



Abel Mine SMP Area 1 Application- Written Report

APPENDIX F

Community Consultation

1. **Presentation to DPI-MR 26 May 2009**
2. **SMP related official correspondence**
3. **SMP Presentation to Stakeholders 24 June 2009**
4. **CCC Minutes**
5. **SMP advertisements**

Donaldson Coal

Abel Mine

SMP Area 1

DPI-MR Meeting

26 May 2009

Agenda

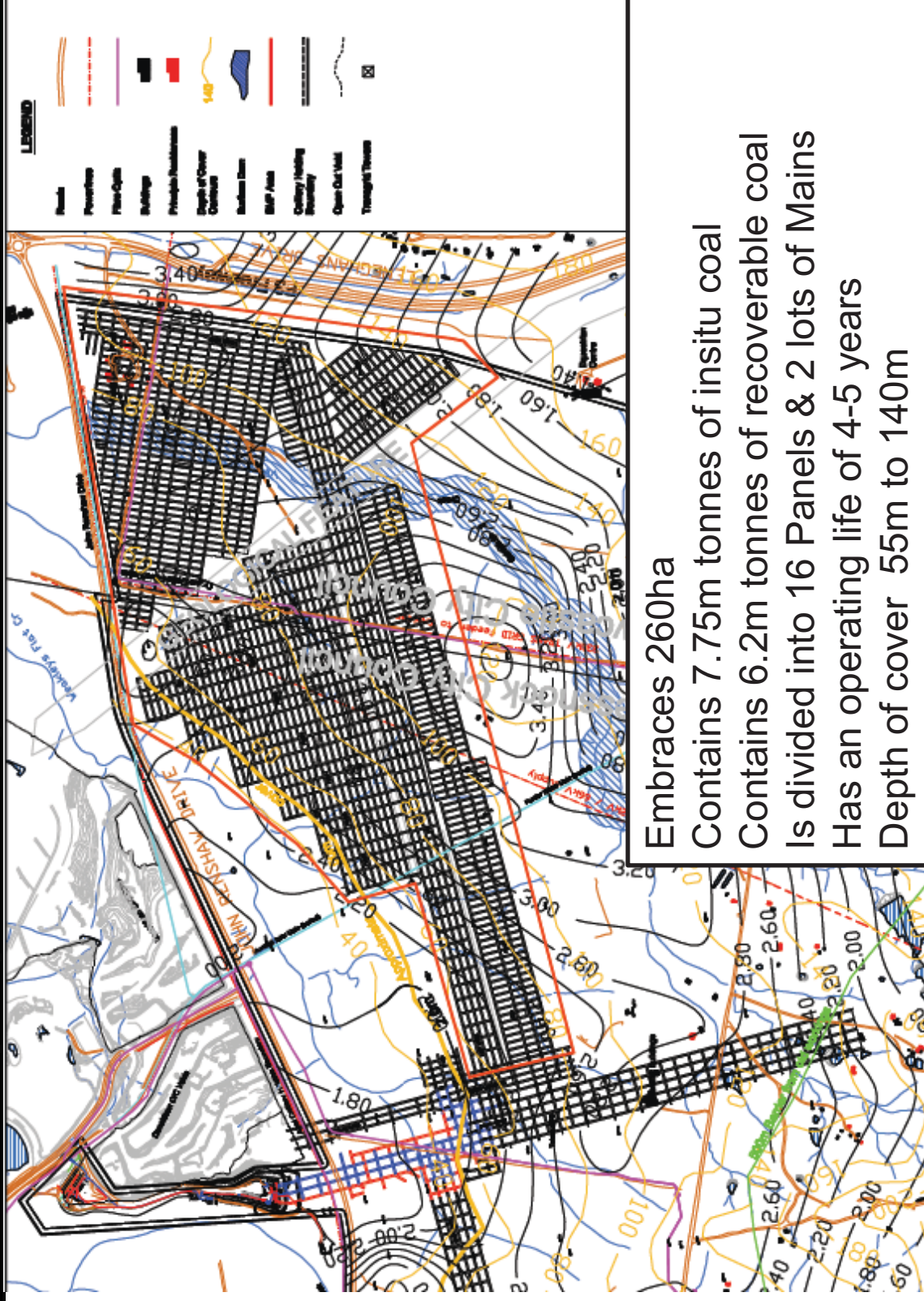
- Introduction and Meeting Objectives
- Abel Mine
 - Background
 - Project Approval
 - Mine Planning
 - Mining Methods
 - SMP Area Surface Environment Assessment
 - Subsidence Assessment
 - Abel SMP Schedule
- Surface Inspection

Application Process

- Approval process introduced in March 2004 for the management of coal mining subsidence (*New Approval Process for Management of Coal Mining Subsidence* – NSW)
- Condition of Abel's Mining Lease 1618 that the leaseholder shall prepare a Subsidence Management Plan prior to commencing underground mining operations which will potentially lead to subsidence of the land surface



SMP Application Area 1

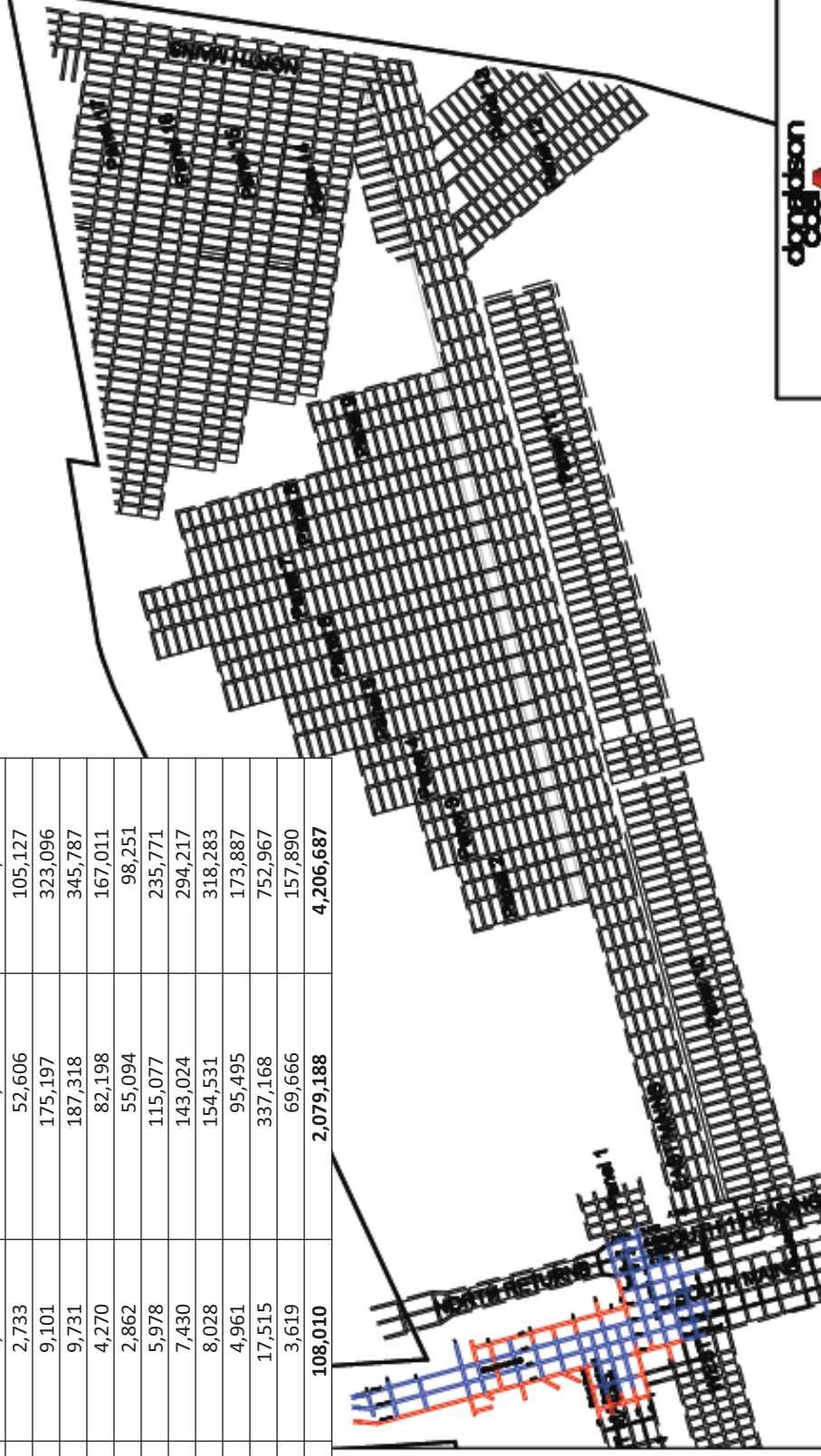


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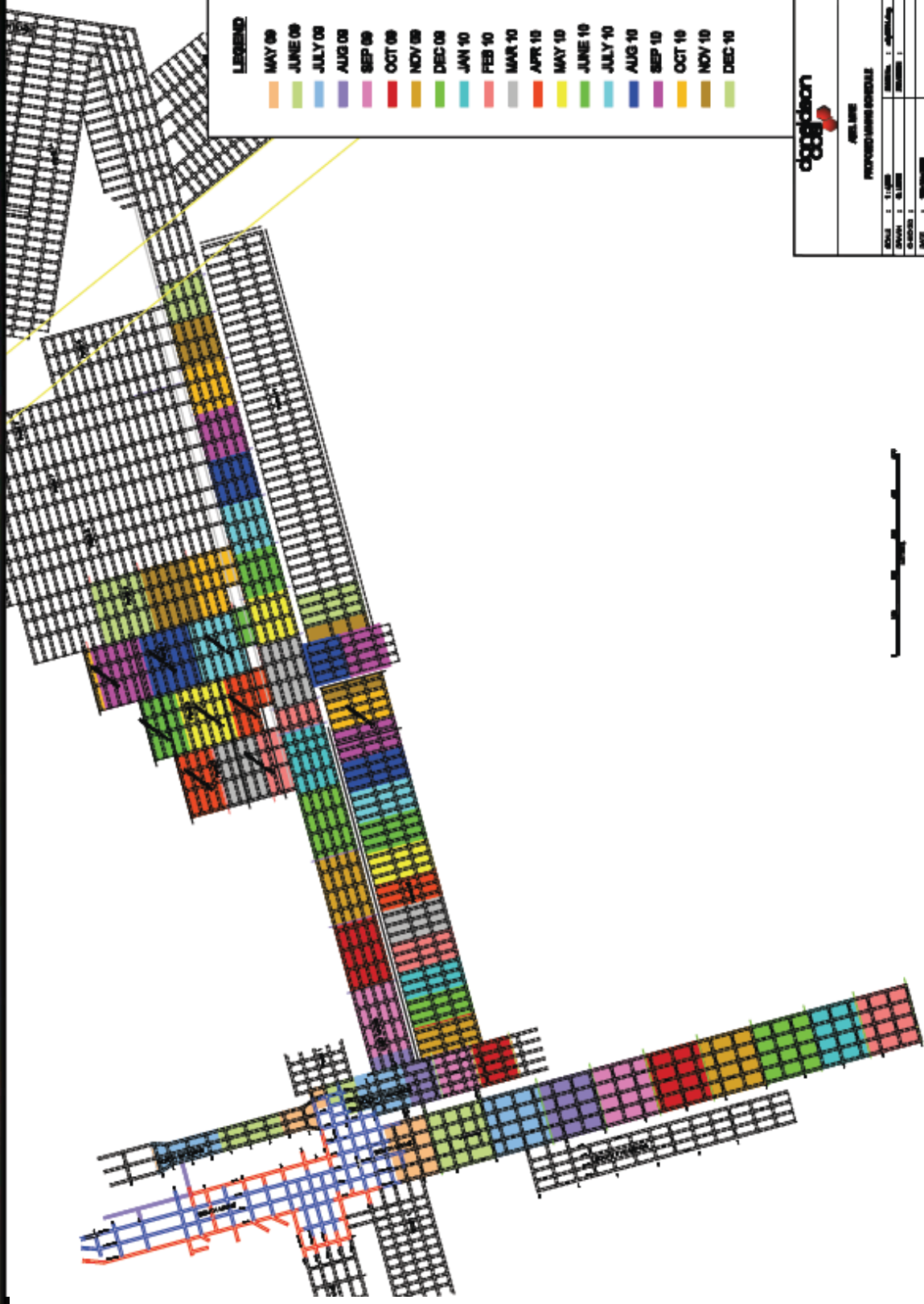


SMP Application Area

Panel	Length	Metres driven	Tonnes (1st works)	tonnes (lifting)
Panel 2	270	2,576	49,584	87,937
Panel 3	320	2,733	52,606	105,127
Panel 4	420	3,587	69,046	139,507
Panel 5	545	4,654	89,595	182,482
Panel 6	670	5,722	110,145	225,457
Panel 7	795	6,789	130,694	268,432
Panel 8	670	5,722	110,145	225,457
Panel 9	320	2,733	52,606	105,127
Panel 10	954	9,101	175,197	323,096
Panel 11	1020	9,731	187,318	345,787
Panel 12	500	4,270	82,198	167,011
Panel 13	300	2,862	55,094	98,251
Panel 14	700	5,978	115,077	235,771
Panel 15	870	7,430	143,024	294,217
Panel 16	940	8,028	154,531	318,283
Panel 17	520	4,961	95,495	173,887
East Mains	2670	17,515	337,168	752,967
North Mains	700	3,619	69,666	157,890
		108,010	2,079,188	4,206,687



SMP Application Area 1



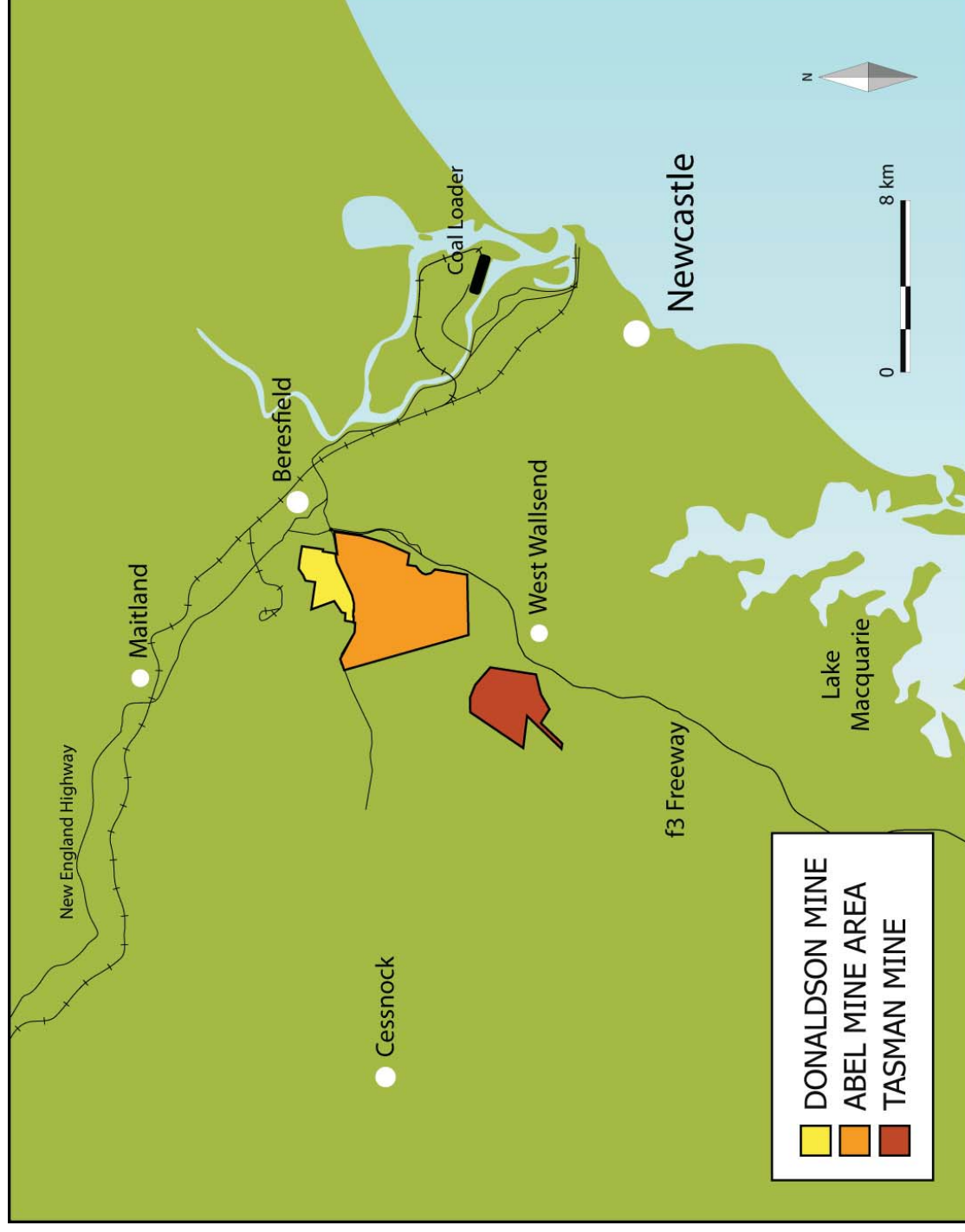
SMP Preparation Stages

- **Stage 1 – Information Collection and Review**
 - ◆ Initial Consultation and Advertisement
 - ◆ Review of Statutes, Baseline Monitoring, Subsidence Prediction, Mine planning and initial layout
- **Stage 2 – SMP Development**
 - ◆ Impact and Risk Assessment, monitoring program, mitigation / rehabilitation planning
 - ◆ Assessment and consideration of community input
 - ◆ Preparation of SMP report and Subsidence Management Plan
- **Stage 3 – Assessment**
 - ◆ Submission of application to DPI-MR
 - ◆ Advertise and public display – opportunity for comment and submission
 - ◆ SMP Inter Agency review committee and DPI-MR assessment

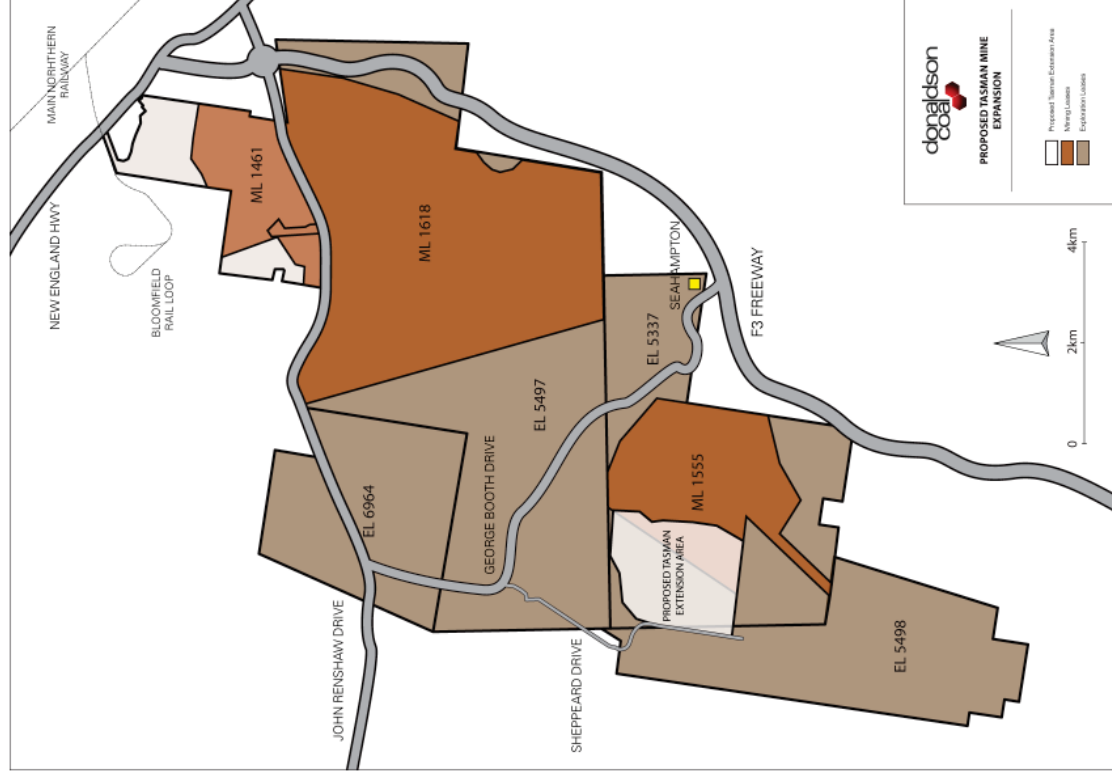
SMP Preparation Stages

- **Stage 4 – Implementation if Approval Granted**
 - ◆ Implement SMP subject to Approval Conditions
- **Stage 5 – Reporting, Review and Ongoing Consultation**
 - ◆ Review monitoring results in relation to predictions
 - ◆ Review impacts in relation to predictions
 - ◆ Report monitoring results, impacts and compliance with SMP through AEMR, reporting as required by Approval Conditions and through Community Consultation Process

