mining to date. It is noted that much of this area has historically been impacted by agricultural land uses. **Attachment F** – EcoResolve Report provides an assessment of the ecological values of this region.

- Areas within the Proposed Action Boundary which are outside of the approved Mine Disturbance Boundary and will not be disturbed by the Proposed Action. These areas have historically been impacted by agricultural land uses and comprise grasslands and woodland regeneration areas. The Southern Biodiversity Offset Area (BOA) and some northern sections of the Martin's Creek BOA which are held for RCN in accordance with MP 08_0102. Further details of the vegetation within these BOAs is provided within the RCN Biodiversity Management Plan (**Attachment D – BMP**, Section 2, Pages 10-65). Some other areas within this category (i.e. not in the BOAs) are proposed to be disturbed as part of RCN Continuation Project – EPBC Referral Application number 02736. A summary of the ecological assessments that have been completed for the RCN Continuation Project to date is provided within **Attachment L - Ecology Assessment Summary** (this document is a summary of an assessment that has not been finalised and is not publicly available for ecological sensitivity reasons). Please note that this summary includes the results of assessments that are located outside of the Proposed Action Boundary subject of this Referral for the Proposed Action.

3.1.2 Describe any existing or proposed uses for the project area.

RCN is located in the Hunter coalfields and is surrounded by six coal mines within an approximate 10 km radius.

The existing uses of the land within and surrounding the Proposed Action includes open cut mining and agricultural activities, primarily grazing, as well as the transport corridors associated with the New England Highway and Main Northern Rail Line. Agricultural land use in the area is described as grazing on modified pastures.

The proposed action area is located within the existing Project Boundary for MP 08_0102. The land uses of the proposed action area will continue to be open cut coal mining and transport, with some grazing land being incorporated into the open cut mining final land use.

3.1.3 Describe any outstanding natural features and/or any other important or unique values that applies to the project area.

The natural features of the proposed action area are limited to the undulating topography typical of the Hunter Valley and the surface water catchments. Glennies Creek and its tributaries are located to the north of the proposed action area. Stony Creek, Martins Creek, and Blackwall Creek are located in the east of the Project Boundary for MP 08_0102. Station Creek is located within the current RCN Project Boundary and runs to the north east of the Camberwell Pit. Watercourses across the area exhibit varying levels of erosion due to historical vegetation removal and cattle grazing impacts.

The nearest protected areas to the proposed action include the Wollemi National Park located approximately 15 km to the south west, Belford National Park located approximately 17 km to the south east and Pokolbin State Forest located approximately 24 km to the south.

The Greater Blue Mountain Area, which is located over 18 km to south west of RCM, at its closest point near Bulga, is listed as a National Heritage Place and a World Heritage Property (DCCEEW, 2024b).

The Gondwana Rainforest of Australia, which is also listed as a National Heritage Place and a World Heritage Property, is located over 41 km to the north east of RCM (DCCEEW, 2024b).

There are no other known outstanding natural features and/or other important or unique values of relevance to the Project area.

3.1.4 Describe the gradient (or depth range if action is to be taken in a marine area) relevant to the project area.

The pre-mining landforms within the Project area were relatively uniform, with undulating rises and alluvial flats, consistent with the dominant landforms in the area. Elevations within the Project area range between 60 m and 120 m with slopes between 0 to 20% of lengths between 800 m and 1,200 m. The pre-mining landform has been substantially modified by the open cut mining areas associated with the Project and surrounding open cut mining operations.

3.2 Flora and fauna

3.2.1 Describe the flora and fauna within the affected area and attach any investigations of surveys if applicable.

MP 08_0102 is supported by the *Integra Open Cut Project Environmental Assessment* (URS, 2009) (Integra EA) and the associated Response to Submissions (RTS) document titled 'Submissions Report' dated March 2010 (RCN RTS). It is also supported by the various approvals documents which accompanied the nine applications (to date) to modify MP 08_0102.

Chapter 9 of the Integra EA provides an outline of the ecological impact assessment completed for the Integra Open Cut Project. This assessment confirmed that there were no Threatened endangered ecological communities or threatened flora or fauna species listed under the EPBC Act which were likely to be significantly affected as a result of the Integra Open Cut Project.

Modifications to MP 08_0102 have generally not resulted in additional disturbance beyond that previously assessed (apart from Modification 8 which sought approval for historical mining operations by former miner). Accordingly, no assessment of any vegetation disturbance against the EPBC Act has been required.

EcoResolve was commissioned to confirm the EPBC Act listed biodiversity values present within the part of the proposed action area (Domains 2 and 4) which contains native vegetation that has not previously been historically disturbed by the State Approved Mining Operations. EcoResolve's report is provided within **Attachment F** - EcoResolve Report. This assessment was undertaken to identify the biodiversity values using contemporary methods beyond the assessments previously completed for the Camberwell Project Environmental Impact Statement (Epps & Associates Pty Ltd, 1989), the Glennies Creek Open Cut Environmental Assessment (Corkery, 2007) and the Integra Open Cut Project Environmental Assessment (URS, 2009).

Desktop Assessment

Desktop research tasks performed included a review of online databases and spatial datasets to broadly characterise the landscape scale biodiversity values of the proposed development. As a minimum, this review has considered the following resources:

- Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) regional and subregional mapping.
- Mitchell Landscapes mapping and associated literature.
- Latest available high-resolution imagery.
- BioNet Atlas data threatened species record searches within the locality (i.e., 10km buffer of the site).
- Regional vegetation mapping to identify Plant Community Types (PCTs) that may be occurring within the site.
- The EPBC Act Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST).

Native Vegetation

Ecological surveys were completed in September 2024 and identified the following plant community types (PCTs) within the study area:

- PCT 4023 – Coastal Valleys Riparian Forest;
- PCT 3431 – Central Hunter Ironbark Grassy Woodland; and
- PCT 3315 – Central Hunter Ironbark-Spotted Gum Forest.

These communities were identified to occur in several condition states. Vegetation mapping has been provided on **Figure 5** within **Attachment A** - Figures.

Threatened Ecological Communities

Desktop review, including searches of the EPBC Protected Matters Tool and a review of State Vegetation Type Mapping, identified a number of threatened ecological communities (TECs) listed under the EPBC Act to potentially occur within the proposed action area, being:

- Central Hunter Valley eucalypt forest and woodland – Critically Endangered;
- Coastal Swamp Oak (*Casuarina glauca*) Forest of New South Wales and South East Queensland ecological community – Endangered;

- Coastal Swamp sclerophyll Forest of New South Wales and South East Queensland – Endangered;
- Hunter Valley Weeping Myall (*Acacia pendula*) Woodland – Critically Endangered;
- Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia – Critically Endangered;
- River-flat eucalypt forest on coastal floodplains of southern New South Wales and eastern Victoria – Critically Endangered;
- Subtropical eucalypt floodplain forest and woodland of the New South Wales North Coast and South East Queensland bioregions – Endangered;
- Warkworth Sands Woodland of the Hunter Valley – Critically Endangered; and
- White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland – Critically Endangered.

Field validation surveys confirmed the presence of the Central Hunter Valley Eucalypt Forest and Woodland Critically Endangered Ecological Community (CEEC) within the proposed action area. The approved conservation advice for this CEEC outlines key diagnostic characteristics and condition thresholds vegetation is required to meet to be considered part of this community. The field work and vegetation mapping confirmed that patches of moderate condition vegetation mapped as PCT 3431 and PCT 3315 conform to the CEEC listing.

Threatened Flora & Fauna Species

EcoResolve's desktop assessment identified 76 EPBC Act listed threatened flora species as being likely to occur within the proposal locality (proposed action area and a 10 km radius). The results of a likelihood of occurrence analysis identified 69 threatened flora species considered to have a moderate or higher likelihood of habitat within the proposed action area and 52 of these are listed under the EPBC Act (refer to **Attachment F** – EcoResolve Report, Section 5.2, Pages 13-14). Eight threatened and one Marine species were identified as being at risk of impact as a result of the proposed action and accordingly triggered an Assessment of Significance (AoS) to be completed. The species listed as a marine species under the EPBC Act did not form part of the AoS as they were unlikely to be impacted by the proposed action as habitats for this species do not occur within the proposed action area.

