Rix's Creek North Continuation of Open Cut Coal Mining Project

Application Number: **02736** Commencement Date: **07/01/2025** Status: **Locked**

1. About the project

1.1 Project details

1.1.1 Project title *

Rix's Creek North Continuation of Open Cut Coal Mining Project

1.1.2 Project industry type *

Mining

1.1.3 Project industry sub-type

Coal

1.1.4 Estimated start date *

01/02/2027

1.1.4 Estimated end date *

31/12/2049

1.2 Proposed Action details

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

Proposed Action

Bloomfield Collieries Pty Limited (Bloomfield) owns and operates Rix's Creek Mine (RCM) located in the Hunter Valley of New South Wales (NSW). RCM is a coal mining operation located approximately 5 km north of Singleton at its closest point and both east and west of the New England Highway (NEH) (see **Figure 1** within **Attachment A** - Figures). RCM is the collective name for Rix's Creek North (RCN) (previously Integra Open Cut) and Rix's Creek South (RCS) (the original Rix's Creek Mine).

Bloomfield is seeking a new State Significant Development Consent to facilitate the continuation of open cut mining operations at RCN.

The proposed action is part of the RCN Continuation Project (the Project). The conceptual layout of the Project is shown in **Figure 1** within **Attachment A** - Figures and entails the continuation of mining operations primarily within the existing mining authorities held for RCN.

The Project is generally comprised of the following key elements:

- The relocation of an approximate 4 kilometre (km) section of the NEH 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 NEH 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.

Some of the mining activities associated with the Project will be within the approved project disturbance boundary for the State Approved Mining Operations for RCN (i.e. areas approved to be disturbed for topsoil stockpiles, water management and other purposes). The western extents of the Camberwell Pit Mining Area and the Falbrook Pit Mining Area will require additional disturbance of native vegetation beyond the area currently approved for disturbance for RCN.

The realignment of the NEH is the only construction works required for the Project and will require additional disturbance to the west of the Camberwell Pit Mining Area.

The proposed action that is subject to this Referral consists only of the aspects of the Project that are not part of the State Approved Mining Operations at RCN and those aspects that have the potential to impact upon matters of Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES). This includes the mining activities located within the proposed action area as illustrated on **Figure 1** within **Attachment A** - Figures. The proposed action area covers approximately 537 ha of which around 71% (381 ha) is located outside of the State Approved RCN disturbance boundary.

The final disturbance boundary for the proposed action within this proposed action area will include the following disturbance activities:

- Realignment of the NEH;
- Advancement of the Camberwell Pit to the west through the current NEH alignment;

- Advancements of the Falbrook Pit to the north and west out to Middle Falbrook and Stoney Creek Roads; and
- Water management infrastructure associated with the NEH alignment and the proposed mining operations.

The realignment of the NEH and the advancements of the existing open cut mining areas will require the clearing of native vegetation that has not previously been approved for disturbance. This may have an impact on the local plant community types or habitat for fauna species.

The disturbance associated with the NEH realignment and the open cut mining activities proposed by the Project also has the potential to result in impacts to surface water catchments and regional groundwater resources.

The Project will facilitate the recovery of a coal resource to the west of existing State Approved Mining operations within the Camberwell Pit and to the north west of the State Approved Mining Operations within the Falbrook Pit. This includes allowing the recovery of coal within the approved mining area in the western portion of the Camberwell Pit which is currently unable to be recovered due to geotechnical considerations. The relocation of the NEH further to the west will enable the recovery of the coal resources which occur within the existing RCN mining authorisations.

The proposed action will prolong the life of State Approved Mining Operations at RCN by approximately 14 years (until the end of 2049) and facilitate the optimal recovery of coal resources within the existing mining authorities held by Bloomfield. The Project will continue to play an integral role in servicing the needs of the export coal markets as volumes of export quality coal begins to decline in the Hunter Valley.

The existing social and economic benefits of the RCM operations will continue for a further nine years (noting that RCS holds approval for mining until the end of 2040) as a result of the extended mine life for the Project. The Project will enable the ongoing annual expenditure of approximately $170 Million in goods and services and the employment of approximately 325 Full Time Equivalent employees, while supporting approximately 520 individual suppliers.

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)?

No

1.2.4 Related referral(s)

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

The proposed action is not part of a staged development or a component of a larger proposed action. However the activities subject to this Referral entail the continuation of existing State Approved Mining Operations at RCN and specifically includes the new activities that are proposed by the Project at RCN. The current State Approved Mining Operations at RCN are discussed below, whilst the proposed Project in its entirety is discussed in **Section 1.2.1**.

RCN operates under Project Approval MP 08_0102 granted on 26 November 2010. MP 08_0102 consolidated the previous approvals for Camberwell Coal Mine (previously approved by DA 86/2889 in 1990) and Glennies Creek Open Cut Mine (previously approved by PA 06_0073 in 2008). MP 08_0102 permits Bloomfield to conduct open cut mining operations until 31 December 2035.

MP 08_0102 has been modified on ten occasions (to date) and facilitates the following activities:

- Extraction of up to 1.5 Mtpa of ROM coal from the Falbrook Pit;
- Extraction of up to 4.5 Mtpa of ROM coal concurrently from the Camberwell Pit;
- Open cut mining using shovel and excavator methods down to the base of the Hebden Seam;
- Extraction of additional ROM coal through highwall or auger mining methods;
- Extension of the Camberwell Pit further to the west of the previously approved mining extent;
- Emplacement of overburden within the Camberwell and Falbrook Pits;
- Construction of an overburden emplacement area (OEA) adjacent to the Falbrook Pit;
- Processing of ROM coal using the RCN CHPP;
- Transport of coal from RCN to RCS for processing and rail transport (MOD 5);
- Receival of coal for processing and rail transport from RCS (MOD 5);
- Receival of up to 5 Million bank cubic metres (Mbcm) per annum overburden and 0.5 Mbcm of dried tailings from RCS (MOD 7);
- Rail transportation of up to 7.3 Mtpa of product coal from the site;
- Ancillary activities including construction and use of access road and site facilities area;
- 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; and
- Use of an in pit mobile crusher.

The development layout of existing State Approved Operations for RCN from MP 08_0102 is illustrated in **Figure 2** within **Attachment A** - Figures.

Sections 4.2.1 and 9.4.3 of the *Integra Open Cut Project Environmental Assessment* (Integra EA) (URS, 2009) describes that Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) would not be impacted by the activities approved under MP 08_0102 and accordingly no referral under the EPBC Act was identified to be required for the Integra Open Cut Project (now known as RCN). Further, none of the Modifications which have been approved by the State Government for RCN have identified any significant impacts on MNES. An EPBC Referral has recently been lodged in relation to the State Approved Mining Operations at RCN to address new listings of MNES which may potentially be impacted. It is proposed that the State Approved Mining Operations EPBC Referral is considered separately to the EPBC Referral for the Project (subject of this Referral).

The proposed action entails the continuation of mining operations at RCN beyond areas previously approved for mining operations. MP 08_0102 (as modified) currently authorises the carrying out of mining activities until 31 December 2035.

The Proposed Action involves advancing the two existing open cut mining areas in the Falbrook Pit and the Camberwell Pit at the currently approved combined extraction rate of 6 Mtpa of ROM coal, as described above, for a further 14 years.

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

RCN currently operates under MP 08_0102 granted under the former Part 3A of the EP&A Act. The proposed activities for the Project are beyond the scope of a modification (i.e. it is not substantially the same development). Schedule 1 of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021* (Planning Systems SEPP) provides that 'coal mining' constitutes SSD and as such a new SSD development consent will be required under Division 4.7 of Part 4 of the EP&A Act.