Location of Donaldson Coal Operations



Lease Areas



Current Leases:

- ML 1461 (Donaldson O/C)
- ML 1618 (Abel U/G)
- ML 1555 (Tasman U/G)

Current Exploration Areas:

- EL 5337 (Tasman)
- EL 5498 (Tasman)
- EL 5497 (Abel)
- EL 6964 (Abel)

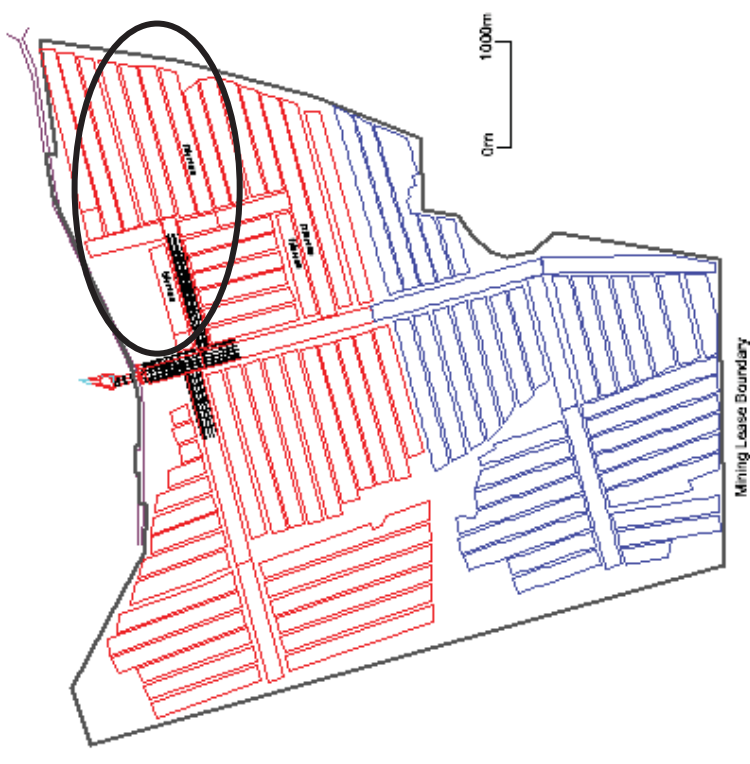
Abel Project Milestones

- ◆ Planning Focus Nov 2005
- ◆ EA lodged 2006
- ◆ Project approval granted June 2007
- ◆ Mining Lease ML1618 granted May 2008
- ◆ EPA Licence No. 12856
- ◆ MOP Approved Dec 2008
- ◆ Construction commenced late 2007
- ◆ Abel commenced underground production from box cut off highwall in May 2008
- ◆ CCC 1st meeting late 2007
- ◆ Pillar extraction production from Area 1 to commence early 2010



Abel Mine Layout

- Commenced coal production in May 2008 and will ramp up to 4mtpa by 2012 and maintain that rate for >20yrs
- Target seams are the Upper and Lower Donaldson which range in thickness from 1.9m to 2.6m
- Soft coking and thermal products from the Upper Donaldson. Thermal from the Lower Donaldson
- At full production of 4-4.5mtpa will employ 356 people
- Mine life is 20-25years

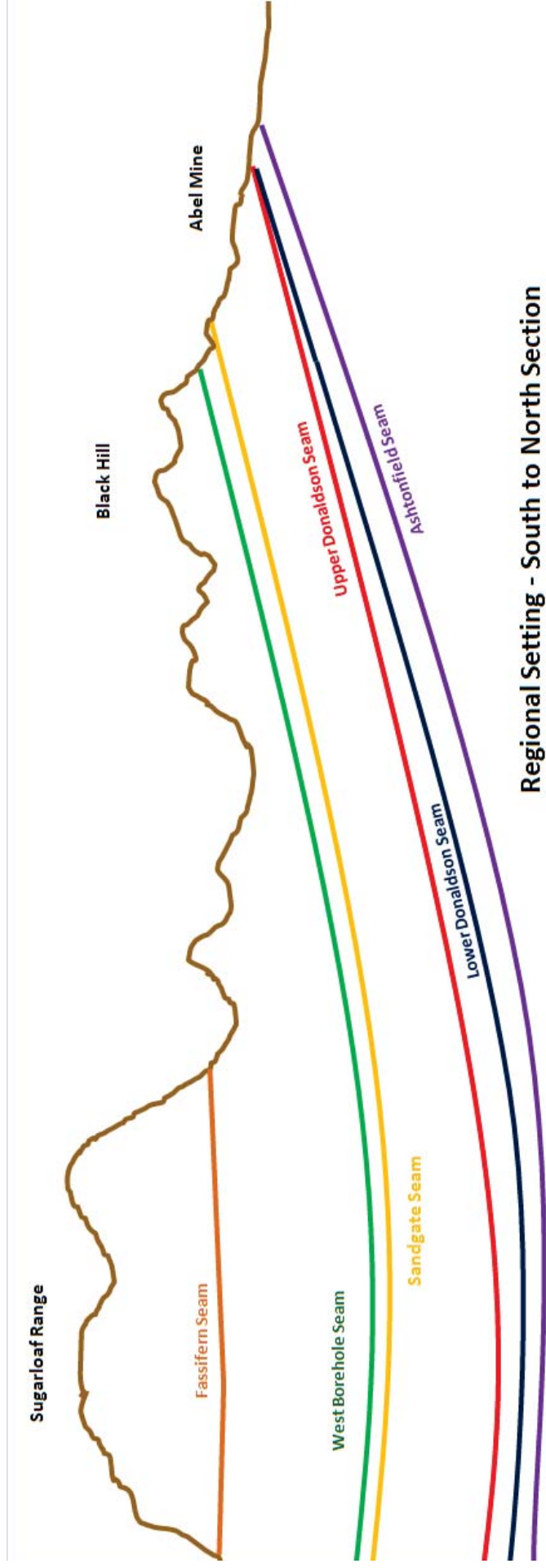


Upper Donaldson

Lower Donaldson

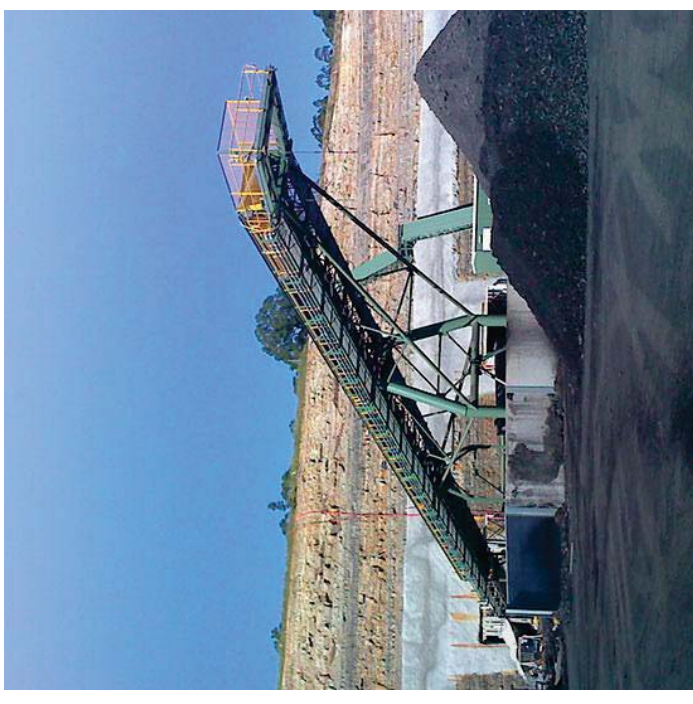
Geological & Mining Setting

- ◆ Donaldson Seam part of the East Maitland/Tomago district Four Mile creek formation
- ◆ Seam dips to south



Mine Design Parameters - Area 1

- Review conducted to confirm appropriate Project Approval/Statement of Commitments and other approvals
- Full extraction where there are no constraints
- Full extraction represents 85% reserve recovery within a mining panel
- Subsidence protection by either first workings or partial extraction
- No first workings below 30m depth of cover
- No Pillar extraction below 50m depth of cover
- Panel width of 155m with approp designed barrier pillars

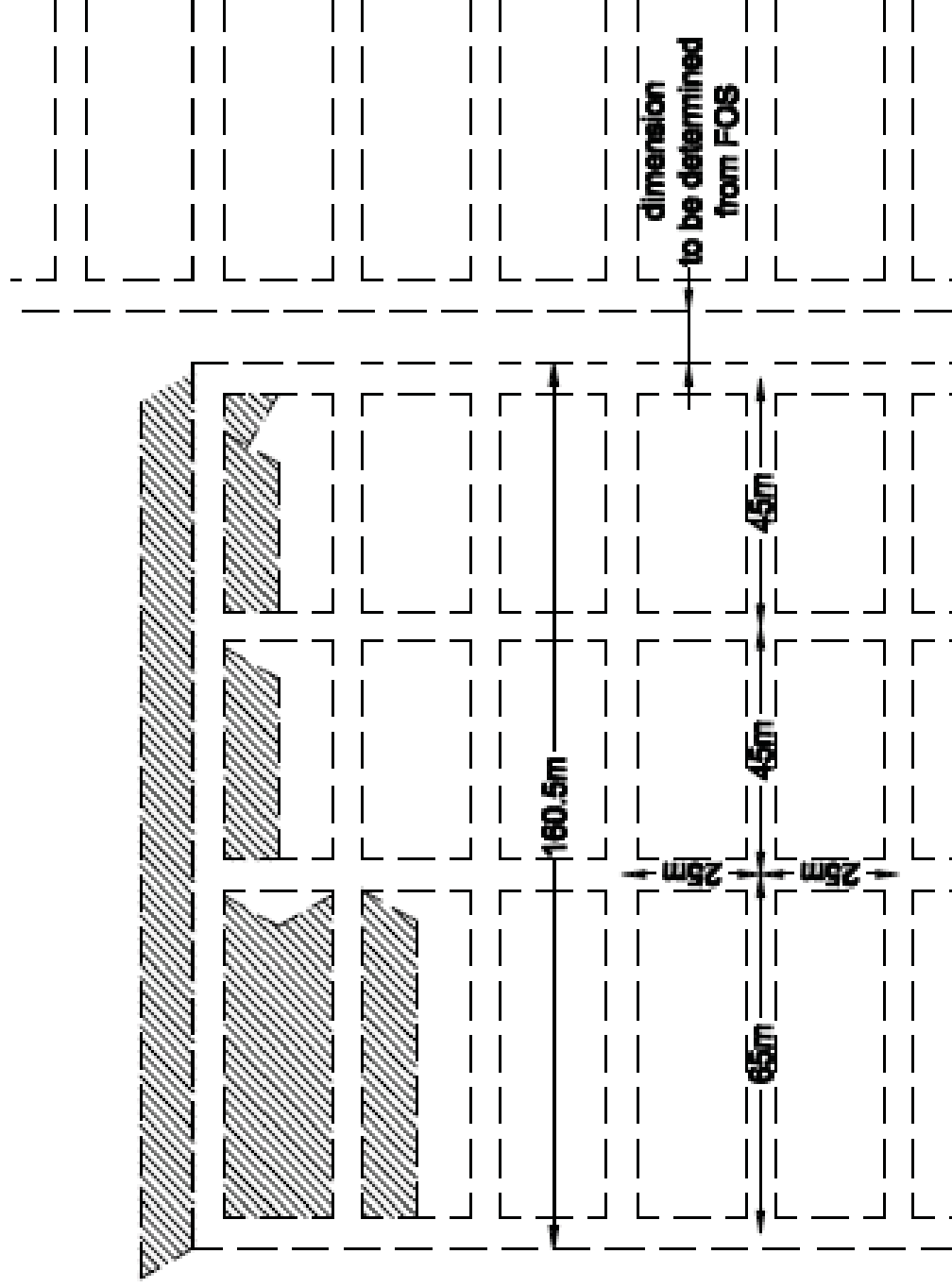


Abel Mining Method

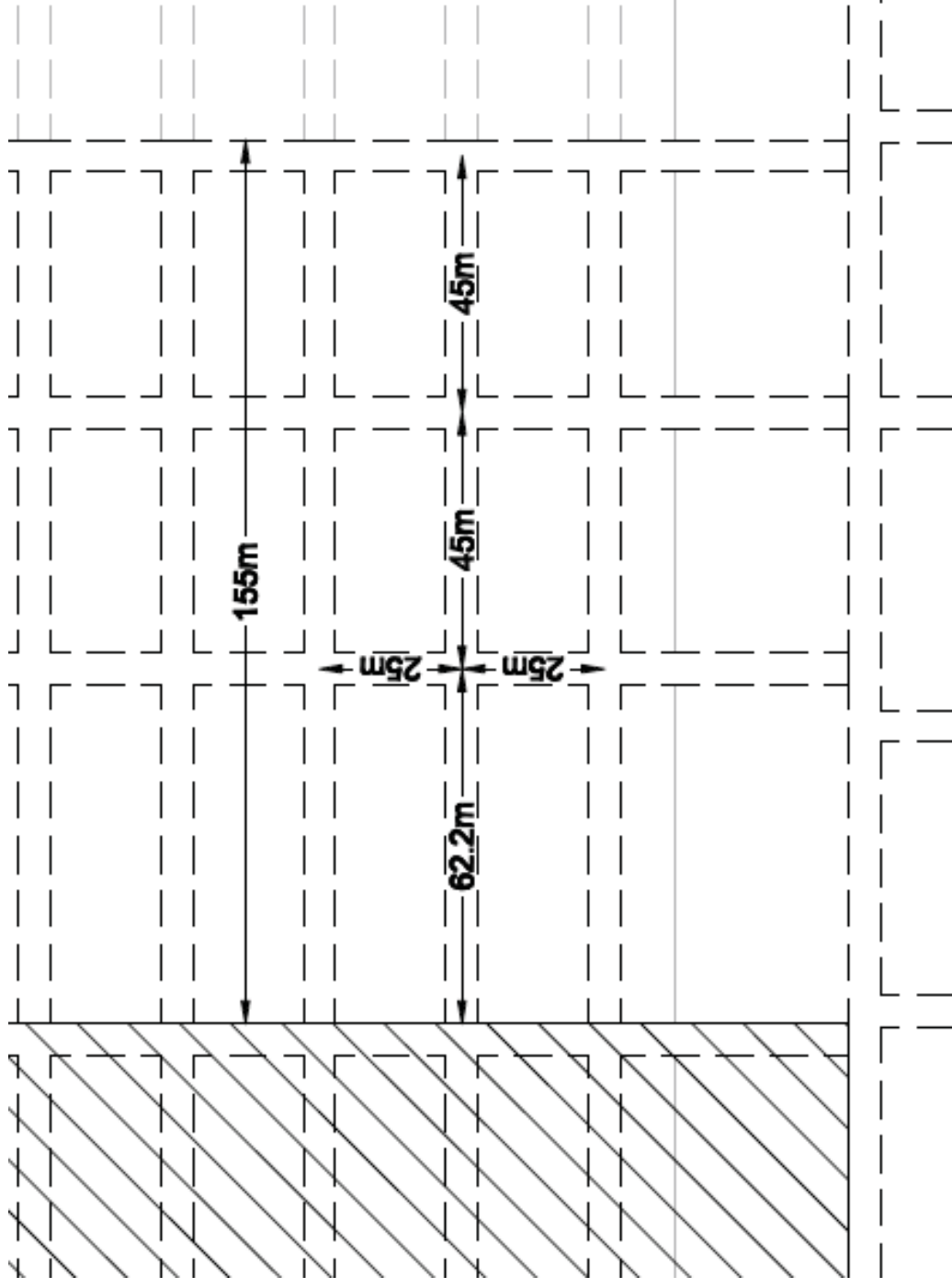
- Continuous miner based bord and pillar system
- Can vary pillar extraction to control subsidence impacts as required.
- Layout designed to minimise impact on sensitive surface areas while minimising resource sterilisation
- Panels 155m wide
 - 4 heading layout
- 1st workings
 - Single Miner Unit (20-30m /shift)
 - Supa Unit (35- 45 m/shift)
- 2nd workings (Pillar extraction)
 - 1,000 tonnes per shift
- Depth of cover range 55m to 140m



Abel Mining Method- Barrier Option



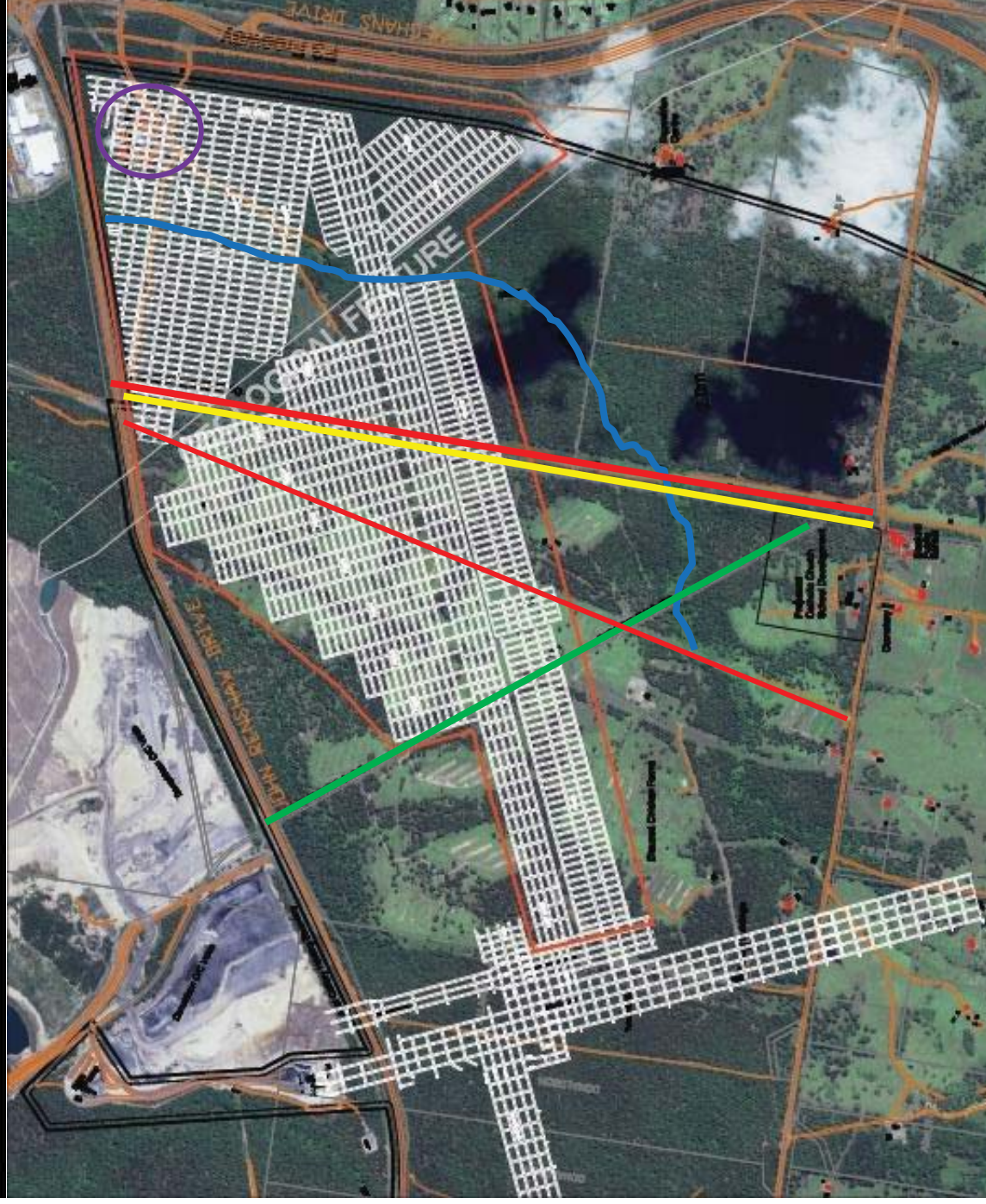
Abel Mining Method- No Barrier Option



Surface Features

Abel Mine Lease- Full Area	Abel Mine Lease- SMP Area 1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pambalong Nature Reserve Black Hill cemetery Cliff Lines Private property and residences (100+) Numerous dams (approx 175) Black Hill school Church and cemetery Viney, Blue Gum, Long Gully, Buttai Creeks Boral Asphalt Plant (Black Hill Depot) Catholic Diocese Land CNA land (Black Hill Land Pty Ltd) Transgrid 330kV EA 132kV power line Rural power lines Aboriginal Artefacts Telstra/Optus Fibre optic cables Telstra copper comms cables Hunter water pipelines Agility gas pipeline Public Roads State survey marks Overlying mine workings Disused Richmond Vale railway line Black Hill & Stockrington Quarries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One dam Viney Creek Boral Asphalt Plant (Black Hill Depot) Catholic Diocese Land CNA land (Black Hill Land Pty Ltd) Transgrid 330kV EA 132kV power line Rural power lines Optus Fibre optic cable Telstra copper comms cables Hunter water pipelines

SMP Area 1 – Key surface features



- Viney Creek
- 330kV Power Line
- 132kV Power Line
- Hunter Water buried pipeline
- Fibre Optic cable
- Boral Hot Mix plant

Surface Environmental Assessment

- Surface inspections and surveys conducted to identify features as part of EA Process
- Flora surveys conducted to identify species and provide baseline monitoring
- Fauna surveys conducted to identify species and provide baseline monitoring
- Groundwater report commissioned including review of borehole information.
- Aboriginal & European heritage
- Archaeology & heritage

Subsidence Prediction Methodology

Several industry established empirical models used to predict the ‘average’ and ‘credible worst-case’ subsidence for the given mining layouts:

- (i) Development of a geotechnical model for the study area (no massive strata present).
- (ii) Calculation of maximum panel, barrier subsidence and representative parameter profiles using the DgS Modified **ACARP, 2003** subsidence model.
- (iii) Calibration of **SDPS**® and generation of subsidence, tilt, strain, horizontal displacement, post mining topography, potential cracking width, ponding location and surface slope gradient change contours using **Surfer8**® contouring software.
- (iv) Estimation of sub-surface fracturing heights above the panels using empirically based models in **ACARP, 2003, Forster, 1995** and **Mark, 2007**.
- (vi) Far-field displacements and strains based on empirical models developed from Newcastle Coalfield data by **DgS, 2008**.

