MALABAR

MAXWELL UNDERGROUND MINE

SUBSIDENCE MONITORING PROGRAM

WOODLANDS HILL LONGWALLS 1 – 4

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Maxwell Ventures (Management) Pty Ltd (Maxwell), a wholly owned subsidiary of Malabar Resources Limited (Malabar) owns and operates the Maxwell Underground Mine (the site). The site is located in the Upper Hunter Valley of New South Wales (NSW), east-southeast of Denman and south-southwest of Muswellbrook. The site is approved to extract a maximum of 8 million tonnes of run-of-mine coal per year over a period of 26 years. The site boundary is shown in **Figure 1**.

The site consists of the following areas:

- Underground area comprising the area of underground mining operations and the mine entry area (MEA) to support underground mining and coal handling activities and provide for personnel and materials access;
- Maxwell Infrastructure (formerly Drayton Mine) comprising previous open cut mining areas, existing coal handling and preparation plant (CHPP), train load-out facilities and rail loop, Antiene rail spur and other infrastructure and services; and
- Transport and services corridor between the MEA and Maxwell Infrastructure comprising the site access road, covered overland conveyor (to be constructed), power supply and other ancillary infrastructure and services.

The area within and surrounding the site, which has previously been known as Mt Arthur South, Saddlers Creek and Drayton South, has long been identified as having a significant in-situ coal resource. Prospecting for coal commenced in the late 1940s, with exploration intensifying during the 1960's and 1970s. Open cut coal extraction and mining activities commenced at Maxwell Infrastructure in 1983 and ceased in October 2016. The previous open cut mining area is currently in the rehabilitation phase of the mine operations.

The development consent for State Significant Development 9526 (SSD 9526) was granted on 22 December 2020 under clause 8A of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (State and Regional Development) 2011* and section 4.5(a) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

The development consent was modified on 19 November 2021 (Maxwell MOD1) to allow for the repositioning of infrastructure primarily at the MEA and realignment of a section of the site access road. The development consent was further modified (Maxwell MOD2) on 19 October 2022 to allow for the following:

- Re-orientation of the longwall panels in the Woodlands Hill, Arrowfield and Bowfield Seams resulting in a minor increase in the approved underground mining extent.
- Reduction in the width of some of the longwall panels in the Woodlands Hill Seam.
- Repositioning of the upcast ventilation shaft site and associated infrastructure.
- Other minor works and ancillary infrastructure components (e.g. access road and ancillary water management infrastructure for the repositioned ventilation shaft site).

Another modification was made to the development consent (Maxwell MOD3) on 22 September 2025 to allow for the transfer of tailings Mt Arthur Coal to the Maxwell UG Mine East Void, and tailings and coarse rejects from the Maxwell CHPP to the North Void.

Development Consent DA 106-04-00 for the existing rail loop and Antiene Rail Spur was granted on 2 November 2000 under Section 76(A)9 and 80 of the EP&A Act and is still current. DA 106-04-00 was modified on 18 September 2023 (Antiene MOD1) to align with the approved operating life of the Maxwell Underground Mine (i.e. until 2047).

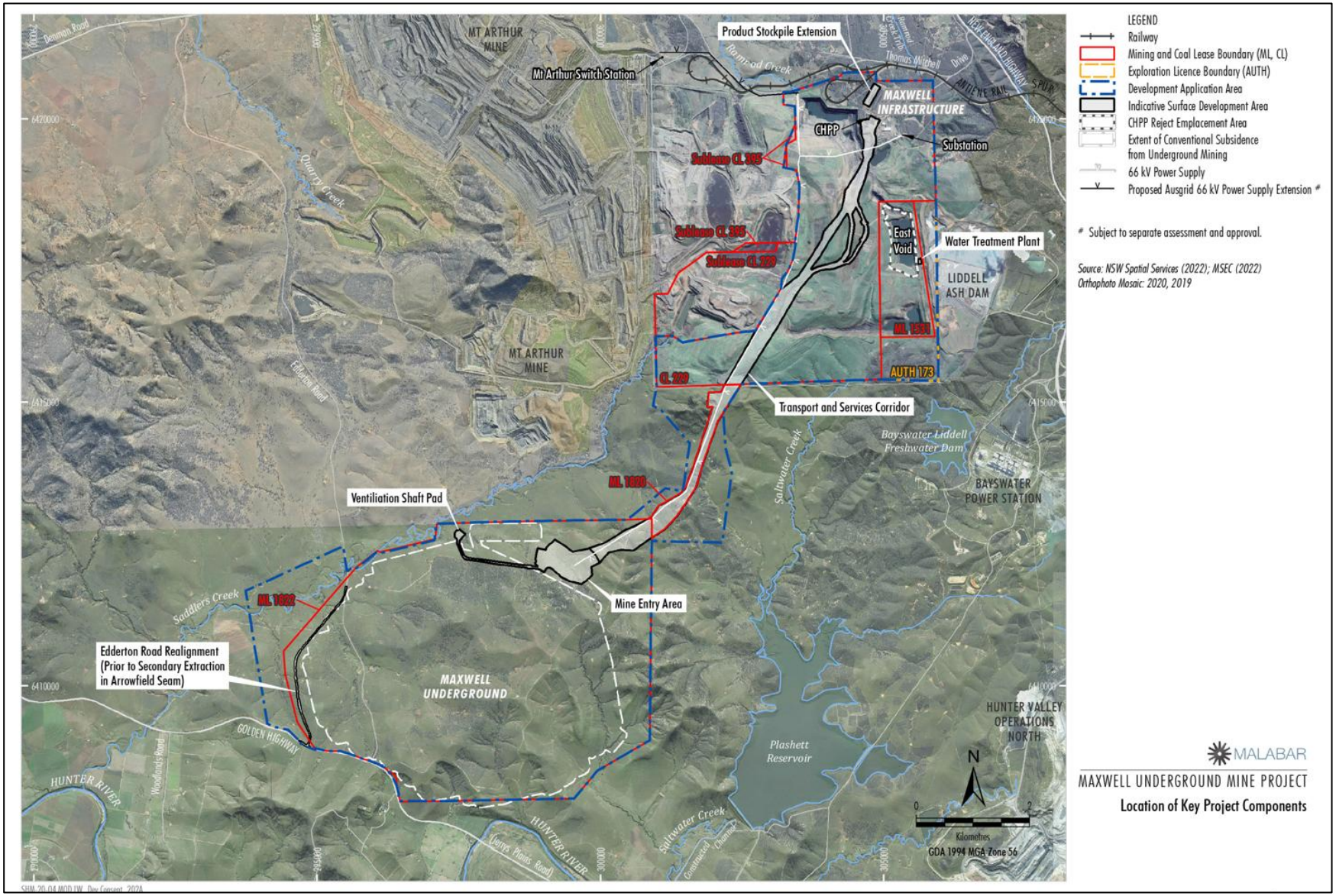

Figure 1. Maxwell Underground Mine

1.2 Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this Subsidence Monitoring Program (SMP) is to outline the monitoring program for subsidence from secondary extraction in the Woodlands Hill Longwalls 1 to 4 (hereafter referred to as WHLW1 to WHLW4). This SMP is one of a series of Environmental Management Plans that together form the Environmental Management System for the site.

In accordance with Schedule 2, Part C, Condition C9 of SSD 9526, Maxwell will not undertake second workings in any seam until the relevant Extraction Plan is approved by the Planning Secretary. Maxwell will implement all Extraction Plans as approved by the Planning Secretary and further extraction plans will be prepared to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary prior to any second workings in the Woodlands, Arrowfield and Bowfield Seams.

