

Ashton Coal Operations Ravensworth Underground Mine

Application Number: **01004**Commencement Date: **06/04/2022**Status: **Resubmitted**

1. About the project

1.1 Project details

Project title *

Ashton Coal Operations Ravensworth Underground Mine

Project industry type *

Mining

Project industry sub-type

Coal

Estimated start date *

1/08/2022

Estimated end date *

31/12/2032

1.2 Proposed Action details

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

The Ravensworth Mine Complex and Ashton Mine Complex are neighbouring open cut and underground coal mining complexes, located in the Singleton Local Government Area, in the Hunter Valley region of New South Wales (NSW) (Att A 'Referral Description', Figure 1, Page 2).

The Ravensworth Mine Complex includes the Ravensworth Operations Project and the Ravensworth Underground Mine (RUM). The Ravensworth Operations Project includes the Ravensworth North and Ravensworth Narama pits. The RUM is owned and operated by Resource Pacific Pty Limited (RPPL). Glencore Coal Assets Australia Pty Limited oversees the management of RUM. The proposed Action that is the subject of this Referral applies to part of the RUM only.

Approval of the RUM (formally Nardell Underground Coal Mine) was originally granted under NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) on 20 November 1996 (Development Consent DA 104/96) and was last modified (Modification 9) on 20 June 2013.

The RUM DA 104/96 includes underground longwall mining within the Lemington (B and C), Pikes Gully, Liddell (Upper and Middle) and Barrett coal seams. In October 2014, after the completion of Longwall 9 in the Pikes Gully Seam, operations at RUM were placed into care and maintenance and no further underground mining has occurred since. A total of nine longwalls (Longwalls 1 to 9) were mined out of the State approved 16 longwall panels in the Pikes Gully Seam. The RUM has an approved operational capacity of up to 7 million tonnes per annum of run-of-mine (ROM) coal until 31 July 2024.

The Ashton Mine Complex includes the Ashton Coal Project (including the completed North East Open Cut and the Ashton Underground Mine) and approved but not yet commenced Ashton South East Open Cut (SEOC) Project. The Ashton Coal Project is operated by Ashton Coal Operations Pty Limited (ACOL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Yancoal Australia Limited (Yancoal).

ACOL and RPPL submitted an application on 9 November 2021 to modify DA 104/96 under the NSW EP&A Act to enable ACOL to access and extract approved coal resources at the RUM until approximately December 2032. The coal would be accessed from ACOL's neighbouring Ashton Underground Mine via new non-subsiding first workings developed between the two mining areas. Development of first workings in the Pikes Gully Seam between the two mines would need to commence in August 2022 to enable continuity of ACOL's operations. A description of the proposed modification to DA 104/96 and the integration of the RUM and Ashton Coal Project is provided in the *Ashton-Ravensworth Underground Mine Integration Modification – Ravensworth Underground Mine Modification Report* (Att F 'RUM Modification Report', Section 4, pages 13-15).

Activities Included in the Action

The **proposed Action** that is the subject of this Referral includes the following components and activities within the Action Area (shown as the Indicative Underground Mining Area on Figure 2 (refer Att A 'Referral Description', Page 4):

- underground mining of the Pikes Gully and Middle Liddell coal seams using longwall mining as shown on Figure 2 (refer Att A 'Referral Description', Page 4);
- mining operations until approximately 31 December 2032 (i.e. for a period of approximately 8 years);
- establishment and use of gas, ventilation and water management infrastructure including shafts, bores, pumps and pipelines;
- management of water and gas that accumulates in the underground workings within the Action Area;
- transfer of ROM coal from the RUM Pikes Gully and Middle Liddell coal seams in the Action Area to the neighbouring Ashton Coal Project via connected underground workings; and
- transfer of water and gas from the Action Area to the neighbouring Ashton Coal Project.

Infrastructure developed as part of the Action would be located in previously cleared areas or areas approved for clearing under the Controlled Action for the Ravensworth Operations Project (2010/5389).

Subsidence effects caused by the Action may have an indirect impact on threatened ecological communities or species, or their habitat. The total area within the bounds of the Action's development footprint is approximately 421 hectares, with an area subject to potential subsidence effects (disturbance) of approximately 421 hectares.

A description of the **proposed Action**, a summary of the EPBC Act Approvals Context and the activities not included in the Action are provided in Attachment A (Att 'Referral Description', pages 1-4).

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

Yes

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

No

Related referral(s)

EPBC Number	Project Title
2010/5389	Ravensworth Operations Project

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

The Ravensworth Operations Project was referred under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation 1999 (EPBC) Act on 5 March 2010 and included a project area of approximately 5,590 hectares for its existing and proposed open cut mining operations. The Assistant Secretary of the then Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities approved the Controlled Action on 8 April 2011 (EPBC Approval 2010/5389). EPBC Approval 2010/5389 has been varied on seven occasions, most recently on 10 November 2016. The approved Controlled Action 2010/5389 includes open cut mining activities located within the proposed Action Area.

White Mining Limited referred the Ashton Coal Project under the EPBC Act on 10 December 2001. The Ashton Coal Project comprised three integrated components including a small open cut mine, surface facilities and the Ashton Underground Mine. The Assistant Secretary of the then Environment Australia determined this project to be Not a Controlled Action on 4 January 2002 (Referral Decision 2001/524).

The proposed Action is located adjacent to the Ashton Coal Project ('Not a Controlled Action' Decision 2001/524). The Action would enable coal to be accessed from ACOL's neighbouring Ashton Underground Mine via new non-subsiding first workings developed between the RUM and Ashton Underground Mine mining areas.

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

The NSW EP&A Act and the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021* set the framework for planning and environmental assessment in NSW.

Approval of the RUM (formally Nardell Underground Coal Mine) was originally granted under NSW EP&A Act on 20 November 1996 (Development Consent DA 104/96) and was last modified (Modification 9) on 20 June 2013.

