

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Third Edition | February 2019

Happy New Year! Welcome to the first community newsletter of 2019. This edition includes the latest news about;

- I. Malabar's proposed underground-only mine, the Maxwell Project;
- II. Our progress rehabilitating the Maxwell Infrastructure site, and;
- III. Our work with the local community.

MAXWELL PROJECT UPDATE

In November we held two community information sessions for the Maxwell Project. Thank you to everyone who was able to come to one of the sessions and learn more about our **underground-only** mine beneath Exploration Licence (EL) 5460. We appreciated the opportunity to tell you more about the project and answer any questions community members had.

In December Malabar was issued a Gateway Certificate. The Gateway Certificate (available online) recommends additional studies that we will undertake as part of our Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Development Application (DA).

In addition to this, since our last update, we have been progressing the detailed technical studies required for our EIS and DA.

These studies include;

- Subsidence forecasts
- Groundwater modelling
- Soil qualities across the EL
- Agricultural impact assessment
- Flora and Fauna
- Noise and air quality
- Aboriginal heritage
- Historic heritage
- Landscape and visual studies
- Surface water
- Geochemistry
- Any existing land contamination
- Geomorphology
- Transport
- Social impact assessment
- Health risk assessment
- Economic

Upon lodging the DA later this year, the EIS will be placed on public display.

PROJECT PROGRESS

Milestones

Malabar takes ownership of Maxwell Infrastructure and the Maxwell Project

Malabar begins rehabilitation and commences technical and environmental studies to support the Gateway application

Malabar lodged a Referral under the Commonwealth EPBC Act

Malabar obtains Gateway Certificate from the Mining and Petroleum Gateway Panel

WE ARE HERE

Malabar seeks feedback from the community to inform the assessment requirements for the EIS

Malabar's EIS is prepared

NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DP&E) place Malabar's EIS on public display for around four weeks

Malabar responds to submissions

The DP&E assesses Malabar's submission, including any issues or concerns raised in the submission process

The DP&E or Independent Planning Commission (if applicable) announce its decision

Opportunities for feedback



Community feedback was considered in the development of our Scoping Report in support of a Request for Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements ("SEARs").

We will engage with the local community during the preparation of the Environmental Impact statement (EIS) to ensure community feedback is gathered, considered in our future plans, and concerns are addressed.

The studies that support the EIS are being prepared by recognised experts and include assessments of potential impacts on agriculture and agribusiness, water, biodiversity, heritage, air quality, amenity and the road network.

The EIS will be accompanied by a social impact assessment and an economic assessment.

The community has the opportunity to submit feedback directly to the DP&E.

Malabar will engage with the community to address any concerns raised.

In addition, Malabar must formally respond to any issues raised in submissions.

An approved application may include conditions that address any outstanding concerns raised by the community.

REHABILITATION UPDATE

When Malabar purchased the exploration licence for the Malabar Underground Project in 2018, we also purchased the now-closed Drayton open-cut mine. This will allow us to use the existing infrastructure on that site (now known as Maxwell Infrastructure) to process and then transport our coal, reducing any impacts on our neighbours.

We are responsible for rehabilitating the open cut, something we take very seriously. Within days of having access to the site, we had started rehabilitation work. This quickly ramped up, with around 30 people on site, working on the rehabilitation tasks.



Since then, we have made great progress. Over 90 hectares of land has been rehabilitated to either a pasture or seeding with native woodland species. While we still have work ahead of us, we are on schedule and eager to ensure we finish the job to a high standard.

When we rehabilitate land, we want to create a post-mining landscape that is compatible with our surroundings and capable of sustaining productive land use. We are pleased with the outcomes of the rehabilitation work we have undertaken to date.

Recently, we welcomed 50 Angus-Charolais cross steers to site. The steers were bought from Coolie Angus, a beef cattle business in the hills of Merriwa and are being managed on site by a local landholder.

Having cattle on our rehabilitated pasture allows us to better control grass species, promote species diversity and reduce the risk of bushfire. We have also found that the rehabilitated pasture provides more feed for stock during the drier conditions than typical rural grazing land.

Most importantly, this demonstrates we can create a post-mining landscape that is compatible with the surrounding landscape and capable of sustaining a productive land use after mining.



OUR WORK WITH THE COMMUNITY

Malabar plays an active role in the local community. We support a wide range of community groups and charities including aged care, sports, education, and emergency services.

In the second half of 2018, we donated and installed a sensory garden at Muswellbrook Public School. A sensory garden is a collection of plants and materials with different textures, shapes, colours, scents and heights. These materials are then laid out in such a way as to stimulate the senses. Our team worked with Muswellbrook Public School to design and build the sensory garden, then spent some time with the kids watching them enjoy using it!

To coincide with National Threatened Species Day, Malabar donated to Wildlife Aid to help fund rescues, veterinary care, and the specialised diets and rehabilitation of native wildlife in the Upper Hunter Valley.

Wildlife Aid is a not-for-profit organisation of dedicated volunteers that donate their time and resources to rescue and rehabilitate native wildlife. Our team were lucky enough to have the opportunity to meet some of the staff at Wildlife Aid and the animals in their care.



SOLAR FARM UPDATE

In our previous update we confirmed our intention to build a solar farm, known as the Maxwell Solar Project, on a portion of the old Drayton Mine site.

Since the last newsletter, Malabar has applied for Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements from the NSW Department of Planning and Environment for the Maxwell Solar Project. We've also commenced the technical studies to support the DA and EIS for the Solar Project.

If you would like to register for further information about the Maxwell Project, please send an email titled 'Register for Maxwell Project Information' to info@malabarcoal.com.au and include your name, address and phone number.

If you have any other questions about Malabar Coal or the Maxwell Project, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Donna McLaughlin
Environment and Community Manager

Email: info@malabarcoal.com.au

Phone: (02) 6542 0283

Web: www.malabarcoal.com.au