This SMP has been prepared in accordance with Schedule 2, Part C, Condition C8(g)(i) of SSD 9526 as a component of the Woodlands Hill Longwalls 1-4 Extraction Plan. In addition to the SSD 9526 requirements, this SMP has been prepared in accordance with the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE now known as the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure [DPHI]) (2022) *Extraction Plan Guideline*.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of this SMP are to:

- Detail all relevant statutory requirements to be met;
- Describe the ongoing subsidence monitoring program to measure conventional and non-conventional subsidence effects;
- Provide data to assist with the management of risks associated with conventional and non-conventional subsidence;
- Validate the conventional and non-conventional subsidence predictions;
- Analyse the relationship between the predicted and measured conventional and non-conventional subsidence effects and assessed and observed impacts under the plan and any ensuing environmental consequences;
- Inform the adaptive management process;
- Detail the procedure for reporting exceedances and incidents to relevant stakeholders; and
- Manage complaints in a timely and effective manner.

2 PLANNING

2.1 Regulatory Requirements

This SMP describes the management of subsidence effects to meet relevant statutory requirements within SSD 9526. The various conditions that relate to subsidence monitoring and where they are addressed in this document are detailed in **Appendix 1**.

2.2 Maxwell Mine EIS and Supporting Document Commitments

A subsidence assessment was undertaken for the Maxwell Underground Mine Environmental Impact Statement (Maxwell EIS) (published on 14 August 2019) and included subsidence predictions for proposed underground mining operations including the maximum predicted surface effects for mining in the Woodlands Hill Seam. Commitments in the Maxwell EIS and supporting documents that relate to subsidence monitoring, and where they are addressed in this document, are detailed in **Appendix 2**.

Further subsidence assessments were undertaken for the Maxwell MOD2 (June 2022), Woodlands Hill Longwalls 1-4 Extraction Plan (MSEC 2025) and revision of the Woodlands Hill Longwalls 1-4 Extraction Plan (MSEC 2026).

2.3 Preparation and Consultation

Schedule 2, Part C, Condition C8(a) of SSD 9526, requires that the Extraction Plan be prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced person/s whose appointment has been endorsed by the Planning Secretary. Maxwell has engaged the specialists listed in **Table 1** to assist with the preparation of the Woodlands Hill Longwalls 1-4 Extraction Plan and associated management plans. A copy of the endorsement by the Planning Secretary is included in **Appendix 3**.

In accordance with Schedule 2, Part C, Condition C8(g)(i) of Development Consent SSD 9526, this SMP has been prepared in consultation with the Resources Regulator. Outcomes of the consultation are presented in **Appendix 4**.

In accordance with Schedule 2, Part C, Condition C13 of SSD 9526, Maxwell will pay all reasonable costs incurred by the Department to engage a suitably qualified, experienced and independent person/s to review the adequacy of any aspect of an Extraction Plan.

Table 1. Specialist engaged to prepare the Woodlands Hill Longwalls 1-4 Extraction Plan.

Specialist	Role
James Barbato - Mine Subsidence Engineering Consultants Pty Ltd (MSEC)	Preparation and/or review of relevant subsidence components, including predictions of subsidence effects and assessment of subsidence impacts, Subsidence Monitoring Program, Built Features Management Plan and Land Management Plan
Greg Roads - WRM Water & Environment Pty Ltd	Preparation and/or review of surface water components of the Water Management Plan
Noel Merrick - HydroAlgorithmics Pty Ltd	Preparation and/or review of groundwater components of the Water Management Plan
Dr Colin Driscoll - Hunter ECO Pty Ltd	Preparation and/or review of relevant flora and fauna components of the Biodiversity Management Plan
Geordie Oakes - AECOM Australia Pty Ltd	Preparation and/or review of Aboriginal cultural heritage components of the Heritage Management Plan

2.4 Extraction Plan Amendments

The Woodlands Hill Longwalls 1-4 Extraction Plan was originally approved in September 2025 and amended in February 2026 following the approval of Maxwell MOD3.

Following further mine planning and geotechnical review, Maxwell has decided to refine the dimensions of WHLW3 and WHLW4 to optimise resource recovery and improve mine economics while remaining within the approved underground mining domain and development layout. This amendment includes the following minor changes:

- WHLW2 – A decrease in tailgate chain pillar width from 30 metres (m) to 24 m.
- WHLW3 – An increase in longwall void width from 150 m to 255 m and decrease in tailgate chain pillar width from 30 m to 28 m.
- WHLW4 – An increase in longwall void width from 150 m to 255 m, increase the tailgate chain pillar width from 30 m to 32 m, and extend the finishing (i.e. eastern) end by approximately 110 m.

As a consequence of the above changes, WHLW15 has also been removed so that the southern extent of the longwall series remains within the approved extent of longwall mining.

3 IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 Geological Details

The site is located in the Hunter Coalfield in the northern part of the Permo-Triassic Sydney Basin, which forms the southern portion of the Sydney-Gunnedah-Bowen Basin (DMR, 1988). The Wittingham Coal Measures occur widely within the Hunter Coalfield and contain many recoverable seams. The site targets mining of the Whynot, Woodlands Hill, Arrowfield and Bowfield Seams. The target seams are within the Jerrys Plains Subgroup, forming part of the upper and middle units of the Wittingham Coal Measures. Above the target seams, the stratigraphy of the area consists of a sequence of sandstone, siltstone and laminate units within the Wittingham Coal Measures.

3.2 Mining Geometry

The land above WHLW1 to WHLW4 generally falls towards Saddlers Creek (i.e. north of the mining area). The surface elevations directly above WHLW1 to WHLW4 vary from a low point of 130 m above Australian Height Datum (mAHD) to a high point of 202 mAHD. The target seam within the mining area generally dips from the north-northwest towards the south-southeast.

The depth of cover within the mining area varies from a minimum of 134 m to a maximum of 256 m. WHLW1 to WHLW4 will be mined from west to east (i.e. retreat mining towards the main headings). The working section within the mining area varies between 2.4 m and 3.0 m with an average value of 2.7 m and it is intended that the full working section will be extracted by longwall mining. The overall void width for WHLW1 and WHLW2 is 150 m and the overall void width for WHLW3 and WHLW4 is 255 m.

3.3 Performance Measures

This SMP has been developed to monitor subsidence impacts against performance measures in accordance with Schedule 2, Part C, Condition C1, C2 and C5 of SSD 9526. The performance measure specified in SSD 9526 are listed below in **Table 2**.

Table 2. Performance measures in SSD 9526

Feature	Performance Measure
Water Resources	
All watercourses within the Subsidence Area	• No greater subsidence impacts or environmental consequences to water quality, water flows (including baseflow) or stream health (including riparian vegetation), than predicted in the document/s listed in condition A2(c)
Saddlers Creek, Saltwater Creek and Hunter River alluvial aquifers	• Negligible impacts to any alluvial aquifer as a result of the development, beyond those predicted in the document/s listed in condition A2(c), including: - negligible change in groundwater levels; - negligible change in groundwater quality; and - negligible impact to other groundwater users • Negligible impacts to GDEs as a result of the development, beyond those predicted in the document/s listed in condition A2(c)
Land	
All land within the Subsidence Area	• No greater subsidence impacts or environmental consequences than predicted in the document/s listed in condition A2(c)
All land outside the Subsidence Area	• Negligible subsidence impacts or environmental consequences
Biodiversity	

Feature	Performance Measure
Threatened species, threatened populations, or endangered ecological communities	• No greater subsidence impacts or environmental consequences than predicted in the document/s listed in condition A2(c) • Negligible impacts on threatened species, populations or communities due to remediation of subsidence cracking
Heritage sites	
Aboriginal cultural heritage sites shown in Figure 8 in Appendix 4	• No greater subsidence impacts or loss of heritage values than predicted in the document/s listed in condition A2(c)
Historic Homesteads identified as 'Historic Heritage Sites' in Figure 9 in Appendix 4	• Negligible subsidence impacts or environmental consequences
Mine workings	
First workings	• To remain long term stable and non-subsiding
Second workings	• To be carried out only within the approved mine plan, in accordance with an approved Extraction Plan
Key Public Infrastructure	
• Edderton Road (including associated culverts and drainage structures) • Electricity transmission and distribution lines, poles and towers within the Subsidence Area	• Always safe and serviceable • Damage that does not affect safety or serviceability must be fully repairable, and must be fully repaired at the cost of the Applicant
• Golden Highway (including the Edderton Road intersection and the Bowmans Crossing Bridge) • All other public infrastructure (including electricity infrastructure located outside the Subsidence Area)	• Negligible subsidence impacts • Always safe and serviceable • Damage that does not affect safety or serviceability must be fully repairable, and must be fully repaired at the cost of the Applicant
Other Built Features	
• Privately-owned residences • Other privately-owned built features and improvements, including farm dams, swimming pools, tennis courts, roads, tracks and fences	• Negligible subsidence impacts • Always safe • Serviceability should be maintained wherever practicable • Loss of serviceability must be fully compensated • Damage must be fully repairable, and must be fully repaired or else replaced or fully compensated
Public Safety	
• Public Safety	• Negligible additional risk.