3.2.2 Describe the vegetation (including the status of native vegetation and soil) within the project area.

The proposed action area is predominantly located to the east and south east of the Glennies Creek quaternary alluvium within the region covered by the Vane Subgroup of the Whittingham Coal Measures.

As outlined within the Camberwell Project Environmental Impact Statement (Epps & Associates Pty Ltd, 1989), the Glennies Creek Open Cut Environmental Assessment (Corkery, 2007) and the Integra Open Cut Project Environmental Assessment (URS, 2009), land within the RCN Project Boundary is made up predominantly of grazing or former grazing land which is experiencing varying levels of regrowth. There are some stands of remnant and regrowth vegetation located across the Project area. The vegetation within the Project area is fragmented due to historical agricultural grazing, existing mining operations, the New England Highway and the Main Northern Rail Line.

Vegetation within the proposed action area has been historically cleared for grazing and mining operations. However, existing remnant trees, regrowth and native grasses remain in patches across the area. The open woodland comprises of narrow-leaved and broad-leaved red ironbarks; white, yellow, and grey box; and occasional gums, both Blakely's red gum and grey gums.

Attachment F – EcoResolve Report, Section 5.3, Pages 14-18 provides an updated account of the vegetation that occurs within the proposed action area. This assessment was undertaken to identify the biodiversity values using contemporary methods beyond the assessments previously completed for the Camberwell Project Environmental Impact Statement (Epps & Associates Pty Ltd, 1989), the Glennies Creek Open Cut Environmental Assessment (Corkery, 2007) and the Integra Open Cut Project Environmental Assessment (URS, 2009).

The landscape within the proposed action area is prone to minor to moderate sheet erosion, with some gullies up to 3m in depth. Regional Land and Soil Capability (LSC) Mapping indicates the area is dominated by Class 5 land which is moderately low capability land with high to very high limitations for high impact land uses. The dominant soils across the proposed action area are Brown and Grey Sodosols with variations within the Great Group and Sub Group of this soil order. Searches of the Central Resources for Sharing and Enabling Data in NSW (SEED) database (NSW Government, 2024) confirmed there is also a patch of land classified as Class 6 in the south western corner of the proposed action area, which has very severe limitations.

3.3 Heritage

3.3.1 Describe any Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas or other places recognised as having heritage values that apply to the project area.

Searches of the Australian Heritage Database (DCCEEW, 2024b) on 8 August 2024 confirmed that the project area does not contain any Commonwealth Heritage places.

The Glennies Creek Open Cut Environmental Assessment (Corkery, 2007) and the Integra Open Cut Project Environmental Assessment (URS, 2009) included an assessment of historic heritage over the proposed action areas.

The Middle Falbrook Road Bridge over Glennies Creek was identified as containing heritage value and is located around 1 km to the north east of the proposed action area. Potential impacts to this bridge as a result of the mining operations were identified to be minimal as blast vibration levels were well within the relevant blast criteria and the majority of mine traffic would utilise Stony Creek Road and Bridgman Road as the main access to the site.

The 'Kangory' homestead site, also better known as the 'Dulwich' property, is listed as a heritage item in the Singleton LEP, (2013) and is located within the footprint of currently approved mining operations at RCN (i.e. the proposed action area). Chapter 14 of the Integra Open Cut Project Environmental Assessment (URS, 2009) provided a summary of the European heritage assessment completed by Nexus Archaeology and Heritage.

The Dulwich Estate was assessed as a significant heritage item for its historical, social and scientific values. The Dulwich estate was assessed as an item of local heritage significance which is representative of its type.

Subject to agreement with the existing private landholder and the completion of specific heritage management and conservation actions, MP 08_0102 provides approval for mining operations to take place within a 'Full Pit Extent' mine plan which covers the area where 'Kangory' homestead site is located.

Sites of non-indigenous heritage have been identified in previous heritage assessments of areas within and surrounding the proposed action area. The Rix's Creek North Heritage Management Plan (Bloomfield, 2016) indicates several house sites or other sites of historical importance are located within the RCN Project Boundary.

3.3.2 Describe any Indigenous heritage values that apply to the project area.

The RCN is located on the traditional lands of the Wanaruah people.

Aboriginal Heritage Assessments were conducted in 2007 by HLA Envirosciences Pty Ltd (HLA Envirosciences, 2007) and in 2008 by Navin Officer Pty Ltd (Navin Officer, 2008) over the Rix's Creek North project area (EA) (URS, 2008). The assessments recorded a total of 67 sites of Aboriginal significance within the study area, with 53 of these sites identified for potential direct/indirect impacts.

All of the currently identified Aboriginal sites at RCN have been collected by an Aboriginal stakeholder accompanied by an archaeologist in accordance with the protocols outlined in the RCN Heritage Management Plan (Bloomfield, 2016). The sites that are not directly affected by the proposed Project have been fenced off to avoid any potential impacts / interactions.

An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment is currently occurring over areas adjacent to the proposed action area and has identified several additional sites. The location of previously identified Aboriginal heritage sites that remain insitu are illustrated on **Figure 6** within **Attachment A** - Figures.

There are no registered Native Title claims within the proposed action area.

The Plains Clan of the Wonnarua People submitted an application under Section 10 of the Commonwealth *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984* to protect an area of Aboriginal significance within the Upper Hunter region of NSW. The area is reported to be a site of frontier conflict between European and Aboriginal people (DPE, 2022). The proposed action area is located to the south east of this Section 10 Application Area and no mining of coal will take place within this area.

The interaction between the Section 10 Application Area and the approved RCN Project Boundary is displayed in **Figure 6** within **Attachment A** - Figures. We understand that the Minister has decided to not make a declaration to preserve to protect this area under Section 10 of the Commonwealth *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984*.

3.4 Hydrology

3.4.1 Describe the hydrology characteristics that apply to the project area and attach any hydrological investigations or surveys if applicable. *

The Project area is located within the Hunter River catchment and falls within the Hunter Bioregional Assessment (BA) sub-region, which is part of the Sydney Basin bioregion. It also falls within the Hunter Natural Resource Management Region.

In the RCN area, the eastern portion of the Falbrook Pit is located within the catchments of Reedy Creek and Stony Creek (refer to **Figure 7** within **Attachment A** - Figures). Martins Creek is located to the south east of the RCN Tailings Dam 2 (TD2). Blackwall Creek is located to the south east of the RCN CHPP. Runoff from Martins Creek is captured in a clean water dam located to the southeast of RCN Tailings Dam 1 (TD1), while runoff from the Blackwall Creek catchment reports to a clean water dam to the south of Dirty Water Dam 1 (DWD1). The overflow from both clean water dams is diverted through site via a clean water diversion which reports to Station Creek.

Station Creek is located less than 1 km to the west of the existing Camberwell Pit and flows in a south westerly direction to Glennies Creek. Most of the Station Creek catchment has been removed by the development of the RCN mine.

Glennies Creek is a regulated river system under the Hunter Regulated River Water Source and is a major tributary into the Hunter River. It is located approximately 1 km west of the Camberwell Pit (**Figure 7** within **Attachment A** - Figures). Glennies Creek is a sixth order stream with permanent, regulated flows from Glennies Creek Dam (also referred to as Lake St Clair). Hunter Valley River Oak Forest occurs along Glennies Creek to the north of the proposed action area. Central Hunter Swamp Oak Forest also occurs along Bettys Creek and Main Creek located to the north of Glennies Creek. The Hunter Valley River Oak Forest and Central Hunter Swamp Oak Forest have previously been classified as terrestrial GDEs. Neither of these communities are listed under the EPBC Act or the BC Act (NSW).

The open cut area lies completely within the Glennies Creek Catchment. Glennies Creek is located to the west and north west of the proposed action area and is a tributary of the Hunter River. The existing RCN open cut area is located within the catchments of three tributaries of Glennies Creek. Two of these catchments drain north east across Stony Creek Road to Reedy Creek, which flows to Glennies Creek. The other catchment drains to the north and is diverted around Possum Skin Dam before draining to Glennies Creek. Catchments to the south of the proposed action area have been predominantly modified to capture mine water on site and prevent any contamination to the surrounding environment.

