



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2024

# Moolarben Coal Complex Open Cut 3 Extension Project

## About the Project

The Open Cut 3 (OC3) Extension Project proposes to extend operations south and east of the existing OC3 mining area. This proposed Project is important for the ongoing operation of the Moolarben Coal Complex, which commenced in 2010 and is approved to continue until 2038.

Located within the Moolarben Valley and surrounded by elevated topography, the proposed Project is positioned to minimise amenity impacts on nearby residences.



## Current status

The Project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was placed on public exhibition between 17 November 2022 and 14 December 2022. Moolarben has now responded to submissions, and the NSW Dept. of Planning is currently assessing the Project. An Independent Planning Commission (IPC) hearing is to be scheduled so that members of the public can address IPC Commissioners. Moolarben will continue to update the community and workforce as soon as more details become available.

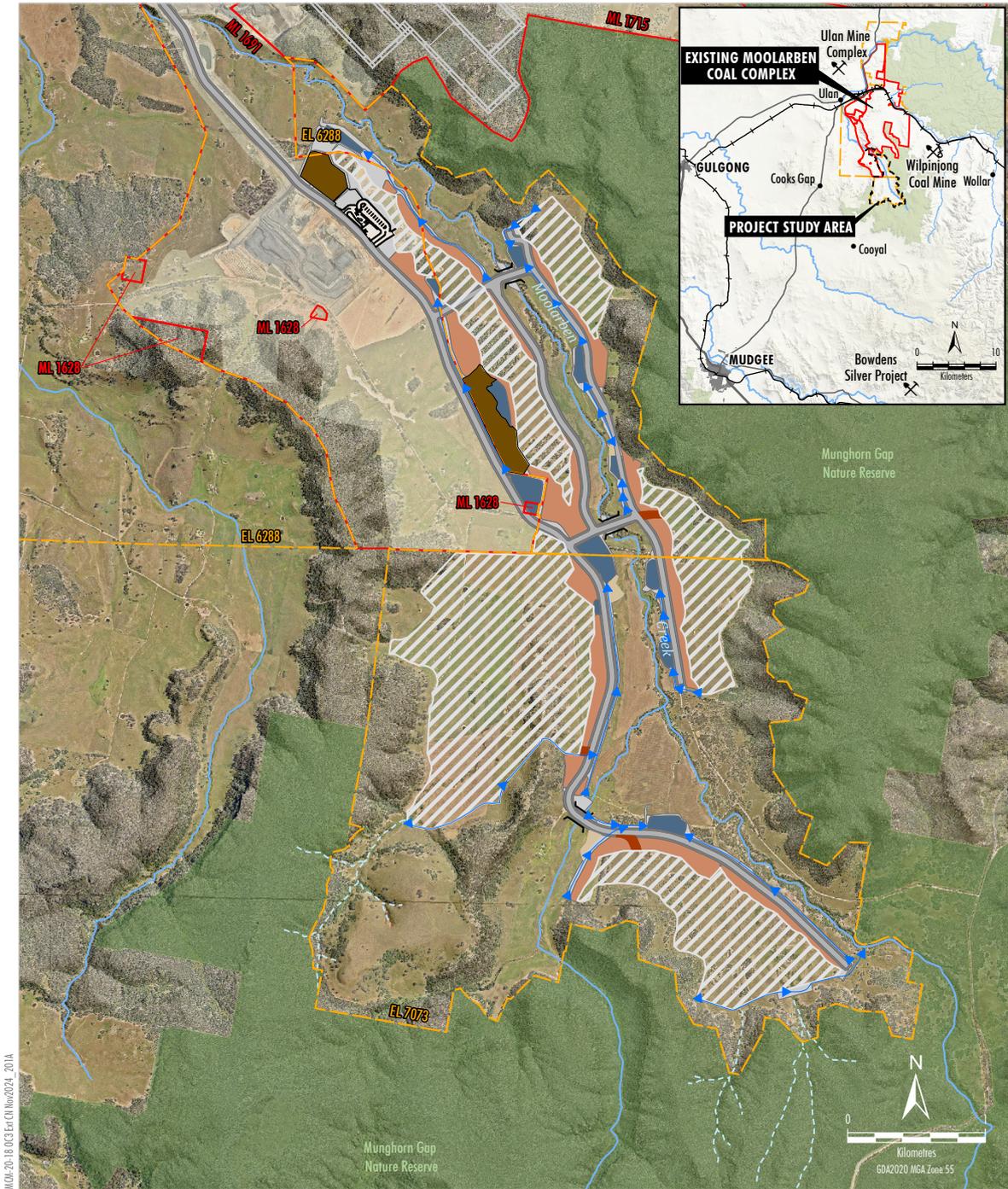
Following completion of the IPC process, the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment will make a determination under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. If approved, Project operations are expected to be undertaken from 2025 onwards. The proposed Project would ensure economic benefits from the existing Moolarben Coal Complex could continue for the local community and NSW.