Subsidence Prediction Outcomes

For the 150 m wide panels with mining heights of 1.8 to 3.8 m, and cover depths from 55 m to 140 m, the predicted mean and U95% CL values for the key subsidence impact parameters are as follows:

- ◆ Final maximum panel subsidence ranges from 0.99 m to 1.62 m.
- ◆ Final barrier pillar subsidence ranges from 0.04 m to 0.24 m.
- ◆ Final maximum panel tilt ranges from 12 to 65 mm/m (35 mm/m typical).
- ◆ Final tensile & compressive strains will range from 5 to 30 mm/m (10 mm/m typical).
- ◆ Maximum surface cracking widths of between 50 mm and 240 mm. The larger cracks (& possibly scarps) are predicted in the shallow areas where cover depths are < 80 m. Crack widths in the deeper areas are likely to be in the order of 20 to 100 mm.

Subsidence Prediction Outcomes (2)

- ◆ The **ACARP, 2003** model predicts that heights of continuous sub-surface fracturing for a 2.6 m mining height are within 10 m of the surface for cover depths <75m. The **Forster, 1995** model indicates a similar range of connective cracking heights (46 m to 73 m).
- ◆ Potential ponding depths (i.e. closed form depressions) up to 1.5 m deep could develop along the lower reaches of Viney Creek.
- ◆ The rate of erosion is expected to increase significantly in areas with (i) exposed dispersive / reactive alluvial or residual soils or tuffaceous claystone and (ii) slope gradients are increased by more than 2% (>20 mm/m). It is estimated that the gradients above the site will increase or decrease by up to 3.5%.
- ◆ Far-field displacement (i.e. <20 mm) generally occur in relatively flat terrain for distances up to 3 to 4 times the cover depth. Far-field strains will be <0.5 mm/m at a distance equal to 0.5 x cover depth.

PROPOSED MONITORING

- Flora – specialist consultant
- Fauna – specialist consultant
- Groundwater – piezometers – specialist consultant
- Surface water
- Subsidence surveys
- Visual inspections
- Photographic records

PROPOSED PROJECT SCHEDULE

- Initial community and agency consultation- (June 09)
- Advertisment of intention to develop draft SMP (June 09)
- Responses from community and agencies (late June 09)
- Risk Assessment (late June 09)
- Preparation of SMP Application (May/June/July 09)
- Submit SMP Application (July 09)
- Advertise submission of SMP Application
- Display period and opportunity for community input
- Review of application (DPI-MR then Inter Agency Review Committee)
- Determination – approval sought for commencement of pillar extraction in early 2010



4 June 2009

Mr Geoff Rock
Coal & Allied Hunter Valley Services
PO Box 267
SINGLETON NSW 2330

Dear Geoff,

RE: Preparation of Subsidence Management Plan Area 1 – Abel Mine

Abel Mine, located 23 kilometres north-west of Newcastle, is preparing a Subsidence Management Plan (SMP) to accompany an application to the Department of Primary Industries-Mineral Resources for approval to carry out secondary extraction by Bord and Pillar methods within Mining Lease 1618.

A meeting is proposed for Wednesday 24 June 2009 commencing at 9:00 am to commence community consultation and obtain input for the development of this application.

A presentation including information to be addressed in the SMP, proposed mine plan, background information and an outline of potential issues will be followed by an inspection of the SMP application area.

Lunch will be provided on return to the mine site. Following this meeting and inspection opportunity will then be provided for written submission of any items for consideration in the SMP preparation.

It would be appreciated if either you or a nominated delegate could attend this meeting. To confirm attendance or if you have any question regarding this matter please contact Tony Sutherland on 02 4015 1105 or tony.sutherland@doncoal.com.au

Yours faithfully,

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Tony Sutherland
Technical Services Manager- Underground Operations
Donaldson Coal

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Donaldson Coal Pty Ltd
Abel Mine
1132 John Renshaw Drive
Blackhill NSW 2322

Postal Address:
PO Box 2275
Greenhills NSW 2323

Phone: +61 2 4015 1100
Fax: +61 2 4015 1199



4 June 2009

Ms Jennifer Anderson
Coal and Allied Operations
P O Box 315
SINGLETON NSW 2330

Dear Jennifer,

RE: Preparation of Subsidence Management Plan Area 1 – Abel Mine

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Technical Services Manager- Underground Operations
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4 June 2009

Mr Damien Harrigan
Projects / OHS Officer
(Diocesan Sites & Parishes)
Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle
PO Box 756
Newcastle NSW 2300

Dear Damien,

RE: Preparation of Subsidence Management Plan Area 1 – Abel Mine

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4 June 2009

Mr Rick Griffiths
Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council
1a Chelmsford Drive
METFORD NSW 2300

Dear Rick,

RE: Preparation of Subsidence Management Plan Area 1 – Abel Mine

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9 June 2009

Mr Tony Seears
Regional Manager-Hunter Region
Boral Asphalt
PO Box 89
BERESFIELD NSW 2322

Dear Tony,

RE: Preparation of Subsidence Management Plan Area 1 – Abel Mine

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4 June 2009

Mr Alan Brown
Abel Mine Community Consultative Committee
43 B1 Private accs
BLACK HILL NSW 2322

Dear Alan,

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Technical Services Manager- Underground Operations
Donaldson Coal

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4 June 2009

Mr Alan Jennings
Abel Mine Community Consultative Committee
118 Black Hill Road
BLACK HILL NSW 2322

Dear Alan,

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4 June 2009

Mr Brad Ure
Abel Mine Community Consultative Committee
40 Black Hill Road
BLACK HILL NSW 2322

Dear Brad,

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4 June 2009

Mr Terry Lewin
Abel Mine Community Consultative Committee
240 Browns Road
BLACK HILL NSW 2322

Dear Terry,

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17 June 2009

Mr David Allan
240 Black Hill
BLACK HILL NSW 2322

Dear David,

RE: Preparation of Subsidence Management Plan Area 1 – Abel Mine

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Yours faithfully,

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Tony Sutherland
Technical Services Manager- Underground Operations
Donaldson Coal



17 June 2009

Tony & Rosalie Seton
BLACK HILL NSW 2322

Dear Rosalie,

RE: Preparation of Subsidence Management Plan Area 1 – Abel Mine

Abel Mine, located 23 kilometres north-west of Newcastle, is preparing a Subsidence Management Plan (SMP) to accompany an application to the Department of Primary Industries-Mineral Resources for approval to carry out secondary extraction by Bord and Pillar methods within Mining Lease 1618.

A meeting is proposed for Wednesday 24 June 2009 commencing at 9:00 am at the Abel Mine offices to commence community consultation and obtain input for the development of this application.

A presentation including information to be addressed in the SMP, proposed mine plan, background information and an outline of potential issues will be followed by an inspection of the SMP application area.

Lunch will be provided on return to the mine site. Following this meeting and inspection opportunity will then be provided for written submission of any items for consideration in the SMP preparation.

It would be appreciated if either you or a nominated delegate could attend this meeting. To confirm attendance or if you have any question regarding this matter please contact Tony Sutherland on 02 4015 1105 or tony.sutherland@doncoal.com.au

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T Sutherland'.

Tony Sutherland
Technical Services Manager- Underground Operations
Donaldson Coal



4 June 2009

Mr Graeme Clarke
Hunter Regional Manager
Department of Environment and Climate Change
PO Box 488G
Newcastle NSW 2300

Dear Graeme,

RE: Preparation of Subsidence Management Plan Area 1 – Abel Mine

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Yours faithfully,

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Tony Sutherland
Technical Services Manager- Underground Operations
Donaldson Coal

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Donaldson Coal Pty Ltd
Abel Mine
1132 John Renshaw Drive
Blackhill NSW 2322

Postal Address:
PO Box 2275
Greenhills NSW 2322

Phone: +61 2 4015 1100
Fax: +61 2 4015 1199



4 June 2009

Mr Mark Mignanelli
Manager Major Projects & Mining Assessment
Department of Water and Energy
PO Box 2213
Dangar NSW 2309

Dear Mark,

RE: Preparation of Subsidence Management Plan Area 1 – Abel Mine

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Tony Sutherland
Technical Services Manager- Underground Operations
Donaldson Coal

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4 June 2009

Mr Fergus Hancock
Assessment Officer
Major Projects
Mines Assessment & Planning Branch
Department of Water and Energy
PO Box 2213
Dangar NSW 2309

Dear Fergus,

RE: Preparation of Subsidence Management Plan Area 1 – Abel Mine

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Yours faithfully,

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Tony Sutherland
Technical Services Manager- Underground Operations
Donaldson Coal

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4 June 2009

Mr Howard Reid
A/Manager Mining & Extractive Industries, Major Development Assessments
Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Howard,

RE: Preparation of Subsidence Management Plan Area 1 – Abel Mine

Abel Mine, located 23 kilometres north-west of Newcastle, is preparing a Subsidence Management Plan (SMP) to accompany an application to the Department of Primary Industries-Mineral Resources for approval to carry out secondary extraction by Bord and Pillar methods within Mining Lease 1618.

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Yours faithfully,

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Tony Sutherland
Technical Services Manager- Underground Operations
Donaldson Coal

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4 June 2009

Mr Jonathon Smith
Subsidence Executive Officer
NSW Department of Primary Industries – Mineral Resources
P O Box 344
HUNTER REGION MAIL CENTRE NSW 2310

Dear Jonathon,

RE: Preparation of Subsidence Management Plan Area 1 – Abel Mine

Abel Mine, located 23 kilometres north-west of Newcastle, is preparing a Subsidence Management Plan (SMP) to accompany an application to the Department of Primary Industries-Mineral Resources for approval to carry out secondary extraction by Bord and Pillar methods within Mining Lease ML 1618.

A meeting is proposed for Wednesday 24 June 2009 commencing at 9:00 am to commence community consultation and obtain input for the development of this application.

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It would be appreciated if either you or a nominated delegate could attend this meeting. To confirm attendance or if you have any question regarding this matter please contact Tony Sutherland on 02 4015 1105 or tony.sutherland@doncoal.com.au

Yours faithfully,

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Tony Sutherland
Technical Services Manager- Underground Operations
Donaldson Coal

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4 June 2009

Ms Elise Newberry
Director Environmental Sustainability
NSW Department of Primary Industries – Mineral Resources
P O Box 344
HUNTER REGION MAIL CENTRE NSW 2310

Dear Elise,

RE: Preparation of Subsidence Management Plan Area 1 – Abel Mine

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Tony Sutherland
Technical Services Manager- Underground Operations
Donaldson Coal

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4 June 2009

Dr Gang Li
Principal Subsidence Engineer
NSW Department of Primary Industries – Mineral Resources
P O Box 344
HUNTER REGION MAIL CENTRE NSW 2310

Dear Gang,

RE: Preparation of Subsidence Management Plan Area 1 – Abel Mine

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Yours faithfully,

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Tony Sutherland
Technical Services Manager- Underground Operations
Donaldson Coal

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4 June 2009

Mr Ray Ramage
Mining Subsidence Engineer
NSW Department of Primary Industries – Mineral Resources
P O Box 344
HUNTER REGION MAIL CENTRE NSW 2310

Dear Ray,

RE: Preparation of Subsidence Management Plan Area 1 – Abel Mine

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Tony Sutherland
Technical Services Manager- Underground Operations
Donaldson Coal

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4 June 2009

Mr David Hilyard
Project Officer Mining Regulation
Dams Safety Committee
PO Box 3720
Parramatta NSW 2124

Dear David,

RE: Preparation of Subsidence Management Plan Area 1 – Abel Mine

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Technical Services Manager- Underground Operations
Donaldson Coal

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Greenhills NSW 2322

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Fax: +61 2 4015 1199



4 June 2009

Mr Greg Cole-Clark
Chief Executive Officer/ Chair IAC
Mine Subsidence Board
PO Box 488G
Newcastle NSW 2300

Dear Greg,

RE: Preparation of Subsidence Management Plan Area 1 – Abel Mine

Abel Mine, located 23 kilometres north-west of Newcastle, is preparing a Subsidence Management Plan (SMP) to accompany an application to the Department of Primary Industries-Mineral Resources for approval to carry out secondary extraction by Bord and Pillar methods within Mining Lease 1618.

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Technical Services Manager- Underground Operations
Donaldson Coal

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Blackhill NSW 2322

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Greenhills NSW 2323

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Fax: +61 2 4015 1199



4 June 2009

Mr Ian Landon-Jones
Executive Director Dam Safety
Sydney Catchment Authority
PO Box 323
Penrith NSW 2750

Dear Ian,

RE: Preparation of Subsidence Management Plan Area 1 – Abel Mine

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Technical Services Manager- Underground Operations
Donaldson Coal

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Blackhill NSW 2322

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Fax: +61 2 4015 1199



4 June 2009

Mr Scott Carter
Senior Conservation Manager
DPI- Fisheries
Port Stephens Fisheries Centre
Private Bag 1
Nelson Bay NSW 2315

Dear Scott,

RE: Preparation of Subsidence Management Plan Area 1 – Abel Mine

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Technical Services Manager- Underground Operations
Donaldson Coal

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Postal Address:
PO Box 2275
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4 June 2009

Mr Rod Sandell
Senior Planning Assessment Officer
Cessnock City Council
PO Box 152
CESSNOCK NSW 2325

Dear Rod,

RE: Preparation of Subsidence Management Plan Area 1 – Abel Mine

Abel Mine, located 23 kilometres north-west of Newcastle, is preparing a Subsidence Management Plan (SMP) to accompany an application to the Department of Primary Industries-Mineral Resources for approval to carry out secondary extraction by Bord and Pillar methods within Mining Lease 1618.

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Tony Sutherland
Technical Services Manager- Underground Operations
Donaldson Coal

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4 June 2009

Mr Brent Knowles
Group Manager Strategic Planning and Development
Newcastle City Council
PO Box 489
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300

Dear Brent,

RE: Preparation of Subsidence Management Plan Area 1 – Abel Mine

Abel Mine, located 23 kilometres north-west of Newcastle, is preparing a Subsidence Management Plan (SMP) to accompany an application to the Department of Primary Industries-Mineral Resources for approval to carry out secondary extraction by Bord and Pillar methods within Mining Lease 1618.

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Tony Sutherland
Technical Services Manager- Underground Operations
Donaldson Coal

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Abel Mine
1132 John Renshaw Drive
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15 July 2009

Mr Bruce Fraser
Mains Manager/ Northern Region
Transgrid
PO Box 93
WARATAH NSW 2298

Dear Bruce,

RE: Preparation of Subsidence Management Plan Area 1 – Abel Mine

Reference is made to previous discussions and our meeting at Abel on 5 June 2009.

Please be advised that Abel Mine, located 23 kilometres north-west of Newcastle, is preparing a Subsidence Management Plan (SMP) to accompany an application to the Department of Primary Industries-Mineral Resources for approval to carry out secondary extraction by Bord and Pillar methods within Mining Lease ML 1618. An integral part of the preparation of this SMP is consultation with infrastructure owners with regard to potential subsidence impacts relating to any assets located above the proposed mining area.

Transgrid assets located above the SMP area comprise a 330kV transmission line on steel towers with cruciform footings as shown on the attached plan (a9p.0001.dwg). It is intended to prepare a management plan, as part of the SMP process, to address the safety and serviceability of the transmission towers in consultation with Transgrid. Please find attached a report from Ditton Geotechnical services (Report No. ABL-001/2) detailing the subsidence impact predictions at the Transgrid Towers 29B to 36B due to the proposed pillar extraction panels at Abel Mine.

During our meeting of 5 June discussions were held relating to the limits of subsidence and particularly strain tolerance of the cruciform footings and possible mitigation measures relating to conductor and earth wire installations.

It would be appreciated if you could provide information relating to these tolerances and a further meeting can be arranged to continue discussions relating to mine design and preparation of an agreed management plan to minimise or mitigate any subsidence impacts.

If you have any question regarding this matter please contact Tony Sutherland on 02 4015 1105 or tony.sutherland@doncoal.com.au

Yours faithfully,

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Tony Sutherland
Technical Services Manager- Underground Operations
Donaldson Coal

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Blackhill NSW 2322

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Fax: +61 2 4015 1199



23 July 2009

Mr Nathan Hayes
Network Operations- Water Team Leader
Hunter Water Corporation
PO Box 5171
HUNTER REGIONAL MAIL CENTRE NSW 2310

Dear Nathan,

RE: Preparation of Subsidence Management Plan Area 1 – Abel Mine

Reference is made to previous discussions and our meeting at Hunter Water Offices on 30 June 2009.

Please be advised that Abel Mine, located 23 kilometres north-west of Newcastle, is preparing a Subsidence Management Plan (SMP) to accompany an application to the Department of Primary Industries-Mineral Resources for approval to carry out secondary extraction by Bord and Pillar methods within Mining Lease ML 1618. An integral part of the preparation of this SMP is consultation with infrastructure owners with regard to potential subsidence impacts relating to any assets located above the proposed mining area.

Hunter Water Corporation assets located above the SMP area comprise a 500 mm cast iron water service (understood to be redundant) and a 200mm UPVC water service as shown on the attached plan (a9p0001.dwg).

It is intended to prepare a management plan, as part of the SMP process, to address the safety and serviceability of the water service in consultation with Hunter Water Corporation.

During our meeting of 30 June preliminary discussions were held relating to the limits of subsidence and particularly strain tolerance of the water service and possible mitigation measures relating to undermining. It would be appreciated if you could provide information relating to these tolerances and a further meeting can be arranged to continue discussions relating to mine design and preparation of an agreed management plan to minimise or mitigate any subsidence impacts.

If you have any question regarding this matter please contact Tony Sutherland on 02 4015 1105 or tony.sutherland@doncoal.com.au

Yours faithfully,

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Tony Sutherland
Technical Services Manager- Underground Operations
Donaldson Coal

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Donaldson Coal Pty Ltd

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20 August 2009

Our ref: HW2005-15

Telephone: (02) 4979 9406

Facsimile: (02) 4979 9414

Email: mark.hickey@hunterwater.com.au

Mr T Sutherland
Technical Services Manager- Underground Operations
Donaldson Coal
P.O. Box 2275
Green Hills NSW 2323

Dear Tony,

RE: PREPARATION OF SUBSIDENCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AREA 1-ABEL MINE

Thank you for your letter dated 23 July 2009.

Comments from our Network Operations Group on the submission are as follows:

1. Hunter Water has only one live main (in service and pressurised) through the area; a 200mm UPVC rubber ring jointed main constructed in 1992. There is a parallel 500mm main (above ground in places) that has been abandoned.
2. The pipeline can be shut down for extended periods of time for repairs. This however may be subject to change due to issues within the system (eg during a shutdown of the alternative feed)
3. Hunter Water needs to maintain full access to the pipeline for maintenance purposes.
4. Hunter Water will not provide specialist technical advice on the capability of the pipeline to handle the expected mine subsidence, however guidance on the typical properties of UPVC pipelines can be found on the WSAA website.
5. Regular surveillance of the pipeline is not currently undertaken in that area. It is not considered necessary unless there is uncertainty over the capability of the pipeline to handle the subsidence. A simple approach would be to arrange an acoustic leak detection survey (Hunter Water can recommend a contractor for this) on completion of mining. This would be inexpensive and provide reasonable confidence of the integrity of the water main.