The form and content requirements for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to accompany a SSD Application are outlined in Division 5 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021* (EP&A Regulation).

An Application for Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) and accompanying Scoping Report (JBA, 2023) was submitted to DPHI on 11 August 2023 (refer to **Attachment B** - Scoping Report). The SEARs for the Project (SSD 60774228) were issued to Bloomfield on the 6 October 2023.

An EIS is being prepared in accordance with the EP&A Regulation, and with regard to the DPHI *State Significant Development Guidelines* (DPE, 2024), including the *Preparing an Environmental Impact Statement Guideline* (DPE, 2022a) and the SEARs issued for the Project.

Section 4.63 of the EP&A Act provides that if a development consent is surrendered as a condition of a new development consent, the consent authority is not required to re-assess likely impacts of the continued development of the existing consent.

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 part of the surface title area of CL 357 in the event that the State Approved Mining Operations for the Full Dulwich Pit mine plan option is pursued.

The mining operations for the proposed action, if approved, will require a new ML (or new MLs) to be granted for a small area of surface title. Section 4.42 of the EP&A Act provides that a ML cannot be refused if it is necessary for carrying out SSD that is authorised by a development consent.

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 Project 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. The EIS will consider the Project's permissibility in detail as well as its consistency with all other relevant planning instruments.

Gateway Process

Bloomfield prepared a Site Verification Certificate (SVC) Application and confirmed the land was not Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land (BSAL). DPHI issued a SVC on 22 July 2024 confirming the land was not BSAL. The SVC will be attached to the EIS which is being prepared in support of the SSD Application.

OTHER RELEVANT NSW POLICIES

NSW Government Strategic Statement on Coal Exploration and Mining

In August 2020, the NSW Government released the Strategic Statement on Coal Exploration and Mining (The Statement) which sets out the Government's approach to global transition to a low carbon future, consistent with Australia's ambition under the Paris Agreement, and management of impacts to coal-reliant communities. The Statement commits the NSW Government to consider responsible applications to extend the life of existing coal mines, which is consistent with the Project.

Integrated Mining Policy 2018

The EIS will include review and assessment of the Project against each of the controls and policies noted within the IMP and associated documents.

NSW Aquifer Interference Policy

The *NSW Aquifer Interference Policy* (AIP) defines the regime for protecting and managing the impacts of aquifer interference activities on NSW's water resources.

Potential impacts to water resources and water-dependent receptors (such as groundwater dependant ecosystems and privately-owned bores) will be assessed in the EIS. This will include consideration of the AIP and the identification of any water licence requirements for the Project in addition to water licences currently held by Bloomfield.

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. The HRP includes actions to identify the land and infrastructure requirements to develop the Hunter's coal and alternative energy resources. The EIS will further consider the Project's alignment with the HRP.

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 and 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 Project is aligned with the SLSPS as it aims to support continual economic development in the Singleton LGA.

EPBC POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

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;*
- *Significant Impact Guidelines 1.3 - Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Developments - Impacts on Water Resources, 2022;* and
- 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.*

The Commonwealth Government released the *Nature Positive Plan: Better for the Environment, Better for Business* (Nature Positive Plan) (DCCEEW, 2022) on 8 December 2022. Depending on timing, the proposed action may be subject to the revised requirements within the Nature Positive Plan.

This referral is made concurrent with the Application for a new SSD approval (SSD 60774228). Therefore, in the event that the proposed action is deemed a controlled action, the proposed action may be able to be assessed by the NSW Government in respect of the EPBC Act in accordance with the Bilateral Agreement currently in place between the Commonwealth Government and the NSW State Government. An EIS is currently being prepared for the Project to support the Application and any assessment which is required for the Project under the EPBC Act.

The Bilateral Agreement incorporates the NSW Biodiversity Offset Scheme and BAM as an endorsed assessment methodology for the assessment of impacts to biodiversity aspects. In this regard, it is envisaged that the Commonwealth requirements for offsets will be appropriately addressed within the BDAR that will be prepared for the EIS, with the offsetting requirements determined through the application of the BAM and Biodiversity Assessment Calculator whilst preparing the BDAR.

A Greenhouse Gas Impact Assessment (GGIA) will also be completed for the Project for inclusion in the EIS. The GGIA will be undertaken in accordance with *National Greenhouse Accounts Factors* (Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW, 2024a), *National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting System* (administered by Australian Government Clean Energy Regulator), *Australia Greenhouse Emissions Information System* (administered by the Australian Government Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources), *NSW Climate Change Policy* (administered by the NSW EPA), *Climate Change Action Plan* (administered by the NSW EPA), NSW Guide for Large Emitters (NSW EPA, 2025) and with consideration of the recent changes to the Commonwealth Safeguard Mechanism.

A Surface Water and a Groundwater Impact Assessment will also be undertaken for the Project for inclusion in the EIS. These assessments will be completed in accordance with the relevant NSW policies and guidelines such as the *NSW Aquifer Interference Policy* (DPI, 2012) and the *Australian Groundwater Modelling Guidelines* (Barnett *et al.*, 2012). In the event that the proposed action is deemed a controlled action due to the potential for impacts to water resources, these assessments will also address the requirements of the *Information Guidelines for Proponents Preparing Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development Proposals* (Independent Expert Scientific Committee, 2024) and associated Explanatory Notes.

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 Project in a manner that avoids and minimises potential impacts on the environment and local communities. An important input into the consideration of environmental and community impacts will come from direct and transparent consultation with potentially affected members of the community and other relevant stakeholders.

Stakeholder consultation and engagement will be managed in accordance with the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) which has been prepared for the Project. The SEP reflects the *Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects* (DPHI, 2024) (Engagement Guideline) and *Social Impact Assessment Guideline* (DPE 2023) (SIA Guideline) requirements for community engagement related to environmental impact assessments for SSD projects.

The SEP documents the consultation framework, communications and engagement activities that Bloomfield will undertake throughout project planning, development, construction and operations. The SEP includes a description of the key stakeholders, consultation approaches and associated methods proposed during the approvals process. It also includes the personnel who will be responsible for consulting and engaging with particular stakeholders.

The SEP is intended to establish proactive communication and engagement with stakeholders in the community and help to ensure that their concerns or issues are clearly understood and/or resolved to the extent possible.

In accordance with the SEP, initial consultation and engagement was undertaken with potentially impacted community members and groups during the scoping phase of the Project, as detailed in the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Scoping document, included with the SEARs application (**Attachment B** – Scoping Report, Appendix B, Section 7, Pages 21-30). This included the following activities:

- Face-to-face meetings and telephone calls with key stakeholders;
- Meeting with the RCM Community Consultative Committee (CCC);
- Distribution of newsletters with Bloomfield contact details provided for stakeholder to request a briefing or further consultation;
- Update of the company website with key Project information; and
- Distribution of a Community Survey.

Bloomfield works with an open and transparent 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. The CCC was initially informed of the proposed Project during a meeting held on 11 May 2023. Updates over the Project have been provided to the CCC in subsequent meetings on 18 October 2023, 22 May 2024 and 23 October 2024. Minutes of CCC meetings are available on the Bloomfield website:

https://www.bloomcoll.com.au/sustainability/environmental-management/rixs-creek-assessments/ccc-minutes

Key comments and queries over the Project from the CCC included:

- The current resources and time remaining within the Camberwell pit;
- The highway realignment, with clarification sought over the location of the conservation areas, whether it is a State road and forced acquisition and the construction process with regards to a gully;
- Suggestion that the speed limit on the road should be reduced from 100 km/ hour;
- If the project would result in fewer voids, with concerns over the final landform filling with water;
- Changes to 24 hour operations within the Falbrook Pit and that it would have an impact on neighbours, with noise from rocks dumping into trucks being the major issue;

- The timeframe for the project in terms of commencement, mine life and mining sequence;
- The continuation of employment for staff and the importance of having a transition team organised for the workforce;
- Whether there would be community town hall briefings;
- Impact on the approval from the emissions from mining areas;
- Mining near the highway with an explanation sought over why mining stopped near the highway and if this was directed by a regulatory authority;
- Whether the former motel located on the NEH was going to be knocked down;
- Whether any historic heritage values had been identified that would be impacted by the Project; and
- If the EPBC referral could stop mining operations.