# General arrangement

The following represents the general arrangement of the amended Project, outlining the key infrastructure and proposed site layout.

**FOR CONSULTATION**



- LEGEND**
- National Park/Nature Reserve
  - Exploration Licence Boundary
  - Mining Lease Boundary
  - Moolarben Coal Complex Disturbance Footprint
  - Underground Longwall Layout
  - QC3 Extension Project - Amended
  - Indicative ROM Pad
  - Culvert
  - Indicative Haul Roads

- Indicative Infrastructure Corridor
- Indicative Infrastructure Area
- Indicative Construction/Rehabilitation Material Stockpiles
- Conceptual Flood Levee Embankment
- Conceptual Water Management Infrastructure
- Indicative Vehicle Access
- Conceptual Surface Water Drain

Source: MCO (2023); NSW Spatial Services (2021)  
Orthophoto: MCO (Jan 2021)



**MOOLARBEN COAL COMPLEX**  
**General Arrangement of the Amended Project**





## Project benefits

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### Biodiversity



The Project disturbance area has been preferentially located in previously cleared agricultural land where practicable and feasible, to minimise environmental impact on woodland areas.



If approved, Moolarben will revegetate approximately 135 hectares of cleared land outside the disturbance area, resulting in a net increase in woodland across the Moolarben Valley during mining.



Due to the proposed Project, there will an overall net gain in native woodland in the Moolarben Valley of approximately 557 hectares from revegetation and rehabilitation efforts, in addition to biodiversity offsets.

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### Local community



The proposed Project would continue to contribute to the development and improvement of local infrastructure, including roads and transportation networks in Mudgee.



The proposed Project would further support local employment in the Central West region, as Moolarben currently employs approximately 790 full-time staff, majority of which reside in the Mid-Western LGA.



The proposed Project would integrate with the Moolarben Coal Complex, and use existing haul roads, coal handling, processing and transport facilities, and mining equipment



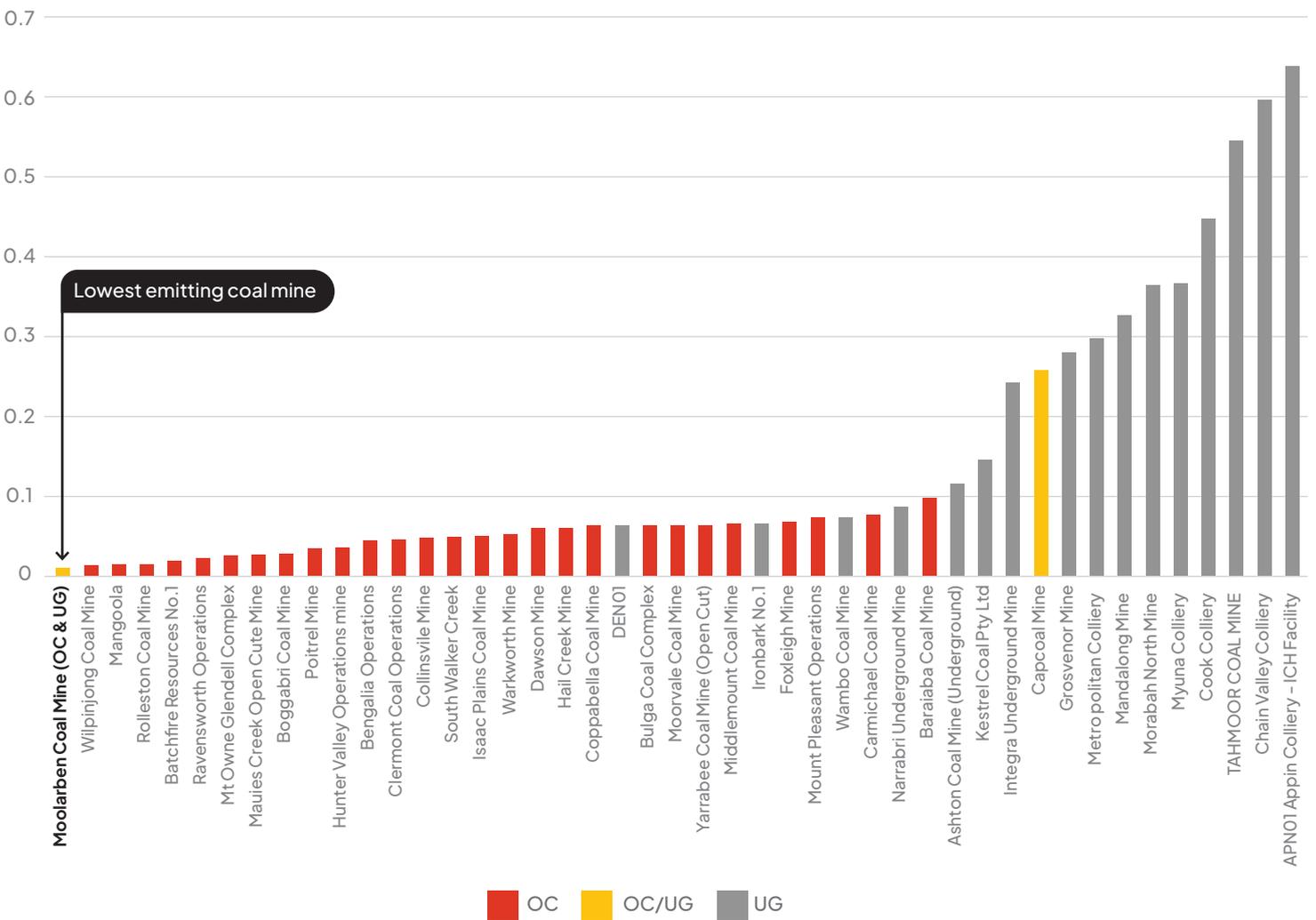
A planning agreement between Moolarben and Mid-Western Regional Council has been executed for the proposed Project. As part of this agreement, Moolarben has provided a community contribution payment to Mid-Western Regional Council to support construction of a Pump Track in Mudgee.



