

CORPORATE OFFICE

SAFETY & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

201 Charlotte St Brisbane 4000 Queensland

Attention: Alison Cummings, Manager (Assessment)

cc. Emma Burgess, Team Leader (Assessment)
DES ESR Central Region Mining Assessment
Business Centre Coal
Department of Environment, Science and Innovation

Via online services

28 March 2023

Dear Alison,

RE: Application to amendment Dawson South Environmental Authority EPML00657413

Anglo Coal (Dawson South Management) Pty Ltd (**Anglo**) operates the Dawson South Mine on behalf of the holders of Environmental Authority (**EA**) EPML00657413, Anglo Coal (Dawson South) Pty Ltd and Mitsui Moura Investment Pty Ltd.

Anglo has recently completed detailed Life-of-Mine (**LOM**) planning and design of the final landform for Dawson South Mine as part of the preparation of the Progressive Rehabilitation and Closure Plan (**PRCP**). The PRCP LOM planning process has confirmed that due to a combination of the Pit 25 LOM mining schedule and the quantity of available overburden in proximity to the final pit, it is not feasible to completely backfill Pit 25.

Anglo has prepared an application proposing to amend the Dawson South EA to incorporate a residual final void NUMA in Pit 25. The final landform planning process conducted for the PRCP involved the minimisation of the final void NUMA areas for both Pit 25 and Pit 28. The outcome of this process is that the total combined final void NUMA area for Dawson South Mine remains within the current approved maximum final void NUMA area of 169 ha.

This application includes the following supporting information:

- 1. Dawson South Mine Environmental Assessment Report
- 2. Flood Assessment
- 3. Final Void Modelling
- 4. Groundwater Study

Please contact me on the details below should any additional information or clarification be required. We thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Yours sincerely

Katy Steele

Environmental Approvals Manager

T: +61 (0) 448 888 893

E: katy.steele@angloamerican.com www.angloamerican.com

DAWSON SOUTH MINE

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

26 March 2024

Anglo Coal (Dawson South Management) Pty Ltd 201 Charlotte Street Brisbane Qld 4000

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DAWSON SOUTH MINE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

1 INTRODUCTION

This Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) has been prepared to support an Environmental Authority (EA) amendment application for the Dawson South Mine. The Dawson South Mine EA includes an approved final void Non-Use Management Area (NUMA). The EA amendment application relates to a proposed change in the locations of the approved final void NUMA area.

The EAR document is structured as follows:

- Section 1: Introduction;
- Section 2: The Proponent;
- Section 3: EA Amendment Description;
- Section 4: Regulatory Framework;
- Section 5: Scoping Assessment; and
- Section 6: Proposed Amended EA Conditions.

2 THE PROPONENT

The proponent, and holder of the Dawson South Mine EA, is Anglo Coal (Dawson South) Pty Ltd and Mitsui Moura Investment Pty Ltd. The proponent joint venture is operated by Anglo Coal (Dawson South Management) Pty Ltd (Anglo).

3 EA AMENDMENT DESCRIPTION

3.1 DAWSON SOUTH MINE

Dawson South Mine is part of the Dawson Mine Complex. The Dawson Mine Complex is a large-scale open cut coal mine located approximately 6 km east of Moura and 145 km southwest of Gladstone, at the southern end of the Bowen Basin in Central Queensland (Figure 1).

The Dawson Mine Complex consists of Dawson Central, Dawson North and Dawson South (Figure 2). The three mining areas share common facilities including a Coal Handling and Preparation Plant (CHPP), train loading facilities, and tailings and rejects storage facilities.

Dawson South Mine is located at the southern end of the Dawson Mine Complex (Figure 2). Open cut mining operations at Dawson South commenced in 2003. The mining operations are located within the area of surface rights within Mining Leases (MLs) 5657, 80160 and

80161 (Figure 3). Dawson South Mine has a separate EA (EPML00657413) that authorises the mining activities within the three ML areas. The Dawson South mining area is located approximately 3.7 km north-west of Theodore township.

Dawson South Mine consists of four open cut pits (25, 26, 27 and 28). Mining has not yet commenced in Pit 28. Mining operations involve removal of overburden by dragline with truck and shovel pre-stripping. Run-of-Mine (ROM) coal production ranges up to 5 Mtpa. Dawson South ROM coal is hauled by truck to a ROM coal stockpile and loaded to an overland conveyor on the adjoining Dawson Central site (Figure 3) for transport to the Dawson Complex CHPP for washing and train loading. Dawson South produces export thermal coal and has a current workforce of approximately 160 persons.

Mine infrastructure at Dawson South is limited to haul roads and access roads, ROM coal stockpiles, crib huts and parking areas, and water management infrastructure (dams, diversion drains, levees, etc).

3.2 PROPOSED EA AMENDMENT

3.2.1 Background

The Dawson South Mine EA (Table F1) includes an approved final void NUMA with a projected surface area of up to 169 ha. EA Attachment 2 shows the indicative location of the approved Pit 28 NUMA (Figure 4). Anglo is currently preparing the Dawson South Mine transitional Progressive Rehabilitation and Closure Plan (PRCP) which is required to be submitted to the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation (DESI) by 15 April 2024.