A Community Survey was also distributed across the local area to gauge an understanding of how people feel about the proposed Project and to identify key opportunities and issues. A total of 73 surveys were completed by members of the community over a period of 3 weeks, with 28% located from within the Singleton Local Government Area (LGA), 27% located within the Maitland City Council LGA and 11% from the Newcastle City Council. 17% chose not to provide a location. The surveys were completed by 52 Bloomfield Employees or Contractors, 24 local residents, six landholders, eight business owners and five service providers, as identified by the survey participants (noting that some participants related to several categories).

The participants were asked how they felt about the continuation of mining operations at RCN. There were 64 of the participants who indicated they 'strongly support' and a further three who 'support' the idea of the continuation of mining at RCN. There were also four survey participants who 'strongly oppose' and a further two who 'oppose' the continuation of mining operations.

The 'Very Positive' aspects identified in the survey as a benefit of the proposed Project included 'Employment' in 63 (86%) and 'Small Business' in 50 (69%) of the 73 surveys, whilst air quality (11.1%), agriculture (8%), noise (8%) and blast vibration (8%) were identified as a 'Very Negative' impact of the proposed Project.

A number of community newsletters have been distributed to the local community and other stakeholders to provide information about the existing mining operations. These newsletters have introduced the proposed Project, provided a map, provided a summary of the planning and approvals processes and also included an invitation to participate in the consultation process. Bloomfield's newsletters in relation to the Project are available at:

https://www.bloomcoll.com.au/sustainability/environmental-management/rixs-creek-assessments/rcn_cont.

Bloomfield will continue to engage with the local community as well as the relevant local, state and federal stakeholders to ensure the Project addresses any community concerns and meets community expectations, as outlined in the SEP. This will include the use of engagement tools such as newsletters, letters/ emails, the Bloomfield website, face to face meetings, public information forums and further community surveys.

In addition to this, specific consultation will be undertaken with Indigenous stakeholders. RCM has developed a formal relationship with the Registered Aboriginal Parties whom have registered their interest in the Project.

An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) will be undertaken as part of the EIS. The ACHA will include consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders in determining and assessing impacts and developing mitigation measures for the Project, having regard to the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation requirements for Proponents 2010* (Department Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW), 2010).

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.

Personal information may be disclosed to other Australian government agencies, persons or organisations where necessary for the above purposes, provided the disclosure is consistent with relevant laws, in particular the Privacy Act 1988 (Privacy Act). Your personal information will be used and stored in accordance with the Australian Privacy Principles.

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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	Four Mile Creek Road, Ashtonfield 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. The Bloomfield Group 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 the Group, and they are also the owner of Biodiesel Industries Australia.

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

The RCM operates in accordance with the requirements of its licences and approvals held by Bloomfield including the NSW development consent approvals held (see **Section 1.2.2**). RCM also has an Environmental Management Strategy (EMS) prepared for the site (**Attachment** C - EMS). This EMS forms part of a series of Environmental Management Plans for 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 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. RCM have not received any fines, infringements or penalties for environmental incidents 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, it's 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 (Bloomfield, 2017).

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 E** - 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 F** - 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	Four Mile Creek Road, Ashtonfield 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	Four Mile Creek Road, Ashtonfield 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

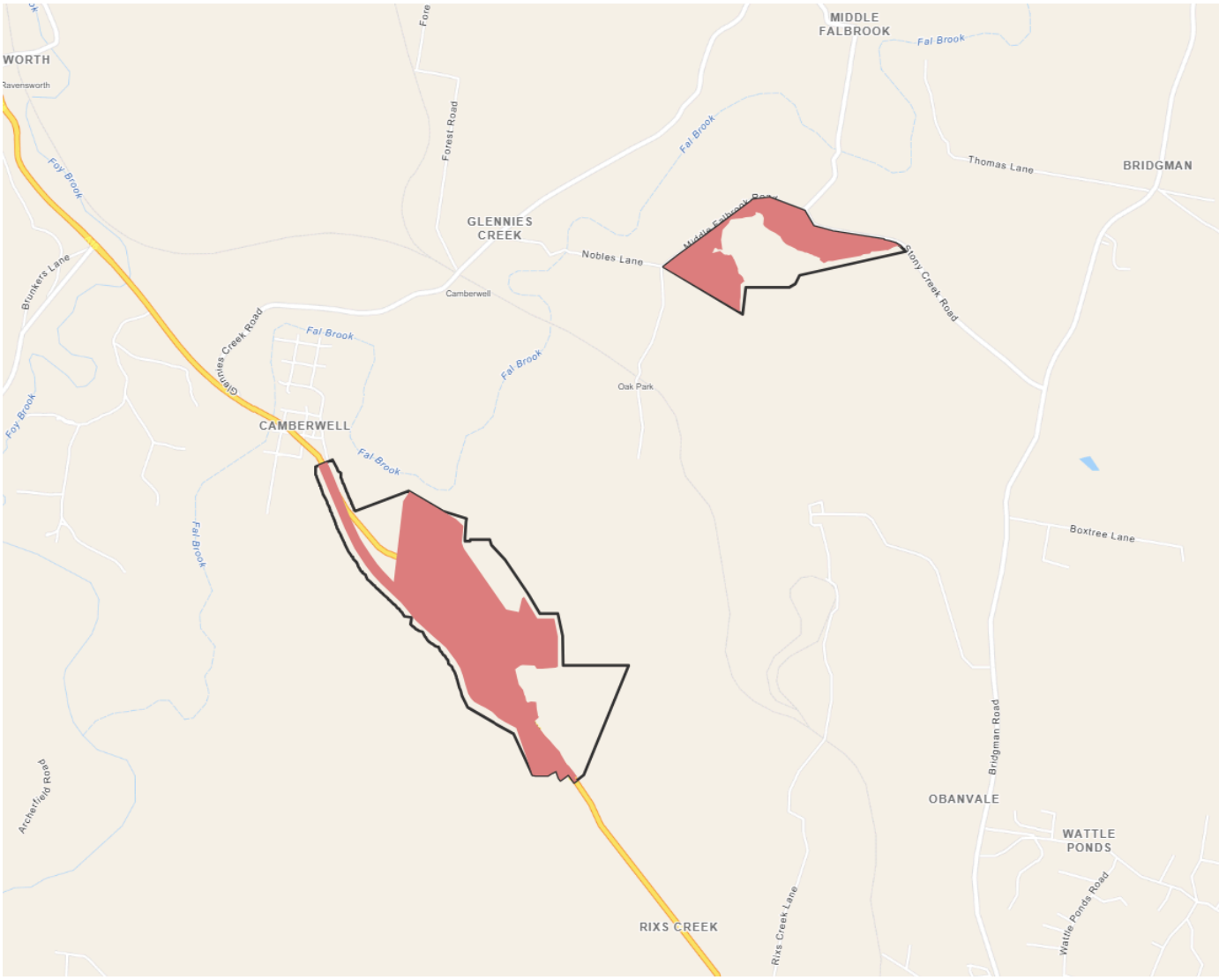
1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

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: 536.89 Ha **Disturbance Footprint:** 312.40 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 predominantly on freehold land owned by Bloomfield.