Previous groundwater investigations have identified two principal aquifer systems, which include the:

- Quaternary-aged unconsolidated alluvium associated with Glennies Creek and associated tributaries; and
- Permian coal measures comprising variable aquitards and low yielding saline aquifers (coal seams).

Groundwater monitoring (levels and quality, as well as pit inflows) has been occurring at RCM since 1999. The groundwater monitoring program specifically provides for the collection of information relating to:

- Detailed baseline data of groundwater levels and quality in the region;
- Impacts on groundwater levels at neighbouring beneficial groundwater users;
- Impacts on the groundwater dependent ecosystems associated with the alluvial aquifers of Glennies Creek; and
- Groundwater impact assessment criteria, including trigger levels for investigating any potentially adverse groundwater impacts.

The groundwater from alluvial aquifers along Glennies Creek is fresh, with electrical conductivity (EC) values remaining within a historical range and a pH of almost neutral. Groundwater from the Permian coal measures is much more saline, with EC values averaging around 8,000 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$, also within historical range. The groundwater from the Permian coal measures is typically of a quality that is unsuitable for irrigation or grazing purposes and no groundwater dependent ecosystems associated with these Permian coal measures have been identified (R.W. Corkery, 2007) nor are identified within the *Water Sharing Plan for the North Coast Fractured and Porous Rock Groundwater Sources 2016*. The *Water Sharing Plan for the*

Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022 illustrates some patches of high priority GDEs within the Glennies Creek catchment (primarily on the northern side of Glennies Creek). These patches of vegetation are Hunter Valley River Oak Forest and Central Hunter Swamp Oak Forest as mentioned above.

Stygofauna have also previously been identified within the highly permeable alluvial aquifers adjacent to Glennies Creek.

There are no Ramsar Wetlands located within the vicinity of the Project and therefore any impacts to the groundwater resource will not have any effect on wetland areas.

4. Impacts and mitigation

4.1 Impact details

Potential Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) relevant to your proposed action area.

EPBC Act section	Controlling provision	Impacted	Reviewed
S12	World Heritage	No	Yes
S15B	National Heritage	No	Yes
S16	Ramsar Wetland	No	Yes
S18	Threatened Species and Ecological Communities	Yes	Yes
S20	Migratory Species	No	Yes
S21	Nuclear	No	Yes
S23	Commonwealth Marine Area	No	Yes
S24B	Great Barrier Reef	No	Yes
S24D	Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas	Yes	Yes
S26	Commonwealth Land	No	Yes
S27B	Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas	No	Yes
S28	Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency	No	Yes

4.1.1 World Heritage

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

—

4.1.1.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.1.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact.

*

There are no world heritage properties within or surrounding the proposed action area or likely to be impacted by the proposed action.

The Greater Blue Mountains Area is listed as a World Heritage Property, which is located over 18 km to south west of RCM, at its closest point near Bulga (DCCEEW, 2024a).

The Gondwana Rainforest of Australia is also listed as a World Heritage Property, which is located over 41 km to the north east of RCM (DCCEEW, 2024a).

The proposed action is not likely to have any direct or indirect impact on these World Heritage Properties.

4.1.2 National Heritage

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

—

4.1.2.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.2.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact.

*

There are no National Heritage Places within or surrounding the proposed action area.

The Greater Blue Mountains Area is listed as a National Heritage Place, which is located over 18 km to south west of RCM, at its closest point near Bulga (DCCEEW, 2024a).

The Gondwana Rainforest of Australia is also listed as a National Heritage Place, which is located over 41 km to the north east of RCM (DCCEEW, 2024a).

The proposed action is not likely to have any direct or indirect impact on these National Heritage Places.

4.1.3 Ramsar Wetland

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ramsar wetland
No	No	Hunter Estuary Wetlands

4.1.3.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.3.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact.

*

The closest Ramsar Wetlands to the proposed action area includes the Hunter Estuary Wetland, and the Kooragang Nature Reserve, which are both located over 60 km downstream from the proposed action. As such the proposed action is not likely to have any direct or indirect impact on a Ramsar Wetland.

4.1.4 Threatened Species and Ecological Communities

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

Threatened species

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	Yes	<i>Anthochaera phrygia</i>	Regent Honeyeater
No	No	<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>	Southern Whiteface
No	No	<i>Aprasia parapulchella</i>	Pink-tailed Worm-lizard, Pink-tailed Legless Lizard
No	No	<i>Asperula asthenes</i>	Trailing Woodruff
No	No	<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	Australasian Bittern
No	No	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Callocephalon fimbriatum</i>	Gang-gang Cockatoo
No	Yes	<i>Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami</i>	South-eastern Glossy Black-Cockatoo
No	Yes	<i>Chalinolobus dwyeri</i>	Large-eared Pied Bat, Large Pied Bat
No	No	<i>Climacteris picumnus victoriae</i>	Brown Treecreeper (south-eastern)
No	No	<i>Cynanchum elegans</i>	White-flowered Wax Plant
No	No	<i>Dasyurus maculatus maculatus</i> (SE mainland population)	Spot-tailed Quoll, Spotted-tail Quoll, Tiger Quoll (southeastern mainland population)
No	No	<i>Delma impar</i>	Striped Legless Lizard, Striped Snake-lizard
No	Yes	<i>Delma vescolineata</i>	Hunter Valley Delma
No	No	<i>Dichanthium setosum</i>	bluegrass
No	No	<i>Erythroriorchis radiatus</i>	Red Goshawk
No	No	<i>Eucalyptus glaucina</i>	Slaty Red Gum
No	No	<i>Euphrasia arguta</i>	
No	No	<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>	Grey Falcon

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
No	No	<i>Grantiella picta</i>	Painted Honeyeater
No	No	<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	White-throated Needletail
No	Yes	<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	Swift Parrot
No	No	<i>Lepidium aschersonii</i>	Spiny Peppercross
No	Yes	<i>Litoria aurea</i>	Green and Golden Bell Frog
No	No	<i>Litoria booroolongensis</i>	Booroolong Frog
No	No	<i>Melanodryas cucullata cucullata</i>	South-eastern Hooded Robin, Hooded Robin (south-eastern)
No	No	<i>Neophema chrysostoma</i>	Blue-winged Parrot
No	No	<i>Notamacropus parma</i>	Parma Wallaby
No	No	<i>Nyctophilus corbeni</i>	Corben's Long-eared Bat, South-eastern Long-eared Bat
No	No	<i>Ozothamnus tessellatus</i>	
No	No	<i>Petauroides volans</i>	Greater Glider (southern and central)
No	No	<i>Petaurus australis australis</i>	Yellow-bellied Glider (south-eastern)
No	No	<i>Petrogale penicillata</i>	Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby
No	Yes	<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i> (combined populations of Qld, NSW and the ACT)	Koala (combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory)
No	No	<i>Picris evae</i>	Hawkweed
No	No	<i>Pomaderris brunnea</i>	Rufous Pomaderris, Brown Pomaderris
No	No	<i>Potorous tridactylus tridactylus</i>	Long-nosed Potoroo (northern)
No	No	<i>Prasophyllum</i> sp. Wybong (C.Phelps ORG 5269)	a leek-orchid
No	No	<i>Prostanthera cineolifera</i>	
No	No	<i>Pseudomys novaehollandiae</i>	New Holland Mouse, Pookila
No	Yes	<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>	Grey-headed Flying-fox

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	<i>Pterostylis gibbosa</i>	Illawarra Greenhood, Rufa Greenhood, Pouched Greenhood
No	No	<i>Rhizanthella slateri</i>	Eastern Underground Orchid
No	No	<i>Rhodamnia rubescens</i>	Scrub Turpentine, Brown Malletwood
No	No	<i>Rostratula australis</i>	Australian Painted Snipe
No	No	<i>Stagonopleura guttata</i>	Diamond Firetail
No	No	<i>Syzygium paniculatum</i>	Magenta Lilly Pilly, Magenta Cherry, Daguba, Scrub Cherry, Creek Lilly Pilly, Brush Cherry
No	No	<i>Thesium australe</i>	Austral Toadflax, Toadflax