ACOL and RPPL submitted an application on 9 November 2021 to modify Development Consent DA 104/96 under the NSW EP&A Act to enable ACOL to access and extract approved coal resources at the RUM until approximately December 2032. The coal would be accessed from ACOL's neighbouring Ashton Underground Mine via new non-subsiding first workings developed between the two mining areas. Development of first workings in the Pikes Gully Seam between the two mines would need to commence in August 2022 to enable continuity of ACOL's operations. A description of the proposed modification to Development Consent DA 104/96 and the integration of the RUM and Ashton Coal Project is provided in the *Ashton-Ravensworth Underground Mine Integration Modification – Ravensworth Underground Mine Modification Report* (Att F 'RUM Modification Report', Section 4, pages 13-15).

ACOL also lodged a separate application on 9 November 2021 to modify Development Consent DA 309-11-2001-i under the NSW EP&A Act to enable ACOL to receive, handle and process RUM coal at the Ashton Coal Handling and Processing Plant and receive and manage water and gas transferred from the RUM at the Ashton Coal Project. These proposed activities at the Ashton Coal Project do not form part of the Action that is the subject of this referral.

Relevant leases, licences or approvals required under other NSW legislation would also be varied and/or obtained for the Action as required.

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. *

ACOL and Glencore regularly engage with the community through the following mechanisms:

1. dedicated websites (<https://www.ashtoncoal.com.au/> and <https://www.glencore.com.au/operations-and-projects/coal/current-operations/ravensworth-operations>);
2. Ashton Coal Community Consultative Committee (CCC) and Ravensworth Complex CCC meetings which occur three times per year (with meeting minutes provided on each site's website and emailed to interested stakeholders); and
3. media releases and other media activities.

Specific engagement completed to date in relation to the Action has included:

1. Consultation with the Ashton Coal and Ravensworth Complex CCCs including provision of information and opportunities for discussion about the proposed Ashton-Ravensworth Underground Mine Integration Modification at the Q3 and Q4 2021 and Q1 2022 meetings.
2. Exhibition of the proposed Ashton-Ravensworth Underground Mine Integration Modification Report and modification application from 25 November to 8 December 2021.
3. Provision of the Ashton-Ravensworth Underground Mine Integration Modification Submissions Reports (Att G 'RUM Submissions Report', Sections 1-6, pages 1-15)

1.3 Identity - Referring party

Privacy Notice:

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

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Confirm that you have read and understand this Privacy Notice *

Is Referring party an organisation or business? *

Yes

Referring party organisation details	
ABN	22078556500
Organisation name	ASHTON COAL OPERATIONS PTY LTD
Organisation address	73 Glennies Creek Road, Camberwell NSW 2330
Referring party details	
Name	Michael Moore
Job title	Manager, Approvals
Phone	02 8583 5422
Email	michael.moore@yancoal.com.au
Address	Darling Park - Tower 2, Level 18, 201 Sussex Street, Sydney NSW 2000

1.3 Identity - Person proposing to take the action

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

No

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

Yes

Person proposing to take the action organisation details	
ABN	22078556500
Organisation name	Ashton Coal Operations Pty Limited
Organisation address	73 Glennies Creek Road, Camberwell, 2330, NSW, Australia
Person proposing to take the action details	
Name	Mark Jacobs

Job title	Executive General Manager - Sustainability, Approvals, Stakeholders and Assets
Phone	02 8583 5910
Email	mark.jacobs@yancoal.com.au
Address	Darling Park - Tower 2, Level 18, 201 Sussex St, Sydney, 2000, NSW, Australia

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

No

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

No

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. *

The following projects have previously been referred by ACOL (or its associated entities):

- EPBC 2001/524 – Ashton Coal Project (Not a Controlled Action).
- EPBC 2010/5315) – South East Open Cut Project (Not a Controlled Action).

Yancoal has a documented Environment and Community Relations Policy (refer to Att D 'Yancoal Environment and Community Relations Policy' page 1) that applies to the Ashton Mine Complex and ACOL.

Details of proceedings against ACOL is summarised below:

NSW Land and Environment Court (LEC File No. 181 of 2012):

Date of proceeding: 22 June 2012, 25-28 June 2012

Environmental Legislation: *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*

Description: Subsidence impacts from the Ashton Underground Mine has caused harm to Aboriginal objects at three locations.

Decision: Case dismissed.

NSW Land and Environment Court (LEC File No. 213 of 2011):

Date of proceeding: 14-16 November 2011

Environmental Legislation: *Environment Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

Description: Modification application compliance with requirements of section 75W of the *Environment Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

Decision: Case dismissed.

NSW Land and Environment Court (LEC File No. 177 of 2011):

Date of proceeding: 18 August 2011, 27 September 2011

Environmental Legislation: *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*

Description: Grant traditional owners and archaeological expert access to four Aboriginal sites at the Ashton Coal Project.

Decision: Access granted to relevant parties for the purpose of inspection and preparation of reports.

1.3 Identity - Proposed designated proponent

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

Yes

Proposed designated proponent organisation details

ABN	22078556500
Organisation name	Ashton Coal Operations Pty Limited
Organisation address	73 Glennies Creek Road, Camberwell, 2330, NSW, Australia

Proposed designated proponent details

Name	Mark Jacobs
Job title	Executive General Manager - Sustainability, Approvals, Stakeholders and Assets
Phone	02 8583 5910
Email	mark.jacobs@yancoal.com.au
Address	Darling Park - Tower 2, Level 18, 201 Sussex St, Sydney, 2000, NSW, Australia

1.3 Identity - Summary of allocation

✔ Confirmed Referring party's identity

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

ABN	22078556500
Organisation name	ASHTON COAL OPERATIONS PTY LTD
Organisation address	73 Glennies Creek Road, Camberwell NSW 2330
Representative's name	Michael Moore
Representative's job title	Manager, Approvals
Phone	02 8583 5422
Email	michael.moore@yancoal.com.au
Address	Darling Park - Tower 2, Level 18, 201 Sussex Street, Sydney NSW 2000

✔ Confirmed Person proposing to take the action's identity

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

ABN	22078556500
Organisation name	Ashton Coal Operations Pty Limited
Organisation address	73 Glennies Creek Road, Camberwell, 2330, NSW, Australia
Representative's name	Mark Jacobs
Representative's job title	Executive General Manager - Sustainability, Approvals, Stakeholders and Assets
Phone	02 8583 5910

Email

mark.jacobs@yancoal.com.au

Address

Darling Park - Tower 2, Level 18, 201 Sussex St, Sydney, 2000, NSW, Australia

✔ 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.