## Emissions

Federal Government data for coal mines clearly demonstrates that the Moolarben Coal Complex has the lowest greenhouse gas emissions intensity of any Australian coal mine. Moolarben is committed to further minimising these emissions through efficient mining practices, including optimising mine plans, reducing haul distances, and improving equipment fuel efficiency.

### Facility Specific Emission Intensity (CO<sub>2</sub>-e per tonnes)





## Approvals process

MILESTONES	OPPORTUNITIES FOR FEEDBACK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Moolarben commences scoping phase consultation and preparation of Scoping Report</b></li> </ul>	<p>Initial stakeholder engagement during preparation of the Scoping Report has been undertaken to ensure community issues and concerns with the Project are identified and scoped.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Moolarben submits Scoping Report and receives SEARs from NSW Dept. of Planning</b></li> </ul>	<p>Focused engagement has been undertaken to inform the preliminary social impact assessment component of the Scoping Report.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Moolarben lodges a Referral under the Commonwealth EPBC Act</b></li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Project determined to be a controlled action under the Commonwealth EPBC Act. SEARs re-issued to address Commonwealth matters</b></li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Moolarben undertakes EIS phase consultation and prepares the Project EIS</b></li> </ul>	<p>Engagement continued with stakeholders during preparation of the EIS. Questions and comments raised by the community were considered in the Project design and addressed in the EIS.</p> <p>Focused engagement also informed the social impact assessment and the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment for the EIS.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Moolarben submits development application to NSW Dept. of Planning and the Project EIS is placed on public exhibition</b></li> </ul>	<p>The community has further opportunity to submit feedback directly to NSW Dept. of Planning during the public exhibition period.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Moolarben responds to submissions made during public exhibition</b></li> </ul>	<p>Engagement will continue with stakeholders to address concerns raised during public exhibition.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ NSW Dept. of Planning assesses the Project, having regard to Moolarben's EIS, public and agency submissions and Moolarben's response to these submissions</li> </ul>	<p>Community feedback can continue to be provided to Moolarben or the NSW Dept. of Planning while the Project is under assessment.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Independent Planning Commission determines the Project</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Commonwealth Minister for the Environment makes separate determination under the EPBC Act</li> </ul>	<p>Independent Planning Commission will hold a public hearing for the Project where members of the public will have the opportunity to address the commissioners.</p>

## Economic contribution

The mining sector stands as the largest contributor to the local economy and plays a vital role in the prosperity of Mudgee and the Mid-Western Region. By providing stable employment, supporting local businesses, and funding essential infrastructure projects, Moolarben (and other surrounding mining operations) contributes significantly to the region's growth.

**In 2023, Moolarben's annual contribution to the MWRC area reached \$254 million.** This contribution assisted Mudgee in continuing to develop as a popular and thriving tourist destination, with the added benefit of community events and cultural activities that attract more visitors to the region.

## Community feedback

Community members will have an opportunity to share feedback through the IPC process. Timing for this process, including a public hearing, is yet to be determined, however Moolarben will keep the community informed and provide updates as they become available, including instructions on how to submit feedback to the IPC.

If you would like further information on the proposed Project or have any questions regarding the Moolarben Coal Complex, please contact us via:

**Email:** [moolarben.feedback@yancoal.com.au](mailto:moolarben.feedback@yancoal.com.au)

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