Ecological communities

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ecological community
Yes	No	Central Hunter Valley eucalypt forest and woodland
No	No	Coastal Swamp Oak (<i>Casuarina glauca</i>) Forest of New South Wales and South East Queensland ecological community
No	No	Coastal Swamp Sclerophyll Forest of New South Wales and South East Queensland
No	No	Hunter Valley Weeping Myall (<i>Acacia pendula</i>) Woodland
No	No	Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia
No	No	River-flat eucalypt forest on coastal floodplains of southern New South Wales and eastern Victoria
No	No	Subtropical eucalypt floodplain forest and woodland of the New South Wales North Coast and South East Queensland bioregions
No	No	Warkworth Sands Woodland of the Hunter Valley
No	No	White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland

4.1.4.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

Yes

4.1.4.2 Briefly describe why your action has a direct and/or indirect impact on these protected matters. *

Desktop review and ecological surveys undertaken by EcoResolve (2024) identified eight threatened species, one marine species and one threatened ecological community listed under the EPBC Act that would have a moderate or higher likelihood of occurrence within the proposed action area and may be directly or indirectly impacted by the proposed action:

- Central Hunter Valley eucalypt forest and woodland – Critically Endangered;
- *Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami* (Glossy Black-Cockatoo) – Vulnerable.
- *Litoria aurea* (Green and Golden Bell Frog) – Vulnerable.
- *Pteropus poliocephalus* (Grey-headed Flying-fox) – Vulnerable.
- *Chalinolobus dwyeri* (Large-eared Pied Bat) – Endangered.
- *Delma vescolineata* (Hunter Valley Delma) – Endangered.
- *Phascolarctos cinereus* (Koala) – Endangered.
- *Anthochaera Phrygia* (Regent Honeyeater) – Critically Endangered.
- *Lathamus discolor* (Swift Parrot) – Critically Endangered.

Of these threatened entities, one threatened ecological community, Central Hunter Valley eucalypt forest and woodland has previously been identified within the proposed action area.

Attachment F – EcoResolve Report, Section 5.3, Pages 14-18 provides a more detailed assessment for each threatened species, the migratory species and the threatened ecological community, recorded or considered to have potential habitat within the proposed action area against *Matters of National Environmental Significance Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1*.

The proposed action includes disturbance which is currently permitted under the existing State approvals. The listed MNES that have been recorded or considered likely to occur in the area may be disturbed or impacted. Clearing and excavations required for the proposed action will likely have a direct impact on these MNES within the proposed action area.

There may also be minor indirect impacts to some threatened species or ecological communities associated with the clearing of potential habitat for some fauna species and associated with noise, lighting and vibration impacts created by the proposed mining operations within the proposed action area.

Whilst the proposed mining operations may result in minor changes to the alluvial groundwater levels associated with Glennies Creek (where GDEs are known to occur), these impacts are negligible in relation to the proposed action and will therefore be unlikely to result in significant impacts on the surface terrestrial and aquatic GDEs.

RCM will continue to operate as a nil discharge site and will not result in material impacts to the alluvium of Glennies Creek (as discussed in **Section 4.1.9**). Shallow monitoring bores are installed in the Glennies Creek alluvium and will continue to provide data, allowing for early detection of altered baseflow contribution to the creek and provide information on any potential impact from seepage from water storages on the alluvium (Bloomfield, 2021).

4.1.4.4 Do you consider this likely direct and/or indirect impact to be a Significant Impact?

*

Yes

4.1.4.5 Describe why you consider this to be a Significant Impact. *

The proposed action will result in direct impacts from the clearing of native vegetation that may result in unavoidable direct and indirect impacts to threatened entities, particularly with respect to the following MNES:

- Central Hunter Valley eucalypt forest and woodland;
- *Litoria aurea* (Green and Golden Bell Frog);
- *Pteropus poliocephalus* (Grey-headed Flying-fox);
- *Chalinolobus dwyeri* (Large-eared Pied Bat); and
- *Delma vescolineata* (Hunter Valley Delma).

Clearing and excavations required for the proposed action will likely have a significant impact on the Central Hunter Valley eucalypt forest and woodland ecological community which is listed as Critically Endangered Ecological Community under the EPBC Act. The proposed action may directly and indirectly impact on around 37 hectares of vegetation conforming to this threatened ecological community within the proposed action area.

As sufficient survey effort has not been undertaken for the four threatened fauna species identified as potentially impacts by the proposed action by EcoResolve (2024), a precautionary approach has been undertaken and all areas of suitable habitat have been assessed as presumed habitat for these species.

WSP is currently completing surveys within and surrounding the proposed action area for the RCN Continuation Project. These surveys have provided some further information which can be used to determine the potential significance of impacts of the proposed action on these fauna species.

4.1.4.7 Do you think your proposed action is a controlled action? *

Yes

4.1.4.8 Please elaborate why you think your proposed action is a controlled action. *

EcoResolve (2024) has identified that direct and indirect residual impacts from the proposed action have the potential to significantly impact upon the following MNES, Central Hunter Valley eucalypt forest and woodland, and habitat for Green and Golden Bell Frog (*Litoria aurea*), Grey-Headed Flying Fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*), Large-eared Pied Bat (*Chalinolobus dwyeri*) and the Hunter Valley Delma (*Delma vescolineata*). In addition to the EcoResolve (2024) assessment, it is noted that ecological surveys completed by WSP for the RCN Continuation Project (Application number 02736) have identified that Central Hunter Valley eucalypt forest and woodland and Hunter Valley Delma may be directly or indirectly affected (refer to **Attachment L** - Ecological Assessment Summary, Section 3, Pages 9-10) (this document is a summary of an assessment that has not been finalised and is not publicly available for ecological sensitivity reasons). Given these unavoidable impacts are considered to be significant, the proposed action is likely to be a controlled action.

Environmental studies for the State approved mining operations subject to the proposed action were originally assessed as part of the environmental assessments supporting the current State approvals (MP 08_0102). In line with these previous assessments, Bloomfield has established BOAs to compensate for these direct impacts to biodiversity values. Details of the current BOAs established in accordance with the requirements of MP 08_0102 are included within **Attachment D** – BMP, Section 2, Pages 10-67.

These assessments under the State legislation were prior to the listing of the vegetation community and fauna species under the EPBC Act and may accordingly warrant further detailed assessment and offsetting to align with the requirements of the EPBC Act.

The recent surveys completed by WSP for the RCN Continuation Project (within and immediately adjacent to the proposed action area) (as summarised in **Attachment L** – Ecological Assessment Summary) (this document is a summary of an assessment that has not been finalised and is not publicly available for ecological sensitivity reasons) have not identified the presence of the Green and Golden Bell Frog or potentially important habitat for the species at RCN and surrounding areas. Further whilst the proposed action may directly impact on aerial foraging habitat for the Grey Headed Flying Fox and Large-eared Pied Bat which is considered to be an incremental loss of suitable habitat locally, there is no breeding or roosting habitat identified within the study area that will be impacted. The proposed action is therefore unlikely to significantly impact on these species.

The recent surveys for the RCN Continuation Project have identified the Hunter Valley Delma adjacent to the proposed action area, habitat within the proposed action area is considered to support an important population for these species. The proposed action may lead to direct and indirect impacts to this species and result in a significant impact.

If the proposed action is deemed a 'Controlled Action', it is assumed that the proposed action will be assessed by DCCEEW using supplementary information. This is likely to include additional details on the biodiversity values located within Domains 2 and 4 of the proposed action area. This will likely include additional information from the recommendations provided by EcoResolve (2024) and other information requested by DCCEEW.

In light of the biodiversity values within the proposed action area, it is unlikely the proposed action will be able to avoid all impacts to biodiversity. The open cut mining areas are defined by the location of the coal resources to be recovered. The areas designated for water management infrastructure and water management structures may be able to be adjusted to avoid impacts to biodiversity values, however it is noted that these areas are largely located where vegetation does not conform to the threatened ecological community.