1.4 Payment details - Payment exemption and fee waiver

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

No

Has the department issued you with a credit note? *

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

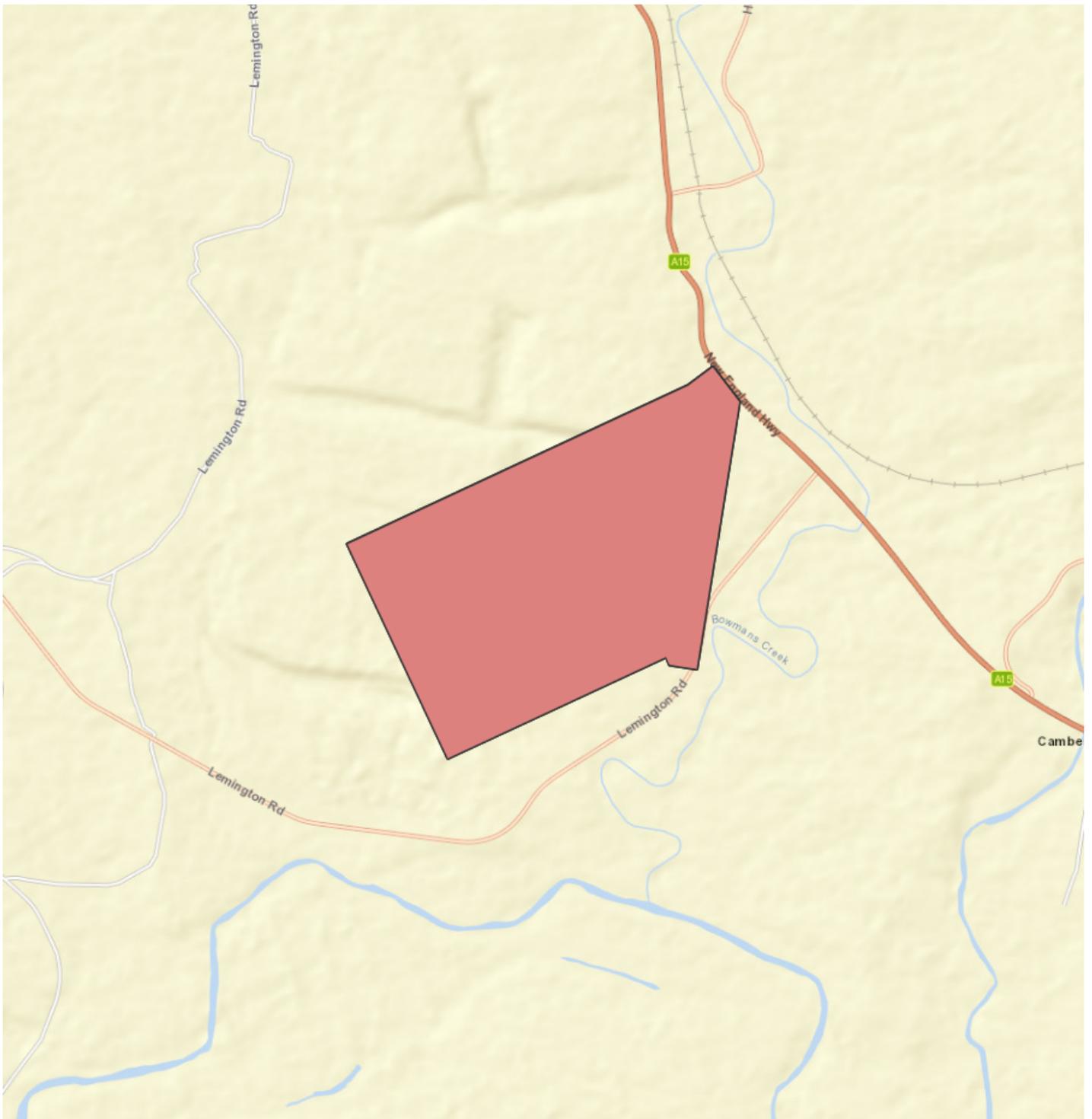
1.4 Payment details - Payment allocation

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

Person proposing to take the action

2. Location

2.1 Project footprint



2.2 Footprint details

What is the address of the proposed action? *

Ravensworth Underground Mine, Lemington Road, Ravensworth, NSW, 2330.

Where is the primary jurisdiction of the proposed action? *

New South Wales

Is there a secondary jurisdiction for this proposed action? *

No

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

The Action is located on freehold land owned by Glencore (being the major Joint Venture Party of the Ravensworth Mine Complex), AGL (as the owner of the historical Ravensworth Void 5) and also on land owned by the Singleton Council (non-freehold as the owner of the Lemington Road reserve), all of which are within the existing mining tenements held by Glencore. Parts of these mining tenements will be transferred to ACOL to facilitate ACOL undertaking the proposed Action.

3. Existing environment

3.1 Physical description

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

Open cut mining currently dominates the existing Action Area (Att A 'Referral Description', Figure 2, Page 4). Within the Action Area, the original character of the vegetation has been greatly altered as a result of historical and current land uses including mining and grazing and is generally in poor condition in disturbed areas. Areas of the existing waste emplacement have been rehabilitated to grassland using exotic species in the north and north-east of the Action Area. For the grassland areas, the condition has been noted as good (Att C 'Ravensworth Operations Project Ecology Assessment', Table 4.3, page 79).