If you have any further questions please contact Nathan Hays on (02)49799508.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Hickey".

Mark Hickey
Acquisitions Manager

Donaldson Coal

Abel Mine

SMP STAKEHOLDER MEETING

ABEL AREA 1

24 June 2009

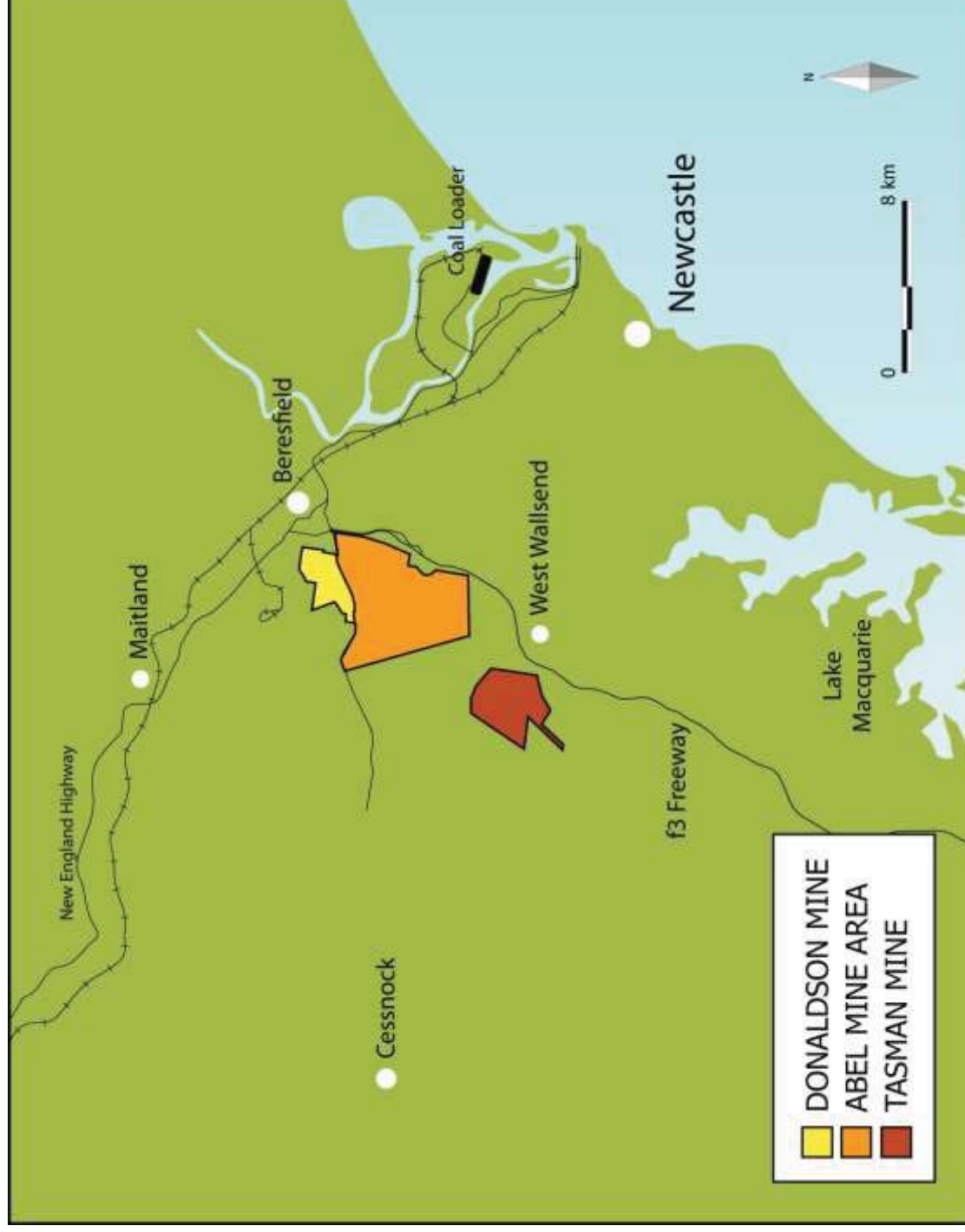
Agenda

- Introduction and Meeting Objectives
- Donaldson Coal Background
- The SMP Process
- Abel Mine
 - Project Approval
 - Mine Planning
 - Mining Methods
 - SMP Area Surface Environment Assessment
 - Subsidence Assessment & Predictions
 - Key surface features
 - Proposed Monitoring
 - Abel SMP Schedule
- Field Visit SMP Area
- Lunch

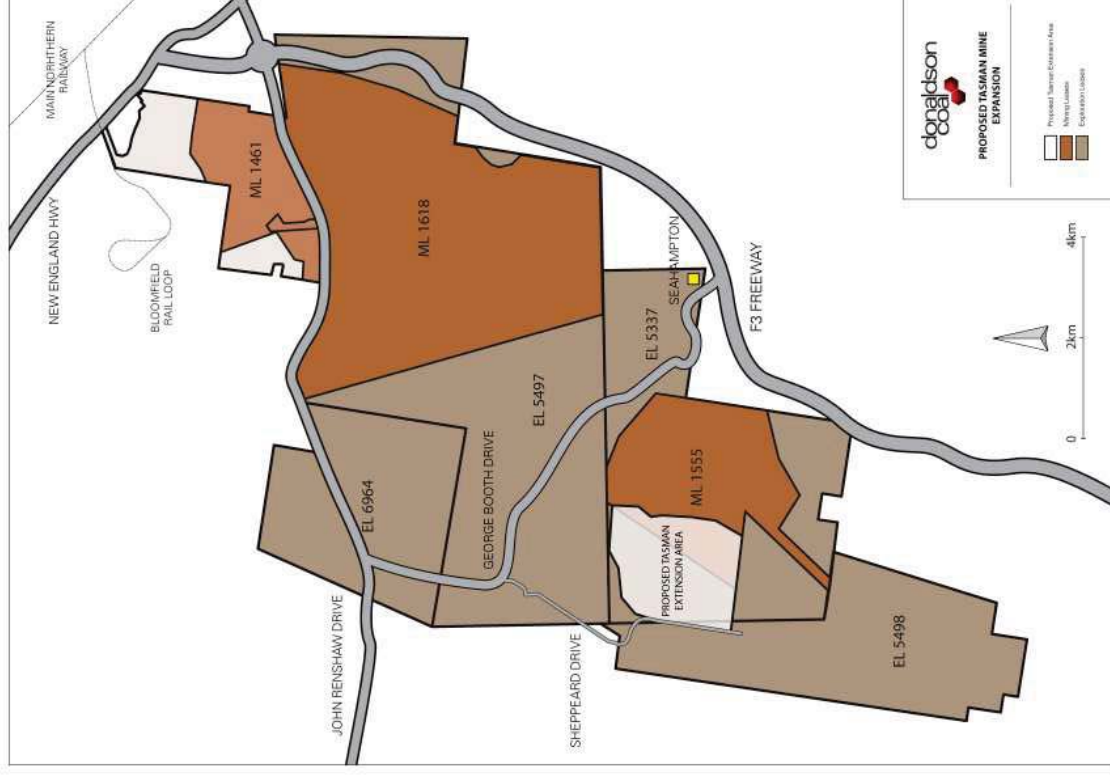
Purpose of Meeting

1. Provide interested parties with an introduction to both the Subsidence Management Planning Process and outline the planning in relation to the Abel mining proposal for Abel Area 1
2. Consult with interested parties to identify any potential issues or relevant concerns to be considered and addressed in the preparation of the Subsidence Management Plan for Abel Mine

Location of Donaldson Coal Operations



Lease Areas



Current Leases:

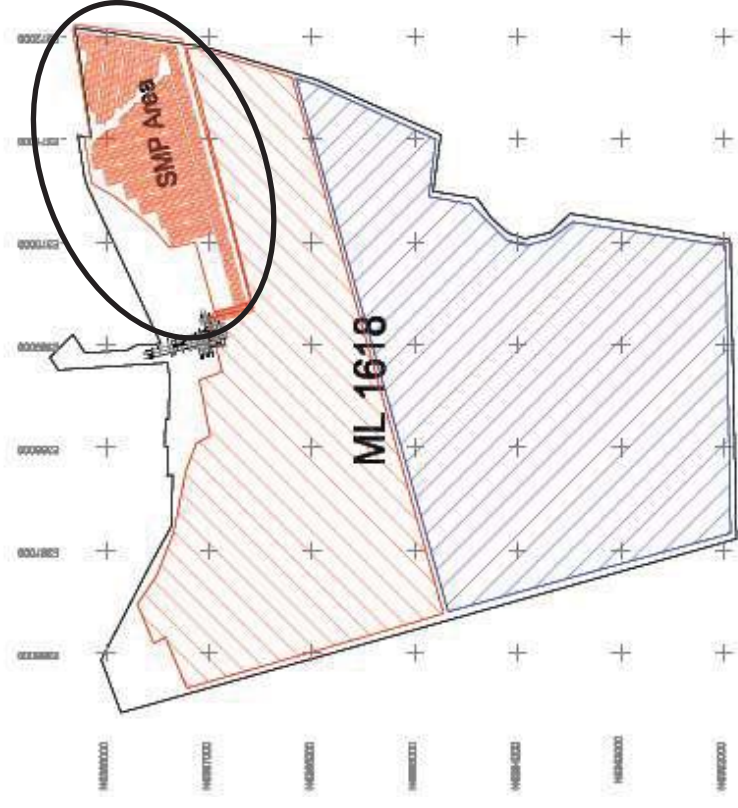
- ML 1461 (Donaldson O/C)
- ML 1618 (Abel U/G)
- ML 1555 (Tasman U/G)

Current Exploration Areas:

- EL 5337 (Tasman)
- EL 5498 (Tasman)
- EL 5497 (Abel)
- EL 6964 (Abel)

Abel Mine Plan

- Commenced coal production in May 2008 and will ramp up to 4.5mtpa by 2012 and maintain that rate for >20yrs
- Target seams are the Upper and Lower Donaldson which range in thickness from 1.9m to 2.6m
- Soft coking and thermal products from the Upper Donaldson. Thermal from the Lower Donaldson
- At full production of 4.5mtpa will employ >350 people
- ML1618 area = 2,755 ha
- SMP Area 1 = 260ha

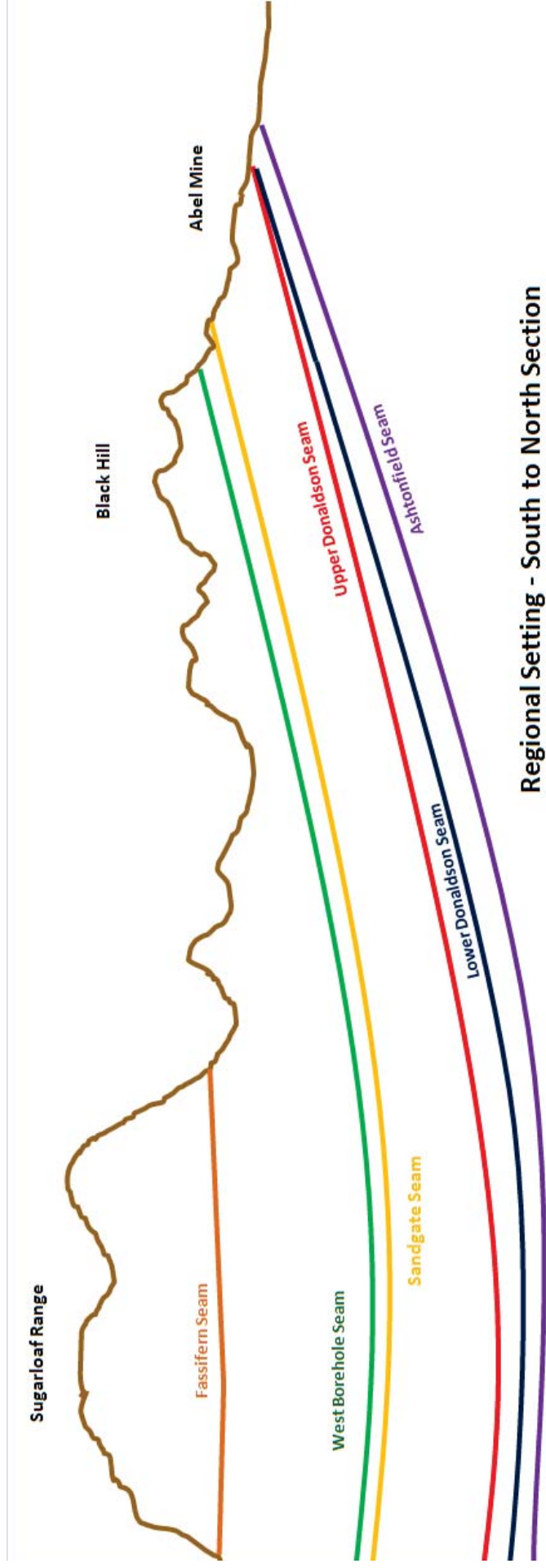


Upper Donaldson

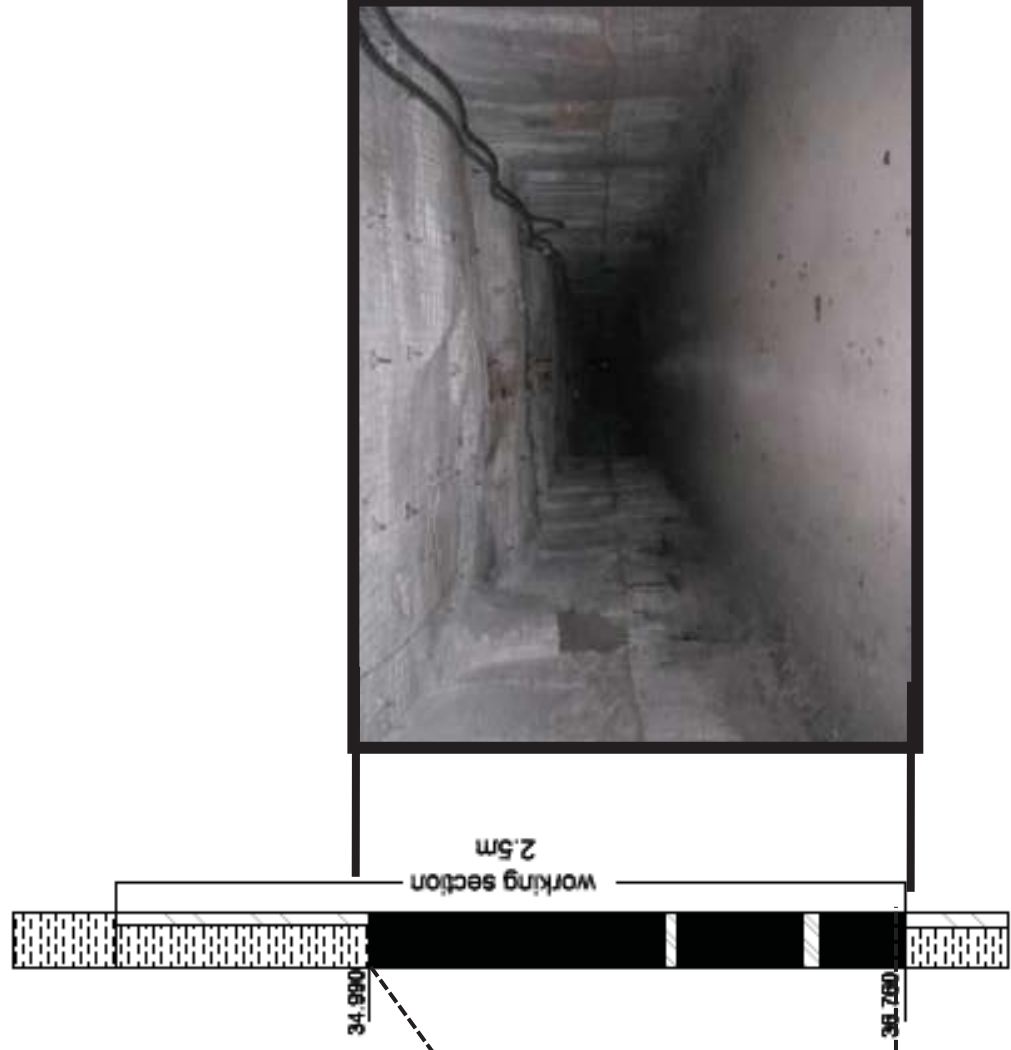
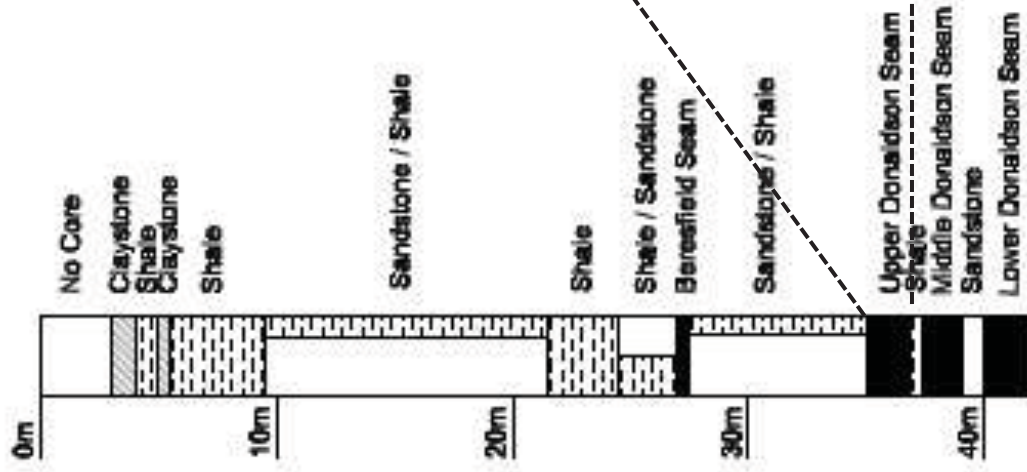
Lower Donaldson

Geological & Mining Setting

- Target seams are part of the East Maitland/Tomago district Four Mile creek formation
- Seams dips to south



Typical Stratigraphic column



Abel Project Milestones

- ◆ Planning Focus Nov 2005
- ◆ EA lodged 2006
- ◆ Project approval granted June 2007
- ◆ Mining Lease ML1618 granted May 2008
- ◆ EPA Licence No. 12856
- ◆ MOP Approved Dec 2008
- ◆ Construction commenced late 2007
- ◆ CCC 1st meeting late 2007
- ◆ Abel commenced underground production from box cut off highwall in May 2008
- ◆ Pillar extraction production from Area 1 to commence early 2010



SMP Application Process

- Approval process introduced in March 2004 for the management of coal mining subsidence (*New Approval Process for Management of Coal Mining Subsidence* – NSW)
- Condition of Abel's Mining Lease 1618 that the leaseholder shall prepare a Subsidence Management Plan prior to commencing underground mining operations which will potentially lead to subsidence of the land surface



SMP Requirements

◆ SMP Application to include:

- ◆ Description of the surface area
- ◆ Mine workings and extraction schedule
- ◆ Subsidence predictions
- ◆ Assessment of impacts and socio-economic benefits
- ◆ Extracts of relevant conditions from Project Approval, Leases, Licences, Approvals
- ◆ Description of previous subsidence predictions, results and impact assessments from previous approvals
- ◆ Baseline monitoring / assessment including flora, fauna, surface water and groundwater
- ◆ Monitoring proposals
- ◆ Proposals to minimise surface impacts where required
- ◆ Proposals for ground and surface water management
- ◆ Proposals for rehabilitation if or where necessary
- ◆ Results of consultation with relevant stakeholders (community)
- ◆ Results of Risk Assessments carried out for the SMP Application
- ◆ Details of ongoing community consultation process

SMP Preparation Stages

■ **Stage 1 – Information Collection and Review**

- ◆ Initial Consultation and Advertisement
- ◆ Review of Statutes, Baseline Monitoring, Subsidence Prediction, Mine planning and initial Mine layout

■ **Stage 2 – SMP Development**

- ◆ Impact and Risk Assessment, monitoring program, mitigation / rehabilitation planning
- ◆ Assessment and consideration of community input
- ◆ Finalise Mine plan
- ◆ Preparation of SMP report and Subsidence Management Plan