4.1.4.10 Please describe any avoidance or mitigation measures proposed for this action and attach any supporting documentation for these avoidance and mitigation measures. *

RCN has an approved Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) (AECOM, 2017) to minimise and manage potential ecological impacts caused by the mining operations. The RCN BMP outlines the management measures implemented to prevent adverse impacts to flora and fauna and measures to manage the Rix's Creek North Biodiversity Offset Areas. The RCN BMP is included in **Attachment D** – BMP, Sections 2.6 and 2.7, Pages 33-67.

The clearing of vegetation and or the disturbance of the soil surface at RCN are undertaken in accordance with the management measures described within the RCM Rehabilitation Management Plan (RMP) (Bloomfield, 2024). The management measures include minimising surface disturbance, limiting or excluding access to sensitive areas, progressive rehabilitation of disturbed areas with approved species, ongoing control of noxious weeds and vertebrate pest species. Additionally, the RMP describes the general methodologies of rehabilitation for active mining areas, landform establishment, ecosystem and land use establishment. The RMP provides an outline of the rehabilitation monitoring and frequencies for vegetation establishment and fauna re-colonisation to compare progress against rehabilitation objectives and completion criteria. The RCM RMP is included in **Attachment E** – 2025 RMP, Section 8, Pages 74-80..

4.1.4.11 Please describe any proposed offsets and attach any supporting documentation relevant to these measures. *

The RCN BMP provides details over the Biodiversity Offsets established for the RCN State Approved Mining Operations in accordance with Schedule 3, Condition 37 of MP 08_0102. Schedule 3, Condition 37 of MP 08_0102 requires Bloomfield to *“implement the biodiversity offset strategy summarised in Table 14, described in the open cut and underground project EAs (as amended by EA Mod 4), and shown conceptually in the figures in Appendix 8”*. MP 08_0102 (as modified) is included within **Attachment G** – Consolidated Consent, Schedule 3, Condition 37, Pages 20-21. .

The Biodiversity Offset includes four biodiversity offset areas nearby the RCN mine, and one biodiversity offset area further afield. The nearby biodiversity offsets area intended to focus on restoring and enhancing existing vegetation to re-establish functioning ecosystems, and to regenerate a minimum of 87 hectares of Derived Grassland/Native Pasture to vegetation communities representative of the Central Hunter Ironbark-Spotted Gum-Grey Box Forest EEC.

Schedule 3, Condition 38 of MP 08_0102 relevant states:

“The biodiversity offset strategy must:

- (a) ensure provision of at least 140 hectares of Narrow-leafed Ironbark-Spotted Gum-Forest Red Gum Forest (or a suitable equivalent) to further offset the impact of the open cut project;
- (b) include an additional 6 hectares of Central Hunter Swamp Oak Forest (or a suitable equivalent) to offset the impacts from Integra Underground on the Glendell Biodiversity Offset Area; and
- (c) include an offer to transfer the Appletree Flat Biodiversity Offset Area to BCD for long term conservation purposes. This offer must include sufficient funding for the ongoing management of the Appletree Flat Biodiversity Offset Area to the satisfaction of the Secretary.”

The RCN BMP describes the measures to monitor and manage the biodiversity values within the biodiversity offset properties for RCN.

It is envisaged that in the event the proposed action is determined a Controlled Action, that DCCEEW may require additional biodiversity offsetting measures beyond those currently in place in accordance with MP 08_0102. Bloomfield anticipates that any offsetting requirements under the EPBC Act will need to consider the offsets already established for the disturbance of the biodiversity values to be impacted by the remaining mining operations approved under MP 08_0102 that are subject to the proposed action.

4.1.5 Migratory Species

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Common Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Apus pacificus</i>	Fork-tailed Swift
No	No	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Pectoral Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Cuculus optatus</i>	Oriental Cuckoo, Horsfield's Cuckoo
No	No	<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
No	No	<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	White-throated Needletail
No	No	<i>Monarcha melanopsis</i>	Black-faced Monarch
No	No	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Yellow Wagtail
No	No	<i>Myiagra cyanoleuca</i>	Satin Flycatcher
No	No	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey
No	No	<i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i>	Rufous Fantail
No	No	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Common Greenshank, Greenshank

4.1.5.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.5.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact.

*

The MNES protected matters search (DCCEEW, 2024a) identified 15 migratory species or species habitat that may occur within 10 km of the proposed action area (refer to **Attachment H** – Protected Matters Report, Page 4).

The proposed action is not likely to have a direct or indirect impact on migratory fauna species as the site would not be classified as important habitat under the *Significant Impact Guidelines 1.21 – Matters of National Environmental Significance* (Department of Environment, 2013), since the site does not contain habitat:

- Utilised by a migratory species occasionally or periodically within a region that supports an ecological significant proportion of the population of the species;
- Utilised by a migratory species which is at the limit of the species range; and/or
- Within an area where the species is declining.

The *Fauna Assessment of the Glennies Creek Open Cut Coal Mine* (Countrywide Ecological Service, 2007), completed as part of the MP 08_0102 Environmental Assessment identified that the migratory species that have occurred or are likely to occur within the proposed action area are unlikely to be affected by the Project.

The most recent assessment completed by EcoResolve (2024) identified that there were no significant impacts to migratory species that were considered likely to occur due to the proposed action resulting in impacts to habitat which is unsuitable for these species (**Attachment F** – EcoResolve Report, Appendix B, Pages 32-47).

4.1.6 Nuclear

4.1.6.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on this protected matter? *

No

4.1.6.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact.

*

No nuclear action will occur within or surrounding the proposed action area.

4.1.7 Commonwealth Marine Area

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

—

4.1.7.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.7.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact.

*

No Commonwealth Marine Areas are located within or surrounding the proposed action area

4.1.8 Great Barrier Reef

4.1.8.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on this protected matter? *

No

4.1.8.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact.

*

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is not located within or surrounding the proposed action area.

4.1.9 Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas

4.1.9.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on this protected matter? *

Yes

4.1.9.2 Briefly describe why your action has a direct and/or indirect impact on this protected matter. *

RCN has been operating for many years in proximity to the surrounding water sources. These mining activities have been the subject of numerous detailed technical studies. This has enabled Bloomfield to develop a thorough understanding of the environment in which it operates and implement effective measures to manage the impacts of its operation.

Surface and groundwater resources within the proximity of the proposed action have been previously impacted by the historical mining developments both at RCN as well as surrounding mining operations.

The Proposed Action entails the mining operations that are currently approved at the State level and have been subject to extensive environmental assessments. This mining has the potential to result in impacts to surface water catchments, downstream surface flows, groundwater pressures/levels and resulting changes to groundwater to surface water interactions. The impacts for the Proposed Action are expected to be consistent with those previously assessed for RCN within the state approvals.

Water Resource – Surface Water

As illustrated in **Figure 7** within **Attachment A - Figures**, there are two surface water sources located within the Project Boundary for RCN:

- Hunter Regulated River Water Source which is managed under the *Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Regulated River Water Sources 2016*; and
- Glennies Water Source which is managed under the *Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022*.

The Singleton and Jerrys Water Sources which comprises unregulated surface water streams associated with tributaries of the Hunter River to the south and north west of RCN.

The potential surface water impacts that have been identified include:

- Potential for increased turbidity and sedimentation resulting impacting water quality downstream;
- Potential for additional demands on existing water sources;
- Changes to the catchment areas, with consequent impacts on catchment yields and drainage downstream of the site;
- Potential impacts to other licensed users of surface water sources;
- Potential changes to flooding regimes in the local catchment; and
- Post-mining surface water impacts on catchment yields, water quality and quantity.

The extension to the Falbrook Pit is proposed to continue westwards into the catchment currently captured by Possum Skin Dam (a mine water dam) and Integra Underground infrastructure area. The remaining mining operations within the Camberwell and Dulwich Pits will consume some small additional catchment areas of the already impacted Station Creek (a tributary of Glennies Creek). These catchment losses will occur to minor ephemeral streams with no water available for third party users.