An area of remnant (or regrowth) vegetation is present in the south-east of the Action Area, which presumably has revegetated since the relaxation of grazing across this area approximately 30 to 40 years ago. Despite past clearing, the vegetation formation in this area was regenerating well and is in moderately good condition. Weed invasion is primarily a concern on disturbed edges (Att C 'Ravensworth Operations Project Ecology Assessment', Table 4.2, page 79).

The existing ACOL workforce that currently operates the Ashton Coal Project would be used to operate the ACOL-operated portion of the RUM.

Describe any existing or proposed uses for the project area.

The existing land use in the Action Area is mining (historical and continuing) and agricultural activities. Mining activities are authorised at the Ravensworth Operations Project until the end of 2039 with rehabilitation activities to continue thereafter. Neighbouring land uses include power generation, open cut and underground mining and other agricultural activities.

Surface disturbance areas associated with the Ravensworth Operations Project (EPBC Approval 2010/5389) are and would continue to be progressively rehabilitated to their agreed post mining land use. There would be no change in current or future land use as a result of the proposed Action.

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

The Action Area has historically been mined and/or cleared for grazing.

There are no outstanding natural features or other unique values within the Action Area.

The Ravensworth State Forest is located approximately 9 km north-east of the Action Area and the Wollemi National Park is located approximately 13 km south-east of the Action Area.

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

Within the Action Area, topography ranges from approximately 110 m AHD in the north to approximately 75 m AHD in the south and south-east. The land in the Action Area generally falls towards the Hunter River to the south, except along the eastern extent of the Action Area where the land generally falls eastward towards Bowmans Creek. Water within the Action Area is currently managed in accordance with the Ravensworth Operations Project Water Management Plan.

3.2 Flora and fauna

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

Flora and fauna surveys across the Ravensworth Mine Complex, including the Action Area, were completed by Umwelt between 2007 and 2009 (Att C 'Ravensworth Operations Project Ecology Assessment', Section 3, page 36-66).

The majority of the Action Area has been disturbed and modified by historical and ongoing mining activities. The modified areas include open cut mining areas, waste emplacements, water management and other infrastructure. Parts of the waste emplacements in the north-east of the Action Area have been rehabilitated with endemic and non-endemic eucalypt species with some areas also containing belah (*Casuarina cristata*) (Att C 'Ravensworth Operations Project Ecology Assessment', Section 4.1.3.9 page 73). A planted area just north of Old Lemington Road contains a large number of planted Weeping Myall (*Acacia pendula*) (Att C 'Ravensworth Operations Project Ecology Assessment', Section 4.1.3.9 page 73, Section 4.1.4.2 page 76, Figure 4.2 page 74) which, where it occurs in the Hunter Valley, may conform with the EPBC Act listed Hunter Valley Weeping Myall (*Acacia pendula*) Woodland. The area recorded was estimated to contain approximately 70 to 90 adults and 10 to 20 juveniles which are likely to be suckers from the adult plants. One juvenile plant within the road reserve may have naturally recruited from planted adults (Att C 'Ravensworth Operations Project Ecology Assessment', Section 4.1.3.9 page 73).

The remaining rehabilitated waste emplacement in the north-east and west of the Action Area comprises pasture, dominated by the introduced Rhodes grass (*Chloris gayana*) and kikuyu (*Pennisetum clandestinum*) (Att C 'Ravensworth Operations Project Ecology Assessment', Section 4.1.3.10 page 75).

An area of remnant (or regrowth) vegetation is located north of the Narama Dam within the Action Area and was mapped as Central Hunter Box – Ironbark Woodland (Att C 'Ravensworth Operations Project Ecology Assessment', Section 4.1.3.1 page 67, Figure 4.1 page 68). The Central Hunter Box – Ironbark Woodland is the dominant woodland community across the Ravensworth Mine Complex and conforms to the Central Hunter Valley Eucalypt Forest and Woodland CEEC. The majority of the community is regenerating from historical clearing for agriculture, with regeneration occurring over the past approximately 30 to 40 years presumably after the relaxation of stock grazing.

Targeted searches for the Koala across the Ravensworth Mine Complex and assessed Koala habitat at 42 sites. No Koalas or Koala scats were identified during the extensive searches, nor did Koalas respond to the 12 call playback sessions. No Koala core habitat was identified and the area is not considered to provide Koala habitat (Att C 'Ravensworth Operations Project Ecology Assessment', Section 4.2.4.2 page 98).

No EPBC Act listed threatened fauna species were located in the Action Area (Att C 'Ravensworth Operations Project Ecology Assessment', Figure 4.2 page 74). The Grey-headed Flying-fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*) and Green and Golden Bell Frog (*Litoria aurea*) were recorded at the Ravensworth Mine Complex but outside of the Action Area (Att C 'Ravensworth Operations Project Ecology Assessment', Figure 4.2 page 74).

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

Soil

The main soils in this landscape are Yellow Soloth soils on slopes with some Yellow Solodic soils on concave slopes. These soils have a moderate to high erosion hazard and a high structural degradation hazard (Att H 'RUM Mod9 Environmental Assessment', Section 3.6, pages 12-13).

The Action Area has been cleared through past agricultural practices and mining activities, however some tracts of remnant (or regrowth) vegetation exist. Areas of the existing waste emplacement have been rehabilitated to grassland in the north and north-east of the Action Area.

The pre-mining land capability for the Project Site as predominately Class IV land. Further degradation of the Action Area has occurred due to open cut mining activities.

Vegetation

The vegetation characteristics of the Action Area are described in the previous responses.

3.3 Heritage

Describe any Commonwealth heritage places overseas or other places recognised as having heritage values that apply to the project area.