3.4 Predicted Subsidence Impacts

The maximum anticipated vertical subsidence for WHLW1 to WHLW4 is 1850 millimetres (mm) which occurs above the eastern end of WHLW4 due to the greater thickness of the Woodlands Hill seam and partial multi-seam mining conditions (MSEC 2026). Predicted total subsidence contours are shown in **Figure 2**.

The maximum anticipated conventional strains resulting from the extraction of WHLW1 to WHLW4, derived by applying a factor of 10 to the maximum predicted curvatures, are 10 mm/m tensile and 15 mm/m compressive (MSEC 2026). These maximum strains occur where the depths of cover are shallowest in the western part of the mining area.

The range of surface cracking above WHLW1 to WHLW4 has been estimated based on the observations from the NSW coalfields for similar mining geometries and at similar depths of cover. The crack widths are estimated to be typically between 25 mm and 50 mm in approximately 50 per cent of cases, between 50 mm and 100 mm in approximately 30 per cent of cases, between 100 mm and 150 mm in approximately 15 per cent of cases and greater than 150 mm in approximately 5 per cent of cases. Multiple cracks resulting in deformations of several hundred millimetres could also occur in some locations (i.e., less than 1 per cent of cases) (MSEC 2026).

Surface compression heaving and stepping may also occur above WHLW1 to WHLW4, with deformation heights generally expected to be less than 100 mm (MSEC 2026). However, in some areas, vertical shear could exceed 300 mm in height (MSEC 2026). In addition, sills may partially extend across the corners of the longwalls, leading to localized and irregular movements where the cover depth is shallowest. It is anticipated that localized surface cracking and stepping caused by these sills will generally be less than 50 mm in areas with the shallowest cover (MSEC 2026).

The maximum predicted total conventional tilt is 30 mm/m (i.e. 3.0 % or 1 in 33).. The greatest tilts are predicted to occur adjacent to the maingate of WHLW4 near its eastern end. The maximum predicted conventional curvatures are 1.0 km^{-1} for hogging and 1.5 km^{-1} for sagging.

The land above the mining area is mostly owned by Maxwell (with the exception of Edderton Road) and it is primarily used for cattle grazing. Agricultural improvements include fences and farm dams. The main risk is the potential for mining induced surface cracking and deformations to injure cattle, leasees, workers (land management or environmental contractors) or unauthorised people accessing the area (for firewood or hunting).

Edderton Road is partially located above the north-western corner of WHLW4 and is owned by Muswellbrook Shire Council. The road is located at distances ranging between 140 m and 500 m west of the commencing (i.e. western) ends of WHLW1 to WHLW3. It is expected that Edderton Road can be maintained in a safe and serviceable condition with the implementation of the appropriate monitoring and management measures. An Asset Management Plan has been developed for Edderton Road in consultation with the Muswellbrook Shire Council and is included as part of the Built Features Management Plan.

An 11 kilovolt powerline owned by Ausgrid follows the alignment of Edderton Road and is located partially above the north-western corner of WHLW4.. The powerline is located at distances ranging between 140 m and 500 m west of the commencing (i.e. western) ends of WHLW1 to WHLW3. It is recommended that the powerline is visually monitored during active subsidence during the mining of WHLW4, to maintain it in a safe and serviceable condition. An Asset Management Plan has been developed in consultation with Ausgrid and is included as part of the Built Features Management Plan.

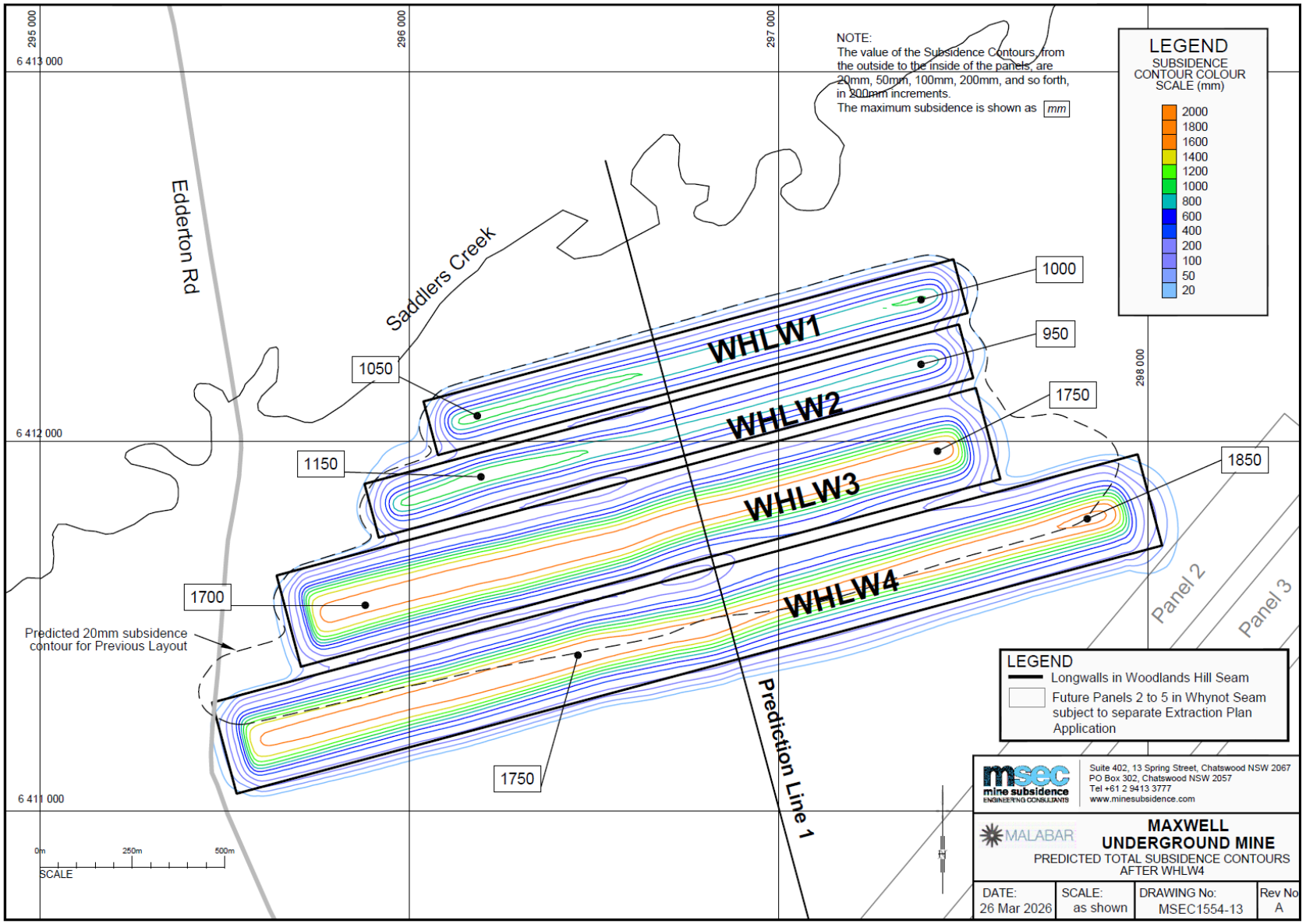

Figure 2. Predicted total subsidence for Woodlands Hill Longwalls 1 to 4 (MSEC, 2026)

3.1 Mining Schedule

The site operates on a continuous basis, 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

The proposed sequence of mining of WHLW1 to WHLW4 under this Extraction Plan, and anticipated start and completion dates are summarised in **Table 3**.