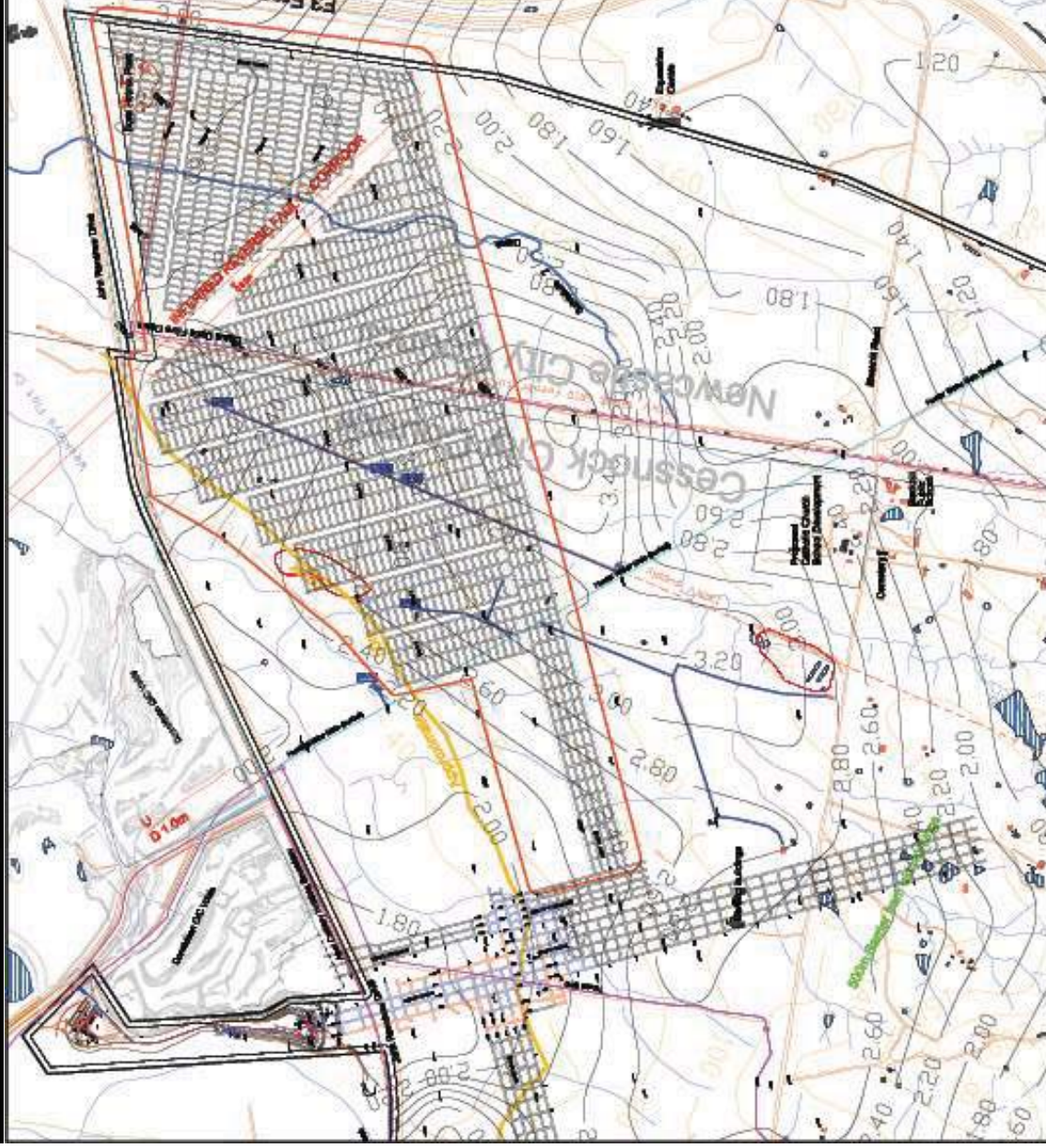
■ **Stage 3 – Assessment**

- ◆ Submission of application to DPI-MR
- ◆ Advertise and public display – opportunity for comment and submission
- ◆ SMP Inter Agency review committee and DPI-MR assessment

SMP Preparation Stages

- **Stage 4 – Implementation if Approval Granted**
 - ◆ Implement SMP subject to Approval Conditions

- **Stage 5 – Reporting, Review and Ongoing Consultation**
 - ◆ Review monitoring results in relation to predictions
 - ◆ Review impacts in relation to predictions
 - ◆ Report monitoring results, impacts and compliance with SMP through AEMR, reporting as required by Approval Conditions and through Community Consultation Process

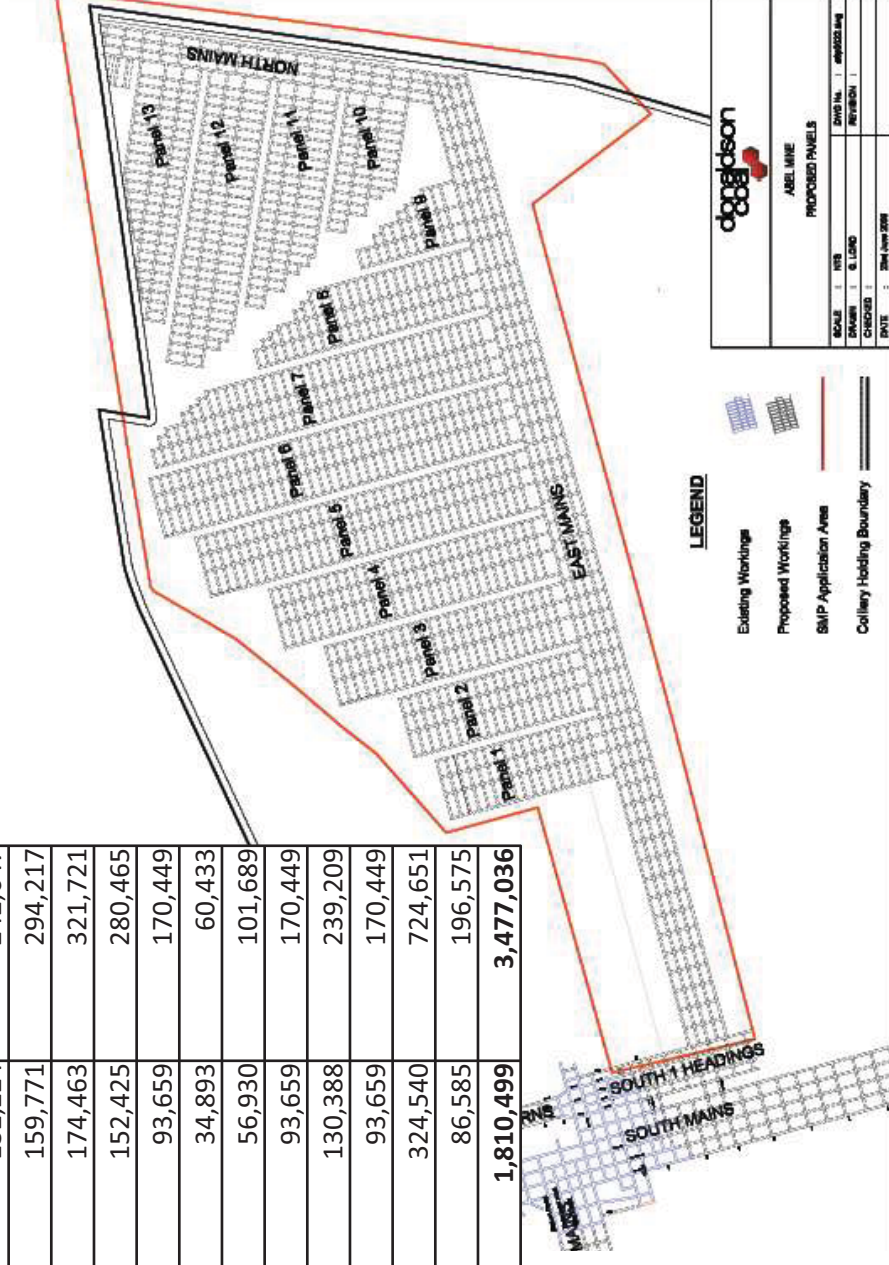
donaldson
coal

Area to be re-classified as a
Subsidence District by MSB

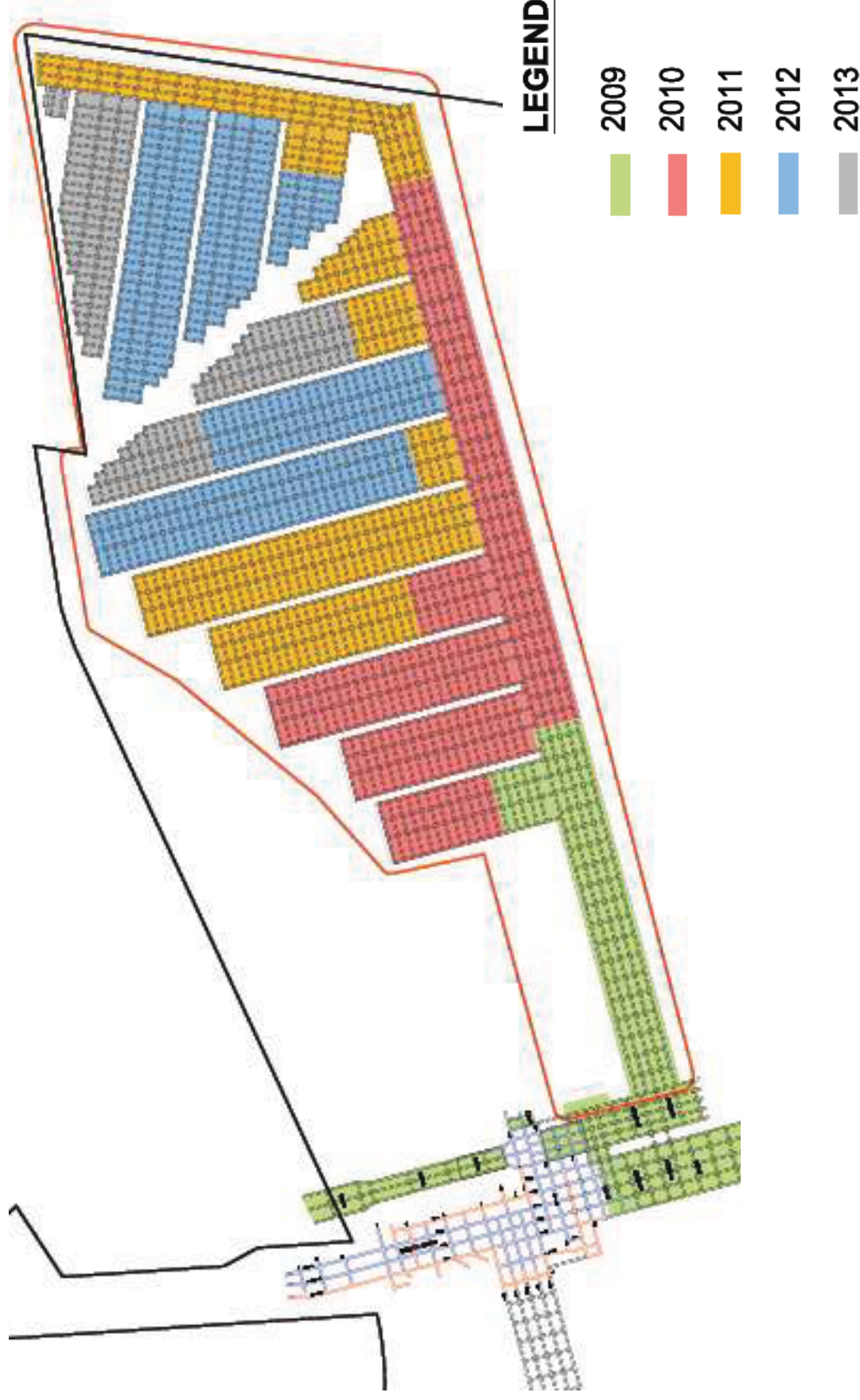
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coal

SMP Area 1 Panel tonnages

Panel	Length	Metres driven	Tonnes (1st works)	tonnes (Pillar extraction)
Panel 1	420	4,007	77,131	139,117
Panel 2	470	4,484	86,313	156,697
Panel 3	620	5,915	113,860	208,267
Panel 4	720	6,869	132,224	242,647
Panel 5	870	8,300	159,771	294,217
Panel 6	950	9,063	174,463	321,721
Panel 7	830	7,918	152,425	280,465
Panel 8	510	4,865	93,659	170,449
Panel 9	190	1,813	34,893	60,433
Panel 10	310	2,957	56,930	101,689
Panel 11	510	4,865	93,659	170,449
Panel 12	710	6,773	130,388	239,209
Panel 13	510	4,865	93,659	170,449
East Mains	2,570	16,859	324,540	724,651
North Mains	870	4,498	86,585	196,575
		94,052	1,810,499	3,477,036



SMP Area 1- Production Schedule



Mine Design Parameters - Area 1

- ◆ Review conducted to confirm appropriate Project Approval/Statement of Commitments and other approvals
- ◆ Full extraction where there are no constraints
- ◆ Full extraction represents 85% reserve recovery within a mining panel
- ◆ Subsidence protection by either first workings or partial extraction
- ◆ No Pillar extraction below 50m depth of cover
- ◆ Panel width of 160m with appropriately designed barrier pillars

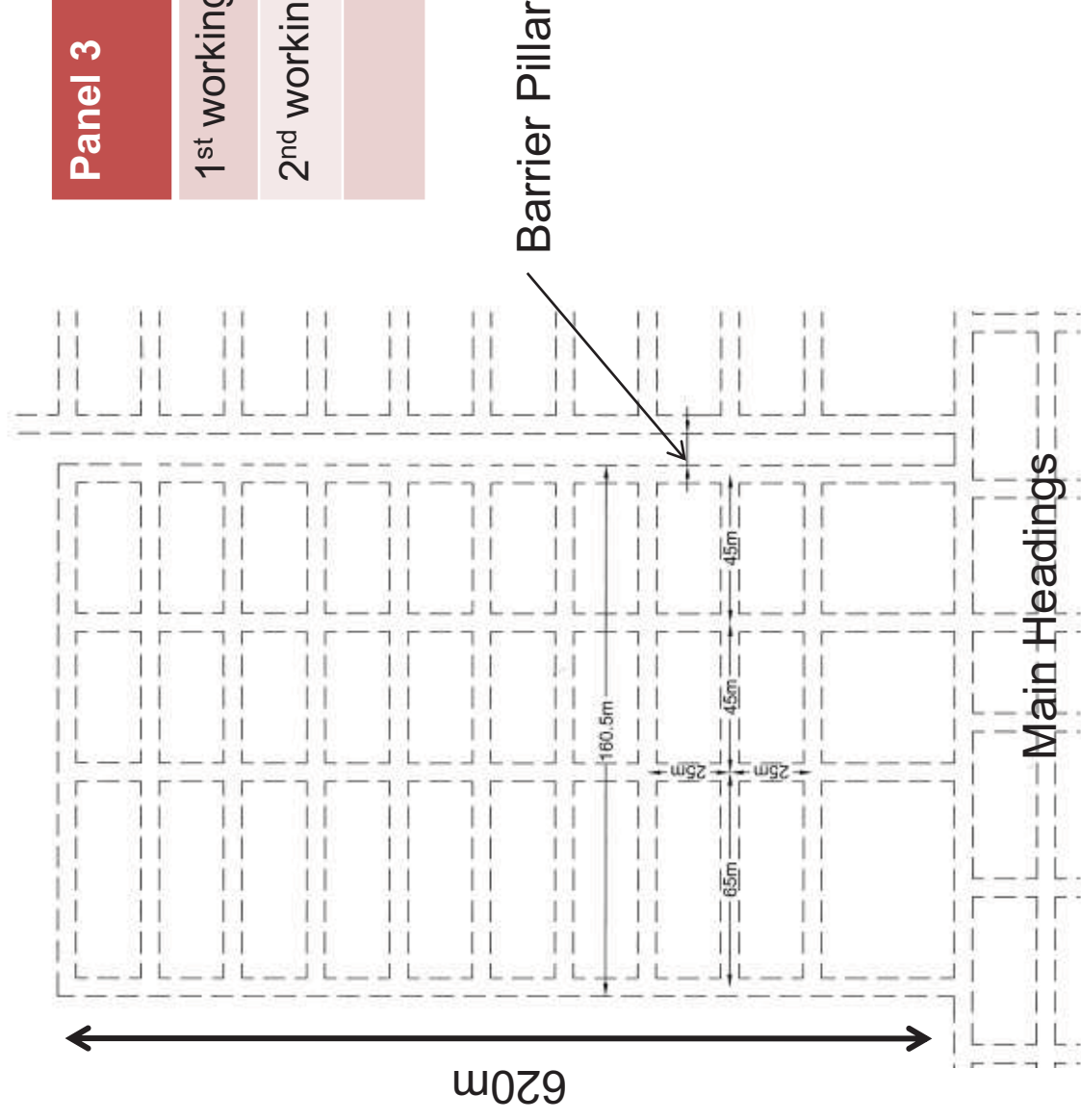


Abel Mining Method

- Continuous miner based bord and pillar system
- Layout designed to minimise impact on sensitive surface areas while minimising resource sterilisation
- Panels 160m wide
 - 4 heading layout
- 1st workings (Roadway development)
 - Single Continuous Miner (CM) Unit (20-30m /shift)
 - Dual CM Unit (35- 45m/shift)
- 2nd workings (Pillar extraction)
 - 1,000 tonnes per shift
- Depth of cover range 55m to 140m



Abel Typical Panel Layout - Panel 3



Panel 3			Time taken
1 st workings	5,915m		~13 weeks
2 nd workings	208,267t		~17 weeks
			~30 weeks

FIRST WORKINGS

Barrier Pillar

65m

45m

45m

Barrier Pillar

FIRST WORKINGS

Barrier Pillar

45m

45m

65m



Barrier Pillar

FIRST WORKINGS

Barrier Pillar

45m

45m

65m



Barrier Pillar

Barrier Pillar

45m

45m



25m

65m

Barrier Pillar

FIRST WORKINGS

FIRST WORKINGS



Barrier Pillar

25m

65m

45m

45m

Barrier Pillar

Barrier Pillar

45m



45m

25m

65m

Barrier Pillar

FIRST WORKINGS

FIRST WORKINGS



Barrier Pillar

45m

45m

25m

65m

Barrier Pillar

Barrier Pillar



45m

45m

65m

25m

Barrier Pillar

FIRST WORKINGS

FIRST WORKINGS

Barrier Pillar

25m

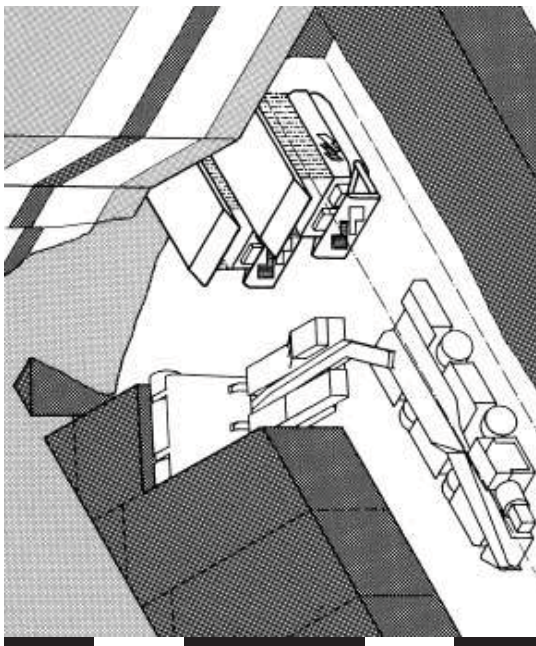
65m

45m

45m

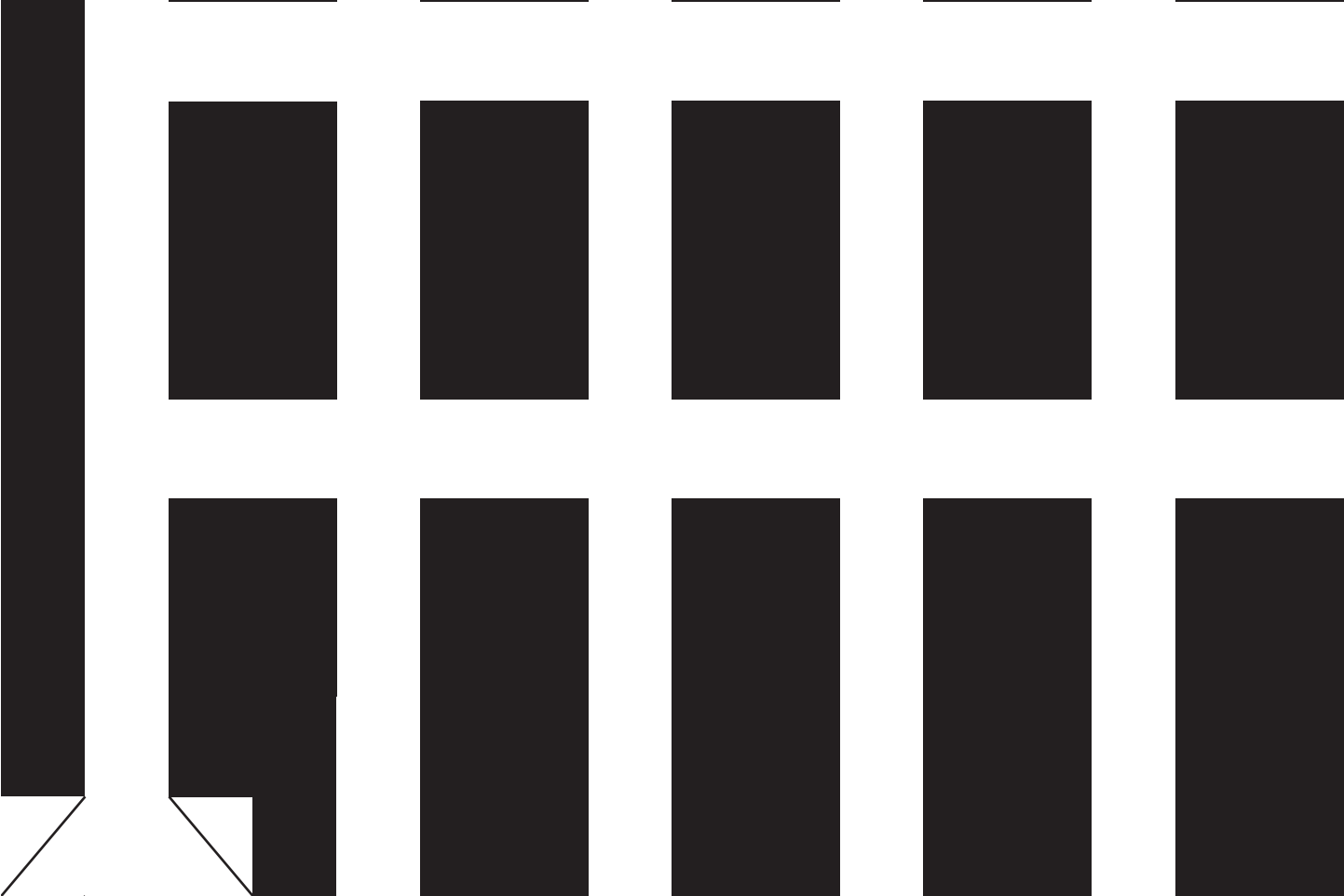
Barrier Pillar

SECOND WORKINGS



Barrier Pillar

Barrier Pillar

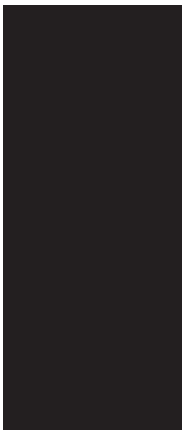
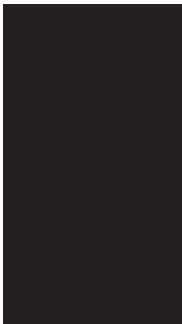