There are no Commonwealth Heritage Places or other places recognised as having values within the Action Area. The closest Commonwealth Heritage Place to the Action is the Muswellbrook Post Office, which is located approximately 26 km north-west of the Action Area and would not be impacted by the Action.

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

Aboriginal heritage values in the Action Area are described in Aboriginal Heritage Due Diligence Assessment: DA 104/96 Ravensworth Underground Mine Proposed Modification 9 – Liddell Seam Project (Att I 'RUM Mod9 Aboriginal Heritage Assessment', Section 3.1, pages 11-14). There are seven extant Aboriginal sites (isolated finds and artefact scatters) overlying the southern longwalls that may be subject to indirect subsidence impacts.

ACOL would obtain permits under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* prior to potential indirect impacts related to the Action to relevant extant Aboriginal heritage sites (where appropriate) located near the southern two Pikes Gully Seam longwall panels.

3.4 Hydrology

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

Surface Water

The proposed Action Area is located within the Hunter River catchment and also the Bowmans Creek sub-catchment. The Hunter River is located south of the Action Area and flows to the east.

Bowmans Creek is located east of the Action Area and was realigned by ACOL in two locations prior to it being undermined by the Ashton Underground Mine operations (Att A 'Referral Description', Figure 2, Page 4). Bowmans Creek flows southwards into the Hunter River.

The majority of the Action Area has been disturbed by mining operations and surface water flows within the Action Area are managed by the existing surface water management system for the Ravensworth Operations Project. Surface water flows over the area of remnant (or regrowth) vegetation in the south-east of the Action Area flow southwards into the Narama Dam, which is part of the Ravensworth Operations Project water management system.

Groundwater

The groundwater resource within and surrounding the Action Area is described in Attachment B (Att B 'RUM EPBC Referral Groundwater Assessment', Section 3, pages 6-7) . The hydrogeological regime of the Action Area and surrounds comprises four key hydrostratigraphic units:

- the Permian porous rock groundwater sources within the Sydney Basin – North Coast Groundwater Source;
- an alluvial groundwater system associated with the Hunter River;
- an alluvial groundwater system associated with Bowmans Creek (located above the adjacent Ashton Underground Mine); and
- an alluvial groundwater system associated with Glennies Creek (located above the adjacent Ashton Underground Mine).

The Action is subject directly (and indirectly) to the water sharing rules of the following Water Sharing Plans under the NSW *Water Management Act 2000*:

- *Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2009* (Hunter Regulated River Alluvial Water Source).
- *Water Sharing Plan for the North Coast Fractured and Porous Rock Groundwater Sources 2016* (Sydney Basin-North Coast Groundwater Source).
- *Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Regulated River Water Source 2016* (Hunter Regulated River Water Source).

The proposed Longwalls do not directly undermine the Hunter River, Bowmans Creek, Glennies Creek or the saturated areas of the alluviums associated with these water courses.

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	Yes	Yes

EPBC Act section	Controlling provision	Impacted	Reviewed
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

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.

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

No

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

The proposed Action is located within a coal mining precinct, away from protected World Heritage matters.

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.

—

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

No

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

The proposed Action is located within a coal mining precinct, away from protected National Heritage matters.

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.

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

No

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

There would not be any impact on the RAMSAR wetlands as a result of the Action, as the proposed Action would not be a material and substantial cause of indirect impacts and any indirect impacts from the Action would not extend sufficiently close to the Hunter Estuary Wetlands RAMSAR wetland.

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
No	Yes	Acacia pendula
No	Yes	Anthochaera phrygia
No	Yes	Aprasia parapulchella
No	Yes	Asperula asthenes
No	Yes	Botaurus poiciloptilus
No	Yes	Calidris ferruginea
No	Yes	Chalinolobus dwyeri

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species
No	Yes	<i>Dasyurus maculatus</i>
No	Yes	<i>Dasyurus maculatus maculatus</i> (SE mainland population)
No	Yes	<i>Delma impar</i>
No	Yes	<i>Erythrorchis radiatus</i>
No	Yes	<i>Eucalyptus glaucina</i>
No	Yes	<i>Euphrasia arguta</i>
No	Yes	<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>
No	Yes	<i>Grantiella picta</i>
No	Yes	<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>
No	Yes	<i>Lathamus discolor</i>
No	Yes	<i>Litoria aurea</i>
No	Yes	<i>Litoria booroolongensis</i>
No	Yes	<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>
No	Yes	<i>Nyctophilus corbeni</i>
No	Yes	<i>Petauroides volans</i>
No	Yes	<i>Petaurus australis australis</i>
No	Yes	<i>Petrogale penicillata</i>
No	Yes	<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>
No	Yes	<i>Prasophyllum</i> sp. Wybong (C.Phelps ORG 5269)
No	Yes	<i>Pseudomys novaehollandiae</i>
No	Yes	<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>
No	Yes	<i>Pterostylis gibbosa</i>
No	Yes	<i>Rostratula australis</i>
No	Yes	<i>Thesium australe</i>

Ecological communities

—

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

Yes

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

The Action will not cause additional direct disturbance (land clearing) to a listed threatened species, community, or their habitat.

Subsidence effects may have an indirect impact on protected matters (if they were to be present in the Action area).

Threatened ecological communities that may occur in the action area (based on the Protected Matters Search) include:

- Hunter Valley Weeping Myall (*Acacia pendula*) Woodland.
- Central Hunter Valley Eucalypt Forest and Woodland.
- White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland.
- River-flat Eucalypt Forest on Coastal Floodplains of Southern New South Wales and Eastern Victoria Species.

- Coastal Swamp Sclerophyll Forest of New South Wales and South East Queensland Species.

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

No

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

The Action will not cause additional direct disturbance (land clearing) to a listed threatened species, community, or their habitat.

