Maxwell Underground Mine
– Mine Entry Area Modification

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Background

Maxwell Ventures, a wholly owned subsidiary of Malabar Resources, is seeking a proposed minor modification to the Maxwell Underground Mine (Maxwell).

Maxwell is located in the Upper Hunter Valley of NSW, southeast of Denman and southwest of Muswellbrook.

Maxwell is an underground-only mining operation that is approved to operate for 26 years producing high quality coals with at least 75% capable of being used in the making of steel with the balance suitable for use in new-generation High Efficiency, Low Emissions (HELE) power generators.

It will generate roughly 250 jobs during construction, which is expected to begin later this year. Once operational, the mine will generate 350 long-term jobs in addition to many more indirect jobs and stimulus for local businesses and suppliers.

The mine was granted approval by the NSW Independent Planning Commission in December 2020 (Development Consent State Significant Development 9526) and by the Australian Government in March 2021.

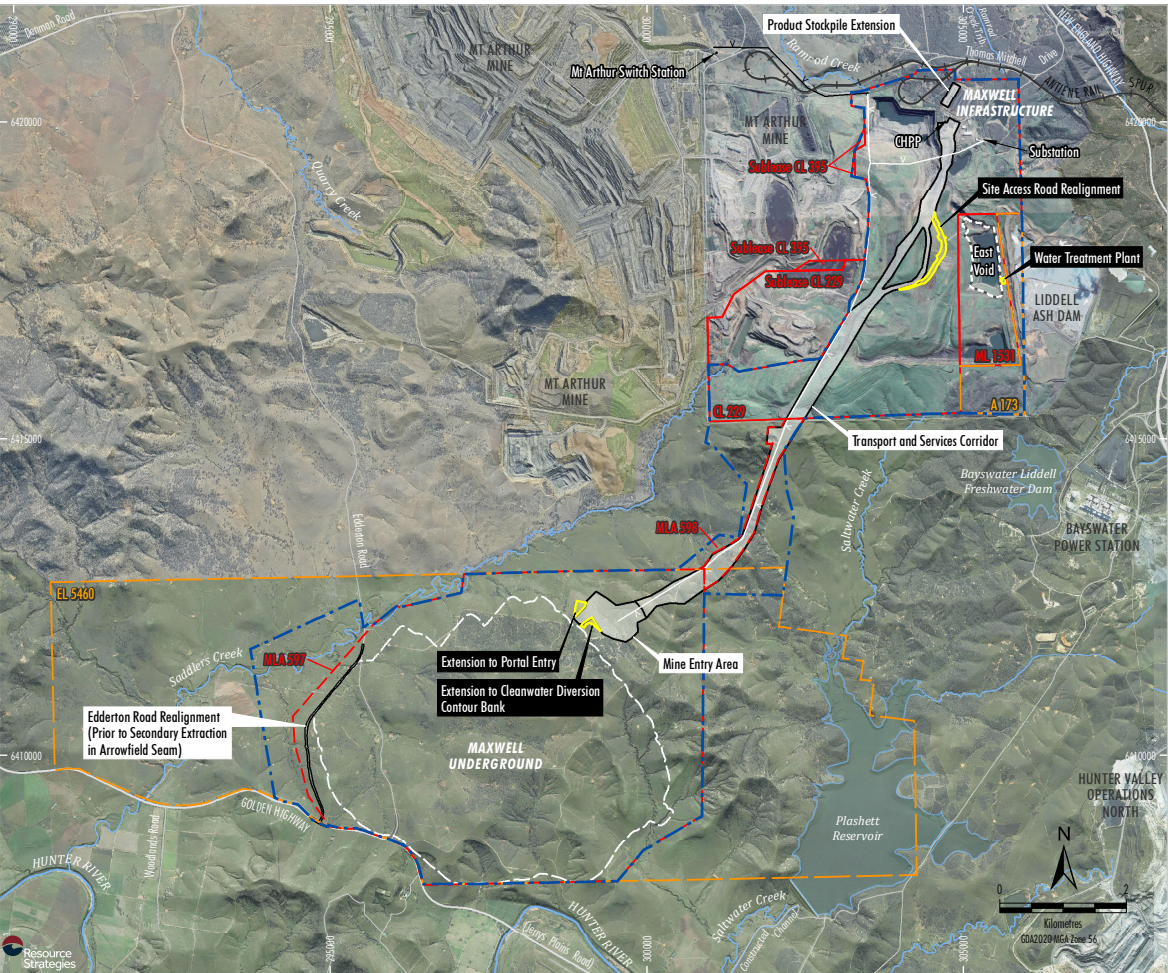
Malabar is seeking to modify the Development Consent SSD 9526 under section 4.55(1A) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

Overview of modification

The modification is located wholly within the approved Development Application Area and would comprise the following components:

- Repositioning of the underground portal;
- Realignment of a small section of the proposed access road at the Maxwell Infrastructure site to utilise an existing haul road and minimise impacts to established mine rehabilitation;
- Repositioning of an approved clean water diversion for the Mine Entry Area (MEA);
- Repositioning of the water treatment facility from the MEA to the Maxwell Infrastructure; and
- Other minor works and ancillary infrastructure components within existing/approved surface development areas (e.g. works associated with the reconfiguration of the MEA, pumps/pipelines associated with the water treatment facility).

This modification would not change the mining method, resource, annual production, mine life, total resource recovered or workforce, and there would be no material change to the significant net positive benefits of the mine to the state and local governments.



LEGEND

- Railway
- Exploration Licence Boundary
- Mining and Coal Lease Boundary
- Mining Lease Application Boundary
- Proposed Ausgrid 66 kV Power Supply Extension #

Approved Maxwell Mine

- Development Application Area
- Indicative Surface Development Area
- CHPP Reject Emplacement Area
- Extent of Conventional Subsidence from Underground Mining
- 66 kV Power Supply

Proposed Modification

- Indicative Additional Surface Development Area

Subject to separate assessment and approval.