Table 3. Proposed Mining Schedule (Secondary Extraction)

Panel	Estimated Start Date	Estimated Duration	Estimated Completion Date
WHLW1	April 2026	5 months	September 2026
WHLW2	December 2026	6 months	June 2027
WHLW3	July 2027	5 months	December 2027
WHLW4	January 2028	4 months	April 2028

3.2 Risk Assessment

In accordance with DPHI (2022) *Extraction Plan Guideline,* a risk assessment was undertaken to consider the environmental risks relevant to the Woodlands Hill Longwalls 1-4 Extraction Plan. The suitably qualified and experienced experts endorsed by the Planning Secretary for the preparation of the Extraction Plans participated in the risk assessment.

A number of risk control and management measures were identified during the risk assessment. Monitoring of potential subsidence impact risks to the environment is described in **Section 4.1**. The management of these risks is described in **Section 4.3**. Maxwell considers all risk control measures and procedures to be feasible to manage all identified risks.

4 MEASUREMENT AND EVALUATION

4.1 Subsidence Monitoring

Prior to extraction in each panel, the following monitoring lines will be installed and surveyed (as shown in **Figure 3**):

- Line of star pickets installed on the panel centrelines at 15 metres (m) intervals, for a minimum of 200m each side of the panel start and panel end (i.e. panel length plus 200m). This will allow measurement of the subsidence profile from the start of the extraction area and determine if it is in line with predictions. Spacing will be adjusted where centrelines cross Edderton Road.
- Line of star pickets installed nominally perpendicular to the panel centrelines at 15m intervals (some variation may occur to minimise impacts on surface vegetation), extending from the centreline of the panel to at least half a depth of cover (i.e. 65m) past the edge of the panel on each side. There will be one cross line for every 750m (approximately) of panel length. Crosslines will be extended for subsequent adjacent panels, such that the line extends to half a depth of cover (i.e. 65m) past the edge of the adjacent panel before the adjacent panel commences extraction within 200m.

Marks will be surveyed for position and level, using a Certified Total Station (Baseline Checked), with a Starting Baseline of Adequate Class Survey Marks installed or identified outside of the predicted zone of influence. Survey measurements are to be compiled and adjusted utilising an agreed Least Squares Adjustment Program (i.e. Compnet).

4.2 Monitoring Frequency

Monitoring frequency - Centrelines:

- Prior to the commencement of secondary extraction occurring in any panel, the start-of-panel centreline will be surveyed.
- A repeat survey of the start-of-panel centreline will be undertaken once the secondary extraction has reached a point 200m from the start of the panel and then at six-monthly intervals until less than 20 mm additional of movement occurs and no further trend is observed.
- An initial survey of the end-of-panel centreline will occur before the secondary extraction is within 200m of the end-of-panel centreline.
- A repeat survey of the end-of-panel centreline will be undertaken one month after secondary extraction has ceased in that panel, then at six-monthly intervals until less than 20 mm of additional movement occurs.

Monitoring frequency - Crosslines:

- Prior to secondary extraction coming within 200 m of a crossline, an initial survey shall occur.
- A repeat survey will be undertaken once the secondary extraction has reached a point 200 m past the crossline and then at six-monthly intervals until less than 20 mm of additional movement occurs.

4.3 Survey Accuracy

Subsidence measurements will be surveyed in accordance with the relevant specifications and legislation as applied in NSW. These include:

- *Survey and Drafting Directions for Mine Surveyors 2020* (NSW – Mines) (Department of Customer Service Spatial Service); and
- *Inter-governmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping Standards and Practices for Control Surveys (SP1) Version 1.7 Sept 2007* ICSM Publication No.1 (ICSM SP1).

The prescribed accuracy, as defined by the Inter-Governmental Committee on the Survey and Mapping Special Publication 1 (ICSM SP1) and the required frequency of the surveys has been applied.

4.4 Recording Data

Subsidence survey data will be stored by Maxwell in a centralised database, with results from each survey clearly demarcated. Subsidence effects will also be reported under the reporting framework of the Extraction Plan. The subsidence survey data will also be uploaded to the Resource Regulators database.

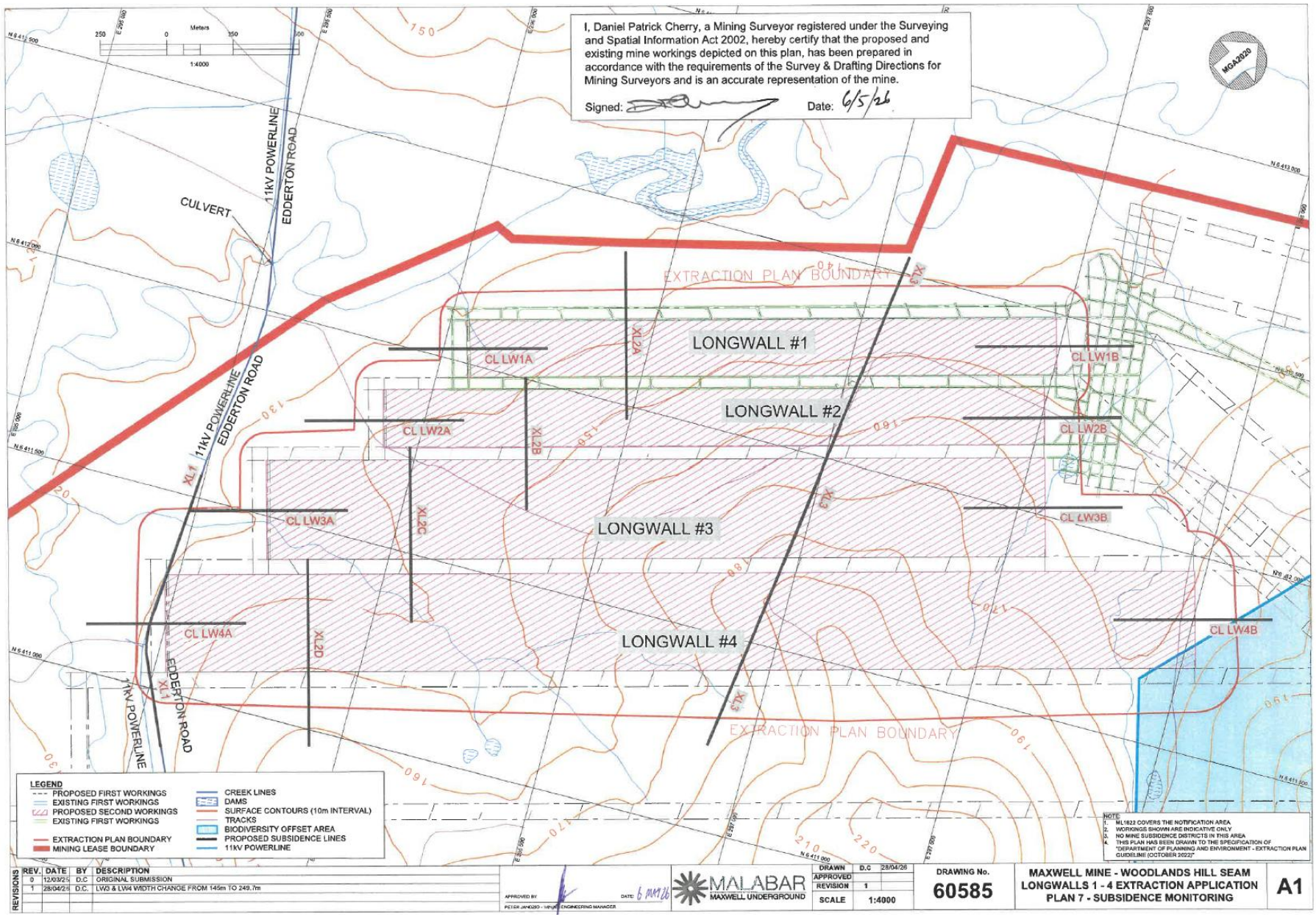

Figure 3. Subsidence monitoring lines

4.5 Subsidence Impact Register

Details of any subsidence impacts observed will be recorded in the Subsidence Impact Register. The Subsidence Impact Register will be maintained as an electronic spreadsheet on the mine site.