The Action will not have a significant impact on ecological communities because:

1. The Action would not reduce the extent of any community and would not increase fragmentation of any community, given no direct disturbance is proposed.
2. The Action would not adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of any community.
3. The Action would not modify or destroy abiotic (non living) factors (such as water, nutrients, or soil) necessary for the community's survival.
4. Indirect subsidence effects would have a negligible impact on any community.
5. The Action would not cause a change in the species composition of an occurrence of any community.
6. The Action would not cause a reduction in the quality or integrity of an occurrence of any community.
7. The Action would not interfere with the recovery of any community.

The Action will not have a significant impact on the threatened fauna species because:

1. No direct disturbance is proposed by the Action and therefore potential habitat for threatened fauna species would not be impacted.
2. Indirect subsidence impacts as a result of underground mining are highly unlikely to affect potential foraging habitat used by relevant threatened fauna species.
3. A number of the threatened fauna species are highly mobile (e.g. birds) and would also likely to use areas of potential habitat outside of the Action Area.
4. The Action is highly unlikely to fragment an existing population or modify potential habitat to the extent that a threatened fauna species is likely to decline further.

The Action will not have a significant impact on a threatened flora species because:

1. Land in the Action Area has been disturbed by historical and existing agricultural and mining activities reducing the potential for threatened flora species to occur in the Action Area.
2. No threatened flora species listed under the EPBC Act have been recorded during surveys across the Action Area.
3. Indirect subsidence impacts as a result of underground mining are highly unlikely to affect the threatened flora species.
4. The Action is highly unlikely to disrupt the lifecycle of a threatened flora species, given there is no disturbance proposed and absence of records from the area.

Attachment E (Att E 'Assessment of Potential Impacts on Protected Flora and Fauna, pages 1-6) provides further justification that there would be no significant impact to protected matters.

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

No

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

On the basis of the reasons outlined in this Referral, in particular that no land clearing is proposed, the Action is not considered a controlled action as it is not likely to have a significant impact on a listed threatened species, community, or their habitat.

Attachment E (Att E 'Assessment of Potential Impacts on Protected Flora and Fauna, pages 1-6) provides further justification that there would be no significant impact to protected matters.

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

Biodiversity

Infrastructure developed as part of the Action would be located in previously cleared areas or areas approved for clearing under the Controlled Action for the Ravensworth Operations Project (2010/5389) (i.e. the proposed Action has been designed to avoid disturbance of remnant/regrowth vegetation).

The longwall panels are mostly located beneath existing open cut mining areas and therefore would avoid impacts to overlying vegetation or surface water resources in these areas. The proposed Action longwalls are also within the footprint of the longwalls originally approved under the NSW EP&A Act (i.e. RUM NSW Development Consent DA 104/96).

Management of Mine Subsidence

ACOL would develop Extraction Plans for the Action to reduce and manage potential impacts of subsidence, which would be subject to approval by the NSW DPE in accordance with Schedule 3, Condition 6 of Development Consent DA 104/96 for the RUM.

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

The proposed Action has been designed to avoid disturbance of remnant/regrowth vegetation and therefore no offset is proposed.

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
No	Yes	Actitis hypoleucos
No	Yes	Apus pacificus
No	Yes	Calidris acuminata
No	Yes	Calidris ferruginea
No	Yes	Calidris melanotos
No	Yes	Gallinago hardwickii
No	Yes	Hirundapus caudacutus
No	Yes	Monarcha melanopsis
No	Yes	Motacilla flava
No	Yes	Myiagra cyanoleuca

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species
No	Yes	Numenius madagascariensis
No	Yes	Rhipidura rufifrons

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

Yes

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

The Action will not cause additional direct disturbance (land clearing) to any habitat of threatened migratory species.

Subsidence effects are unlikely to, but may, have an indirect impact on protected matters (if they were to be present in the Action area).

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

No

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

These species have not been recorded in the Action Area.

The Action will not have a significant impact on migratory species listed under the EPBC Act because:

1. No direct disturbance is proposed by the Action and therefore potential habitat for these species would not be impacted.
2. The Action does not involve disturbance of vegetation.
3. None of these species are considered to be at the limit of their known migratory ranges.
4. Each of these species is highly mobile, and foraging and territorial ranges far exceed the Action Area.
5. Each of these species is highly mobile, and the Action Area is not considered to contain limiting foraging or breeding habitat for these species.
6. Indirect subsidence impacts as a result of underground mining are highly unlikely to affect habitat used by these species.

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

No

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

On the basis of the reasons outlined in this Referral, in particular that no land clearing is proposed, the Action is not considered a controlled action as it is not likely to have a significant impact on a listed threatened migratory species or their habitat.

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

Biodiversity

Infrastructure developed as part of the Action would be located in previously cleared areas or areas approved for clearing under the Controlled Action for the Ravensworth Operations Project (2010/5389) (i.e. the proposed Action has been designed to avoid disturbance of remnant/regrowth vegetation).

The longwall panels are mostly located beneath existing open cut mining areas and therefore would avoid impacts to overlying vegetation or surface water resources in these areas. The proposed Action longwalls are also within the footprint of the longwalls originally approved under the NSW EP&A Act (i.e. RUM NSW Development Consent DA 104/96).

Management of Mine Subsidence

ACOL would develop Extraction Plans for the Action to reduce and manage potential impacts of subsidence, which would be subject to approval by the NSW DPE in accordance with Schedule 3, Condition 6 of Development Consent DA 104/96 for the RUM.

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

The proposed Action has been designed to avoid disturbance of remnant/regrowth vegetation and therefore no offset is proposed.

Nuclear

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

No

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

The proposed Action is not a nuclear action.

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.

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

No

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

The proposed Action is located within a coal mining precinct, away from protected Commonwealth Marine Areas.

Great Barrier Reef

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

No

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

The proposed Action is located within a coal mining precinct, away from the Great Barrier Reef.

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

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

Yes

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

The proposed Action involves underground coal mining at the existing Ravensworth Mine Complex.

Potential indirect impacts on surface water resources may arise as a result of:

- subsidence of the surface due to underground mining activities, which may alter flow patterns on a local scale; and
- changes in baseflow as a result of underground mining activities.