Barrier Pillar



Barrier Pillar

Barrier Pillar



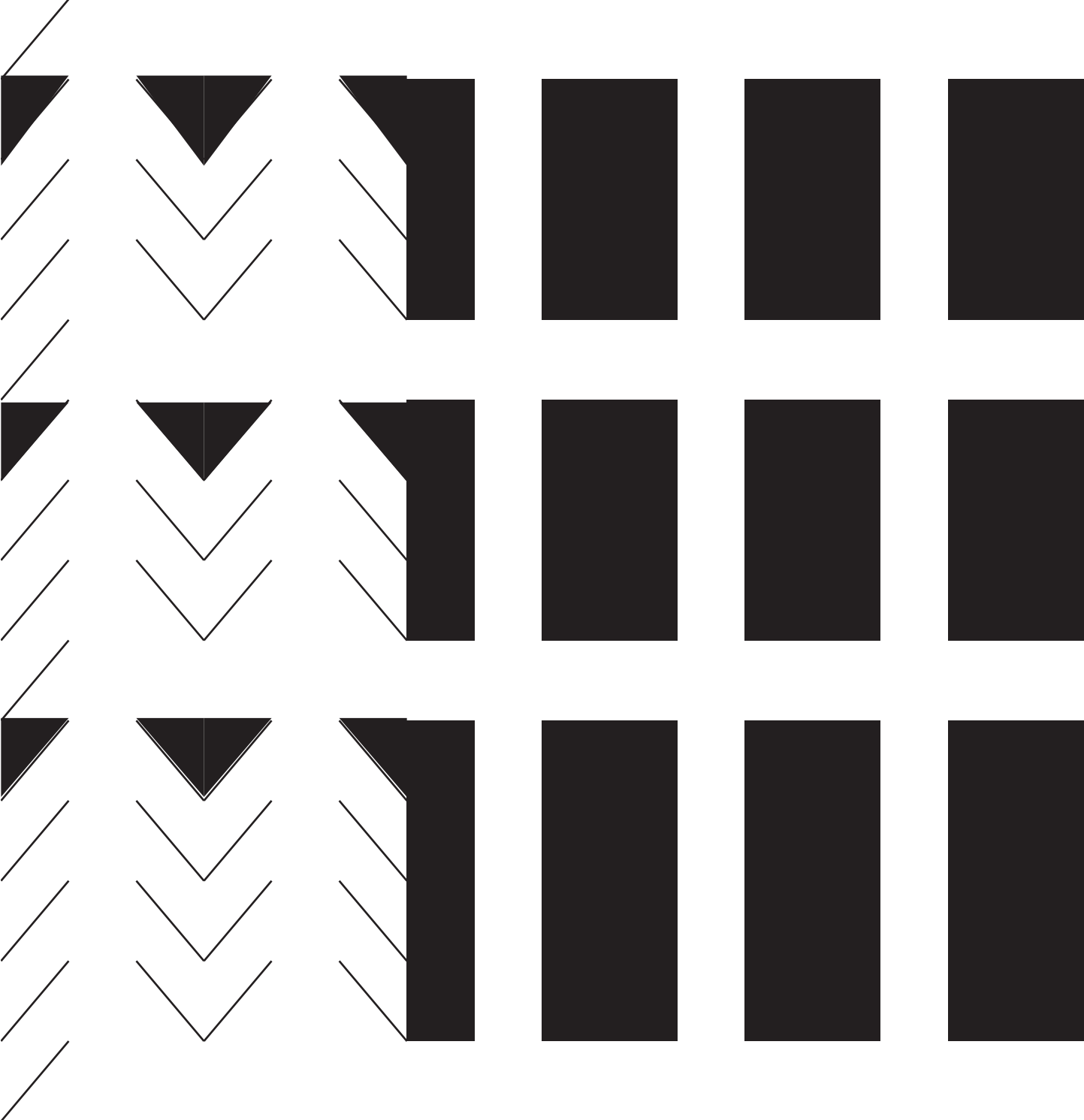
Barrier Pillar

Barrier Pillar



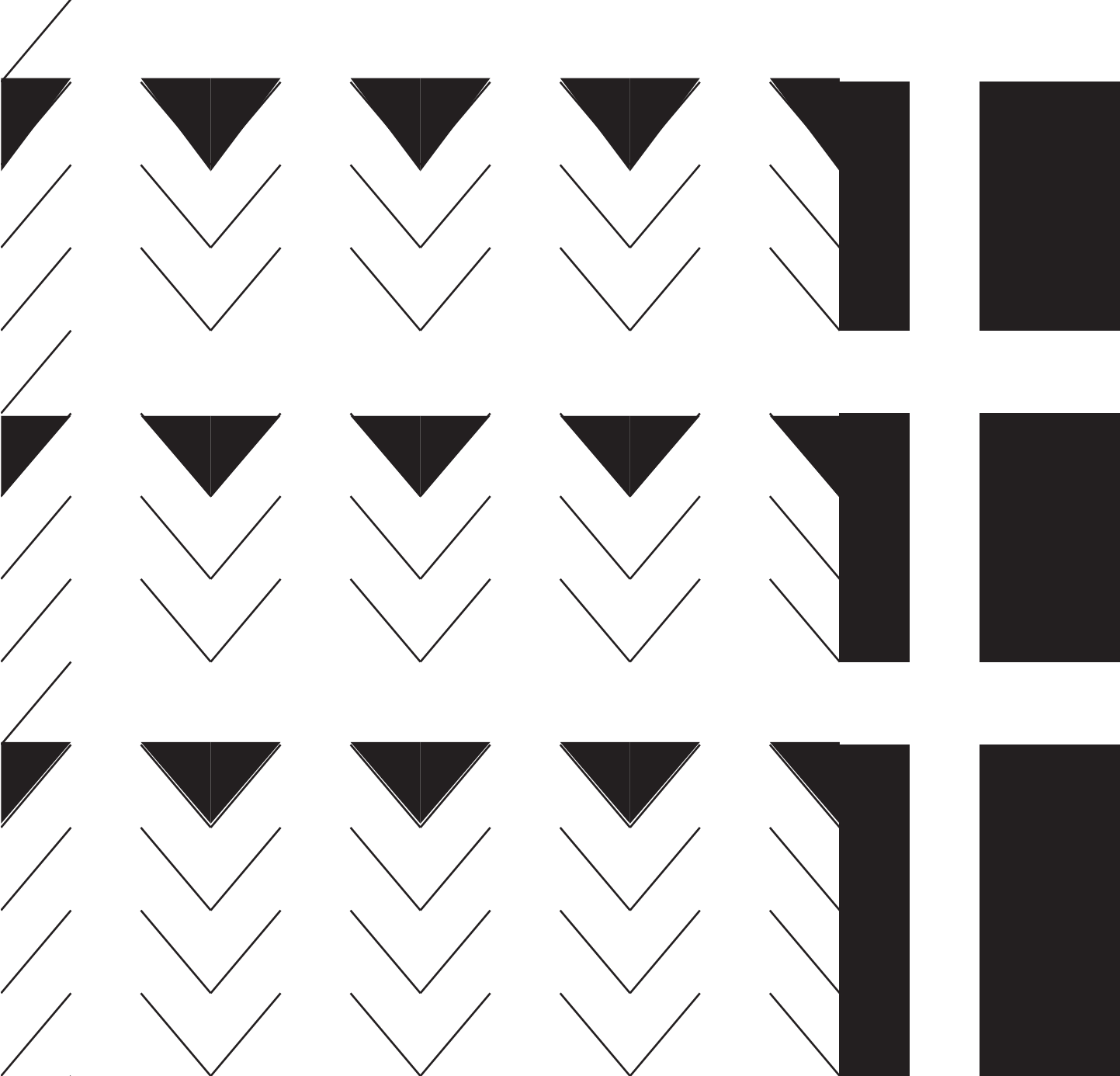
Barrier Pillar

Barrier Pillar



A diagram illustrating a Barrier Pillar. It shows a vertical rectangular structure with diagonal hatching, representing a barrier. To the right of the barrier, the text "Barrier Pillar" is written vertically.

Barrier Pillar



Barrier Pillar

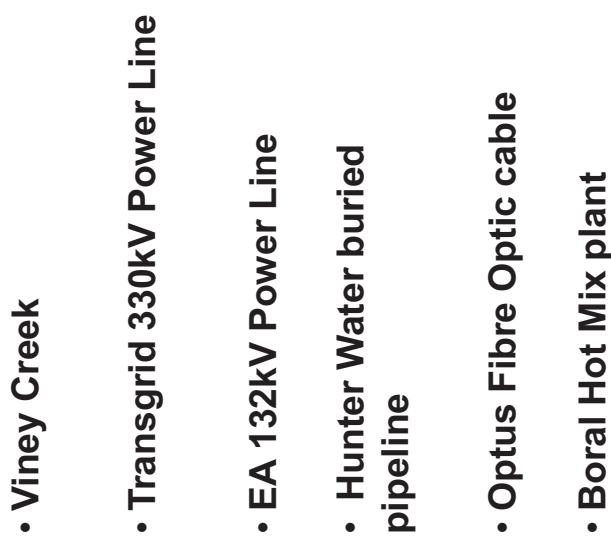
*This area is the goaf
that results in
subsidence on the
surface*

Barrier Pillar

Barrier Pillar

Surface Features

Abel Mine Lease- Full ML Area	Abel Mine Lease- SMP Area 1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pambalong Nature Reserve Black Hill cemetery Cliff Lines Private property and residences (100+) Numerous dams (approx 175) Black Hill school Church and cemetery Viney, Blue Gum, Long Gully, Buttai Creeks Boral Asphalt Plant (Black Hill Depot) Catholic Diocese Land C&A land (Black Hill Land Pty Ltd) Transgrid 330kV EA 132kV power line Rural 11kV power lines Aboriginal Artefacts Telstra/Optus Fibre optic cables Telstra copper comms cables Hunter water pipelines Agility gas pipeline Public Roads State survey marks Overlying mine workings Disused Richmond Vale railway line Black Hill & Stockrington Quarries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One dam Viney Creek Boral Asphalt Plant (Black Hill Depot) Catholic Diocese Land C&A land (Black Hill Land Pty Ltd) Transgrid 330kV power line EA 132kV power line Rural 11kV power lines No Major Aboriginal artefacts Optus Fibre optic cable Telstra copper comms cables Hunter water pipeline

donaldson
coal

Surface Environmental Assessment

- Surface inspections and surveys conducted to identify features as part of EA Process
- Flora/Fauna surveys conducted to identify species and provide baseline monitoring
- Consultation with Landowners and Stakeholders
- Groundwater report commissioned including review of borehole information.
- Aboriginal & European heritage
- Other Archaeological heritage

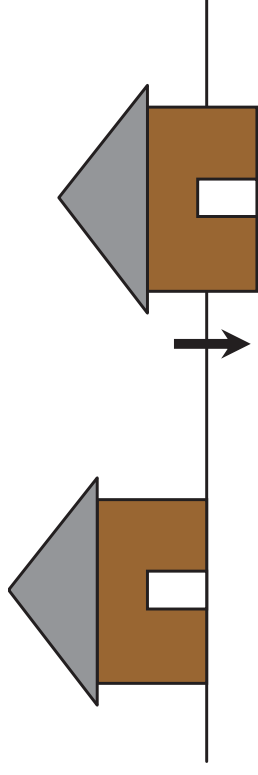
Subsidence Prediction Methodology

Several industry established empirical models were used to predict the maximum subsidence impact parameters and profiles for the given mining layouts. The predictions involved the following work:

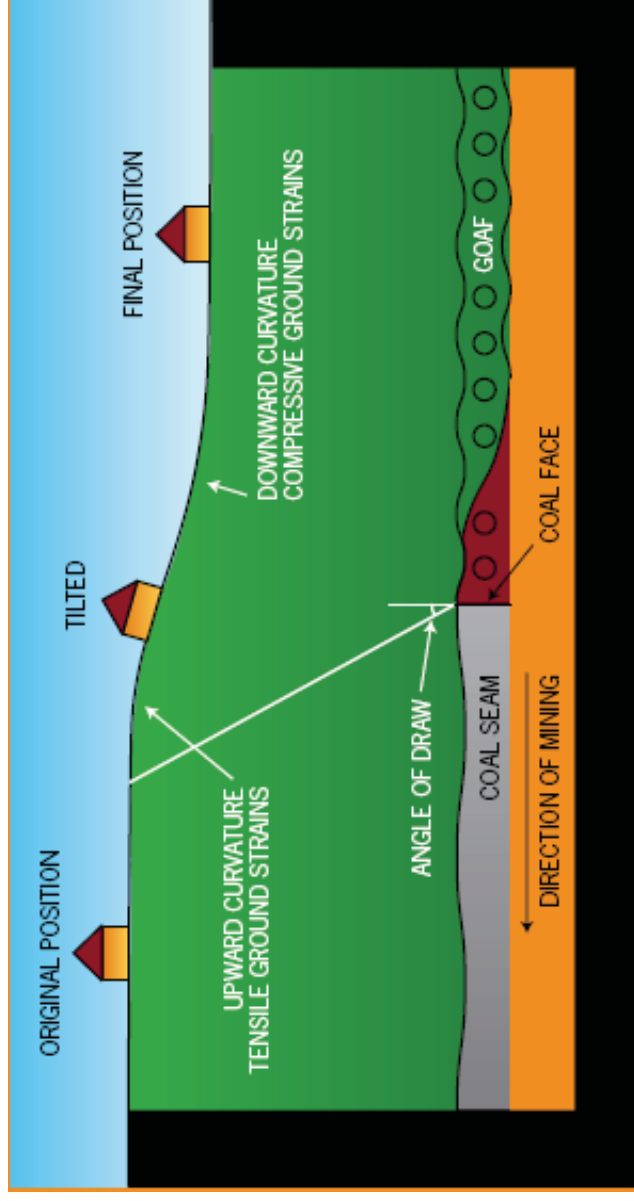
- (i) The development of a geotechnical model for the study area (no massive strata present).
- (ii) Prediction of maximum panel and barrier pillar subsidence and profiles using the DgS Modified **ACARP, 2003** subsidence model.
- (iii) Subsidence, tilt, strain, horizontal displacement contours using **SDPS®** 3-D influence function software.
- (iv) Post-mining topography, potential cracking width, ponding location and surface gradient change contours were estimated using **Surfer8®** contouring software.
- (v) Estimation of sub-surface fracturing heights above the panels using empirically based models in **ACARP, 2003, Forster, 1995** and **Mark, 2007**.

Subsidence Impact Parameters

- vertical subsidence (m)
rarely a direct concern, except
when adjacent to water bodies
or flat terrain with watercourses
(i.e. ponding)

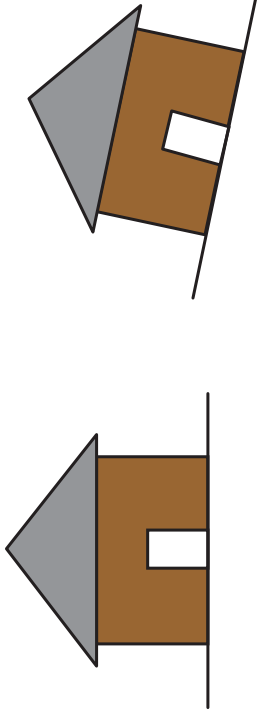


Final maximum panel subsidence ranges from 0.7 m to 1.8 m for the given mining geometries.

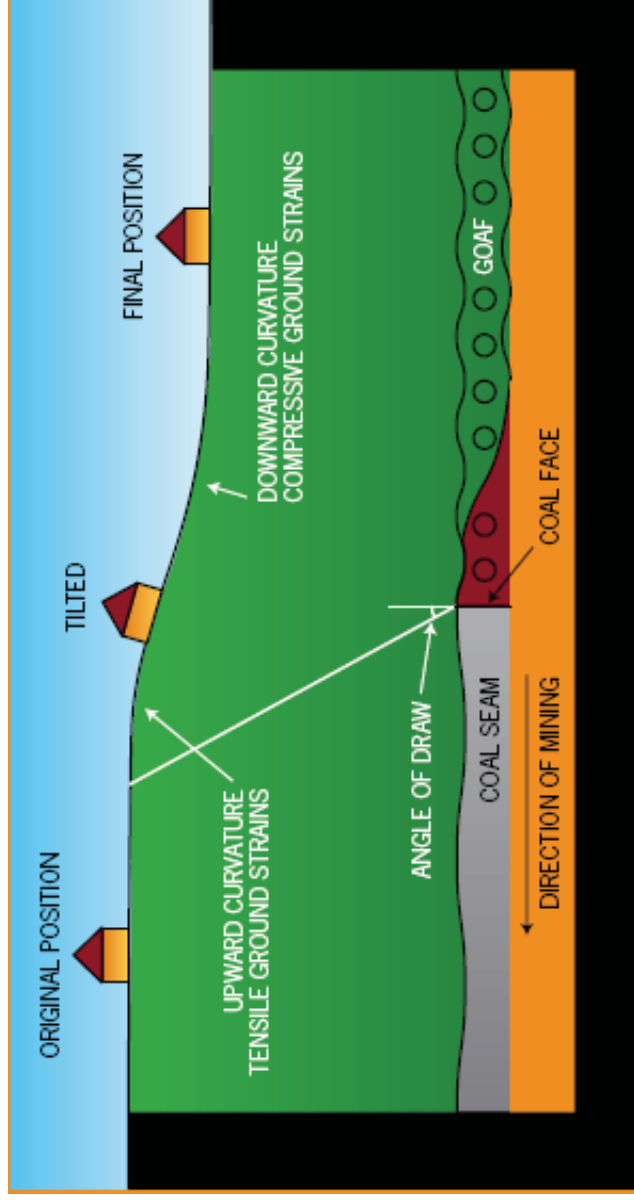


Subsidence Impact Parameters

- Tilt (mm/m) differential subsidence does not commonly cause structural damage affects structure usage



Final maximum panel tilt ranges from 12 to 65 mm/m (30 mm/m typical).