4.6 Incident and Non-Compliance Notification

An incident is defined in SSD 9526 as an occurrence or set of circumstances that causes or threatens to cause material harm and which may or may not be or cause a non-compliance.

In accordance with Schedule 2, Condition E9 of Development Consent SSD 9526, Maxwell must notify the Department within 24 hours of becoming aware of an incident. The notification must be made via the NSW planning portal (Major Projects) and address details of the incident including:

(a) date, time and location;

(b) brief description of what occurred and why it has been classified as an incident;

(c) a description of what immediate steps were taken in relation to the incident; and

(d) identifying a contact person for further communication regarding the incident.

Maxwell shall provide the DPHI with a subsequent incident report in accordance with Appendix 7 of Development Consent SSD-9526.

A *Pollution and Incident Response Management Plan* (PIRMP) is maintained in accordance with the requirements of the Part 5.7A of the POEO Act and Chapter 7, Part 3A of the *Protection of the Environment Operations* (General) *Regulation 2009*. Any pollution incident that causes actual or potential material harm will be reported to the relevant agencies immediately after it is identified, as described in the PIRMP. A copy of the PIRMP is located on Malabar's website.

In accordance with Schedule 2, Part E, Condition E10 of SSD 9526 and Schedule 2, Part B, Condition C6 of DA 106-04-00, Maxwell shall notify DPHI within seven days of becoming aware of a non-compliance. The notification shall be in writing via the Department's Major Projects Website and identify the development (including the development application number and name), set out the condition of SSD 9526 that the site is non-compliant with, why it does not comply and the reasons for the non-compliance (if known) and what actions have been, or will be, undertaken to address the non-compliance. A non-compliance which has been notified as an incident does not need to also be notified as a non-compliance.

4.7 Adaptive Management and Contingency Plan

In accordance with Schedule 2, Part E, Condition E4 of SSD 9526 and Schedule 2, Part B, Condition C2 of DA 106-04-00, where any exceedance of performance measures has occurred, Maxwell shall, at the earliest opportunity:

- Take all reasonable and feasible steps to ensure that the exceedance ceases and does not reoccur;
- Consider all reasonable and feasible options for remediation (where relevant) and submit a report to the Department describing those options and any preferred remediation measures or other course of action; and
- Implement reasonable remediation measures as directed by the Planning Secretary.

In accordance with Schedule 2, Part E, Condition E5 (f) of SSD 9526, the following contingency plan is used to manage any unpredicted impacts and their consequences, and to ensure that ongoing impacts reduce to levels below relevant impact assessment criteria as quickly as possible:

- Review the unpredicted impact with consideration of any relevant activities and monitoring data;
- Identify the most likely source of the unpredicted impact;
- Review the existing process and current controls; and
- Implement appropriate mitigation measures.

4.8 Complaints Handling

The site maintains a 24-hour community hotline (1800 653 960) for any issues or enquiries. In addition to the community hotline, the site can also be contacted by emailing info@malabarresources.com.au.

In accordance with Schedule 2 Condition B12(e)(iv) and Condition E5(h)(ii) of Development Consent SSD 9526, if a complaint or enquiry is received, it is investigated as soon as reasonably practicable and managed in accordance with Maxwell's *Community Complaints and Enquiries Procedure*. Details such as complainant name, contact details, nature of concern, date, time and method of receival are recorded. While details of the enquiry vary depending on the nature and source of the enquiry, the following actions may result:

- Confirmation of whether the complainant would like the matter raised as a complaint or an enquiry.
- Identify further details which may assist in determining the cause of the complaint.
- Carry out an inspection of the site or conduct an assessment of monitoring results to identify the source.
- Identify if there is an exceedance or non-compliance with any consent or licence condition.
- Identify, where necessary and practical, methods to manage the source of the complaint and minimise the chance of a recurrence or the potential to generate further complaints.

All enquiries and/or complaints are recorded in an enquiries database. A summary of complaints is presented to the Community Consultive Committee (CCC) and included in the Annual Review and Environmental Protection Licence (EPL) Annual Return. A community complaints register is also available on the Malabar website.

5 AUDIT, REVIEW AND IMPROVEMENT

5.1 Review Schedule

The suitability of this plan will be reviewed in accordance with Schedule 2, Part E, Condition E7 of SSD 9526 and Schedule 2, Part C, Condition C3 of DA 106-04-00, that is within three months of:

- the submission of an incident notification under condition E9/C5;
- the submission of an Annual Review under condition E11;
- the submission of an Independent Environmental Audit under condition E13/C7;
- the approval of any modification of the conditions of SSD 9526 or DA 106-04-00; or
- notification of a change in development phase under condition A13.

In accordance with Schedule 2, Part E, Condition E8 of SSD 9526 and Schedule 2, Part C, Condition C4 of DA 106-04-00, if necessary, to improve the environmental performance of the site, cater for a modification or comply with a direction, this plan will be revised. The revised plan will be submitted to DPHI for approval within six weeks of the review.

5.2 Reporting

In accordance with Schedule 2, Part E, Condition E11 of SSD 9526, by the end of March in each year after the commencement of the development, or other timeframe agreed by the Planning Secretary, an Annual Review report will be submitted to DPHI. The Annual Review will include the following:

- A description of the development that was carried out in the previous calendar year and the development proposed to be carried out over the current calendar year.
- A comprehensive review of monitoring results and complaints over the previous calendar year.
- A description of non-compliances which occurred in the previous calendar year and actions that were (or are being) taken to rectify the non-compliance and avoid reoccurrence.
- Evaluation of the effectiveness of management measures.
- Trends in monitoring data and any discrepancies between predicted and actual impacts.
- Measures to be implemented over the next calendar year to improve the environmental performance of the development.

In accordance with Schedule 2, Part E, Condition E12 of SSD 9526 copies of the Annual Review shall be submitted to Muswellbrook Shire Council and made available to the CCC and any interested person upon request.

In accordance with Schedule 2, Part E, Condition E17(a) of SSD 9526, the Annual Review will be publicly available on the Malabar website.

Subsidence monitoring data will be provided to the Resources Regulator as required.

5.3 Auditing

In accordance with Schedule 2, Part E, Condition E13 of SSD 9526 and Schedule 2, Part C, Condition C7 of DA 106-04-00, Independent Environmental Audits will be conducted and carried out in accordance with the *Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements* (2020) or as updated from time to time and published on the Department's website.

5.4 Access to Information

In accordance with Schedule 2, Part E, Condition E17 of SSD 9526 and Schedule 2, Part C, Condition C11 of DA 106-04-00, before the commencement of construction and within three months of the approval of Antiene MOD1 until the completion of all rehabilitation required under SSD 9526 and DA 106-04-00, Maxwell will make the following information and documents (as they are obtained, approved or as otherwise stipulated within the conditions of SSD 9526) that are relevant to this plan publicly available on Malabar's website:

- this SMP;
- the proposed staging plans for the development if the construction, operation or decommissioning of the development is to be staged;
- minutes of CCC meetings;
- regular reporting on the environmental performance of the development in accordance with the reporting requirements in any plans or programs approved under the conditions of the consent;
- a comprehensive summary of the monitoring results of the development, reported in accordance with the specifications in any conditions of the consent, or any approved plans and programs;
- a summary of the current phase and progress of the development;
- contact details to enquire about the development or to make a complaint;
- a complaints register, updated monthly;
- the Annual Reviews of the development; and
- audit reports prepared as part of any Independent Environmental Audit of the development and the Applicant's response to the recommendations in any audit report.

This information shall be kept up to date, to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary.

5.5 Records Management

All data is maintained in accordance with the Environmental Management Strategy and maintained on the premises for a period of at least four years.

5.6 Continuous Improvement

Feedback from the monitoring results and any complaints will be used to assess impacts and determine where improvements or mitigation measures are required. These measures will be reported on in the Annual Review.