The two areas for potential future mining are located to the west and north west of approved RCN mining areas. The westerly continuation of the Falbrook Pit occurs on freehold land owned by Bloomfield. A westerly continuation of the existing Camberwell Pit covers land both sides of a section of the NEH and includes land owned by Bloomfield as well as various Crown Land, land owned by Singleton Council or TfNSW (associated with the NEH) and land owned by Ashton Coal Mines Limited.

The majority of land within the 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.

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 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 is located to the south of RCM. Other private residences are more sparsely located in areas to the west, north and north east.

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

- RCS immediately south;
- 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, agriculture and urban development. These existing land uses have resulted in moderate level of landscape disturbances, 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 proposed action is a continuation of mining operations at the existing RCN, in a well-established open cut and underground coal mining area previously disturbed by historic and current mining. Components of the proposed action will be located on land that is outside of the State Approved Mining Operations disturbance boundary for RCN. Further, components of the Project will extend beyond the current RCN project boundary, as defined in MP 08_0102 (as modified) (Refer to **Figure 1** within **Attachment A** - Figures).

The *Singleton Local Environmental Plan* (LEP) (2013) describes the land zoning across the proposed action 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 development. No alternative land use zones adjoin the proposed action area. However, parcels of land zoned as C2 Environmental Conservation are present to the north and C4 Environmental Living are located to the south of the proposed action area.

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 a continuation of the existing RCN operation and therefore no changes are proposed for access to site.

The entrance to RCS is located off Rixs Creek Lane, which intersects the NEH approximately 5 km north from Singleton. The Project will mine through the current alignment of the NEH with an approximately 4 km section of the NEH to be relocated to the west. There will be no changes to the access for RCS due to the proposed realignment of the NEH which is located further to the north of the Rixs Creek Lane intersection.

The construction works for the realignment of the NEH will be undertaken in a manner that causes minimal interruption to traffic. The new section of the NEH will be complete prior to the decommissioning and removal of the old highway alignment. The Main Northern Rail Line runs through the existing project boundary. RCM has its own rail loop and train loadout facilities for transporting coal, which will continue to be utilised for the Project.

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 project area includes open cut mining and agricultural activities, primarily grazing, as well as the transport corridors associated with the NEH and Main Northern Rail Line. Agricultural land use in the area is described as grazing on modified pastures.

The proposed action area is predominantly located within the existing RCN project boundary with the exception of a small parcel of land to the west of the Falbrook Pit mining area and the area associated with the relocation of the NEH and the western portion of the Camberwell Pit mining area. 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 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 and north west of the proposed action area. Stony Creek, Martins Creek, and Blackwall Creek are located in the east of the proposed action area. Station Creek is located to the west of the proposed action area and runs to the west of the existing 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 proposed action 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 proposed action 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 existing RCN and surrounding open cut mining operations.

The proposed action area includes parts of the existing open cut mining voids and overburden emplacement areas which have substantially altered landform when compared with the pre-mining landform. The proposed action will be progressing into an area where the pre-mining landform has been historically modified by the alignment of the NEH as well as landforms where no alterations have been made.

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.

Cumberland Ecology completed a number of flora and fauna surveys for the Project in 2020 and in 2021 including vegetation mapping, BAM floristic plots, targeted threatened flora and fauna surveys, and habitat assessments which have been compiled in a summary report. More recently, WSP has been commissioned to complete contemporary surveys and assessment which will be utilised to inform the Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) which is being prepared in support of the EIS.

Database searches have also been undertaken to identify both NSW and Commonwealth listed species and ecological communities in the Project area. Field survey and database searches have identified several native vegetation types, threatened ecological communities (TECs), threatened flora and threatened fauna species.

Native Vegetation

Ecological surveys completed in 2024 identified the following plant community types (PCTs) within the proposed action area:

- PCT 3314 Central Hunter Slopes Grey Box Forest;
- PCT 3315 Central Hunter Spotted Gum Ironbark Forest;
- PCT 3431 Central Hunter Ironbark Grassy Woodland;
- PCT 3967 Northern Lower Floodplain Eleocharis Wetland;
- PCT 4015 Central Hunter Swamp Oak Riparian Forest; and
- PCT 4039 Hunter Range Creek Flat Apple-Red Gum Forest.

These communities were identified to occur in several condition states including moderate and good condition, regrowth and derived grasslands. 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 nine 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 within the proposed action area. The approved conservation advice for this Critically Endangered community outlines key diagnostic characteristics and condition thresholds vegetation is required to meet to be considered part of this community.

Threatened Flora Species

Desktop review, including searches of the EPBC Protected Matters Tool and the NSW Atlas of Wildlife (DCCEEW, 2024b), identified 31 EPBC Act listed threatened flora species that are predicted or known to occur within the proposal locality (proposed action area and a 10 km radius). The results of a likelihood of

occurrence analysis identified five threatened flora species considered to have a moderate or higher likelihood of habitat within the proposed action area (refer to **Attachment I** – LoO_Flora, Table I). Field validation surveys, including targeted threatened flora surveys completed to date have failed to identify any EPBC Act listed threatened flora species.

One BC Act listed threatened flora population, being *Cymbidium canaliculatum* population in the Hunter Catchment, has been identified within the proposed action area and will be subject to assessment under the relevant NSW legislation.

Figure 5 within **Attachment A** - Figures provides the location of MNES flora previously recorded within the proposed action area.

Threatened Fauna Species

Desktop review, including searches of the EPBC Protected Matters Tool and the NSW Atlas of Wildlife (DCCEEW, 2024b), identified 53 EPBC Act listed threatened fauna species that are predicted or known to occur within the Project locality (proposed action area and a 10 km radius). The results of likelihood of occurrence assessments (**Attachment J** – LoO_Fauna, Table J.1) identified a total of 16 threatened fauna species with a moderate or higher likelihood of occurrence within the proposed action area, being:

- Hunter Valley Delma (*Delma vescolineata*) – Endangered;
- Green and Golden Bell Frog (*Litoria aurea*) – Vulnerable;
- Spotted-tailed Quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*) – Endangered;
- Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) – Endangered;
- Grey-headed Flying-fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*) – Vulnerable;
- Large-eared Pied Bat (*Chalinolobus dwyeri*) – Vulnerable;
- Nectivorous birds;
    - Regent Honeyeater (*Anthochaera phrygia*) – Critically Endangered; and
    - Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*) -Critically Endangered;
- Woodland Birds;
    - Gang-gang Cockatoo (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*) – Endangered;
    - South-eastern Glossy Black-Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami*) -Vulnerable;
    - South-eastern Hooded Robin (*Melanodryas cucullata cucullata*) – Endangered;
    - Brown Treecreeper (eastern subspecies) (*Climacteris picumnus victoriae*) – Vulnerable;
    - Diamond Firetail (*Stagonopleura guttata*) – Vulnerable; and
    - White-throated Needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*) – Vulnerable;
- Migratory Birds;
    - Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus*) – Migratory;
    - Oriental Cuckoo (*Cuculus optatus*) – Migratory.

Historic records indicate one EPBC Act listed threatened fauna species, being the Large-eared Pied Bat, has been recorded utilising habitat within the proposed action area. Field validation surveys completed to date have identified the presence of the Hunter Valley Delma (*Delma vescolineata*) within the open woodland and grassland areas within the Camberwell Pit mining area and the identification of bat call sequences from the Large-eared Pied Bat (*Chalinolobus dwyeri*). No additional EPBC Act listed threatened fauna species have been identified within the proposed action area to date.