Source: NSW Spatial Services (2021); MSEC (2019); AECOM (2019)
Orthophoto Mosaic: 2020, 2019

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MAXWELL UNDERGROUND MINE PROJECT

Modified Maxwell Underground Mine

Benefits

The Modification would provide the following benefits:

- Increased construction efficiency and safer commencement of the underground roadways from the portal;
- Safer transition from portal to roadways for machinery throughout the life of the Project through the removal of the 90 degree bend in the access decline;
- Reduction in costs associated with access from surface to the target coal seams;
- Reduction in the number of conveyors and transfer stations required at the MEA due to the straight drift;
- Improved water management outcomes for the Project; and
- Reduction of disturbance to previously rehabilitated areas through the utilisation of an existing road at the Maxwell Infrastructure.

The reconfiguration of the MEA, specifically the portal extension outside the approved surface development area, would allow for safer commencement of the underground portal, allow for safer transition from portal to roadways and would optimise the timing and costs associated with underground mine development.

The modification would also include repositioning of the water treatment facility that would optimise costs and infrastructure requirements, as well as remove the environmental risk associated with pumping brine back to the Maxwell Infrastructure.

These minor changes will minimise impacts to the existing rehabilitation at the Maxwell Infrastructure through the realignment of the site access road along an existing internal haul road.

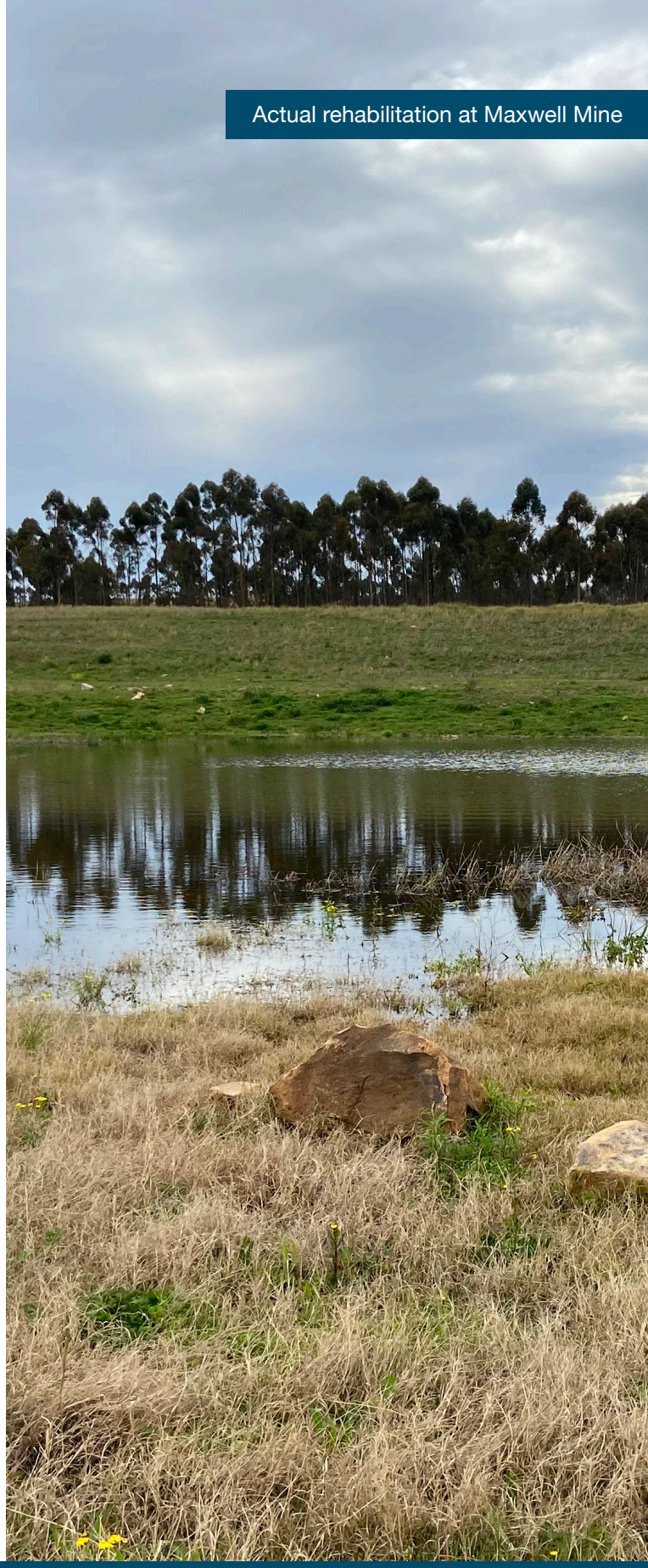
Importantly, the modification can be implemented in accordance with the existing environmental conditions and performance measures for the Project, with only minor excursions outside the approved surface development area.

Assessment of impacts

We have undertaken a rigorous review of the potential environmental impacts of the modification, which show that if approved, the proposed changes would involve minimal additional environmental impact compared to the approved mine.

The review demonstrates that Maxwell – with the modification – would continue to comply with existing criteria, performance measures and limits described in Development Consent SSD 9526.

Malabar will operate Maxwell, as modified, in accordance with the existing environmental management plans and environmental monitoring programs.



Actual rehabilitation at Maxwell Mine

Contact Malabar

For further information about the proposed modification, please visit the NSW Planning Portal at www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/10151

Email: info@malabarresources.com.au

Phone: 1800 653 960

Web: malabarresources.com.au