5.7 Document Review History

A summary of the document history is outlined in **Table 4**.

Table 4. Document Revision Status

Issue	Issue Date	Review Team	Details of Change / Communication
1	March 2025	Donna McLaughlin Rob Hayes Daniel Cherry	Document prepared for the Woodlands Hill Longwalls 1-4 Extraction Plan.
2	January 2026	Donna Tiananga Trescinda Brown	Updated following approval of Modification 3 for SSD 9526.
3	May 2026	Donna Tiananga Rob Hayes	Update following increase in WHLW3 and WHLW4 void widths from 150 m to 255 m.

6 INFORMATION, TRAINING AND INSTRUCTION

6.1 Competent Persons

Suitably qualified, competent and experienced persons shall be involved in the design, planning and implementation of this plan and related procedures.

6.2 Training

Training is provided to all employees and contractors through the general induction and site familiarisation process. From time to time, workforce communication and toolbox talks allow for discussion of the objectives and requirements of this and any other relevant management plans.

7 RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsibilities associated with this management plan are outlined **Table 6**.

Table 6. Responsibilities

Position	Responsibilities
General Manager	• Provide adequate resources for the implementation of this SMP.
Underground Mine Manager	• Ensure this SMP is implemented. • Maintain the Subsidence Impact Register. • Notify regulatory authorities and affected stakeholders of incidents in accordance with this program.
Environment, Community & Approvals Manager	• Notify regulatory authorities and affected stakeholders of incidents in accordance with this program. • Coordinate periodic reviews of this SMP.

Position	Responsibilities
Mine Surveyor	• Undertake all monitoring in accordance with this SMP and ensure data is adequately checked, processed and recorded.
Environmental Coordinator	• Coordinate investigations of incidents or complaints. • Coordinate the management of records and reporting of data.
All Personnel	• Undertake works in accordance with the objectives and principles of this program. • Report any incidents and exceedances.

8 DOCUMENT INFORMATION

8.1 References

Department of Planning and Environment (2022) Extraction Plan Guideline

Mine Subsidence Engineering Consultants (2022) - Maxwell Underground Mine Project: Modification Application – Subsidence Assessment

Mine Subsidence Engineering Consultants (2025) - Maxwell Underground Mine Project: Extraction Plan Application – Subsidence Assessment for Woodlands Hill Longwalls 1-4

Mine Subsidence Engineering Consultants (2026) - Maxwell Underground Mine Project: Amendment of Extraction Plan – Subsidence Assessment

Maxwell - Community Complaints and Enquiries Procedure

Maxwell - Pollution Incident Response Plan

State Significant Development Consent 9526

8.2 Definitions and Abbreviations

Term	Definition
Antiene MOD1	Drayton Rail Loop and Antiene Rail Spur (DA 106-04-00) Modification 1
CCC	Community Consultative Committee
CHPP	Coal Handling and Preparation Plant
DA	Development Approval
DPE	NSW Department of Planning and Environment (now NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure)
DPHI	NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EP&A	Environmental Planning and Assessment
km	Kilometres
m	Metres

Term	Definition
Maxwell MOD1	Maxwell Underground Project (SSD 9526) Modification 1
Maxwell MOD2	Maxwell Underground Project (SSD 9526) Modification 2
Maxwell MOD3	Maxwell Underground Project (SSD 9526) Modification 3
MEA	Mine Entry Area
mm	Millimetres
NSW	New South Wales
PA	Project Approval
PIRMP	Pollution Incident Response Management Plan
SMP	Subsidence Monitoring Program
SSD	State Significant Development
SMS	Short message service
Toolbox Talk	A forum where information is presented to the crews
WHLW1 to WHLW4	Woodlands Hill Longwalls 1 to 4

APPENDIX 1 – REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

State Significant Development Consent 9526

Clause	Requirement	Section of Plan
E5	Management plans required under this consent must be prepared in accordance with relevant guidelines, and include:	
	(a) a summary of relevant background or baseline data;	**Section 3**
	(b) details of:	
	(i) the relevant statutory requirements (including any relevant approval, licence or lease conditions);	**Section 2.1**
	(ii) any relevant limits or performance measures and criteria; and	**Section 3.3**
	(iii) the specific performance indicators that are proposed to be used to judge the performance of, or guide the implementation of, the development or any management measures;	**Section 3.3**
	(c) any relevant commitments or recommendations identified in the document/s listed in condition A2(c);	**Appendix 1**
	(d) a description of the measures to be implemented to comply with the relevant statutory requirements, limits, or performance measures and criteria;	**Section 4**
	(e) a program to monitor and report on the:	
	(i) impacts and environmental performance of the development; and	**Section 4**
	(ii) effectiveness of the management measures set out pursuant to condition E5(d);	
	(f) a contingency plan to manage any unpredicted impacts and their consequences and to ensure that ongoing impacts reduce to levels below relevant impact assessment criteria as quickly as possible;	**Section 4.7**
	(g) a program to investigate and implement ways to improve the environmental performance of the development over time;	**Section 4**
	(h) a protocol for managing and reporting any:	
	(i) incident, non-compliance or exceedance of any impact assessment criterion or performance criterion;	**4.6 and 5.2**
	(ii) complaint; or	**4.8 and 5.2**
	(iii) failure to comply with other statutory requirements;	**4.6 and 5.2**
	(i) public sources of information and data to assist stakeholders in understanding environmental impacts of the development; and	**5.4**
	(j) a protocol for periodic review of the plan.	**5.1**
	Note: *The Planning Secretary may waive some of these requirements if they are unnecessary or unwarranted for particular management plans.*	
E6	The Applicant must ensure that management plans prepared for the development are consistent with the conditions of this consent and any EPL issued for the site.	**Appendix 1**
E7	**Revision of Strategies, Plans and Programs** Within three months of: (i) the submission of an incident report under condition E9; (ii) the submission of an Annual Review under condition E11;	**Section 5.1**

Clause	Requirement	Section of Plan
	(iii) the submission of an Independent Environmental Audit under condition E13; (iv) the approval of any modification of the conditions of this consent (unless the conditions require otherwise); or (v) notification of a change in development phase under condition A13; The suitability of existing strategies, plans and programs required under this consent must be reviewed by the Applicant.	
E8	If necessary, to either improve the environmental performance of the development, cater for a modification or comply with a direction, the strategies, plans and programs required under this consent must be revised, to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. Where revisions are required, the revised document must be submitted to the Planning Secretary for approval within six weeks of the review.	**Section 5.1**
E9	The Applicant must notify the Department within 24 hours of becoming aware of an incident. The notification must be made via the NSW planning portal (Major Projects) and address details of the incident including: (a) date, time and location; (b) brief description of what occurred and why it has been classified as an incident; (c) a description of what immediate steps were taken in relation to the incident; and (d) identifying a contact person for further communication regarding the incident.	**Section 4.6**
E9A	The Applicant must provide the Department with a subsequent incident report in accordance with Appendix 7 (Incident Notification and Reporting Requirements).	**Section 4.6**
E10	Within seven days of becoming aware of a non-compliance, the Applicant must notify the Department of the non- compliance. The notification must be in writing via the Department's Major Projects Website and identify the development (including the development application number and name), set out the condition of this consent that the development is non-compliant with, why it does not comply and the reasons for the non-compliance (if known) and what actions have been, or will be, undertaken, and when, to address the non-compliance. Note: A non-compliance which has been notified as an incident does not need to also be notified as a non-compliance.	**Section 4.6**
E13	Independent Environmental Audits of the development must be conducted and carried out in accordance with the *Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements* (2020) or as updated from time to time and published on the Department's website.	**Section 5.3**
E17	Before the commencement of construction until the completion of all rehabilitation required under this consent, the Applicant must: (a) make the following information and documents (as they are obtained, approved or as otherwise stipulated within the conditions of this consent) publicly available on its website: (i) the documents referred to in condition A2(c) of this consent; (ii) all current statutory approvals for the development; (iii) all approved strategies, plans and programs required under the conditions of this consent;	**Section 5.4**