The main potential impacts on the groundwater regime due to the Action are as a result of potential depressurisation of aquifers, drawdown on the groundwater table and changes in groundwater flow patterns, aquifer storage and baseflow.

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

No

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

Surface Water

Potential indirect impacts on surface water resources may arise as a result of:

- subsidence of the surface due to underground mining activities, which may alter flow patterns on a local scale; and
- changes in baseflow as a result of underground mining activities.

Hunter River, Bowmans Creek and Glennies Creek are located approximately 1.2 km, 0.3 km and 2.5 km away from the secondary extraction footprint of the proposed Action. Bowmans Creek has been previously realigned by ACOL (as part of the Ashton Coal Project) in two locations and its prior course and associated alluvium has been undermined by the Ashton Underground Mine operations (Att A 'Referral Description', Figure 2, Page 4).

The Hunter River, Bowmans Creek and Glennies Creek are outside of the Action Area and would not be impacted by subsidence from the Action and therefore would be no direct or indirect subsidence related impacts that may affect flow patterns of the Hunter River, Bowmans Creek or Glennies Creek as a result of the proposed Action. The proposed Action would also not result in any bank stability and riparian vegetation impacts.

The potential changes in flows in the Hunter River, Bowmans Creek and Glennies Creek in the Groundwater Assessment for the proposed Action were modelled by AGE (Att B 'RUM EPBC Referral Groundwater Assessment', Section 5.1.3 page 14). The reduction in baseflow in the Hunter River, Glennies Creek and Bowmans Creeks as a result of the Action would be negligible during mining and post-mining (Att B 'RUM EPBC Referral Groundwater Assessment', Section 7 page 29). . Notwithstanding, ACOL holds sufficient Water Access Licences (WALs) entitlements to account for the negligible predicted take, where required.

In consideration of the *Significant impact guidelines 1.3: Coal seam gas and large coal mining developments - impacts on water resources* (Department of the Environment, 2013), the Action is unlikely to directly or indirectly significantly impact the hydrology or water quality of water resources.

Groundwater

The main potential impacts on the groundwater regime due to the Action are as a result of potential depressurisation of aquifers, drawdown on the groundwater table and changes in groundwater flow patterns, aquifer storage and baseflow.

In consideration of the Water Trigger Guidelines, it is concluded the Action is unlikely to have a significant impact on groundwater resources because (Att B 'RUM EPBC Referral Groundwater Assessment', Section 7 page 29):

- Historical mining operations in proximity to RUM had extensively depressurised the coal measures associated with the Action.
- ACOL would hold WALs with sufficient entitlements within the relevant water sources under the NSW Water Sharing Plans to account for both direct and indirect takes for the life of the Action
- There were no significant impacts predicted to private bore holders.
- There were no significant impacts predicted to groundwater dependent ecosystems.
- There would be no significant impact on water quality in the Hunter River, Bowmans Creek, Glennies Creek or the alluviums associated with these water courses.

Based on the modelling completed and evidence available, the Action is not expected to materially affect the availability and quality of water for all third-party users, including environmental and other public benefit outcomes. In consideration of the impacts that are already occurring and are approved to occur at mining operations surrounding the RUM and the approved future mining, the proposed Action is not likely to have a significant impact on a water resource (Att B 'RUM EPBC Referral Groundwater Assessment', Section 7 page 29).

Water Licensing

Under the NSW *Water Management Act 2000*, all water taken by aquifer interference activities (such as mining) is required to be accounted for within the extraction limits set by any relevant Water Sharing Plans (i.e. state water resource plans).

The Action is subject directly (and indirectly) to the water sharing rules of the following Water Sharing Plans under the NSW *Water Management Act 2000*:

- *Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2009* (Hunter Regulated River Alluvial Water Source).
- *Water Sharing Plan for the North Coast Fractured and Porous Rock Groundwater Sources 2016* (Sydney Basin-North Coast Groundwater Source).
- *Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Regulated River Water Source 2016* (Hunter Regulated River Water Source).

ACOL holds sufficient WAL entitlements to account for the predicted water takes associated with the proposed Action.

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

No

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

On the basis of the reasons outlined in this Referral, including Attachment B (Att B 'RUM EPBC Referral Groundwater Assessment'), the Action is not considered a controlled action as it is not likely to have a significant impact on a water resource.

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

Water Resources

The longwall panels are located beneath existing and approved open cut mining operations that target the same coal measures as the proposed Action. Historical mining operations in proximity to RUM have extensively depressurised the coal measures. Notably, the Ashton Coal Project, located immediately east of the RUM, the West Pit at Hunter Valley Operations North, located approximately 4 km to the west of the approved RUM longwalls, and the Glendell Open Cut, to the north-east of RUM, target coal seams down to the Barrett seam. Predictions show significant depressurisation of coal measures including Pikes Gully, Liddell and Barrett seams associated with the operations surrounding the RUM (Att B 'RUM EPBC Referral Groundwater Assessment', Section 3.1.1, page 7). In addition, mining at Ravensworth North, located between Ravensworth Narama open cut mine and the West Pit at Hunter Valley Operations North, targets seams down to the Barrett seam (i.e. beneath the targeted seams of the Action) (Att B 'RUM EPBC Referral Groundwater Assessment', Section 5.2.1 page 18).

The longwall panels also avoid undermining the Hunter River and Bowmans Creek and the saturated alluvium associated with these water courses. The proposed Action would also not result in any bank stability and riparian vegetation impacts.

ACOL would update its existing Ashton Coal Project Water Management Plan to incorporate the Action. The groundwater and surface water management plans would include erosion and sediment control measures, surface and groundwater monitoring and a surface water and groundwater response plan.

Management of Mine Subsidence

ACOL would develop Extraction Plans for the Action to reduce and manage potential impacts of subsidence, which would be subject to approval by the NSW DPE in accordance with Schedule 3, Condition 6 of Development Consent DA 104/96 for the RUM.