Anglo has recently completed detailed Life-of-Mine (LOM) planning and design of the final landform for Dawson South Mine as part of the preparation of the PRCP. Key objectives of the PRCP LOM planning process were to avoid the need for final void NUMAs, where possible, and where this was not feasible, to minimise the area of the final void NUMAs, as far as possible.

The PRCP LOM planning process has confirmed that due to a combination of the Pit 25 LOM mining schedule and the quantity of available overburden in proximity to the final pit, it is not feasible to completely backfill Pit 25. Hence, it will be necessary to have a residual final void in Pit 25, in addition to Pit 28.

The final landform planning process conducted for the PRCP involved the minimisation of the final void NUMA areas for both Pit 25 and Pit 28. The outcome of this process is that the total combined final void NUMA area for Dawson South Mine remains within the current approved maximum final void NUMA area of 169 ha.

The current authorised final void NUMA for Pit 28 includes the pit lake as well as the high wall, end wall and low wall, above the lake level. The proposed Pit 25 final void and amended Pit 28 final void have been designed with regraded high wall and low wall slopes above the maximum lake level (including a 10 m freeboard buffer). This has enabled these areas of the high wall and low wall to support a PMLU and hence these areas are excluded from the NUMAs.

Anglo is now seeking an amendment of the Dawson South Mine EA to ensure that the final void NUMAs in the transitional PRCP are consistent with the EA.

3.2.2 Environmental Assessment

Detailed environmental assessments have been completed in order to ensure the appropriate location of the final voids, to delineate the minimum area possible for the final void NUMAs and to assess potential impacts. The results of the assessments are summarised below. The assessments included:

- Modelling of the pre-development 0.1 % Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) flood event for the Dawson River to define the extent of the Dawson River flood plain in accordance with Section 126D(3) of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 (EP Act) and Section 41C of the Environmental Protection Regulation 2019 (EP Regulation). The delineation of the Dawson River flood plain was used to confirm whether the final voids are located within a flood plain. The specialist flood modelling report is included in Appendix A.
- Final void lake water balance modelling to predict the final void lake water level and water quality (salinity) in the post mining phase. The final void water balance modelling report is included in Appendix B.
- Groundwater assessment including modelling of groundwater level recovery in the final void areas in the post mining phase to determine whether the final voids will remain as groundwater sinks in the post mining phase. The specialist groundwater assessment report is included in Appendix C.

Flood Assessment

The 0.1% AEP flood extents for the Dawson River are shown in relation to the Dawson South final landform in Figure 5. As shown in Figure 5, both the Pit 25 and Pit 28 final voids are located beyond the 0.1% AEP flood extents and are therefore outside the Dawson River flood plain. Hence, Section 126D(3) of the EP Act, in relation to final voids in flood plains, is not applicable to the proposed Pit 25 and Pit 28 final voids.

Final Void Water Balance Modelling

The final void water balance modelling has predicted the likely maximum final void lake water levels and water quality (salinity) in the post mining phase. The results of the modelling are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1
Final Void Water Balance Modelling Results

Final Void	Time to Reach Equilibrium Water Level (years)*	Maximum Water Level (RL m)	Minimum Freeboard to Overflow (m)	Maximum Total Suspended Solids after 100 years (mg/L)*	
Pit 25	100	81	54	32,000	
Pit 28	300	83	47	12,000	

^{*} Based on model scenario 3 including the effects of climate change

The modelling results indicate that the final void lake water levels will increase over time and reach maximum equilibrium water levels after 100 years in Pit 25 and 300 years in Pit 28. The salinity of the final void lake water will increase over time due to evaporative concentration. The predicted Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) levels of the lake water after 100 years are well in excess of the guideline values for TDS in livestock drinking water (5,000 mg/L) (*Livestock drinking water guidelines – Australia and New Zealand, 2023*). The predicted maximum void lake water levels are well below the overflow levels of the final voids (54 m for Pit 25 and 47 m for Pit 28) and hence the void lakes are not likely to overflow to the downstream environment.

Groundwater Assessment

The maximum groundwater drawdown and the maximum impact of mining on the groundwater system from the Dawson South Mine will occur at the end of mining operations. The changes in the final landform design will not change the groundwater drawdown or impacts at the end of mining operations.

The changes in the final landform design, including the final voids, will affect the recovery of groundwater levels after the end of mining operations, in the post mining phase. A numerical groundwater model was developed for the Dawson South Mine area, and surrounds, to assess the post mining groundwater recovery associated with the PRCP final landform design.

The final void water balance modelling and groundwater modelling results show that:

 Post mining groundwater levels will recover to higher levels in the vicinity of the Pit 28 final void due to the reduction in the Pit 28 final void in the PRCP final landform design; and • Post mining groundwater levels will recover to lower levels in the vicinity of Pit 25 due to the inclusion of a Pit 25 final void in the PRCP final landform design.

The post mining groundwater drawdown due to the PRCP final landform/final void design will remain less than the maximum drawdown at the end of mining operations. Hence the changes in the PRCP final landform/final void design will not result in any increase in the groundwater impacts of the mine.

The final void groundwater assessment has concluded that the final voids will remain groundwater sinks in the post mining phase and hence there will be no seepage of final void lake water away from the final voids and no potential for contamination of surrounding aquifers.