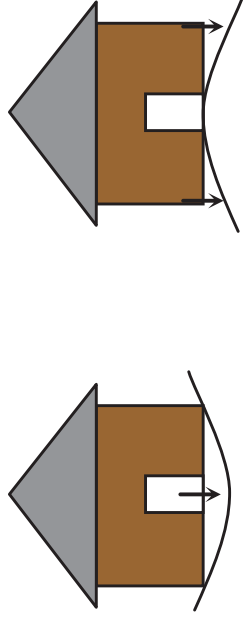


Subsidence Impact Parameters

- Curvature (bending)
differential tilt (mm/m^2)

major damage driver

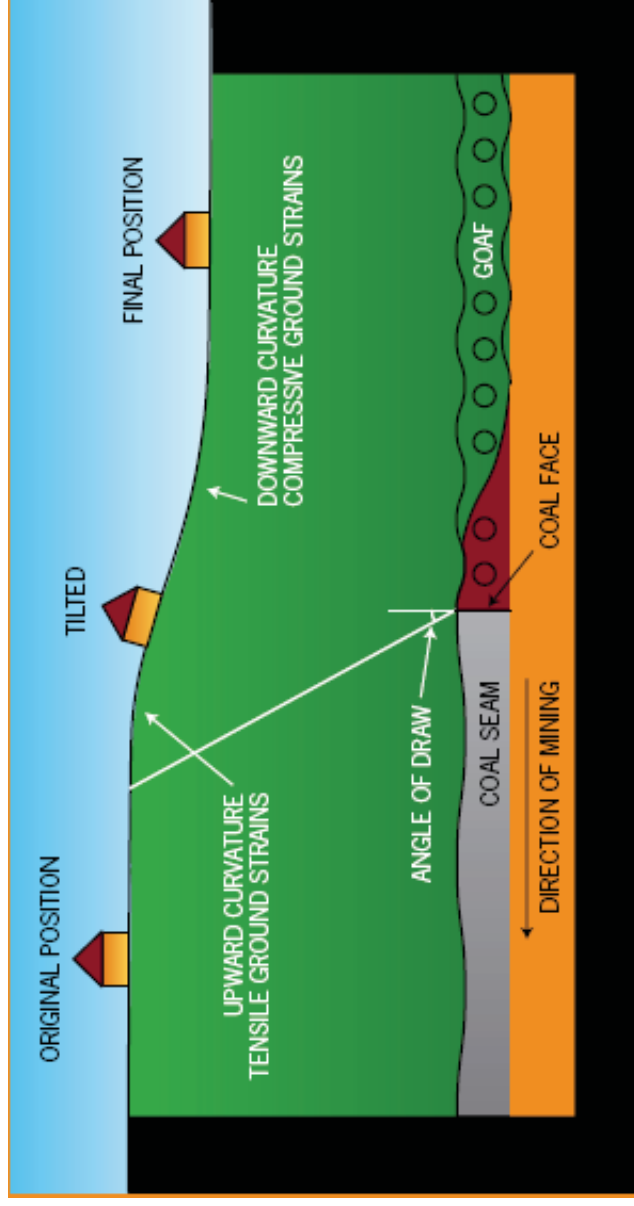
structures deformed and
can crack, shear or buckle



hogging

sagging

***Final maximum
panel hogging and
sagging curvature
ranges from 0.5 to
5.3 mm/m^2 or
bending radii of 2
km to 250 m.***

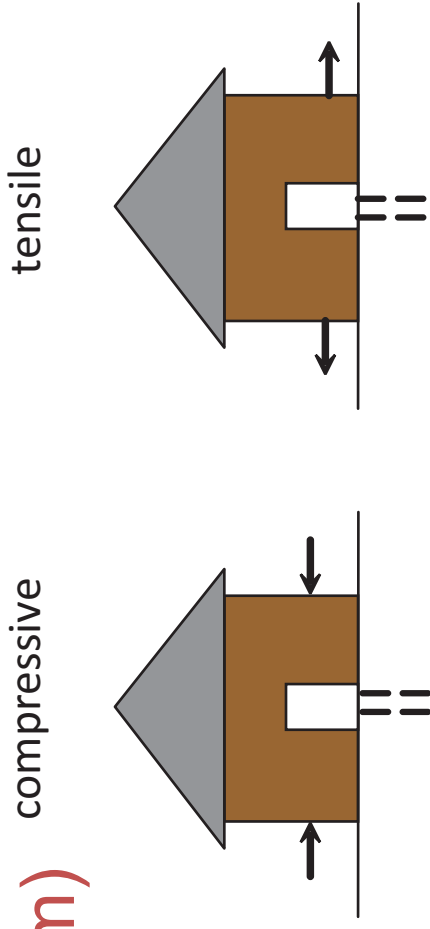


Subsidence Impact Parameters

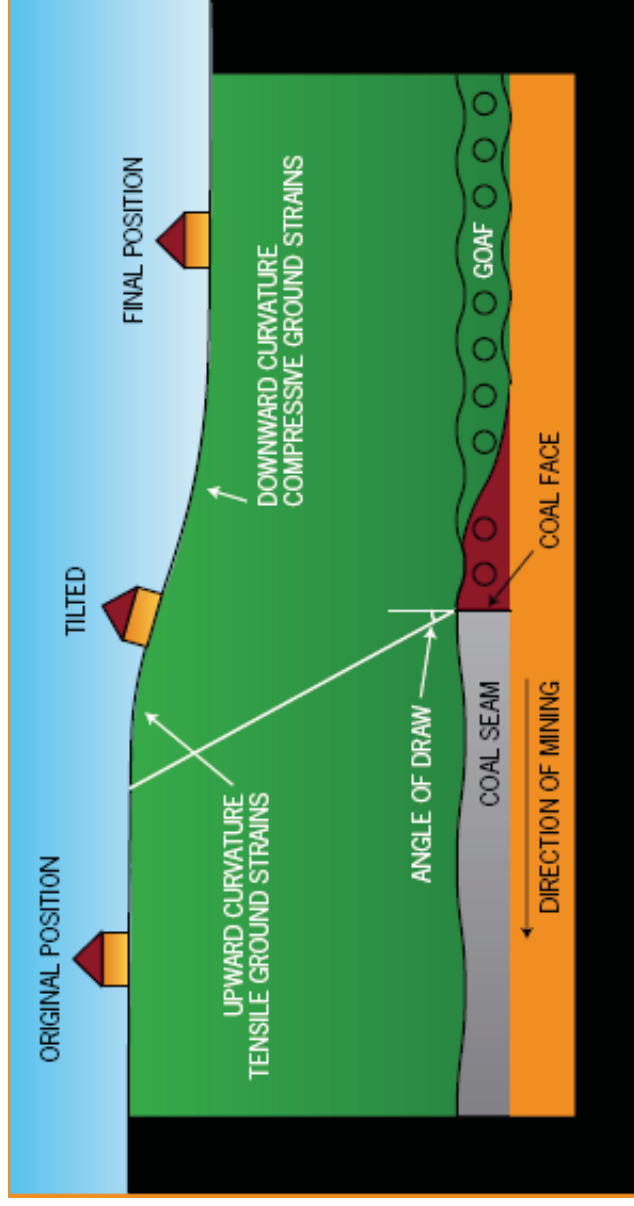
- horizontal strain (mm/m)

tensile or compressive

associated with curvature
and has similar damage
outcomes



*Final maximum panel
tensile and
compressive strain
ranges from 3 to 39
mm/m (10 mm/m
typical)*



Subsidence Prediction Outcomes

For the 160 m wide panels with mining heights of 1.8 to 3.4 m and cover depths of 55 m to 140 m, the predicted key subsidence impact parameters include:

- Final maximum panel subsidence between 35% and 55% of the mining height
 - e.g. #1: 1.2m to 1.8m for a mining height of 3.4 m
 - e.g. #2: 0.7m to 0.9m for a mining height of 2.0 m
- Final barrier pillar subsidence from 0.04 m to 0.24 m
- Maximum possible surface cracking widths of between 50 mm and 240 mm and tapering to depths of 5 to 10 m (likely to be mitigated by surface clays/weathered shales). Most cracks likely to be 'self healing'.
- No cracking or ponding expected along Viney Creek, due to buffer zone.
- Engineered solutions required for man-made features.

Subsidence Prediction Outcomes (2)

- ◆ The **ACARP, 2003** model predicts that heights of continuous sub-surface fracturing for a 2.6 m mining height are within 10 m of the surface for cover depths <75m. The **Forster, 1995** model indicates a similar range of connective cracking heights (46m to 73m).

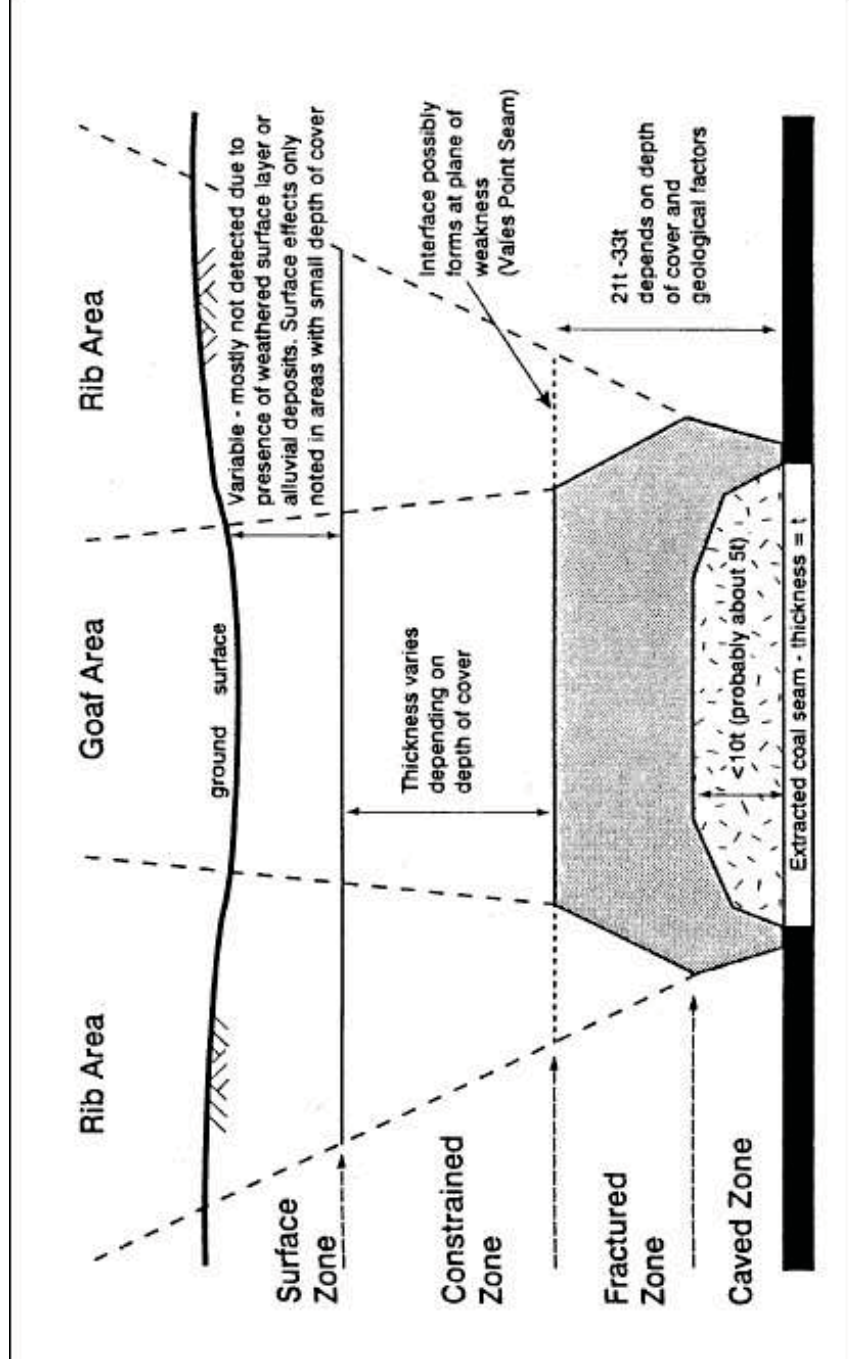
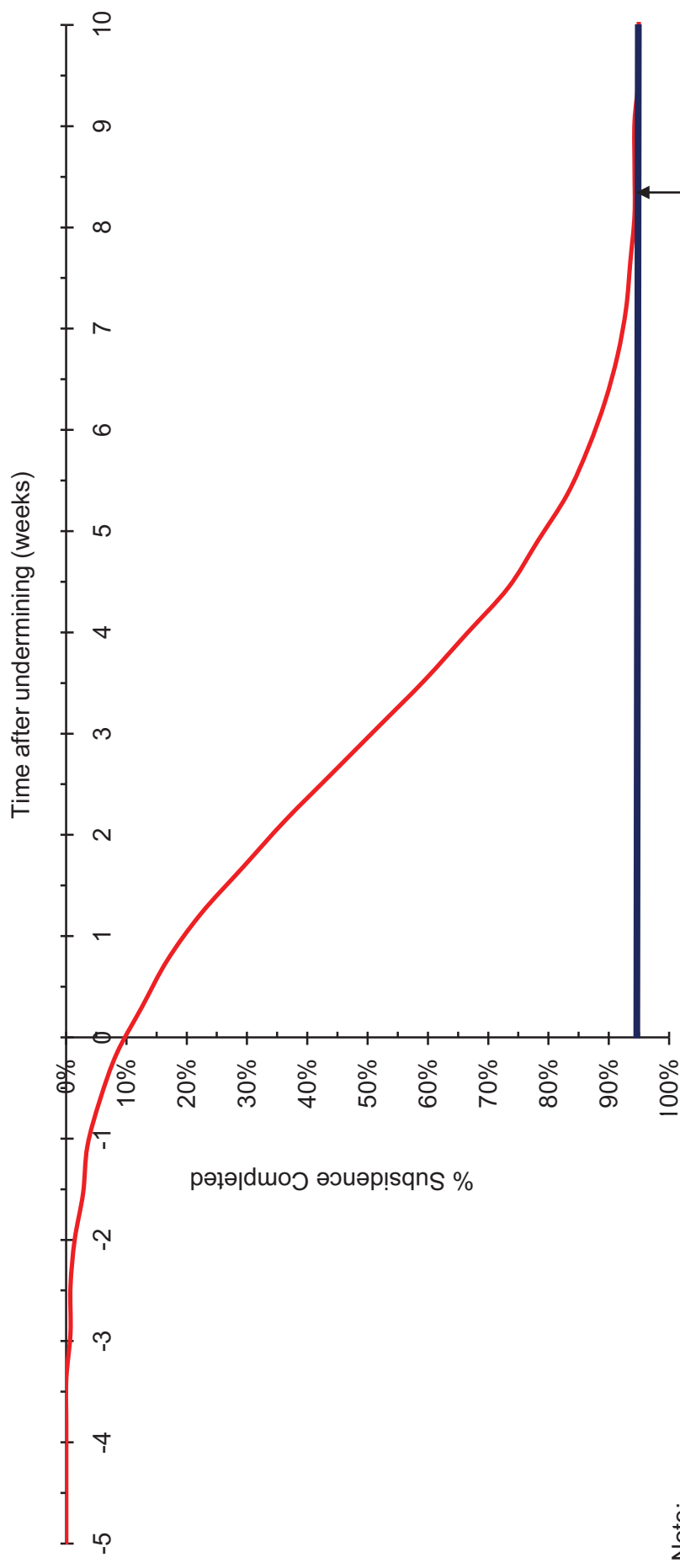


Fig. 1.33 Zones in the Overburden according to Forster (1995)

Abel Subsidence Development Rates

— Subsidence Development Rate for a Typical Abel Panel



Note:
Final 5% S_{max} will occur after
adjacent panels are extracted and
develop over similar time frames.

Effective Subsidence (i.e. 95% S_{max}) complete 8 weeks after undermining

Viney Creek

- ◆ Schedule 2 Creek (as per Strahler system)
- ◆ Viney Creek flows through the SMP area from south to north. It flows under John Renshaw Drive and eventually discharges into Woodberry Swamp, a wetland system of the Hunter River estuary
- ◆ Ephemeral flow
- ◆ Heavily vegetated, and in places is heavily choked with weeds and reeds
- ◆ Depth of cover 80-100m in subject area
- ◆ As per Project approval, protected by 40m barrier from stream banks to the 20mm vertical subsidence contour



Viney Creek

- The stream has a high capacity to reduce erosion effects from subsidence due to its significant natural and introduced (weed/reed) vegetative cover
- In accordance with Project Approval Donaldson may undertake further extraction within this barrier should further studies indicate that such extraction can take place without compromising specified environmental objectives
- Final degree of extraction will depend on an iterative monitoring / assessment / prediction of a suitable degree of extraction under the creek based on observation of prior mining in similar geomorphology / mining layout / depth of cover etc situations in prior panels away from the creek.
- Timing Panel 8



Transgrid 330kV double circuit steel towers



- Critical feed to Tomago area
- 6 suspension and 1 tension tower in SMP Area 1
- Key issues
 - Vertical displacements may reduce clearance from ground surface and lead to infringement of statutory requirements for clearance of transmission lines
 - Horizontal displacement and tilt may affect the alignment and tension of the transmission lines
- Management plan to be developed in consultation with Transgrid to ensure serviceability of power line
- Timing Panel 5

Transgrid 330kV double circuit steel towers

Cruciform footings

- Cruciform footings installed under suspension towers in 1982 in anticipation of future U/G Mining
- The footing acts to tie the legs of the tower together to prevent spreading and to prevent the transfer of ground strains into the structure itself
- The size of the footing is such that the mass can prevent overturning of the tower in the event of extreme loading
- Similar towers in Newcastle district have been subsided 2m
- MSB have reported that their success has led to significant reserves of coal beneath towers being mined



Energy Australia 132kV Power Line



- Installed 1960's
- Feeds to Beresfield area from Killingworth 330/132kV sub station
- Critical power supply
- Steel channel cross arm
- 3 power conductors and 2 Earth wires
- Spacing at ~200m across SMP area
- Management plan to be developed in consultation with EA to ensure serviceability of power line
- Timing Panel 3

Hunter Water Pipe line

- ◆ 500mm cast iron pipe installed late 1800's
- ◆ 200mm UPVC pipe installed 1992 to replace 500mm pipe in anticipation of mining subsidence
- ◆ Discussions being held with Hunter Water as to what ground movements the pipe can tolerate



Hunter Water Pipe line

- Management plan to be developed in consultation with Hunter Water to ensure serviceability of water main
- Timing- Panel 1



Optus Fibre Optic

- ◆ Installed adjacent to Transgrid 330kV line
- ◆ Installed early 1980's
- ◆ Cable directly buried underground
- ◆ Optus have own internal Management plan (similar to ones developed with other local mining companies)
- ◆ Donaldson Coal and Optus to work together on Management Plan
- ◆ Timing – Panel 5



Boral Black Hill Asphalt Plant & Depot

- ◆ Asphalt Plant 40kt /year capacity
- ◆ Spray Seal 5Ml/year capacity
- ◆ Designated as Principal residence
- ◆ Initial subsidence assessment completed
- ◆ First workings hazard management plan to be developed as part of SMP in consultation with Boral
- ◆ Timing Panel 13



Other infrastructure

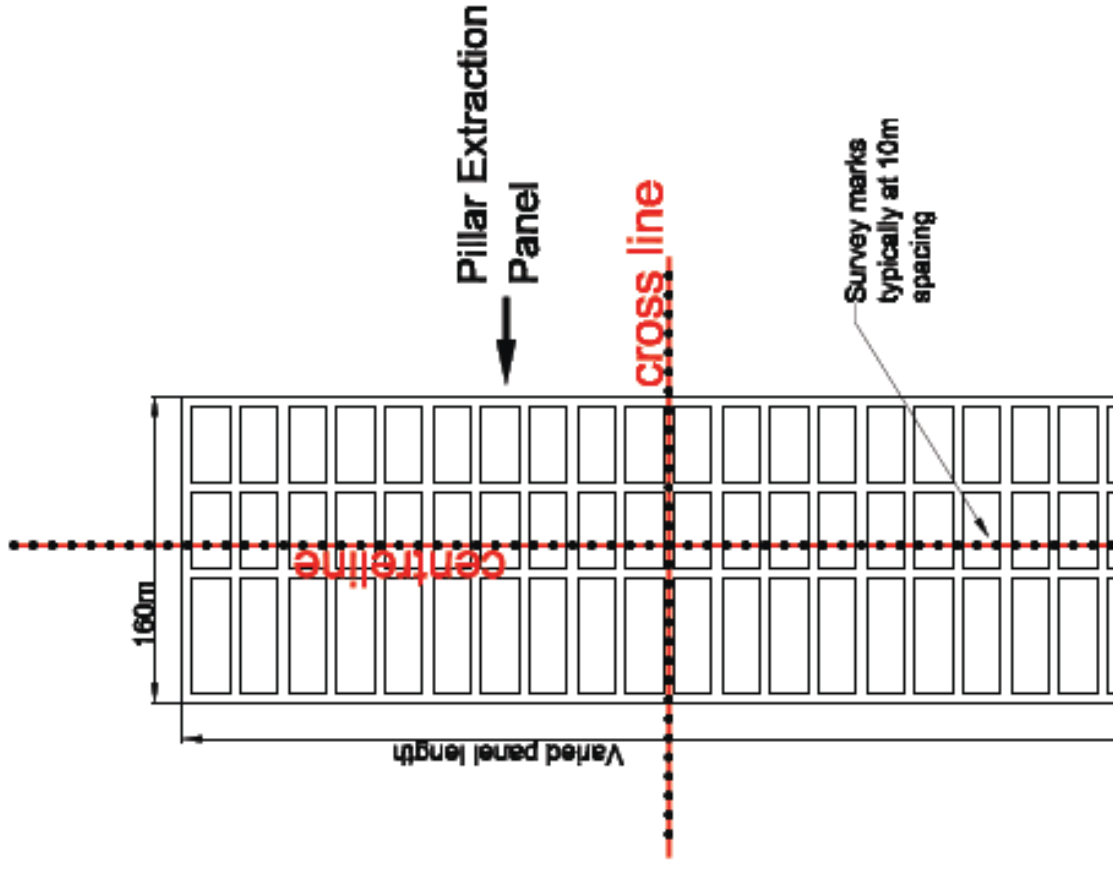
- ◆ Irrigation system on Catholic land for cattle agistment
- ◆ Fences/gates
- ◆ Cattle yards/Holding yards
- ◆ Access tracks
- ◆ Rural 11kV power line feed to Black Hill
- ◆ Telstra local copper cables