Clause	Requirement	Section of Plan
	(iv) the proposed staging plans for the development if the construction, operation or decommissioning of the development is to be staged; (v) minutes of CCC meetings; (vi) regular reporting on the environmental performance of the development in accordance with the reporting requirements in any plans or programs approved under the conditions of this consent; (vii) a comprehensive summary of the monitoring results of the development, reported in accordance with the specifications in any conditions of this consent, or any approved plans and programs; (viii) a summary of the current phase and progress of the development; (ix) contact details to enquire about the development or to make a complaint; (x) a complaints register, updated monthly; (xi) the Annual Reviews of the development; (xii) audit reports prepared as part of any Independent Environmental Audit of the development and the Applicant's response to the recommendations in any audit report; (xiii) any other matter required by the Planning Secretary; and (b) keep such information up to date, to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary.	
C2	Measurement and monitoring of compliance with performance measures and performance indicators in this consent is to be undertaken using generally accepted methods that are appropriate to the environment and circumstances in which the feature or characteristic is located. These methods are to be fully described in the relevant management plans and monitoring programs. In the event of a dispute over the appropriateness of proposed methods, the Planning Secretary will be the final arbiter.	**Section 4**
C5	The Applicant must ensure that the development meets the performance measures in Table 10.	**Section 3.3**

<table>
<tr><th>Clause</th><th>Requirement</th><th>Section of Plan</th></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>
Table 10: Subsidence impact performance measures – built features.
<table>
<tr><th>Feature</th><th>Performance Measures</th></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Key Public Infrastructure</td></tr>
<tr><td>• Edderton Road (including associated culverts and drainage structures)
• Electricity transmission and distribution lines, poles and towers within the Subsidence Area</td><td>• Always safe and serviceable
• Damage that does not affect safety or serviceability must be fully repairable, and must be fully repaired at the cost of the Applicant</td></tr>
<tr><td>• Golden Highway (including the Edderton Road intersection and the Bowmans Crossing Bridge)
• All other public infrastructure (including electricity infrastructure located outside the Subsidence Area)</td><td>• Negligible subsidence impacts
• Always safe and serviceable
• Damage that does not affect safety or serviceability must be fully repairable, and must be fully repaired at the cost of the Applicant</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Other Built Features</td></tr>
<tr><td>• Privately-owned residences
• Other privately-owned built features and improvements, including farm dams, swimming pools, tennis courts, roads, tracks and fences</td><td>• Negligible subsidence impacts
• Always safe
• Serviceability should be maintained wherever practicable
• Loss of serviceability must be fully compensated
• Damage must be fully repairable, and must be fully repaired or else replaced or fully compensated</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Public safety</td></tr>
<tr><td>• Public Safety</td><td>• Negligible additional risk.</td></tr>
</table>
Notes:
• These performance measures apply to all mining taking place after the date of this consent.
• The Applicant is required to define more detailed performance measures in the Built Features Management Plans or Public Safety Management Plan (see condition C8).
• Requirements regarding safety or serviceability do not prevent preventative or mitigatory actions being taken prior to or during mining.
• Requirements under this condition may be met by measures undertaken in undertaken in accordance with the Coal Mine Subsidence Compensation Act 2017.
</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>C7</td><td>The Applicant may carry out first workings within the underground mining area of the approved mine plan, other than in accordance with an approved Extraction Plan, provided that the Resources Regulator is satisfied that the first workings are designed to remain stable and non-subsiding in the long term, except insofar as they may be impacted by approved second workings.

Note: The intent of this condition is to ensure that first workings are built to geotechnical and engineering standards sufficient to ensure long term stability, with negligible direct subsidence impacts.</td><td>Section 3.2</td></tr>
<tr><td>C8</td><td>The Applicant must prepare an Extraction Plan for all second workings on the site of the development to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. Each Extraction Plan must:

(a) be prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced person/s whose appointment has been endorsed by the Planning Secretary;

(b) be prepared in consultation with the Resources Regulator, DPE Water and SANSW;

(c) include detailed plans of existing and proposed first and second workings and overlying surface features, including any applicable adaptive management measures;

(d) include adequate consideration of mine roof and floor conditions, pillar width to height ratio, final pillar design dimensions and the long-term stability of pillars which has been undertaken in consultation with the Resources Regulator;

(e) provide revised predictions of the potential subsidence effects, subsidence impacts and environmental consequences of the proposed mining covered by the Extraction Plan, incorporating any relevant information obtained since this consent;

(f) describe in detail the performance indicators to be implemented to ensure compliance with the performance measures in Table 9 and Table 10, and</td><td>Section 2.3

Section 2.3

Extraction Plan

Extraction Plan

Extraction Plan

Extraction Plan</td></tr>
</table>

Clause	Requirement	Section of Plan
	manage or remediate any impacts and/or environmental consequences to meet the rehabilitation objectives in condition B76; (g) include a: …(i) Subsidence Monitoring Program which has been prepared in consultation with the Resources Regulator to: • describe the ongoing conventional and non-conventional subsidence monitoring program; • provide data to assist with the management of risks associated with conventional and non-conventional subsidence; • validate the conventional and non-conventional subsidence predictions; • analyse the relationship between the predicted and resulting conventional and non-conventional subsidence effects and predicted and resulting impacts under the plan and any ensuing environmental consequences; and • inform the adaptive management process;	**This SMP** **Section 4** **Section 4** **Section 4** **Section 4** **Section 4**
C9	The Applicant must not undertake second workings until the relevant Extraction Plan is approved by the Planning Secretary.	**Section 1.2**
C10	The Applicant must implement the Extraction Plan as approved by the Planning Secretary.	**Section 1.2**
C13	The Applicant must pay all reasonable costs incurred by the Department to engage a suitably qualified, experienced and independent person/s to review the adequacy of any aspect of an Extraction Plan.	**Section 2.3**

APPENDIX 2 – MAXWELL MINE EIS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENT COMMITMENTS

<table>
<tr><th>Source</th><th>Details</th><th>Reference</th></tr>
<tr><td>EIS Section 6.3.4</td><td>
Table 6-4
Summary of Potential Subsidence Consequences
<table>
<tr><th>Surface Feature</th><th>Potential Subsidence Consequence</th></tr>
<tr><td>Hunter River and Saddlers Creek</td><td>Negligible environmental consequences (i.e. negligible diversion of flows or changes in the natural drainage behaviour of pools).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Groundwater</td><td>Minimal impact to bores in 'highly productive' aquifers.</td></tr>
<tr><td>BSAL</td><td>Negligible long-term or permanent impacts on agricultural productivity of BSAL (i.e. negligible impacts on soil fertility, effective rooting depth or soil drainage).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Cliffs</td><td>There are no cliffs within the extent of conventional subsidence.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Steep slopes</td><td>Minor environmental consequences (e.g. potential tension cracks or compression ridges).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Threatened species, threatened populations, or threatened ecological communities</td><td>Minor subsidence impacts, such as cracking of the land surface.
No significant environmental consequences to threatened species, threatened populations or threatened ecological communities.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Aboriginal heritage sites</td><td>Potential for disturbance of some open artefact sites as a result of surface cracking and/or subsidence remediation.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Buildings or structures of heritage significance</td><td>There are no items listed on local, regional, State or national historic registers within the extent of conventional subsidence.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Public roads</td><td>The Golden Highway and Edderton Road would remain safe and serviceable.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Power lines</td><td>Always safe. Serviceability would be maintained through the use of preventative measures (e.g. installation of guy ropes for power poles) or relocation of the power line.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Plashett Reservoir</td><td>Always safe and serviceable.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Houses and industrial premises</td><td>There are no houses or industrial premises within the extent of conventional subsidence.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Public safety</td><td>Negligible additional risk.</td></tr>
</table>
</td><td>Section 3.3</td></tr>
<tr><td>EIS Section 6.3.5</td><td>Extraction Plans for the Project would include the following key component documents:
…Subsidence Monitoring Program…</td><td>This SMP</td></tr>
<tr><td>EIS Section 6.3.5</td><td>Surface subsidence monitoring data would be collected in accordance with the subsidence monitoring programs detailed in the Extraction Plans.