Rehabilitation and Mine Closure

Final void NUMAs are proposed for the areas of the final void lakes given the predicted void lake water quality will be unsuitable for stock watering or any other beneficial use. The final void NUMA areas have been minimised by including only the maximum predicted lake area and a buffer within the proposed NUMAs. The buffer is equivalent to a 10m freeboard above the maximum predicted lake water level to allow for any uncertainty in the modelling predictions, extreme events, etc. The final void areas beyond the NUMAs are proposed to have a PMLU, in accordance with the existing requirements of EA Table F1 (Figures 6, 7 and 8).

The area of the proposed Pit 25 final void NUMA is approximately 70 ha (Figure 6) and the area of the Pit 28 final void NUMA area is approximately 84 ha (Figure 7). The total combined final void NUMA area for Pit 25 and Pit 28 is approximately 154 ha, which is less than the approved maximum final void NUMA area of 169 ha (EA Table F1). Anglo is proposing to retain the current approved maximum final void NUMA area of 169 ha to provide flexibility and allow for any uncertainty in the NUMA area delineation. Given the significant freeboard to lake overflow levels and the significant gradient from the post mining water table to the final void lake levels, any relatively small increase in the lake areas up to the 169 ha maximum (i.e less than 10%) would not significantly increase the risk of void overflow or change the voids from acting as a groundwater sink. Hence, there would be no change to the potential environmental impacts from the final voids as a result.

EA Table F1 includes the specific rehabilitation requirements for final void NUMAs. The rehabilitation goal for the final void NUMAs to be non-polluting has objectives that the void is a groundwater sink and does not overtop. The groundwater assessment and final void water balance modelling results indicate that the proposed final void NUMAs will comply with these objectives and the associated completion criteria.

Similarly, the proposed final void NUMAs satisfy the completion criterion for the rehabilitation goal of safety and stability which limits the maximum NUMA area to 169 ha. The final

landform, including the final voids, is also designed to satisfy all other safety and stability completion criteria.

4 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

4.1 OVERVIEW

The existing Dawson South Mine EA authorises the mining activities within the areas of the Dawson South MLs with surface rights. This section provides an assessment of the likely EA amendment process required.

4.2 MINOR AND MAJOR EA AMENDMENT TRIGGERS

The triggers for Minor and Major EA amendments are provided in the DES *Guideline: Major and minor amendments* (ESR/2015/1684, 12 February 2024). An assessment of the applicability of the Minor EA amendment triggers to the proposed amendment is provided in Table 2. As indicated in Table 2, the proposed amendment satisfies the requirements for a Minor EA amendment.

Table 2
Minor EA Amendment Triggers

	Minor EA Amendment (Threshold) Trigger	Satisfied
a)	is not a change to a standard condition identified in the EA as a standard condition, other than a condition conversion or replacing a standard condition with a standard condition for the ERA; and	Not applicable. The Dawson South EA is a site-specific EA.
b)	does not significantly increase the level of environmental harm caused by the relevant activity; and	Yes - the environmental assessment presented in the EAR indicates that the proposed amendment will not result in any significant additional adverse environmental impacts.
c)	does not change any rehabilitation objectives in the EA in a way likely to result in significantly different impacts on environmental values than the impacts previously permitted under the EA; and	Yes – the proposed EA amendment does not change the rehabilitation objectives in EA Table F1 in a way that results in significantly different impacts on environmental values to those currently permitted.
d)	does not significantly increase the scale or intensity of the relevant activity; and	Yes – the proposed amendment will have no effect on the scale or intensity of the mining activities.
e)	does not relate to a new relevant resource tenure for the EA that is –	Yes
(i)	a new mining lease; or	
(ii)	a new petroleum lease; or	
(iii)	a new geothermal lease under the <i>Geothermal Energy Act 2010</i> ; or	
(iv)	a new greenhouse gas injection and storage lease under the Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009; and	
f)	increases the existing surface area for the relevant activity by 10% or less; and	Yes – the proposed amendment does not change the surface area.
g)	for an EA for a petroleum activity:	Not applicable
(i)	involves constructing a new pipeline that does not exceed 150km in length; and	
(ii)	involves extending an existing pipeline by no more than 10% of the existing length of the pipeline; and	
h)	is for a new relevant resource tenure for the authority that is an exploration permit or greenhouse gas permit – where the amendment application seeks an EA that is subject to the standard conditions for the relevant activity, to the extent it relates to the permit.	Not applicable

4.3 EA AMENDMENT APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The requirements for EA amendment applications are specified in Section 226A of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (EP Act). The requirements are re-stated in Table 3 with a response or reference to where each relevant requirement is addressed in the EAR.

Table 3
Requirements for Amendment Applications for Environmental Authorities
(EP Act Section 226A)