Proposed Monitoring

- Flora – specialist consultant
- Fauna – specialist consultant
- Groundwater – piezometers – specialist consultant
- Surface water- flow, water quality
- Subsidence surveys
- Visual inspections
- Photographic records

Subsidence Monitoring



Typical Subsidence Monitoring Program for Pillar Extraction Panels

- Approved by DPI-MR
- Panel length ranges from 190m to 550m
- Centre and cross line survey marks typically at 10m centres
- Removed after effective subsidence completed

Proposed Project Schedule

- Initial community and agency consultation- (June 09)
- Advertisment of intention to develop draft SMP (June 09)
- Responses from community and agencies (June, July 09)
- Risk Assessment (2,3 July 09)
- Preparation of SMP Application (May/June/July 09)
- Submit SMP Application (Aug 09)
- Advertise submission of SMP Application
- Display period and opportunity for community input
- Review of application (DPI-MR then Inter Agency Review Committee)
- Determination – approval sought for commencement of pillar extraction in early 2010

Donaldson Coal
Abel Mine
SMP STAKEHOLDER MEETING
ABEL AREA 1

24 June 2009

ABEL UNDERGROUND COAL MINE

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE Meeting #5

Monday 30th March, 2009 at 5.00pm

Abel Underground Mine Administration Building

MINUTES

1. **OPENING & WELCOME:** Chairman, The Hon. Milton Morris AO
2. **PRESENT:** Mr Milton Morris (Chairman), Mr Alan Brown, Mr Allan Jennings, Mr Brad Ure, Mr Terry Lewin, Mr Lachlan Crawford (Bloomfield), Mr Alick Osborne, Mr Mark McPherson, Mr Stephen Thornton, Mr Tony Sutherland, Mr Adam Heeney and Mr Phillip Brown (mins).
3. **APOLOGIES:** Mr Matthew Blackham and Mr Andrew Pace.
4. **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**
 - 4.1 *Previous Minutes 15th December, 2008 were confirmed by those members present with the inclusion of the email from Mr B Ure dated*
5. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:**
 - 5.1 *Business Arising.*
6. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Nil
7. **COMPANY REPORTS AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES:**
 - 7.1 **Development update**
 - 7.1.1 **Abel Program 2008**

Mr Stephen Thornton (General Manager, Underground Operations) provided an update on the mine's progress including:

 - Looking at Pillar Extraction commencing at the end of the year.
 - Forecast is for production of 675,000 t for the year
 - Workforce of approximately 165 people by December 2009
 - Half way installing the stacker conveyor system.
 - Still using eight (8) generators to supply electricity
 - A fourth roadway will be constructed beneath John Renshaw Drive
 - By the end of 2010 there will be two or three relatively large fans when the open cut is finished.

Mr T Lewin commented that the open cut operations appears to be more visible through the creek gully.

Mr P Brown advised that the current mound will be planted with grasses to improve the area.

Mr P Brown also advised that an earthen mound has been built in front of the Abel substation to shield the area from John Renshaw Drive.

Mr A Brown commented that there has been an increase in noise coming from the site. He advised that he is unable to differentiate which part of the site that the noise is coming from. Mr P Brown advised that the Open Cut operation is now only working on a day and afternoon shift finishing at 12.30am.

Mr M McPherson advised that the previous mining contractor, Cook's Construction, had gone into voluntary administration before Christmas and Donaldson Coal had taken over the operations.

Revision History					
Edition	Revision	Comment	Author	Date	Authorised by:
1	0	Draft Minutes	P Brown	27 April 2009	
2		Adopted	P Brown	29 June 2009	Mr Milton Morris

Mr S Thornton advised that as Donaldson Open Cut winds down and production at Abel Mine increases then there will be a need to haul coal on nightshift from the Abel Mine.

7.2 **Monitoring and Environmental Performance**

Mr P Brown tabled the recent air, noise and water monitoring results as follows:

Noise:

Donaldson Mine operations were observed to be inaudible during all survey periods at all locations except at Location K (Catholic Diocese) during the daytime, evening and night-time. However, Donaldson Mine contributions were found to be within the relevant consent conditions at all assessed locations.

Abel Project operations were inaudible at all residential locations during all periods and as such contributed noise levels from Abel Project did not exceed noise emission goals (including the sleep arousal criteria) and were in compliance with the Abel Project *Approval*.

Air:

January

On the days that the instruments were monitoring, the highest 24-hour average PM10 concentration in January 2009 was 65 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, measured on the 6th at the Beresfield site. On this occasion the measured PM10 concentration exceeded the 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ 24-hour NEPM goal. The cause of this event has not been determined and will be investigated. The measured concentration of TSP and PM10 at Blackhill are also relatively high on that day. TSP measurements from the Blackhill site show that concentrations were below the NHMRC 90 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ annual average TSP goal. It should be noted that the NHMRC goal refers to an annual average and not a 24-hour average as measured by the high volume air sampler. The annual average TSP concentration for the 12 months to January 2009 was 31 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

The annual average PM10 concentrations for Beresfield and Blackhill were 24 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and 15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ respectively for the 12 months to January

February

On the days that the instruments were monitoring, the highest 24-hour average PM10 concentration in February 2009 was 38 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, measured on the 17th at the Beresfield site. On this occasion the measured PM10 concentration did not exceed the 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ 24-hour NEPM goal. TSP measurements from the Blackhill site show that concentrations were below the NHMRC 90 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ annual average TSP goal. It should be noted that the NHMRC goal refers to an annual average and not a 24-hour average as measured by the high volume air sampler. The annual average TSP concentration for the 12 months to February 2009 was 32 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

The annual average PM10 concentrations for Beresfield and Blackhill were 25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and 16 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ respectively for the 12 months to February 2009. These are below the DECC's annual average PM10 air quality criterion of 30 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

Water

Four Mile Creek Upstream	Electrical Conductivity (EC) 350 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$	pH 6.8
Four Mile Creek Downstream	EC 260 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$	pH 7.4
Weakley's Flat Creek Upstream	EC 570 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$	pH 7.1
Weakley's Flat Creek Downstream	EC 670 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$	pH 6.6

7.3 **Community Complaints and response to complaints**

Mr P Brown advised that there had been no community complaints relating to Abel.

7.4 **Information provided to the Community and any feedback**

7.4.1 Website Information

Mr P Brown advised that the website has been updated. Mr A Brown advised that the website was not up-to-date as it still had the first draft minutes displayed. Mr A Brown again emphasised the need to have the minutes updated on the website in accordance with the Department of Planning's guidelines. Mr P Brown said that this would be attended to.

7.5 **Subsidence Management Plan Update**

Mr T Sutherland discussed the process of the preparing and submitting the Subsidence Management Plans including:

- Revisit subsidence predictions from the original model

- Advertisement in the local papers
- Meeting with Community Consultative Committee, and various stakeholders
- Aiming for pillar extraction to commence in November 2009

Mr T Sutherland tabled an example of a draft land management plan. Mr Sutherland also tabled a document showing actions and timings for the preparation of the subsidence management plans.

Mr B Ure asked about the timing of the mining. Mr S Thornton advised that the Company is required to mine the area highlighted on the plan in the first five years. Mr Ure asked if the discussions would only be with affected land holders at first. Mr Thornton confirmed that this would be done.

Mr A Jennings asked when the Company would start talking with the other land holders. Mr McPherson advised that the Company would like to get ahead of the process as much as they could.

Mr Lewin asked how many individual Land Management Plans would there be? Mr McPherson advised 215 individual land holdings.

Mr S Thornton advised that the Mining Operations Plan (MOP) and the Subsidence Management Plans (SMPs) are for seven years each.

Mr Lewin asked if there was opportunity for the company to learn how the mining was going in particular subsidence and to apply this to future mining.

Mr McPherson said that the company would be reviewing the mining being undertaken to monitor the subsidence.

Mr A Brown asked if the company would be providing an SMP for first workings. Mr McPherson advised that the company wouldn't be.

Mr A Brown commented that if the first workings lead to subsidence then a plan is required. Mr S Thornton advised that if subsidence was caused of special features such as roads then an SMP would be prepared for it.

Mr A Brown also commented that it would be good to monitor the first working under John Renshaw Drive to see if they can learn anything from the workings.

7.6 Individual Land Management Plans

Mr Lewin asked if the Land Management Plans would be for individual properties and would they be discussed on a one to one basis with the owner? Mr McPherson said that they would be discussed this way.

Mr Lewin asked if they could get a copy of an example to show the Blackhill Residents.

Mr McPherson said that they would.

Mr Jennings asked if the Committee could have a copy of a draft Land Management Plan to show the residents in the area. The draft example was tabled at the meeting and will be included with the minutes.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS:

- 8.1 Mr A Brown said that he is still concerned with procedural practices and that not following them is placing pressure on the Committee. The Chairman advised that when the minutes are adopted that they will be signed and dated by him. There will be a document management system applied to the minutes so that they draft copies can be managed.

- 8.2 Mr Lewin asked if people who live outside the mine footprint area are able to apply for funding. Mr McPherson explained that the funding was for projects within the footprint area. Mr Lewin asked if the link to the application form on the website could be improved as people were finding it a bit hard locate. Mr McPherson said that they will look at the website application forms.
- 8.3 Mr A Brown sought clarification on the funding and design of the intersection of John Renshaw Drive and Blackhill Road. Mr McPherson advised that the company have advised the RTA that it will contribute toward the intersection as long as the work is commenced by June 2009. Mr McPherson advised that he will organise a meeting with the RTA Representative, Terry Lewin and Alan Brown to discuss the intersection design.
- 8.4 Mr P Brown tabled an email from Andrew Pace. Refer to attachments.

9. NEXT MEETING

- 9.1 The next meeting of the Abel Community Consultative Committee was set down for Monday 29th June 2009 to be held at the Abel Underground Mine Administration Building at 5.00 pm.

MEETING CLOSED: The meeting closed at 6.00 pm.

ABEL UNDERGROUND COAL MINE
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
Meeting #7

Monday 29th June 2009 at 5.00 pm

Abel Underground Mine Administration Building

DRAFT MINUTES

1. **OPENING & WELCOME:** Chairman, The Hon. Milton Morris AO
2. **PRESENT:** Mr Milton Morris (Chairman), Mr Alan Brown, Mr Allan Jennings, Mr Brad Ure, Mr Terry Lewin, Mr Lachlan Crawford (Bloomfield), Mr Mark McPherson, Mr Matthew Blackham, Mr Tony Sutherland, Mr Adam Heeney and Mr Phillip Brown (mins).
3. **APOLOGIES:** Mr Andrew Pace and Mr Alick Osborne
4. **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**
 - 4.1 *Previous Minutes 30th March 2009 were confirmed by those members present.*
5. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:**
 - 5.1 *Business Arising.*
6. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Nil

7. **COMPANY REPORTS AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES:**

7.1 Development update

7.1.1 Abel Program 2009

Mr Matthew Blackham provided an update on the mine's progress including:

- Undertaking additional building works including another bathhouse; another office and training room.
- The workforce has increase with 31 new employees from Contractor LDO bringing the site total to 130 people. Looking at a total of 180 employees by December 2009.
- M Blackham and M McPherson detailed the Cleanskin Program that the company undertakes.
- Putting a new conveyor belt in on the weekend for the two new super sections that will be running until Christmas.

Mr A Jennings asked if the geological and water conditions that the min had encountered were as expected. Mr Blackham advised that there was a low depth of cover and that the rock had been much harder than originally thought. Mr M McPherson advised that there is a drill rig drilling across the area to firm up the information on the geology in the area as the coal wasn't thickening up as first thought. Mr McPherson advised that the coal quality is good.

7.2 Monitoring and Environmental Performance

Mr P Brown presented a report on environmental monitoring. See attachments for presentation.

Mr A Jennings asked why the noise report had not been circulated. Mr Brown advised that he will attend to this.

7.3 Community Complaints and response to complaints

Revision History					
Edition	Revision	Comment	Author	Date	Authorised by:
1	0	Draft Minutes	P Brown	29 July 2009	

Mr P Brown advised that there had been one complaint. Refer to presentation for details.

7.4 Information provided to the Community and any feedback

7.4.1 Website Information

Refer to presentation

7.5 Subsidence Management Plan Update

Mr T Sutherland advised that the presentation from last week's subsidence management plan (SMP) meeting has been sent out and is also available on the website. Mr Sutherland also advised that there would be advertisements in the paper this weekend showing the mine subsidence area.

Mr M McPherson advised that Mr Colin East had suggested a public meeting to discuss the SMP process. Mr McPherson proposed to hold a meeting at a later date after the government reshuffle.

Mr T Lewin suggested holding a public meeting when the results have been obtained for the first works have been done to explain to the residents what the results are.

Mr B Ure asked if they would be doing first workings beneath the creek. Mr McPherson advised that they would be doing first workings until the Company can show that from the results that there would be no impact on the creek and would then undertake secondary extraction.

Mr T Lewin asked if the Catholic Diocese had indicated where the school would be. Mr McPherson said that a representative from the Catholic Diocese advised that they would not be constructing a school on the property.

8. COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS

Mr T Lewin asked over what period the subsidence would occur. Mr T Sutherland advised that the main impact (95%) of the subsidence should be completed within 6 – 8 weeks of mining.

Mr Lewin commented that following a review of the SMP presentation that the power lines seem to be the biggest problem. Mr McPherson advised that powerlines are commonly mined under without problem. He said that the fibre optic cable would be the most difficult as it was just laid in the trench.

Mr A Jennings asked when the main headings are pulled out would there be further subsidence. Mr Sutherland advised that there wouldn't be due to the size of the remaining pillars.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS:

- 9.1 Mr M McPherson advised the Committee of the proposal to install a downcast shaft on the southern side of John Renshaw Drive. Refer to the presentation enclosed for a plan showing the location. Mr McPherson advised that the Company would be submitting a Section 75W application for a modification to the original consent to the department of Planning. They would also include in the modification a proposal to install a further three headings under John Renshaw Drive.

Mr Lewin asked if there would be any noise associated with the shaft. Mr McPherson advised that there would not be any noise as it would be sucking air in and would not be located over a transport roadway.

Mr B Ure asked if it would be located over a transport road in the future. Mr McPherson advised that it would only be above an air roadway.

Mr A Jennings asked if it the Company would be using existing tracks. Mr McPherson advised that they would. Mr Jennings also asked if access would be off John Renshaw Drive. Mr McPherson advised that access would be via Blackhill road and that the site would only be visited as part of regular inspections.

10. NEXT MEETING

- 10.1 The next meeting of the Abel Community Consultative Committee was set down for Monday 28th September 2009 to be held at the Abel Underground Mine Administration Building at 5.00 pm.

ABEL UNDERGROUND COAL MINE

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
Meeting #8**

Monday 28th September 2009 at 5.00 pm

Abel Underground Mine Administration Building

DRAFT MINUTES

1. **OPENING & WELCOME:** Chairman, The Hon. Milton Morris AO
2. **PRESENT:** Mr Milton Morris (Chairman), Mr Alan Brown, Mr Allan Jennings, Mr Terry Lewin, Mr Matthew Blackham, Mr Tony Sutherland, Mr Adam Heeney and Mr Phillip Brown (mins).
3. **APOLOGIES:** Mr Andrew Pace, Mr Brad Ure, Mr Lachlan Crawford (Bloomfield), Mr Mark McPherson and Mr Alick Osborne
4. **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**
 - 4.1 *Previous Minutes 29th June 2009 were confirmed by those members present.*
5. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:**
 - 5.1 *Business Arising.*
Dealt with in Reports below.
6. **CORRESPONDENCE:**
Nil
7. **COMPANY REPORTS AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES:**
 - 7.1 **Development update**
 - 7.1.1 **Abel Program 2009**

Mr Matthew Blackham provided a presentation on the mine progress. See attached presentation.

Mr Blackham advised that there are 152 people employed at Abel with the number increasing to 180 by November 2009.

Mr A Jennings asked what are the tonnes per week that is being produced. Mr Blackham advised 13,000 tonnes.

Mr A Brown asked what the seam thickness was at present. Mr Blackham advised that the seam thickness is approximately 2.4 – 2.5 m of coal.
 - 7.2 **Monitoring and Environmental Performance**

Mr P Brown presented a report on environmental monitoring. See attached for presentation.
 - 7.3 **Community Complaints and response to complaints**

Mr P Brown advised that there had been no complaints. Refer to presentation for details.
 - 7.4 **Information provided to the Community and any feedback**
 - 7.4.1 **Website Information**
No comments.

Revision History					
Edition	Revision	Comment	Author	Date	Authorised by:
1	0	Draft Minutes	P Brown	30 October 2009	

7.5 Subsidence Management Plan Update

Mr T Sutherland gave a presentation on the SMP update including subsidence monitoring. Refer to Attachments.

Mr A Brown asked if the subsidence would get greater with the increase in depth. Mr M Blackham advised that it was the opposite in that the deeper the mine progresses then the less impact by subsidence.

7.6 2009 Dam Survey

Mr P Brown advised that the dam survey will be undertaken over the coming months and that there were a total of 168 dams to be inspected. Mr A Heeney will be contacting the owners to discuss access.

7.7 Status of Annual Environmental Management Report

Mr P Brown advised that it is expected that the report will be finalised by 4th November, 2009.

7.8 RTA Upgrade works – schedule, timeframe etc.

Mr P Brown advised that the RTA had started another section of the roadworks in order to catch up time lost due to rain etc. Mr P Brown advised that he would send an email with the timeframe for the completion.

8. COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS

There were no community comments.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS:**10. NEXT MEETING**

- 10.1 The next meeting of the Abel Community Consultative Committee was set down for Monday 1st February 2010 to be held at the Abel Underground Mine Administration Building at 5.00 pm.

The meeting was declared closed at 5.30 pm by the Chairman.



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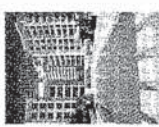
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Kelly Holden wishes to inform the public of a pricing error in today's Drive section of the Newcastle Herald.

The price of the advertised Commodore International of \$33,490 driveway is incorrect and should read \$33,990 driveway. This mistake had not been identified at the time the Drive section had to go to print. We apologise for any inconvenience.

For any further concerns don't hesitate to call us at Kelly Holden Gardiff on 4954 7733 or Kelly Holden Gateshead on 4920 8000.

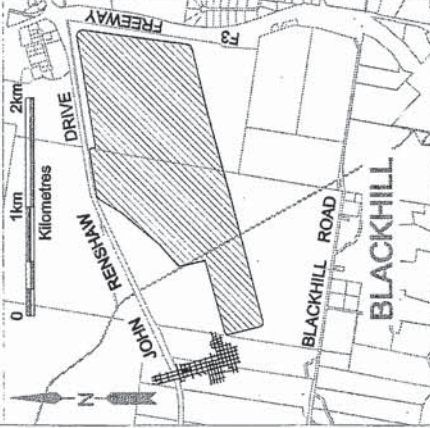


ABEL UNDERGROUND MINE



Donaldson Coal Pty Ltd. ABN 67 973 088 845

Donaldson Coal is developing a Subsidence Management Plan to accompany an application to the Department of Primary Industries - Mineral Resources for Pillar Extraction mining at Abel Mine in the application area outlined below. Once prepared the draft plan will be advertised and displayed for comment.



Any person wishing to provide input to the preparation of the plan can contact the mine on (02) 40151100

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