The surface water assessments conducted for the Environmental Assessment (PSM, 2007) and for the Western Extension of the Camberwell Pit (WRM Water and Environment, 2009) did not anticipate any observable loss of flow in Glennies Creek and Station Creek as a result of mining. As such, the remaining mining operations subject to the proposed action is unlikely to have material additional direct or indirect impacts on surface water resources in the area.

The proposed action will continue to use the surface water management system currently in place at RCN to monitor and manage water impacts. The existing RCM Water Management Plan (WMP) (Bloomfield, 2021) will continue to guide operations associated with the proposed action. The existing WMP includes:

- Site water balance including description of current use and on site management;
- Erosion and sediment control plan including monitoring of controls;
- Surface water monitoring including baseline data, assessment criteria and monitoring plan (refer to **Figure 8** within **Attachment A - Figures**);

- Groundwater monitoring including baseline data, assessment criteria and monitoring plan; and
- Surface and groundwater response plan.

Controls will be implemented to mitigate and minimise potential impacts to surface water including:

- Maintenance of existing diversions of clean water around mining operations to minimise capture of upslope runoff and separate clean water runoff from mining activities;
- Segregation of mine impacted water and runoff from undisturbed and revegetated areas with better water quality, to minimise the volume of mine impacted water that requires reuse;
- Reuse mine impacted water within the RCN water management system and share between neighbouring mining operations (i.e. Integra Underground) to reduce reliance on raw/clean water; and
- Avoid adverse effects on downstream waterways (including hydraulic and water quality impacts).

The Conceptual Final Landform for the Project has been developed to comply with the rehabilitation objectives for RCN as specified in Schedule 3, Condition 50 of MP 08_0102 (**Attachment G** – Consolidated Consent, Schedule 3, Condition 50, Pages 24-25). This includes ensuring that the landforms are constructed to drain to the natural environment and remain safe, stable and non-polluting.

Water Resources – Groundwater

As illustrated in **Figure 9** within **Attachment A** - Figures, there are two groundwater sources located within the Project Boundary for RCN:

- Hunter Regulated River Alluvial Water Source which is managed under the *Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022*; and
- Sydney Basin - North Coast Groundwater Source which is managed under the *Water Sharing Plan for the North Coast Fractured and Porous Rock Groundwater Sources 2016*.

The Jerrys Water Source and Glennies Water Source which comprises alluvial groundwater associated with smaller tributaries of the Hunter River and Glennies Creek respectively.

The potential groundwater impacts that have been identified include:

- Potential drawdown of privately owned bores;
- Potential for hydraulic connectivity to occur through the zone between the alluvial aquifer and the mining area;
- Changes to groundwater flow directions and changes to groundwater quality;
- Potential for depressurisation of aquifer systems in the area through mine void dewatering; and
- Long term changes (post mine closure) to groundwater levels, quality and flow direction.

Historical and State Approved Mining Operations at RCN, which precede the proposed action, have already impacted the saline Permian coal measures groundwater system and further impacts are predicted as approved mining continues for the proposed action.

Groundwater use within the Permian coal measures is limited, with water access entitlements to extract water from this water bearing strata generally being exclusive to RCM and adjacent mines.

The proposed action entails the continued mining within the Camberwell, Dulwich and Falbrook Pits.

Mining operations for the proposed action do not propose to encroach on any surrounding alluvial sediments. Accordingly, minimal changes in hydrogeological characteristics and/or water quality of the alluvial sediments is expected.

Contemporary groundwater modelling completed by Hydrogeologist.com.au has further confirmed that impacts to groundwater will not be significant as a result of the mining operations proposed as part of the proposed action (see **Attachment I** - Groundwater Report, Section 4, Pages 30-32).

Hydrogeologist.com.au's presents figures which illustrate the significant depressurisation which exists within the Permian coal seam aquifers as a result of historical mining operations within the region. It also identifies that whilst there is significant drawdown within the Permian, minimal drawdown is experienced within the neighbouring Glennies Creek alluvium.

Hydrogeologist.com.au identified that the proposed action will result in additional depressurisation within the Permian coal measures and weathered zone. Consistent with existing conditions, modelling verifies drawdown within the Glennies Creek alluvium will be negligible and undetectable from natural variation.

The proposed action will result in some minor additional water takes from a number of water sources when compared to the existing mining operations. Bloomfield will continue to monitor and manage water takes from the various water sources to ensure that appropriate water access licences are held.

The groundwater monitoring program at RCM has been designed to monitor for potential groundwater impacts and to collect data that enables comparison with predictions of the current groundwater model. Groundwater monitoring locations are located across the RCM project area within the Permian coal measures and the unconsolidated alluvial system to observe any potential impacts.

The groundwater monitoring program undertaken at RCN since 1999 specifically provides for the collection of information relating to:

- Detailed baseline data of groundwater levels, yield and water quality in the region;
- Impacts on groundwater levels on neighbouring properties and any beneficial groundwater users;
- Impacts on the groundwater dependent ecosystems associated with the alluvial aquifers of Glennies Creek, Station Creek, and Rixs Creek; and
- Groundwater impact assessment criteria, including trigger levels for investigating any potentially adverse groundwater impacts

Monitoring up until the end of the 2023/24 monitoring period show the alluvium water levels have been relatively consistent with some variation induced by rainfall, evaporation and natural creek flow processes (Bloomfield, 2024).

Alluvial groundwater level monitoring indicated no response to mining outside of the influences of normal climatic variability in proximity to drawdown associated with RCN's operations. To-date dewatering of the neighbouring/underlying coal seams and broad depressurisation of the Permian coal measures has not resulted in water level impacts within the creek alluvium system (Bloomfield, 2024b).

The proposed action will continue mining within the State approved mine footprints recovering the same coal seams that are currently and previously mined at RCN.

4.1.9.4 Do you consider this likely direct and/or indirect impact to be a Significant Impact?

*

No

4.1.9.6 Describe why you do not consider this to be a Significant Impact. *

The proposed action will have a number of minor impacts to surface water resources within and surrounding the proposed action area. The ongoing State Approved mining operations within the Camberwell, Dulwich and Falbrook Pits will consume further catchment areas beyond those already impacted by mining operations. These catchments contain no third party water users whom will be impacted. The existing water management system will continue to be utilised to monitor and manage impacts to surface water resources throughout the proposed mining operations subject to the proposed action.

Historic and current mining operations at RCN and neighbouring mining operations has significantly depressurised the Permian coal seam aquifers within and surrounding the proposed action area. To date, groundwater monitoring has shown that these impacts of the Permian coal measures has not resulted in any recorded impacts to groundwater levels within the neighbouring Glennies Creek alluvial sediments.

The ongoing State Approved Mining operations may result in some additional depressurisation to the Permian coal seam aquifer. As a result, these impacts may result in seepage of some water from the base of the Glennies Creek alluvium and leakage from Glennies Creek.

Contemporary modelling and assessment undertaken by Hydrogeologist.com.au has reviewed the potential groundwater impacts of the proposed action (refer to **Attachment I** – Groundwater Report, Section 3, Pages 18-29). This assessment has confirmed that the proposed action will result in incremental additional impacts, however determined that these impacts are not of a sufficient scale or intensity as to significantly reduce the quantity or quality of the water resources for third party users or the environment. Therefore, the referred action is not likely to have a significant impact on the hydrological characteristics of the surrounding water resource.

As per the Significant Impact Guidelines (DCCEEW, 2022) and in line with impact considerations discussed further below, the proposed action is not likely to have a significant impact on the hydrological characteristics of the surrounding water resource.

The RCN operations will continue to use its surface water and groundwater management system currently in place at RCN to minimise impacts to water resources. The management system includes ongoing quality and level monitoring and appropriate diversion and storage of water on site. Please refer to **Attachment J** – WMP, Sections 4-7, Pages 18-77 to find the RCM Water Management Plan. Bloomfield currently holds sufficient water licencing to account for water takes as approved under MP 08_0102 and will continue to monitor and manage water takes from the various water sources to ensure that appropriate water access licences are held for the proposed action.