	Requirements for amendment applications for environmental authorities	EAR Reference
1.	If the amendment application is for the amendment of an environmental authority, the application must also –	
a)	describe any development permits in effect under the Planning Act for carrying out the relevant activity for the authority; and	There are no development permits in effect under the Planning Act 2016.
b)	state whether each relevant activity will, if the amendment is made, comply with the eligibility criteria for the activity; and	The amendment will not change the relevant activities in the current EA. The EA is a site-specific EA and there are no relevant eligibility criteria for the mining activities.
c)	if the application states that each relevant activity will, if the amendment is made, comply with the eligibility criteria for the activity – include a declaration that the statement is correct; and	The EA is a site-specific EA and there are no relevant eligibility criteria for the mining activities.
d)	state whether the application seeks to change a condition identified in the authority as a standard condition; and	Not Applicable
e)	if the application relates to a new relevant resource tenure for the authority that is an exploration permit or GHG permit – state whether the applicant seeks an amended environmental authority that is subject to the standard conditions for the relevant activity or authority, to the extent it relates to the permit; and	Not Applicable.
f)	include an assessment of the likely impact of the proposed amendment on the environmental values, including –	
(i)	a description of the environmental values likely to be affected by the proposed amendment; and	Sections 3.2 and 5.3.
(ii)	details of emissions or releases likely to be generated by the proposed amendment; and	Sections 3.2 and 5.3.
(iii)	a description of the risk and likely magnitude of impacts on the environmental values; and	Sections 3.2 and 5.3.
(iv)	details of the management practices proposed to be	Sections 3.2 and 5.3.

	Requirements for amendment applications for environmental authorities	EAR Reference
	implemented to prevent or minimise adverse impacts; and	
(v)	if a PRCP schedule does not apply for each relevant activity – details of how the land the subject of the application will be rehabilitated after each relevant activity ends; and	Section 5.3.
g)	include a description of the proposed measures for minimising and managing waste generated by amendments to the relevant activity; and	Section 5.3.
h)	include details of any site management plan or environmental protection order that relates to the land the subject of the application.	Not Applicable.

5 SCOPING ASSESSMENT

5.1 INTRODUCTION

This section describes the process that has been followed to determine the scope of this EAR for the proposed EA amendment. The process included pre-lodgement consultation with DESI as well as a review of the potential project environmental impacts and risks. The objective of the scoping assessment was to ensure that potential environmental risks were identified and assessed at an appropriate level of detail.

5.2 CONSULTATION PROCESS

A pre-lodgement meeting for the EA amendment application was held with DESI on 19 March 2024. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an overview of the project and seek feedback from DESI on the likely EA amendment approval process and application requirements.

5.3 ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING ASSESSMENT

A risk-based approach was used to scope the studies included in this EAR. A scoping assessment was undertaken using environmental information from the existing Dawson South mining operations and relevant Dawson South PRCP studies to identify potential environmental risks associated with the proposed amendment.

The results of this assessment were used to inform the scoping of this EAR. For any environmental areas with potentially significant impacts, detailed assessments were undertaken to ensure all significant environmental risks were thoroughly assessed. In particular, detailed assessments have been conducted for groundwater, final void water balance modelling and Dawson River flood modelling because of the relatively higher risk rating for these areas. All other environmental areas were rated as having low risk and have therefore not been considered further in this EAR.

The results of the scoping assessment are provided in Table 4.

Table 4 EAR Scoping Assessment

Potential Impacts Scope of Environmental Assessment Groundwater Final voids can potentially impact on groundwater A specialist groundwater study has been conducted resources by affecting the groundwater levels and to assess the groundwater impacts of the proposed groundwater quality in the vicinity of the void. final void NUMAs (Appendix C). The scope of the study included assessment of the post mining groundwater level recovery in the vicinity of the final voids and whether the final voids would remain groundwater sinks in the post mining phase. Flood Assessment The Dawson South mining area is located The Dawson River is the only relevant watercourse in the vicinity of Dawson South Mine to which the DESI adjacent to the Dawson River flood plain. The DESI Information Sheet - Voids in flood plains final voids in floodplains policy applies. A specialist (ESR2019/4966, 11 March 2020) confirms that flood modelling assessment has been conducted to final void NUMAs cannot be located within a flood confirm the extent of the Dawson River flood plain in plain as it would cause an unacceptable risk of the vicinity of the Dawson South Mine to enable environmental harm. confirmation that the proposed final void NUMAs are not located within the floodplain (Appendix A). The extent of the floodplain (as defined by the predevelopment 0.1 % Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) flood extents) in relation to the proposed final voids and NUMAs is shown in Figure 5. Surface Water Final voids can potentially impact surface water A specialist final void water balance modelling due to overflows from the final void lake after assessment has been conducted (Appendix B). The significant rainfall. Depending on the final void scope of the assessment included modelling of the lake water quality, this can adversely impact final void lake water levels and water quality (salinity). downstream surface water quality and associated The results of the modelling confirm the likelihood that the final void lakes will overflow and the likely surface water values. quality of the final void lake water. **Ecology** Other than potential indirect impacts due to Specialist groundwater and surface assessments groundwater or surface water impacts, the final conducted to confirm the extent of any groundwater and surface water impacts are discussed above. voids/NUMAs will not impact on ecological values. Specialist assessments of ecology are not warranted. Rehabilitation and Mine Closure The Dawson South Mine transitional PRCP is due This EA amendment application is proposed in order to be submitted to DESI by 15 April 2024. Hence to ensure that the final void NUMAs in the Dawson there is currently no PRCP schedule applicable to South Mine transitional PRCP are consistent with the EA. the mining activities. The rehabilitation requirements for Dawson South

Mine including final void NUMAs, are specified in EA Table F1. The combined area of the proposed