Subsidence monitoring may include transverse and longitudinal subsidence lines and survey lines/pegs around features of interest.

The subsidence monitoring data would be reviewed as part of the Extraction Plan and reporting processes to assist with the management of risks associated with subsidence, validate subsidence predictions and inform the adaptive management process

Malabar would implement an adaptive management approach during the life of the Project, including:
the use of subsidence monitoring data collected during the life of the Project to validate and refine subsidence predictions;
evaluation of environmental monitoring results against performance measures, with adjustment (if necessary) of the management and control measures to, as a minimum, achieve the adopted performance measures;
monitoring of the performance of subsidence remediation methods, and adjustment (if necessary) to improve long-term outcomes; and
implementation of contingency measures in the event of unexpected subsidence impacts.
Where relevant, performance measures, monitoring locations/methods, trigger action response plans and contingency measures would be developed in consultation with relevant asset owners and government agencies.</td><td>This SMP

Section 4.1

Section 4

Section 4

Section 4

Section 4

Section 4</td></tr>
</table>

APPENDIX 3 – PLANNING SECRETARY ENDORSEMENT

Department of Planning, Housing & Infrastructure

Our ref: SSD-9526-PA-139

Dominic Brown
Environment and Community Superintendent
Malabar Resources Limited
Thomas Mitchell Drive
Muswellbrook NSW 2333

24/07/2024

Subject: Appointment of Suitably Qualified and Experienced Persons

Dear Mr Brown

I refer to your request dated 15 July 2024 seeking the Planning Secretary's endorsement of the following persons as suitably qualified and experienced under Condition C8 of Schedule 2 of SSD-9526:

- Dr James Barbato (subsidence expert);
- Mr Greg Roads (surface water expert);
- Dr Noel Merrick (groundwater expert);
- Dr Colin Driscoll (biodiversity expert);
- Mr Geordie Oakes (Aboriginal cultural heritage expert);
- Mr Josh Peters (overall preparation and review of the Extraction Plan); and
- Ms Donna McLaughlin, Mr Dominic Brown, Mr James Johnson, Mr Shane Pegg, Mr Tim Britten and Mr Peter Sergeant, Maxwell Mine personnel, would also be involved in the preparation of the Extraction Plan.

The Department has reviewed the nominations and information you have provided and is satisfied that the above persons are suitably qualified and experienced. Accordingly, I can advise that the Planning Secretary endorses the appointment of these persons to prepare the Extraction Plan for the Woodlands Hill Panels 1 to 4 of the Maxwell Underground Coal Mine Project.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Joe Fittell on (02) 4908 8696.

Yours sincerely

Stephen O'Donoghue
Director
Resource Assessments

As nominee of the Planning Secretary

4 Parramatta Square, 12 Darcy Street, Parramatta NSW 2150 www.dphi.nsw.gov.au 1
Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124

Department of Planning, Housing & Infrastructure

Our ref: SSD-9526-PA-143

Donna McLaughlin
Environment, Community and Approvals Manager
Level 26, 259 George Street
Sydney, NSW, 2000

06/02/2025

Subject: Appointment of Experts – Woodlands Hill Seam Panels 1 to 4 Extraction Plan

Dear Ms McLaughlin

I refer to your request dated 7 January 2025 seeking the Planning Secretary's endorsement of the following persons as suitably qualified and experienced under Condition C8 of Schedule 2 of SSD 9526:

- Robert Hayes, Acting General Manager;
- Russel Howarth, Acting Underground Mine Manager; and
- Daniel Cherry, Registered Mine Surveyor.

The Department has reviewed the nominations and is satisfied that the above persons are suitably qualified and experienced. Accordingly, I can advise that the Planning Secretary endorses the appointment of the above persons to prepare the Woodlands Hill Panels 1 to 4 Extraction Plan for the Maxwell Underground Coal Mine Project.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Jack Turner on 9995 5387.

Yours sincerely

Jack Turner
A/ Team Leader
Resource Assessments

As nominee of the Planning Secretary

4 Parramatta Square, 12 Darcy Street, Parramatta NSW 2150
Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124
www.dphi.nsw.gov.au

APPENDIX 4 – CONSULTATION

Raised By	Consultation Feedback	Outcome
Resources Regulator	No objections or comments.	Noted

APPENDIX 5 – PLANNING SECRETARY APPROVAL

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

NSW GOVERNMENT

Our ref: SSD-9526-PA-207

Donna Tiananga
Environment, Community and Approvals Manager
Maxwell Ventures (Management) Pty Ltd
Thomas Mitchell Drive
Muswellbrook, NSW 2333

25/09/2026

Subject: Maxwell Underground Coal Mine – Approval of amended Extraction Plan for Woodlands Hill Longwalls 1 to 4

I refer to the amended Extraction Plan for the Woodlands Hill Longwalls 1 to 4, which has been prepared in accordance with condition C8 of Schedule 2 of SSD 9526 for the Maxwell Underground Mine.

On 26 September 2025 the Department approved an Extraction Plan for Woodlands Hill Longwalls 1 to 4 (original Extraction Plan).

The Department notes that the amended Extraction Plan has been prepared following additional mine planning and geotechnical review to optimise resource recovery and improve mine economics.

The Department notes that the Water Management Plan (which applies to the whole development) has also been updated to include the transfer of tailings and coarse rejects from Mt Arthur Coal (including the transfer of return water).

The Department has carefully reviewed the amended Extraction Plan (including its sub-plans) and is satisfied it addresses the relevant requirements of the development consent SSD 9526.

The Department considers residual matters related to groundwater modelling and stream health can be addressed prior to secondary extraction of Woodlands Hill Longwall 3 and 4 (WHLW3 and WHLW4) through conditions of approval.

Accordingly, the Planning Secretary approves the Extraction Plan and management plan documents listed in **Table 1** below subject to the conditions in **Table 2**.

Table 1 | Approved Extraction Plan Documents

Document Name	Document No./Version/Date
Maxwell Underground Mine – Amended Woodlands Hill Longwalls 1 to 4 Extraction Plan	Document No.: MXC_MP_EC_27 Dated: May 2026
Water Management Plan	Document No.: MXC_MP_EC_08 Version: 7.2 Dated: September 2026
Land Management Plan	Document No.: MXC_MP_EC_29 Version: 3 Dated: May 2026
Biodiversity Management Plan	Document No.: MXC_MP_EC_09 Version: 7.1

Document Name	Document No./Version/Date
	Dated: July 2026
Heritage Management Plan	Document No.: MXC_MP_EC_03 Version: 4 Dated: May 2026
Built Features Management Plan	Document No.: MXC_MP_EC_31 Version: 3 Dated: May 2026
Public Safety Management Plan	Document No.: MXC_MP_EC_28 Version: 3 Dated: May 2026
Subsidence Monitoring Program	Document No.: MXC_MP_EC_32 Version: 3 Dated: May 2026
Coal Resource Recovery Plan	Document No.: MXC_MP_EC_33 Version: 3 Dated: May 2026

Table 2 | Conditions of approval

Condition number	Condition
1	Prior to the extraction of WHLW3 the Applicant must update the groundwater model for the amended WHLW3 and WHLW4 panel widths and demonstrate the predictions of the updated model are generally consistent with the conclusions in *Maxwell Underground Mine, Revision of Woodlands Hill Seam Extraction Layout* (HydroAlgorithmics, April 2025).
2	Prior to the extraction of WHLW3, the Applicant must update the channel stability and stream health monitoring program and the Channel Stability and Riparian Ecosystem Health Trigger Action Response Plan in the Water Management Plan to identify existing and high-risk areas of bed degradation and channel erosion, and identify remediation measures to address impacts from secondary extraction.

You are reminded that if there are any inconsistencies between the approved plans listed above and the conditions of consent, the conditions prevail. Please ensure that you make the documents publicly available on the project website at the earliest convenience.

Should you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Jack Turner on 9995 5387.

Yours sincerely

Stephen O'Donoghue
Director
Resource Assessments

As nominee of the Planning Secretary