4.1.9.7 Do you think your proposed action is a controlled action? *

No

4.1.9.9 Please elaborate why you do not think your proposed action is a controlled action.

*

The proposed action will not result in impacts to groundwater and surface water resources of the scale which will adversely affect other water users or environmental features.

Hydrogeologist.com.au (2024) has identified that the direct and indirect residual impacts from the proposed action are unlikely to have a significant impact on groundwater resources. Modelled results presented limited groundwater drawdown or inflows and takes were minimal.

Minor changes to surface water catchment areas are predicted as part of the progression of State approved mining operations associated with the proposed action and will not impact upon any third party water users.

4.1.9.10 Please describe any avoidance or mitigation measures proposed for this action and attach any supporting documentation for these avoidance and mitigation measures. *

Bloomfield will continue to implement the measures outlined within the RCN Water Management Plan to manage impacts to groundwater and surface water resources during operations. The State Approved Mining Operations associated with the proposed action has been designed to stand back from the neighbouring alluvial aquifers.

No significant surface water impacts are predicted as a result of the proposed action and the existing RCN water management system which has been developed for the State Approved Mining Operations will continue to be utilised to monitor and manage impacts to surface water resources.

Hydrogeologist.com.au (2024) concluded that the proposed action will not result in significant impacts to groundwater resources and will not require the implementation of any further avoidance or mitigation measures beyond those already implemented. Bloomfield will account for the predicted water takes associated with the mining activities referred as part of the proposed action in accordance with the requirements under the *Water Management Act 2000*.

4.1.9.11 Please describe any proposed offsets and attach any supporting documentation relevant to these measures. *

The proposed action is not predicted to have any significant impacts to water resources and therefore, no offsets are proposed.

4.1.10 Commonwealth Land

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Commonwealth land area
No	No	Commonwealth Land - Defence Housing Authority
No	No	Commonwealth Land - Telstra Corporation Limited

4.1.10.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.10.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact.

*

No Commonwealth land is located within or surrounding the proposed action area.

4.1.11 Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

—

4.1.11.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.11.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact.

*

The proposed action will not have any direct or indirect impact on any Commonwealth heritage places.

4.1.12 Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency

4.1.12.1 Is the proposed action to be taken by the Commonwealth or a Commonwealth Agency? *

No

4.2 Impact summary

Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

You have indicated that the proposed action will likely have a significant impact on the following Matters of National Environmental Significance:

- Threatened Species and Ecological Communities (S18)

Conclusion on the likelihood of unlikely significant impacts

You have indicated that the proposed action will unlikely have a significant impact on the following Matters of National Environmental Significance:

- World Heritage (S12)
- National Heritage (S15B)
- Ramsar Wetland (S16)
- Migratory Species (S20)
- Nuclear (S21)
- Commonwealth Marine Area (S23)
- Great Barrier Reef (S24B)
- Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas (S24D)
- Commonwealth Land (S26)
- Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas (S27B)
- Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency (S28)

4.3 Alternatives

4.3.1 Do you have any possible alternatives for your proposed action to be considered as part of your referral? *

No

4.3.8 Describe why alternatives for your proposed action were not possible. *

The proposed action relates to mining operations which have received a consolidated State Approval (MP 08_0102 (as modified))(including previous approvals) under the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) in 2010. The assessments completed in relation to the State Approval assessed impacts on protected matters under the EPBC Act and determined that no significant impacts were likely. Since this time, additional EPBC Act Protected Matters have been identified and it has been identified that potential impacts to these new Protected Matters may be impacted.

5. Lodgement

5.1 Attachments

1.2.1 Overview of the proposed action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A - Figures.pdf Figures to support the Referral	07/03/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att B - Consolidated Project Description.pdf MP08_0102 Consolidated Project Description	18/12/2024	No	High
#3.	Link	Environmental Assessments - Rixs Creek Mine https://www.bloomcoll.com.au/sustainability/envi..			High

1.2.6 Commonwealth or state legislation, planning frameworks or policy documents that are relevant to the proposed action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A - Figures.pdf Figures to support the Referral	06/03/2025	No	High
#2.	Link	Hunter Regional Plan 2041 https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/fi..			High
#3.	Link	Nature Positive Plan: better for the environment, better for business https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/do..			High
#4.	Link	Singleton Local Strategic Planning Statement 2041 http://portal.singleton.nsw.gov.au/RedDocServ24/..			High

1.3.2.17 (Person proposing to take the action) Proposer's history of responsible environmental management

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att C - EMS (Redacted).pdf Rix's Creek Mine Environmental Management Strategy	14/05/2020	No	High
#2.	Document	Att C - EMS.pdf Rix's Creek Mine Environmental Management Strategy	14/05/2020	Yes	High

1.3.2.18 (Person proposing to take the action) If the person proposing to take the action is a corporation, provide details of the corporation's environmental policy and planning framework

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att C - EMS (Redacted).pdf Rix's Creek Mine Environmental	13/05/2020	No	High

Management Strategy					
#2.	Document	Att C - EMS.pdf Rix's Creek Mine Environmental Management Strategy	13/05/2020	Yes	High
#3.	Document	Att D - BMP (Redacted) (low res).pdf Rix's Creek North Biodiversity Management Plan	15/12/2017	No	High
#4.	Document	Att D - BMP.pdf Rix's Creek Mine Biodiversity Management Plan	19/08/2016	Yes	High
#5.	Document	Att E - 2025 RMP.pdf Rix's Creek Mine Rehabilitation Management Plan	07/01/2025	Yes	High
#6.	Document	Att E - 2025 RMP_REDACTED.pdf Rix's Creek Mine Rehabilitation Management Plan	07/01/2025	No	High

2.2.5 Tenure of the action area relevant to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A - Figures.pdf Figures to support the Referral	06/03/2025	No	High

3.1.1 Current condition of the project area's environment

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A - Figures.pdf Figures to support the Referral	06/03/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att F - EcoResolve Report (Redacted).pdf EPBC Act Listed Ecological Values Scoping Report	17/11/2024	No	High
#3.	Document	Att F - EcoResolve Report.pdf EPBC Act Listed Ecological Values Scoping Report	18/11/2024	Yes	High
#4.	Document	Att K - Ecology Assessment Summary.pdf RCN Continuation Project Ecology Assessment Summary	28/03/2025	Yes	High
#5.	Document	RCM Annual Rehabilitation Report (Redacted).pdf RCM Annual Rehabilitation Report	31/03/2024	No	High
#6.	Document	RCM Annual Rehabilitation Report.pdf RCM Annual Rehabilitation Report	31/03/2024	Yes	High

3.1.3 Natural features, important or unique values that applies to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Link	Australian Heritage Database http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/search..			High

3.2.1 Flora and fauna within the affected area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A - Figures.pdf Figures to support the Referral	06/03/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att F - EcoResolve Report (Redacted).pdf EPBC Act Listed Ecological Values Scoping Report	18/11/2024	No	High
#3.	Document	Att F - EcoResolve Report.pdf EPBC Act Listed Ecological Values Scoping Report	17/11/2024	Yes	High
#4.	Link	Integra Open Cut Project Environmental Assessment https://www.bloomcoll.com.au/uploads/2009_RCN_In..			High

3.2.2 Vegetation within the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att F - EcoResolve Report (Redacted).pdf EPBC Act Listed Ecological Values Scoping Report	17/11/2024	No	High
#2.	Document	Att F - EcoResolve Report.pdf EPBC Act Listed Ecological Values Scoping Report	17/11/2024	Yes	High
#3.	Link	Camberwell Coal Project EIS https://www.bloomcoll.com.au/uploads/1989_RCN_Ca..			High
#4.	Link	Integra Open Cut Project Environmental Assessment. https://Integra Open Cut Project Environmental A..			High
#5.	Link	The Central Resource for Sharing and Enabling Environmental Data			High

in NSW

<https://geo.seed.nsw.gov.au/vertigisstudio/web/?..>

3.3.1 Commonwealth heritage places overseas or other places that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A - Figures.pdf Figures to support the Referral	06/03/2025		High
#2.	Link	Australian Heritage Database http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/searc..			High
#3.	Link	Integra Open Cut Project Environmental Assessment https://www.bloomcoll.com.au/uploads/2009_RCN_In..			High
#4.	Link	RCN Heritage Management Plan https://www.bloomcoll.com.au/uploads/20160203_-R..			High

3.3.2 Indigenous heritage values that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A - Figures.pdf Figures to support the Referral	06/03/2025	No	High
#2.	Link	Glendell Continued Operations Project State Significant Development Assessment SSD 9349. https://www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au/resources/pac/media/..			High
#3.	Link	Glennies Creek Open Cut Coal Mine Aboriginal Heritage Assessment https://majorprojects.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/..			High
#4.	Link	Integra Open Cut Project Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment https://www.bloomcoll.com.au/uploads/2009_RCN_In..			High
#5.	Link				

RCN Heritage Management Plan

High

https://www.bloomcoll.com.au/uploads/20160203_-R..