Potential Impacts	Scope of Environmental Assessment
Pit 25 final void NUMA (70 ha) and the amended Pit 28 final void NUMA (84 ha) is within the maximum approved final void NUMA area (169 ha). The final void NUMAs will also comply with each of the other rehabilitation completion criteria in EA Table F1.	
Amenity Impact (Noise, Dust and Visual Amer	nity)
The Pit 25 final void NUMA and the amended Pit 28 final void NUMA will not give rise to any significant change in the potential amenity impacts of the Dawson South Mine. The final voids will not involve any material changes in the noise and dust emissions or impacts from the final rehabilitation and closure earthworks or any significant changes in the visual impact of the final landform. Overall, the proposed EA amendment has a very low potential to give rise to any significant change in the amenity impacts of the Dawson South mining operations.	warranted.
Cultural Heritage	
The final void NUMAs are unlikely to potentially impact on cultural heritage values.	No further assessment of cultural heritage impacts is warranted.
Socio-Economics	
The total area of the proposed final void NUMAs will remain within the maximum approved NUMA area specified in EA Table F1. Hence, the EA amendment will not result in any increase in the approved NUMA area at Dawson South Mine. All areas beyond the final void NUMAs will have a PMLU in accordance with EA Table 1. Hence there will be no reduction in the Dawson South PMLU area as a result of the EA amendment. Hence, there are no negative socio-economic impacts associated with the project.	Further assessment of socio-economics is not warranted, given there are no potential negative socio-economic impacts associated with the EA amendment.
Non-mining Waste Management	
The proposed final void NUMAs will not change the nature or quantity of waste produced at Dawson South Mine. Hence the EA amendment will not require any additional waste management	The existing Dawson South Mine waste management procedures will apply and further assessment of waste management is not warranted.

measures.

6 PROPOSED AMENDED EA CONDITIONS

The required amendments to the Dawson South Mine EA conditions are as follows:

- EA Attachment 2 inclusion of an amended figure showing the indicative location of the Pit 25 and Pit 28 final void NUMAs (Figure 8).
- There are minor changes proposed to EA Table F1 Rehabilitation Requirements, to reflect the removal of the Pit 28 high wall, end wall and low wall from the final void NUMA extent. The proposed changes are shown in Table 5.

Table 5
Proposed changes to EA Table F1 – Rehabilitation Requirements

Mine Domain	Mine Feature Name	Rehabilitation Goal	Rehabilitation Objectives	Indicators	Completion Criteria
All Domains, with the exception of the Final Void	All	Safe, stable, self- sustaining, and non- polluting	Bushland	Native plant species richness (total no. in RE) Non-eucalypt trees (stems per ha) Tree canopy cover (%)	200
				Native shrub cover (%) Native perennial grass cover (%) Organic litter cover (%)	20 20 60
			Agriculture	Grass cover (%)	40-60
Final Void Non-use Management Area (NUMA) [see also Attachment 2]	Residual Void	Safe and stable	Safe for humans and livestock	Biomass (kg/ha) Geotechnically and erosionally stable	(a) Maximum NUMA extent no greater than 169ha projected surface area; (b) Exposed coal seam is capped; (c) The weathered zone of the high wall, end wall and low wall is stable; (d) Fencing and abandonment bunds are erected above the high and end walls; and (e) Warning signage posted at 50 m

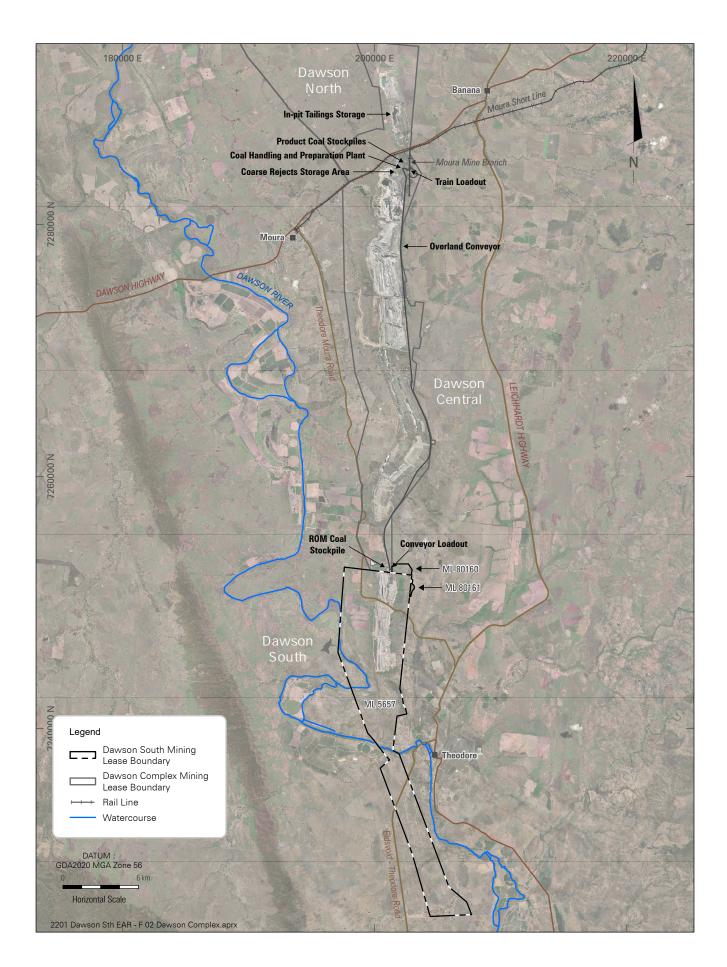
			intervals above the high and end walls.
Non-polluting	Void is a groundwater sink and does not overtop	Void modelling and monitoring	 (a) The void will not cause environmental harm outside of the relevant tenure boundary; (b) The void water quality and quantity will not cause harm to the surrounding environment; (c) Water levels within the residual voids are not predicted to reach ≥121mRL.
Self-sustaining	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable



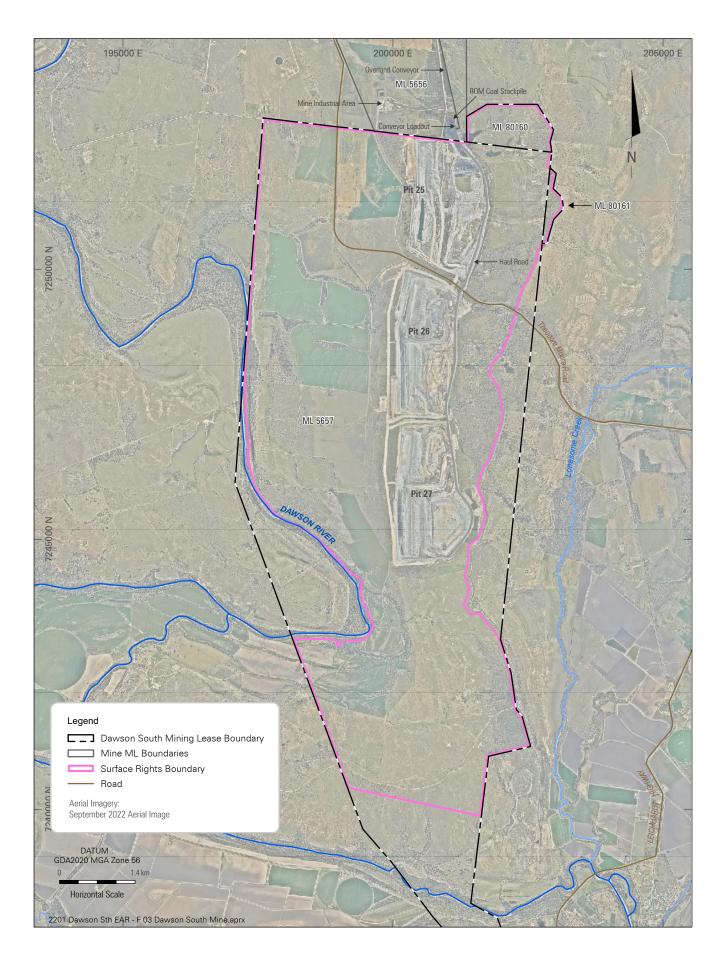




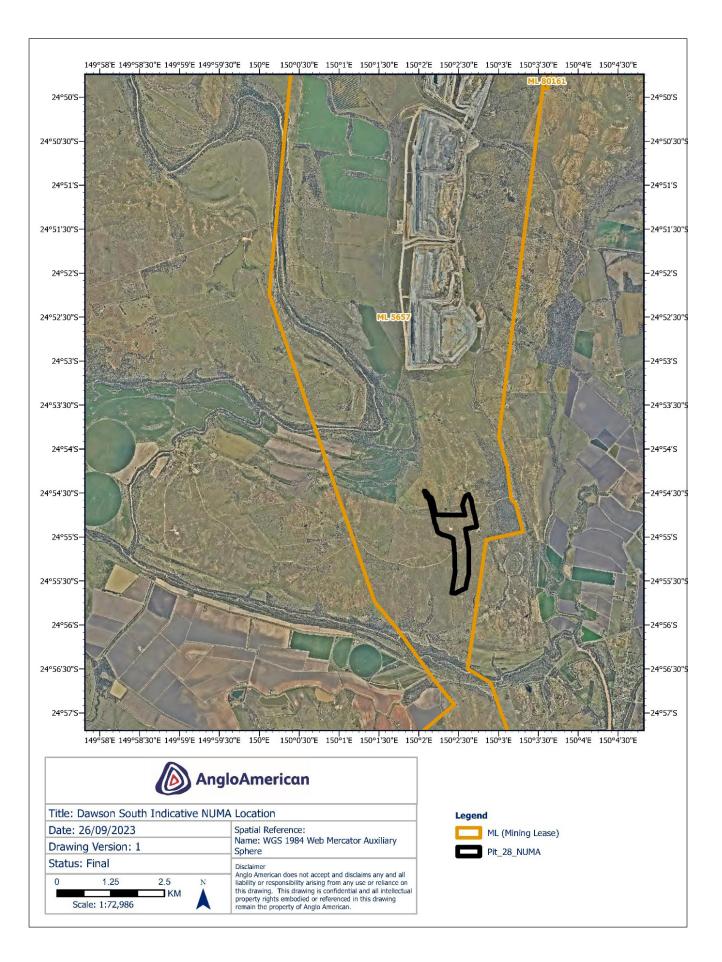
Location Plan

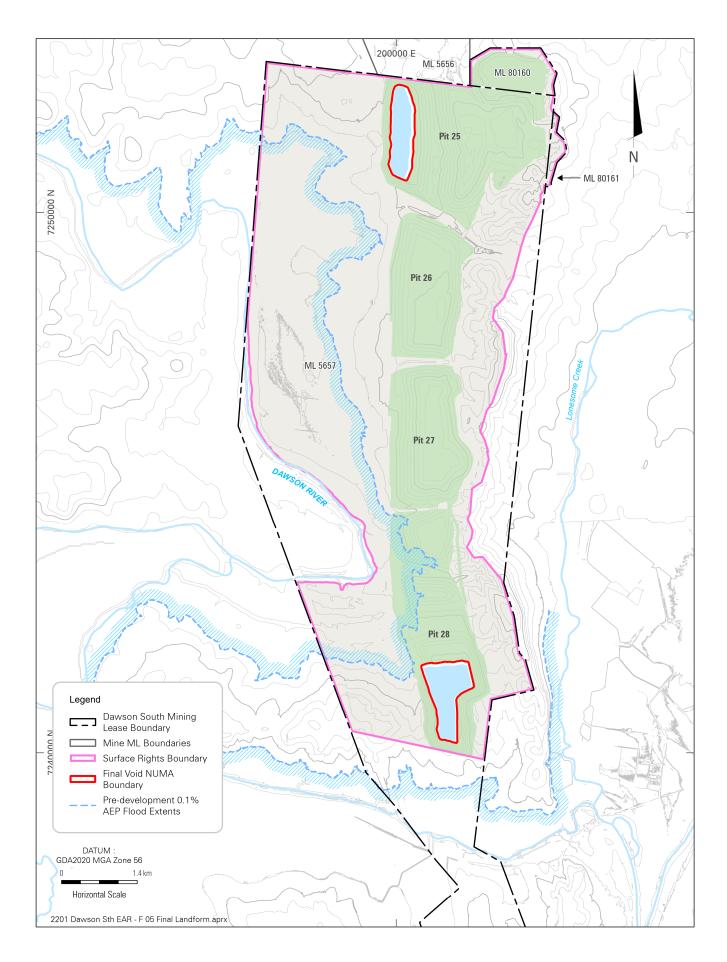