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

ACOL holds sufficient WAL entitlements to account for the predicted water takes associated with the proposed Action and would manage the Action in accordance with the Ashton Water Management Plan. Therefore no offset is proposed.

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.

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

No

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

The proposed Action is not on Commonwealth Land.

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.

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

No

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

The proposed Action is located within a coal mining precinct, away from protected Commonwealth heritage places overseas.

Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency

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:

None

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)
- Threatened Species and Ecological Communities (S18)
- 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

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

No

Describe why alternatives for your proposed action was not possible. *

Pursuing underground mining of the State approved RUM coal resource is a logical and efficient extension to the Ashton Underground Mine, and it is ACOL's preferred pathway for continued operations at the Ashton Mine Complex.

Proceeding with the proposed Action would have the following benefits:

- would provide for continued operations and continued employment of the ACOL workforce at the Ashton Coal Project until approximately 2032;
- utilises existing planning approvals to maximise economic recovery of approved State coal resource;
- would avoid disturbance of additional areas (i.e. by limiting disturbance to previously cleared areas);
- provides better environmental and social outcomes than developing the State approved SEOC Project; and
- is on land approved for mine development within current mining leases for the RUM.

The alternative would be to cease mining at the RUM. Closing the RUM would forgo the approved but undeveloped State resource with consequential loss of royalties to the state and loss of employment for the ACOL workforce.

The original plan to extend mining operations at the Ashton Mine Complex was to develop the approved SEOC Project. However the State approval for this Project lapsed on 17 April 2022 and is no longer available as an approved development.

5. Lodgement

5.1 Attachments

1.2 Overview of the proposed action

#1.	Attachment A - Referral Description	Document	Description of the proposed Action
#2.	Attachment F - RUM Modification Report	Document	Ravensworth Underground Mine Modification Report

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

#1.	Attachment F - RUM Modification Report	Document	Ravensworth Underground Mine Modification Report
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1.2 Public consultation regarding the project area

#1.	Attachment G - RUM Submissions Report	Document	Ravensworth Underground Mine Modification - Submissions Report
#2.	Ashton Coal Wesbite	Link (Webpage)	https://www.ashtoncoal.com.au/
#3.	Glencore - Ravensworth Operations Website	Link (Webpage)	https://www.glencore.com.au/operations-and-projects/coal/current-operations/ravensworth-operations

1.3 (Proposer's identity) Proposer's history of responsible environmental management

#1.	Attachment D - Yancoal Environment and Community Policy	Document	Yancoal's Environment and Community Relations Policy
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3.1 Current condition of the project area's environment

#1.	Attachment C - Ravensworth Operations Project Ecology Assessment	Document	Ecology Assessment for the Ravensworth Operations Project
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3.2 Flora and fauna within the affected area

#1.	Attachment C - Ravensworth Operations Project Ecology Assessment	Document	Ecology Assessment for the Ravensworth Operations Project
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3.2 Vegetation within the project area

#1.			
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Attachment H - RUM Mod9 Environmental Assessment	Document	Ravensworth Underground Mine Modification 9 Environmental Assessment
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3.3 Indigenous heritage values that apply to the project area

#1. Attachment I - RUM Mod9 Aboriginal Heritage Assessment	Document	Aboriginal Heritage Due Diligence Assessment at the Ravensworth Underground Mine
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3.4 Hydrology characteristics that apply to the project area

#1. Attachment A - Referral Description	Document	Description of the proposed Action
#2. Attachment B - RUM EPBC Referral Groundwater Assessment	Document	Groundwater Assessment to support the RUM EPBC Referral

4.1 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Why you do not consider the direct and/or indirect impact to be a Significant Impact

#1. Attachment E - Assessment of Potential Impacts on Protected Flora and Fauna	Document	Assessment of Potential Impacts on Protected Flora and Fauna
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4.1 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Why you do not think your proposed action is a controlled action

#1. Attachment E - Assessment of Potential Impacts on Protected Flora and Fauna	Document	Assessment of Potential Impacts on Protected Flora and Fauna
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4.1 (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

#1. Attachment A - Referral Description	Document	Description of the proposed Action
#2. Attachment B - RUM EPBC Referral Groundwater Assessment	Document	Groundwater Assessment to support the RUM EPBC Referral

4.1 (Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas) Why you do not think your proposed action is a controlled action

#1. Attachment B - RUM EPBC Referral Groundwater Assessment	Document	Groundwater Assessment to support the RUM EPBC Referral
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4.1 (Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas) Avoidance or mitigation measures proposed for this action

#1. Attachment B - RUM EPBC Referral Groundwater Assessment	Document	Groundwater Assessment to support the RUM EPBC Referral
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5.2 Declarations

Completed Referring party's declaration

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

ABN	22078556500
Organisation name	ASHTON COAL OPERATIONS PTY LTD
Organisation address	73 Glennies Creek Road, Camberwell NSW 2330
Representative's name	Michael Moore
Representative's job title	Manager, Approvals
Phone	02 8583 5422
Email	michael.moore@yancoal.com.au
Address	Darling Park - Tower 2, Level 18, 201 Sussex Street, Sydney NSW 2000

- 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, **Michael Moore of ASHTON COAL OPERATIONS 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	22078556500
Organisation name	Ashton Coal Operations Pty Limited
Organisation address	73 Glennies Creek Road, Camberwell, 2330, NSW, Australia
Representative's name	Mark Jacobs
Representative's job title	Executive General Manager - Sustainability, Approvals, Stakeholders and Assets
Phone	02 8583 5910
Email	mark.jacobs@yancoal.com.au
Address	Darling Park - Tower 2, Level 18, 201 Sussex St, Sydney, 2000, NSW, Australia

- 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, **Mark Jacobs of Ashton Coal Operations Pty Limited**, 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, **Mark Jacobs of Ashton Coal Operations Pty Limited**, 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. *