Further to the above, several BC Act listed threatened fauna species have been identified as potentially utilising habitat within the proposed action area and will be subject to assessment within the BDAR. BC Act listed threatened fauna species that are known to occur within the proposed action area include:

- Speckled Warbler (*Chthonicola sagittate*) – Vulnerable under the BC Act;
- Little Lorikeet (*Parvipsitta pusilla*) - Vulnerable under the BC Act;
- Grey-crowned Babbler (eastern subspecies) (*Pomatostomus temporalis*) – Vulnerable under the BC Act;
- Squirrel Glider (*Petaurus norfolcebsis*) – Vulnerable under the BC Act;

- Masked Owl (*Tyto novaehollandiae*) - Vulnerable under the BC Act;
- Brush-tailed Phascogale (*Phascogale tapoatafa*) - Vulnerable under the BC Act;
- Eastern Coastal Freetailed Bat (*Micronomus norfolkensis*) - Vulnerable under the BC Act; and
- Little Bent-winged Bat (*Miniopterus australis*) - Vulnerable under the BC Act.

Figure 5 within **Attachment A** - Figures provides the location of MNES fauna previously recorded within the proposed action area.

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

Land within the proposed action area 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 vicinity of the Project area is fragmented due to historical agricultural activities, existing mining operations, the NEH and the Main Northern Rail Line.

A *Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land (BSAL) Site Verification Report* was prepared by Minesoils (BSAL Assessment) for the area of mining proposed beyond existing mining lease (including a 100m buffer) (the BSAL Assessment Area), to verify if this land contains any BSAL within or immediately surrounding the area. The assessment confirmed that there was no BSAL within the area which requires a new mining lease.

Vegetation in the proposed Project area has been extensively cleared for grazing, mining and the transport corridor of the NEH. Existing remnant trees and native grasses remain in patches across the BSAL Assessment Area, with the open woodland comprising narrow-leafed and broad-leafed red ironbarks; white, yellow, and grey box; and occasional gums, both Blakely's red gum and grey gums. This landscape 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 which is moderately low capability land with high to very high limitations for high impact land uses. The dominant soil was 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 are also some patches of land classified as Class 6 in the north 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, 2024c) on 27 November 2024 confirmed that the Project area does not contain any Commonwealth Heritage places. The 'Kangory' homestead site, formerly 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 to the north east of the Camberwell Pit, approximately 2 km to the north east of the proposed action area. Sites of non-indigenous heritage have been identified in previous heritage assessments of areas within and surrounding the proposed action area.

The Middle Falbrook Road Bridge over Glennies Creek has been 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 proposed action will be minimal as blast vibration levels are expected to be managed within the relevant blast criteria and the majority of mine traffic will continue to utilise Bridgman Road as the main access to the site.

The Rix's Creek North Heritage Management Plan (Bloomfield, 2016) indicates several house sites or other sites of historical importance are located within the current RCN project boundary. Recent field surveys undertaken by OzArk Environment and Heritage (OzArk) for the Historic Heritage Impact Assessment for the Project did not identify any items of non-indigenous heritage within the proposed action area. Further detail from this assessment will be provided in the Project EIS.

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

An Aboriginal Heritage Assessment was conducted in 2008 by Navin Officer Pty Ltd (Navin Officer, 2008) over the Rix's Creek North project area, covering most of the western part of the Open Cut Extension Area as part of the Integra Open Cut Project Environmental Assessment (EA) (URS, 2008). The assessment recorded a total of 67 sites of Aboriginal significance. Further site surveys will be required in the south west corner of the project area and to the north in the area surrounding Possum Skin Dam.

All 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 RCN have been fenced off to avoid any interactions.

An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment is being undertaken by OzArk for the Project EIS. Field surveys were undertaken by OzArk in August and September 2024 to assess previously recorded sites and survey the Project area for additional sites of Aboriginal significance. The survey recorded ten new Aboriginal cultural heritage sites comprising of artefact scatter (six) and isolated find (four) sites. An additional site of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance was recorded along Glennies Creek, consisting of an artefact scatter, during a test excavation program undertaken by OzArk following initial survey efforts. The location of the previously identified and newly recorded sites of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance are illustrated on **Figure 6** within **Attachment A** - Figures (Figure 6 of Attachment A will not be made publicly available for cultural sensitivity reasons). . Further detail on the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment will be provided in the Project EIS.

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

A parcel of Crown land located within the proposed action area is subject to an Aboriginal Land Claim by the Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) under the *NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983*. Bloomfield will continue to consult with the Wanaruah LALC and the Department of Crown Lands in relation to the Project and to obtain access to the land.

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, 2022b). The proposed action area overlaps with the Section 10 Application Area. However no mining of coal will take place within this area. The interaction between the Section 10 Application Area and the RCN Continuation Project Boundary is displayed in **Figure 6** within **Attachment A** - Figures (Figure 6 of Attachment A will not be made publicly available for cultural sensitivity reasons). . 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 Region Natural Resource Management Region (Hunter LLS, 2022).

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 8** 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.

Glennies Creek is a regulated river system under the *Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Regulated River Water Source 2016* and is a major tributary into the Hunter River. It is located approximately 1 km west of the Camberwell Pit and around 1.5 km to the north west of the Falbrook Pit (**Figure 8** 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 Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (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 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 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 µS/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.

Direct impact	Indirect impact	World heritage
No	No	Greater Blue Mountains Area

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, 2024b).

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, 2024b).

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.

Direct impact	Indirect impact	National heritage
No	No	Greater Blue Mountains Area

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 project 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, 2024b).

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, 2024b).

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	No	Acacia bynoeana	Bynoe's Wattle, Tiny Wattle
No	No	Allocasuarina glareicola	
No	No	Androcalva procumbens	
No	No	Angophora inopina	Charmhaven Apple
No	Yes	Anthochaera phrygia	Regent Honeyeater
No	No	Aphelocephala leucopsis	Southern Whiteface
No	No	Aprasia parapulchella	Pink-tailed Worm-lizard, Pink-tailed Legless Lizard
No	No	Asperula asthenes	Trailing Woodruff
No	No	Banksia penicillata	a banksia
No	No	Botaurus poiciloptilus	Australasian Bittern
No	No	Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper
No	Yes	Callocephalon fimbriatum	Gang-gang Cockatoo
No	Yes	Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami	South-eastern Glossy Black-Cockatoo
No	Yes	Chalinolobus dwyeri	Large-eared Pied Bat, Large Pied Bat
No	Yes	Climacteris picumnus victoriae	Brown Treecreeper (south-eastern)
No	No	Cryptostylis hunteriana	Leafless Tongue-orchid
No	No	Cynanchum elegans	White-flowered Wax Plant
No	No	Dasyurus maculatus gracilis	Spotted-tailed Quoll (North Queensland), Yarri
No	Yes	Dasyurus maculatus maculatus (SE mainland population)	Spot-tailed Quoll, Spotted-tail Quoll, Tiger Quoll (southeastern mainland population)

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	Yes	Delma vescolineata	Hunter Valley Delma
No	No	Dichanthium setosum	bluegrass
No	No	Erythrotriorchis radiatus	Red Goshawk
No	No	Eucalyptus glaucina	Slaty Red Gum
No	No	Eucalyptus pumila	Pokolbin Mallee
No	No	Euphrasia arguta	
No	No	Falco hypoleucos	Grey Falcon
No	No	Gallinago hardwickii	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
No	No	Grantiella picta	Painted Honeyeater
No	No	Haloragis exalata subsp. velutina	Tall Velvet Sea-berry
No	No	Heleioporus australiacus	Giant Burrowing Frog
No	No	Hibbertia acaulothrix	
No	Yes	Hirundapus caudacutus	White-throated Needletail
No	No	Homoranthus darwinioides	
No	Yes	Lathamus discolor	Swift Parrot
No	No	Lepidium aschersonii	Spiny Peppercress
No	Yes	Litoria aurea	Green and Golden Bell Frog
No	No	Litoria booroolongensis	Booroolong Frog
No	No	Litoria daviesae	Davies' Tree Frog
No	Yes	Melanodryas cucullata cucullata	South-eastern Hooded Robin, Hooded Robin (south-eastern)
No	No	Mixophyes balbus	Stuttering Frog, Southern Barred Frog (in Victoria)
No	No	Neophema chrysostoma	Blue-winged Parrot
No	No	Notamacropus parma	Parma Wallaby
No	No	Nyctophilus corbeni	Corben's Long-eared Bat, South-eastern Long-eared Bat
No	No	Olearia cordata	

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Ozothamnus tesselatus	
No	No	Persoonia hirsuta	Hairy Geebung, Hairy Persoonia
No	No	Persoonia pauciflora	North Rothbury Persoonia
No	No	Petauroides volans	Greater Glider (southern and central)
No	No	Petaurus australis australis	Yellow-bellied Glider (south-eastern)
No	No	Petrogale penicillata	Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby
No	Yes	Phascolarctos cinereus (combined populations of Qld, NSW and the ACT)	Koala (combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory)
No	No	Picris evae	Hawkweed
No	No	Pomaderris brunnea	Rufous Pomaderris, Brown Pomaderris
No	No	Potorous tridactylus tridactylus	Long-nosed Potoroo (northern)
No	No	Prasophyllum sp. Wybong (C.Phelps ORG 5269)	a leek-orchid
No	No	Prostanthera cineolifera	
No	No	Pseudomys novaehollandiae	New Holland Mouse, Pookila
No	No	Pseudomys oralis	Hastings River Mouse, Koontoo
No	Yes	Pteropus poliocephalus	Grey-headed Flying-fox
No	No	Pterostylis gibbosa	Illawarra Greenhood, Rufa Greenhood, Pouched Greenhood
No	No	Pycnoptilus floccosus	Pilotbird
No	No	Rhizanthella slateri	Eastern Underground Orchid
No	No	Rhodamnia rubescens	Scrub Turpentine, Brown Malletwood
No	No	Rostratula australis	Australian Painted Snipe
No	No	Rutidosis heterogama	Heath Wrinklewort
No	No	Saltuarius moritzi	New England Leaf-tailed Gecko, Moritz's Leaf-tailed Gecko
No	Yes	Stagonopleura guttata	Diamond Firetail

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Syzygium paniculatum	Magenta Lilly Pilly, Magenta Cherry, Daguba, Scrub Cherry, Creek Lilly Pilly, Brush Cherry
No	No	Thesium australe	Austral Toadflax, Toadflax
No	No	Wollemia nobilis	Wollemi Pine

Ecological communities

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ecological community
Yes	No	Central Hunter Valley eucalypt forest and woodland
No	No	Coastal Swamp Oak (Casuarina glauca) 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 (Acacia pendula) Woodland
No	No	Kurri sand swamp woodland of the Sydney Basin bioregion
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 WSP (2024) (as summarised in **Attachment K** – 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) identified 14 threatened species and one threatened ecological community listed under the EPBC Act that may be significantly impacted by the proposed action:

- Central Hunter Valley Eucalypt Forest and Woodland – Critically Endangered;
- Hunter Valley Delma (*Delma vescolineata*) – Endangered;
- Green and Golden Bell Frog (*Litoria aurea*) – Vulnerable;
- Spotted-tailed Quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*) – Endangered;
- Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) – Endangered;
- Grey-headed Flying-fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*) – Vulnerable;
- Large-eared Pied Bat (*Chalinolobus dwyeri*) – Vulnerable;
- Nectivorous birds;
    - Regent Honeyeater (*Anthochaera phrygia*) – Critically Endangered; and
    - Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*) -Critically Endangered;
- Woodland Birds;
    - Gang-gang Cockatoo (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*) – Endangered;
    - South-eastern Glossy Black-Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami*) -Vulnerable;
    - South-eastern Hooded Robin (*Melanodryas cucullata cucullata*) – Endangered;
    - Brown Treecreeper (eastern subspecies) (*Climacteris picumnus victoriae*) – Vulnerable;
    - Diamond Firetail (*Stagonopleura guttata*) – Vulnerable; and
    - White-throated Needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*) – Vulnerable.

Of these threatened entities, one threatened ecological community, Central Hunter Valley Eucalypt Forest and Woodland, and one threatened fauna species, Large-eared Pied Bat (*Chalinolobus dwyeri*), have been identified within the proposed action area. The Hunter Valley Delma (*Delma vescolineata*) has recently been identified within open woodland and grassland areas during targeted surveys completed within the proposed action area.

Attachment H – MNES_Assessment_of_Significance, Section H2 and H3, Pages H-2 - H-41) includes a more detailed assessment for each threatened species and the threatened ecological community, recorded or considered to have potential habitat within the proposed action against *Matters of National Environmental Significance Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1*.

Targeted field surveys by WSP (2024) (as summarised in **Attachment K** – Ecology Assessment Summary, Section 2.2, Page 5) (this document is a summary of an assessment that has not been finalised and is not publicly available for ecological sensitivity reasons) were completed for all threatened flora species with moderate likelihood to occur. The targeted surveys which have been completed to date for the proposed action have identified the presence of Central Hunter Valley Eucalypt Forest and Woodland, Large-eared Pied Bat and the Hunter Valley Delma. Given no recorded occurrence for the other species were observed within the proposed action area, these species are not considered to be impacted.

The Project includes some additional disturbance to that currently permitted under existing State approvals, as such several of the listed MNES that have been recorded or considered likely to occur in the area may be disturbed. 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. Noise, lighting and vibration generated by the proposed mining operations within the proposed action area may also impact upon threatened species or communities.

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

Shallow monitoring bores are installed in the Glennies Creek alluvium and will 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 will result in unavoidable direct and indirect impacts to several threatened entities, particularly with respect to the following two MNES:

- Central Hunter Valley Eucalypt Forest and Woodland; and
- Hunter Valley Delma (*Delma vescolineata*) – Endangered.

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 up to around 250 hectares of vegetation conforming to this threatened ecological community within the proposed action area.

Survey efforts for the Hunter Valley Delma are ongoing across the proposed action area and this species has recently been identified within the proposed action boundary. A precautionary approach has been undertaken and all areas of suitable habitat have been assessed as presumed habitat for this species. The proposed action may lead to direct and indirect impacts to this species and result in a significant impact.

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. *

Direct and indirect residual impacts from the proposed action are likely to have a significant impact upon the MNES, Central Hunter Valley Eucalypt Forest and Woodland and an important population of the Hunter Valley Delma (*Delma vescolineata*). Given these unavoidable impacts are considered to be significant, the proposed action is likely to be a controlled action

A BDAR is currently being prepared for the Project in accordance with the BAM. Field surveys for flora and fauna have largely been completed across the proposed action area. These surveys will be finalised and the results documented within the BDAR for inclusion within the EIS.

The BDAR will include an assessment of the biodiversity values, the likely biodiversity impacts of the Project, a detailed description of the proposed regime for minimising, managing and reporting on the biodiversity impacts of the Project and a strategy to offset any residual impacts of the Project in accordance with the BC Act and the BAM.

The scope of the BDAR will include:

- A desktop review of relevant databases and extensive available literature to identify flora and fauna species and vegetation communities with a potential to occur within the Project area;
- Seasonal field surveys of vegetation communities, flora and fauna and habitat condition across the Project area to comply, where possible, with BCSD's and DCCEEW recommendations for survey;
- Mapping the distribution of vegetation communities within the Project area and provision of floristic descriptions;
- Targeted searches for threatened species, populations and communities (as listed under the schedules of the BC Act and EPBC Act) that may potentially occur in the Project Area;
- Targeted habitat assessments within the Project area;
- Assessment of impacts on listed vegetation communities and threatened flora and fauna species;
- Identification of any impact avoidance, mitigation and offset measures necessary for the Project; and
- Development of any required offset strategy in accordance with the BC Act.

As described in **Section 1.2.6**, if the proposed action is deemed a 'Controlled Action', it is assumed that the Project will be assessed by DCCEEW under an "Accredited" process.

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. As previously described, the areas of vegetation to be impacted are based on a survey area and the disturbance areas will be refined and updated to reflect the actual disturbance by the proposed action. The open cut mining areas are defined by the location of the coal resources to be recovered. The NEH realignment is defined by the western extent of proposed mining operations within the Camberwell Pit mining area and the landholdings that Bloomfield has or is currently seeking access to. Bloomfield has refined the disturbance boundary required for the proposed action with consideration of avoiding disturbance to the Central Hunter Valley Eucalypt Forest and Woodland where this is feasibly possible. The residual impacts of the proposed action will therefore likely trigger the requirement for an assessment under the *NSW Biodiversity Offset Scheme* to achieve 'no net loss' of biodiversity values within the region.

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 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 RCN Biodiversity Offset Areas. The RCN BMP is included in **Attachment E** – BMP, Section 2.6 and 2.7, Pages 33-65..

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, 2025). 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 as **Attachment F** – 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 BDAR will address the requirements for biodiversity offsetting required for the proposed action. Offsetting requirements will be determined through the application of the BAM and *Biodiversity Assessment Calculator* whilst preparing the BDAR, as discussed above. Offsetting obligations will be delivered in accordance with the Biodiversity Offset Scheme either by purchase from the market, direct payment to the Biodiversity Conservation Fund or via the establishment of Biodiversity Stewardship site(s).

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	Actitis hypoleucos	Common Sandpiper
No	No	Apus pacificus	Fork-tailed Swift
No	No	Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper
No	No	Calidris melanotos	Pectoral Sandpiper
No	No	Cuculus optatus	Oriental Cuckoo, Horsfield's Cuckoo
No	No	Gallinago hardwickii	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
No	No	Hirundapus caudacutus	White-throated Needletail
No	No	Motacilla flava	Yellow Wagtail
No	No	Pandion haliaetus	Osprey
No	No	Tringa nebularia	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, 2024b) identified 11 migratory species or species habitat that may occur within 10km of the proposed action area (refer to **Attachment D** – MNES Protected Matters, Pages 10-11).

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 (Department of the Environment and Heritage 2006a).

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 project area are unlikely to be affected by the mining operations at RCN.

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.

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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 continuation of mining operations within the Camberwell and Falbrook Pit mining areas, recovering the same coal seams that are currently mined at RCN. 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 8** within **Attachment A** - Figures, there are two surface water sources located within the vicinity of 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 include the 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 impacting water quality downstream;
- Potential for additional demands on 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 mine through Possum Skin Dam (a mine water dam). Several unnamed watercourses to the west of the proposed action area may be impacted by NEH realignment and the extension to the Camberwell Pit. However these are minor ephemeral streams with limited water available for third party users.

The surface water assessment conducted for the Glennies Creek Open Cut 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 as a result of mining.

The proposed action is a continuation of mining at RCN and does not encroach on the alluvial sediments and therefore is unlikely to have significant direct or indirect impact on surface water resources in the area.

The existing RCM Water Management Plan (WMP) (Bloomfield, 2021) will continue to guide operations associated with the proposed action. The current 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 7** 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:

- Diversion 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 to reduce reliance on raw/clean water; and
- Avoid adverse effects on downstream waterways (including hydraulic and water quality impacts).

It is unlikely that the proposed action will result in material additional impacts to surface water resources beyond those already experienced. The proposed action will be undertaken within the Glennies Creek catchment where the appropriate mitigation and management actions are currently in place. The existing site water management system that is in place to manage impacts on surface water will continue to be utilised for the proposed action.

A Surface Water Impact Assessment is being prepared for the Project which will include a revised Site Water Balance, an assessment of the surface water management system, consideration of impacts to surface water and to identify any additional mitigation and management measures.

The Conceptual Final Landform for the Project will be developed to facilitate the efficient management of overburden materials to be mined. This includes ensuring that the landforms are constructed to drain to the natural environment and remain safe, stable and non-polluting as per existing rehabilitation objectives of RCN.

Water Resources – Groundwater

As illustrated in **Figure 9** within **Attachment A** - Figures, there are two groundwater sources located proximate to the proposed action area:

- 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 also comprise alluvial groundwater strata associated with 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.

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.

Groundwater modelling previously undertaken for RCN predicts there will be no impact to the Glennies Creek or Station Creek alluvium as a result of mining operations. Preliminary groundwater modelling for the proposed action has indicated that whilst further depressurisation will occur on the Permian coal seam

aquifers, the drawdown impacts on the Glennies Creek alluvial aquifer will be negligible and within the seasonal variability of this aquifer. The proposed action will intercept additional water from the Permian, alluvium and surface water sources which will need to be appropriately licenced in accordance with the *Water Management Act 2000*.

The groundwater monitoring program 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 results up to 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, 2024).

RCM currently hold sufficient WALs to account for both direct and indirect water takes of groundwater intercepted during mining operations. The 2017 Groundwater Environmental Assessment predicted 100 ML per annum of groundwater inflow into the RCN mining pit. In 2023/24, the annual RCM (both RCN and RCS) groundwater inflow was estimated to be 492.8 ML of the total annual allowance of 503 ML (Bloomfield, 2024), with similar inflows anticipated from the Project.

A Groundwater Impact Assessment is being prepared for the Project that will include updated conceptual and numerical groundwater models, an assessment of the potential groundwater impacts of the project for the operational and post-mining phases, identification of any additional water licencing requirements and to recommend any additional groundwater mitigation and management measures.

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 incremental impacts to surface water resources within and surrounding the project area beyond those which have occurred as a result of historical and current mining operations. The extension to the Falbrook Pit is proposed to mine through Possum Skin Dam (a mine water dam). Several unnamed watercourses to the west of the proposed action area may be impacted by the NEH realignment and the extension of the Camberwell Pit. However these are minor ephemeral streams with limited water available for third party users.

The proposed action may result in some changes in flow regimes, recharge rates, aquifer pressure/water table level, groundwater-surface water interactions, river-floodplain connectivity, and inter-aquifer activity, these changes are not expected to be 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 proposed 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 Project will continue to use its surface water and groundwater management system currently in place at RCN to minimise impacts to water resources that includes ongoing quality and level monitoring and appropriate diversion and storage of water on site. Please refer to **Attachment G** – WMP, Sections 4, 5, 6 and 7, Pages 18-77 for the relevant sections of the RCM WMP.

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 direct and indirect residual impacts of the proposed action are unlikely to have a significant impact on surface water or groundwater resources. As described in **Section 4.1.9.5**, incremental impacts to surface water and groundwater resources are not predicted to be of sufficient scale or intensity to be considered to be a significant impact on MNES.

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 continuation of mining associated with the proposed action has been designed to stand back from the alluvial aquifers associated with Glennies Creek to avoid direct interaction with this water resource.

No significant surface water impacts are predicted as a result of the proposed action and the existing RCN water management system will continue to be utilised to monitor and manage impacts to surface water resources.

The proposed action is unlikely to 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 unlikely 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 -
No	No	Commonwealth Land - Australian Telecommunications Commission
No	No	Commonwealth Land - Defence Housing Authority
No	No	Defence - SINGLETON MILITARY AREA ; Lone Pine Barracks

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. *

Two alternatives for the proposed action were considered and determined not feasible. The first alternative is the ‘Do Nothing Scenario’. This alternative considers proceeding with mining and rehabilitation in accordance with the current project approval, meaning the opportunity to recover the remaining coal resources would not be realised. The local, State and National financial benefits would also not be realised. The proposed action presents an opportunity to meet the ongoing demand for high quality coal such as that of the coal mined at RCN. Not proceeding with the proposed action would mean that this opportunity is lost.

The second alternative considered for the proposed action is an alternative sequence of mining in the Camberwell Pit. The coal seams at RCN are steeply dipping and create geotechnical issues limiting the mine design. The proposed mining sequence has been designed to strike a balance between maximising benefits and opportunities while minimising and avoiding impacts (such as creating a final landform with no highwalls) and is much more efficient than any other mining sequences considered.

5. Lodgement

5.1 Attachments

1.2.1 Overview of the proposed action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A - Figures (Redacted).pdf Figures to support the Referral	10/03/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att A - Figures.pdf Figures to support the Referral	10/03/2025	Yes	High

1.2.5 Information about the staged development

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A - Figures (Redacted).pdf Figures to support the Referral	09/03/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att A - Figures.pdf Figures to support the Referral	09/03/2025	Yes	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 B - Scoping Report.pdf RCN Continuation Project Scoping Report	11/08/2023	Yes	High
#2.	Document	Att B - Scoping Report_REDACTED.pdf Rix's Creek North Continuation Project Scoping Report	11/08/2023	No	High
#3.	Link	Australian Greenhouse Accounts Factors https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/do..			High
#4.	Link	Australian Groundwater Modelling Guidelines https://euroaquae.tu-cottbus.de/Semester3/Lectur..			High
#5.	Link	Hunter Regional Plan 2041 https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/fi..			High
#6.	Link	Information Guidelines for Proponents Preparing Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development Prop https://www.iesc.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024..			High
#7.	Link				

		Nature Positive Plan: better for the environment, better for business https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/do..		High
#8.	Link	NSW Aquifer Interference Policy https://water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_..		High
#9.	Link	NSW Guide for Large Emitters https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2..		High
#10.	Link	Singleton Local Strategic Planning Statement 2041 http://portal.singleton.nsw.gov.au/RedDocServ24/..		High
#11.	Link	State Significant Development Guidelines https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/fi..		High
#12.	Link	State significant development guidelines - preparing an environmental impact statement https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/fi..		High

1.2.7 Public consultation regarding the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att B - Scoping Report.pdf RCN Continuation Project Scoping Report	10/08/2023	Yes	High
#2.	Document	Att B - Scoping Report_REDACTED.pdf Rix's Creek North Continuation Project Scoping Report	10/08/2023	No	High
#3.	Link	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/-/media/OEH/C..			High
#4.	Link	Social Impact Assessment Guideline https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/sites/defa..			High
#5.	Link	Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant			High

Projects

https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/fi..

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 Management Strategy	13/05/2020	No	High
#2.	Document	Att C - EMS.pdf Rix's Creek Mine Environmental Management Strategy	13/05/2020	Yes	High
#3.	Document	Att E - BMP (Redacted) (low res).pdf Rix's Creek Mine Biodiversity Management Plan	15/12/2017	No	High
#4.	Document	Att E - BMP.pdf Rix's Creek Mine Biodiversity Management Plan	19/08/2016	Yes	High
#5.	Document	Att F - 2025 RMP.pdf Rix's Creek Mine Rehabilitation Management Plan	07/01/2025	Yes	High
#6.	Document	Att F - 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 (Redacted).pdf Figures to support the Referral	09/03/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att A - Figures.pdf Figures to support the Referral	09/03/2025	Yes	High

3.1.1 Current condition of the project area's environment

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A - Figures (Redacted).pdf Figures to support the Referral	09/03/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att A - Figures.pdf Figures to support the Referral	09/03/2025	Yes	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Link	Protected Matters Search Tool https://pmst.environment.gov.au/#/map?lng=131.52..			High

3.2.1 Flora and fauna within the affected area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A - Figures (Redacted).pdf Figures to support the Referral	09/03/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att A - Figures.pdf Figures to support the Referral	09/03/2025	Yes	High
#3.	Document	Att I - LoO_Flora.pdf MNES Likelihood of Occurrence - Flora	20/12/2024	No	High
#4.	Document	Att J - LoO_Fauna.pdf MNES Likelihood of Occurrence - Fauna	20/12/2024	No	High
#5.	Link	Protected Matters Search Tool https://pmst.environment.gov.au/#/map?lng=131.52..			High

3.2.2 Vegetation within the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Link	The Central Resource for Sharing and Enabling Environmental Data in NSW https://geo.seed.nsw.gov.au/vertigisstudio/web/?..			High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Link				

		Australian Heritage Database http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/searc..		High
#2.	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 (Redacted).pdf Figures to support the Referral	09/03/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att A - Figures.pdf Figures to support the Referral	09/03/2025	Yes	High
#3.	Link	Glendell Continued Operations Project State Significant Development Assessment SSD 9349 https://www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au/resources/pac/media/..			High
#4.	Link	Integra Open Cut Project Environmental Assessment https://www.bloomcoll.com.au/uploads/2009_RCN_In..			High

3.4.1 Hydrology characteristics that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A - Figures (Redacted).pdf Figures to support the Referral	09/03/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att A - Figures.pdf Figures to support the Referral	09/03/2025	Yes	High
#3.	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://pmst.environment.gov.au/#/map?			High

lng=131.52..

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	Protected Matters Search Tool https://pmst.environment.gov.au/#/map?lng=131.52..			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 H - MNES_Assessment_of_Significance.pdf MNES Assessment of Significance	20/12/2024		High
#2.	Document	Att K - Ecology Assessment Summary.pdf RCN Continuation Project Ecology Assessment Summary	28/03/2025	Yes	High
#3.	Link	RCM Water Management Plan https://www.bloomcoll.com.au/uploads/20210517_RC..			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 E - BMP (Redacted) (low res).pdf Rix's Creek Mine Biodiversity Management Plan	14/12/2017	No	High
#2.	Document	Att E - BMP.pdf Rix's Creek Mine Biodiversity Management Plan	18/08/2016	Yes	High
#3.	Document	Att F - 2025 RMP.pdf Rix's Creek Mine Rehabilitation Management Plan	06/01/2025	Yes	High
#4.	Document	Att F - 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

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att D – Protected Matters Report.pdf EPBC Act Protected Matters Report	06/12/2024	No	High
#2.	Link	Glennies Creek Open Cut Coal Mine Fauna Assessment https://majorprojects.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/..			High
#3.	Link	Protected Matters Search Tool https://pmst.environment.gov.au/#/map?lng=131.52..			High
#4.	Link	Significant Impact Guidelines 1.21 – Matters of National Environmental Significance https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/do..			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 (Redacted).pdf Figures to support the Referral	09/03/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att A - Figures.pdf Figures to support the Referral	09/03/2025	Yes	High
#3.	Link	Glennies Creek Open Cut Coal Mine Surface Water Assessment https://majorprojects.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/..			High
#4.	Link	RCM YEM 2024 Annual Review https://www.bloomcoll.com.au/uploads/RCM_Annual_..			High
#5.	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 G - WMP (Redacted).pdf RCM Water Management Plan	17/05/2021	No	High
#2.	Document	Att G - WMP.pdf RCM Water Management Plan	17/05/2021	Yes	High
#3.	Link	Significant Impact Guidelines 1.3 – Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Developments – Impacts on Wa https://www.dcceew.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	Four Mile Creek Road, Ashtonfield 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. *