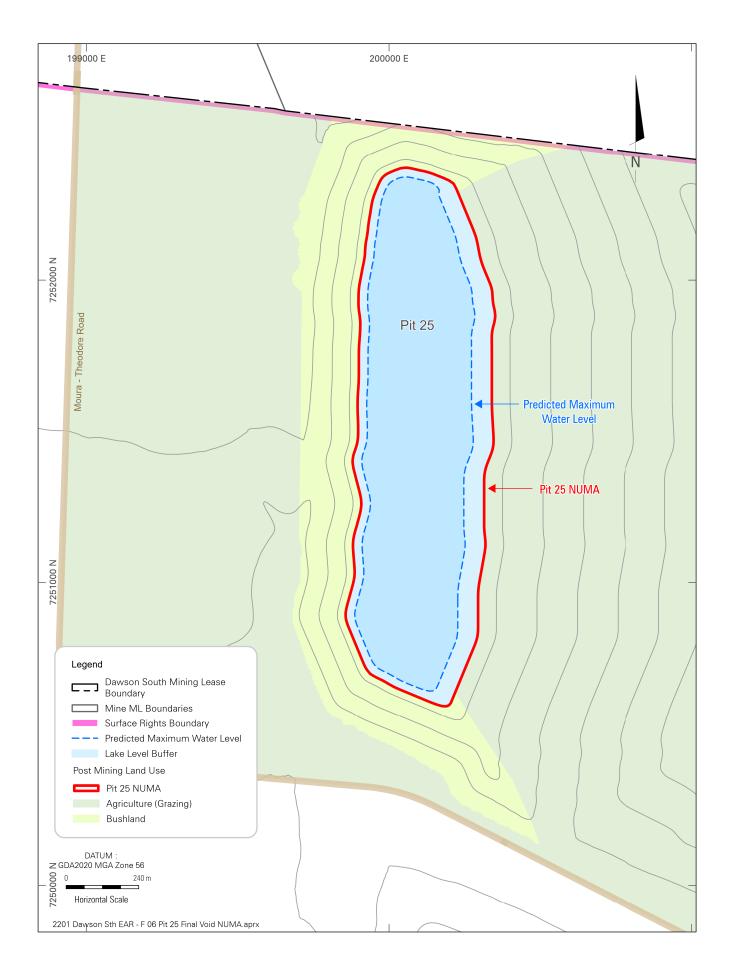




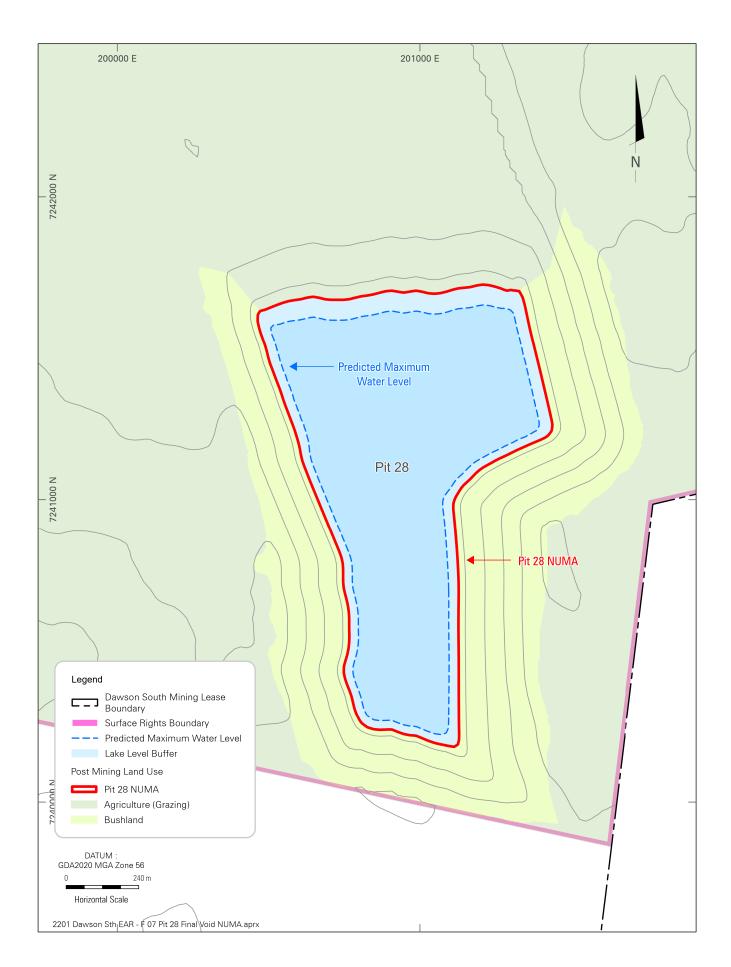




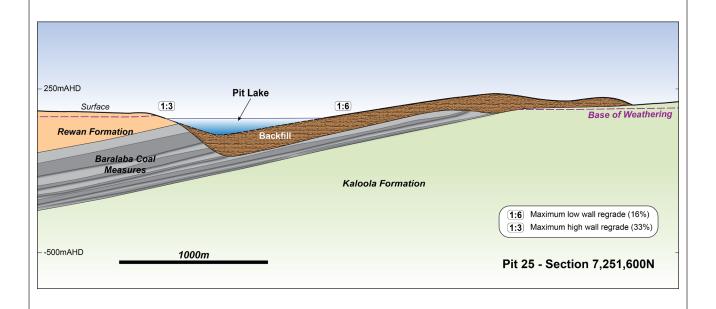


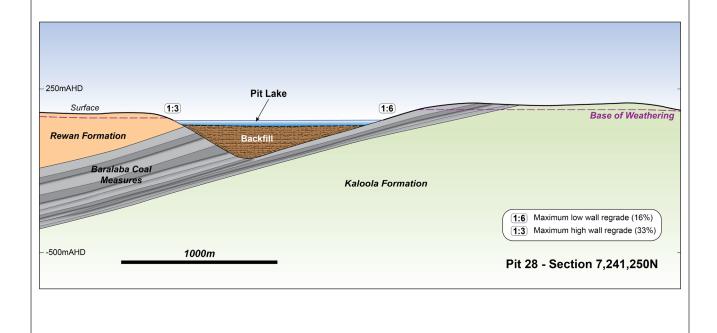