3.4.1 Hydrology characteristics that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A - Figures.pdf Figures to support the Referral	06/03/2025	No	High
#2.	Link	Glennies Creek Open Cut Coal Mine Environmental Assessment https://www.bloomcoll.com.au/uploads/2007_RCN_Gl..			High

4.1.1.3 (World Heritage) Why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Link	Protected Matters Search Tool https://- Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining De..			High

4.1.2.3 (National Heritage) Why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Link	Australian Heritage Database http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/searc..			High

4.1.4.2 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Why your action has a direct and/or indirect impact on the identified protected matters

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att F - EcoResolve Report (Redacted).pdf EPBC Act Listed Ecological Values Scoping Report	17/11/2024	No	High
#2.	Document	Att F - EcoResolve Report.pdf EPBC Act Listed Ecological Values Scoping Report	17/11/2024	Yes	High
#3.	Link	RCM Water Management Plan https://www.bloomcoll.com.au/uploads/20210517_RC..			High

4.1.4.8 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Why you think your proposed action is a controlled action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att D - BMP (Redacted) (low res).pdf Rix's Creek North Biodiversity Management Plan	14/12/2017	No	High
#2.	Document	Att D - BMP.pdf Rix's Creek Mine Biodiversity Management Plan	18/08/2016	Yes	High
#3.	Document	Att L - Ecology Assessment Summary.pdf RCN Continuation Project Ecology Assessment Summary	28/03/2025	Yes	High

4.1.4.10 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Avoidance or mitigation measures proposed for this action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att D - BMP (Redacted) (low res).pdf Rix's Creek Mine Biodiversity Management Plan	14/12/2017	No	High
#2.	Document	Att D - BMP.pdf Rix's Creek Mine Biodiversity Management Plan	18/08/2016	Yes	High
#3.	Document	Att E - 2025 RMP.pdf Rix's Creek Mine Rehabilitation Management Plan	06/01/2025	Yes	High
#4.	Document	Att E - 2025 RMP_REDACTED.pdf Rix's Creek Mine Rehabilitation Management Plan	06/01/2025	No	High
#5.	Link	RCM Rehabilitation Management Plan https://www.bloomcoll.com.au/uploads/20250108- RC..			High
#6.	Link	RCN Biodiversity Management Plan https://www.bloomcoll.com.au/uploads/20171215_RC..			High

4.1.4.11 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Proposed offsets relevant to avoidance or mitigation measures

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att G - Consolidated Consent (Redacted).pdf MP 08_0102 Consolidated Consent	16/02/2021	No	High
#2.	Document	Att G - Consolidated Consent.pdf MP 08_0102 Consolidated Consent	16/02/2021		High

4.1.5.3 (Migratory Species) Why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att F - EcoResolve Report (Redacted).pdf EPBC Act Listed Ecological Values Scoping Report	17/11/2024		High
#2.	Document	Att F - EcoResolve Report.pdf EPBC Act Listed Ecological Values Scoping Report	17/11/2024	Yes	High
#3.	Document	Att H - Protected Matters Report.pdf Protected Matters Search Tool	30/07/2024	No	High
#4.	Link	Glennies Creek Open Cut Coal Mine Fauna Assessment			High
#5.	Link	Protected Matters Search Tool			High
#6.	Link	Significant Impact Guidelines 1.21 – Matters of National Environmental Significance.			High

4.1.9.2 (Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas) Why your action has a direct and/or indirect impact

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A - Figures.pdf Figures to support the Referral	06/03/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att G - Consolidated Consent (Redacted).pdf MP 08_0102 Consolidated Consent	15/02/2021	No	High
#3.	Document	Att G - Consolidated Consent.pdf MP 08_0102 Consolidated Consent	15/02/2021	No	High
#4.	Document	Att I - Groundwater Report (Redacted).pdf Rix's Creek EPBC Referral Groundwater Summary Report	11/12/2024	No	High
#5.	Document	Att I - Groundwater Report.pdf RCN EPBC Referral Groundwater Summary Report	11/12/2024	Yes	High

#6.	Link	Glennies Creek Open Cut Coal Mine Surface Water Assessment https://majorprojects.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/..	High
#7.	Link	RCM Water Management Plan https://www.bloomcoll.com.au/uploads/20210517_RC..	High
#8.	Link	RCM YEM 2024 Annual Review https://www.bloomcoll.com.au/uploads/RCM_Annual_..	High
#9.	Link	Surface Water Assessment for Integra Open Cut Project Environmental Assessment https://www.bloomcoll.com.au/uploads/2009_RCN_In..	High

4.1.9.6 (Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas) Why you do not consider the direct and/or indirect impact to be a Significant Impact

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att I - Groundwater Report (Redacted).pdf Rix's Creek EPBC Referral Groundwater Summary Report	10/12/2024	No	High
#2.	Document	Att I - Groundwater Report.pdf RCN EPBC Referral Groundwater Summary Report	10/12/2024	Yes	High
#3.	Document	Att J - WMP (Redacted).pdf Rix's Creek Mine Water Management Plan	17/05/2021	No	High
#4.	Document	Att J - WMP.pdf RCM Water Management Plan	17/05/2021	Yes	High
#5.	Link	Significant impact guidelines 1.3– Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Developments https://www.dccew.gov.au/sites/default/files/do..			High

5.2 Declarations

✔ Completed Referring party's declaration

The Referring party is the person preparing the information in this referral.

ABN/ACN	73112994715
Organisation name	XENITH CONSULTING PTY LTD
Organisation address	Eagle Street, Brisbane 4000 QLD
Representative's name	Nathan Cooper
Representative's job title	
Phone	+61475679339
Email	Nathan.Cooper@Xenith.com.au
Address	Shops 4-6, Mezzanine Level, The Singleton Centre, 157-159 John Street Singleton NSW

Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *

I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

By checking this box, I, **Nathan Cooper of XENITH CONSULTING PTY LTD**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. *

I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

✔ Completed Person proposing to take the action's declaration

The Person proposing to take the action is the individual, business, government agency or trustee that will be responsible for the proposed action.

ABN/ACN	76000106972
Organisation name	BLOOMFIELD COLLIERIES PTY LTD
Organisation address	2323 NSW
Representative's name	Brett Lewis

Representative's job title	Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer
Phone	02 4930 2600
Email	Approvals@bloomcoll.com.au
Address	Four Mile Creek Road, Ashtonfield NSW 2323

Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *

I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

I, **Brett Lewis of BLOOMFIELD COLLIERIES PTY LTD**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to the EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. I declare that I am not taking the action on behalf or for the benefit of any other person or entity. *

I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

Completed Proposed designated proponent's declaration

The Proposed designated proponent is the individual or organisation proposed to be responsible for meeting the requirements of the EPBC Act during the assessment process, if the Minister decides that this project is a controlled action.

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *

I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

I, **Brett Lewis of BLOOMFIELD COLLIERIES PTY LTD**, the Proposed designated proponent, consent to the designation of myself as the Proposed designated proponent for the purposes of the action described in this EPBC Act Referral. *

I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *