

## 6 CONCLUSION

The modified Tarrawonga Coal Mine would involve the following changes to the approved operation:

- extension of the open cut boundary to the east by up to approximately 600 m, involving additional disturbance to an area of approximately 38 ha within ML 1579;
- increase in the total coal production from approximately 12.4 to 16.4 Mt;
- increase in the total waste rock production from approximately 88.5 to 123.3 Mbcm;
- increase in the height of the Northern Emplacement from approximately 330 to 370 m AHD;
- extension of the Southern Emplacement by approximately 100 to 300 m to the south, into areas previously approved for topsoil stockpiles;
- construction and use of a new soil stockpile area, involving additional disturbance to an area of approximately 21.2 ha;
- construction and use of two small hardstand/infrastructure areas (i.e. 1.3 ha in total);
- adjustments to the site water management structures and water storages; and
- adjustments to the hours of operation so that coal processing hours are the same as the approved open cut mining hours.

The proposal would not involve any changes to the mining method, maximum production rate (up to 2 Mtpa), mine workforce, or the life of the mine (i.e. 8 to 10 years).

This EA has been prepared to accompany an application to modify the existing Development Consent under Section 75W of the EP&A Act. This EA describes and assesses the potential environmental impacts that could result from the modified Tarrawonga Coal Mine. It also describes the management measures and monitoring programmes that would be adopted during the mine life to avoid or minimise these impacts. Project design, planning and assessment have been carried out applying the principles of ESD, through:

- incorporation of environmental considerations and the results of the impact assessments in decision-making processes;
- adoption of high standards for environmental and occupational health and safety performance;
- assessment of potential greenhouse gas emissions associated with the modified Tarrawonga Coal Mine; and
- optimisation of the economic benefits to the community arising from the modified Tarrawonga Coal Mine.

Assessment of potential long-term impacts of the modified Tarrawonga Coal Mine was carried out during the preparation of this EA on visual aspects, surface water, biodiversity, air quality (including greenhouse gas emissions), noise, geochemistry and Aboriginal heritage. The proposed Modification is considered to be generally consistent with the objects of the EP&A Act, because it:

- incorporates measures for the management and conservation of natural resources including water and natural areas, development of the State's coal resources, and control measures to minimise potential amenity impacts associated with surface activities in the vicinity of ML 1579;
- includes the economic use and development of land, while maintaining key existing land uses including agricultural uses on surrounding Whitehaven and privately-owned land;

- would support the ongoing provision of community services and facilities through royalties, tax revenue and contributions;
- incorporates a range of measures for the protection of the environment, including the protection of biodiversity values;
- incorporates relevant ESD considerations; and
- involves public consultation through the EA consultation programme, which would be ongoing following the public exhibition of the EA document and DoP assessment of the proposed Modification in accordance with the requirements of the EP&A Act.

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