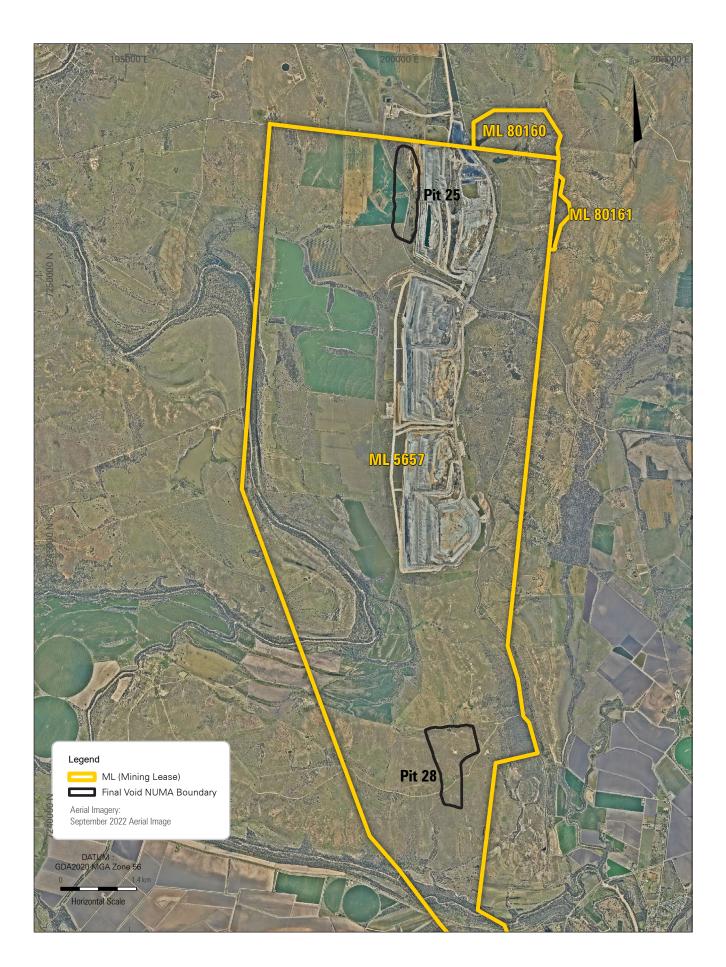














APPENDIX A Flood Assessment

APPENDIX B Final Void Modelling

APPENDIX C Groundwater Study