



Warkworth Mining Limited

EPBC 2002/629 and EPBC 2009/5081

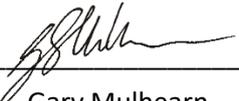
Annual Compliance Report 1 February 2024 to 31 January 2025

Date of Submission: 2 May 2025

Declaration of accuracy

In making this declaration, I am aware that sections 490 and 491 of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth) (EPBC Act) make it an offence in certain circumstances to knowingly provide false or misleading information or documents.

I declare that all the information presented in this compliance report is technically accurate.

Signed  _____
 Full name Gary Mulhearn
 Position Manager Environment and Community
 Organisation Warkworth Mining Limited (ABN 42 001 385 842)
 Date 2 May 2025

Document Title	Version	Date effective	Comment
Annual Compliance Report (EPBC2002/629 and EPBC2009/5081)	1	2 May 2025	Submitted to DCCEEW

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List of Attachments

ATTACHMENT A: Regional Offset Management Plan Annual Report 2024

ATTACHMENT B: Local Offset Management Plan Annual Report 2024

ATTACHMENT C: EPBC 2009/5081 Compliance Register (Condition 17)

1. Introduction

1.1 Objective

This annual Compliance Report has been prepared in accordance with the *Annual Compliance Report Guidelines* (Commonwealth of Australia 2014) to satisfy Condition 4 of the EPBC 2002/629 Approval and Condition 15 of the EPBC 2009/5081 Approval, for the period 1 February 2024 to 31 January 2025 (reporting period). Both Approvals are held by Warkworth Mining Limited (WML) which is operated by Coal & Allied (NSW) Pty Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Yancoal Australia Limited (YAL).

1.2 Background

WML holds development consent SSD-6464 to construct and operate an open cut coal mine, located approximately 15 kilometres southwest of Singleton in the Hunter Valley, NSW. The Commonwealth Minister for the Environment, under provisions of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), issued two approvals to WML to construct, operate and extend the open cut coal mine, the first in February 2004 (EPBC 2002/629) and the second in August 2012 (EPBC 2009/5081).

The EPBC 2002/629 approval (as varied) requires WML to offset the impact upon Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) by protecting and managing no less than 1,586 hectares (ha) of habitat for the Regent Honeyeater (*Anthochaera phrygia*) and Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*).

The EPBC 2009/5081 approval (as varied) requires WML to offset the MNES by protecting and managing a total of no less than 2,626 ha, of habitat for the Regent Honeyeater (*Anthochaera phrygia*) and Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*). There are also conditions relating to water management and rehabilitation on the mine site.

The Offset Areas for each of the EPBC approvals are presented in **Table 1**.

Table 1 Location and size of the EPBC Offset Areas

Locality	Biodiversity Area	Offset Area (ha)	EPBC2002/629	EPBC2009/5081 Phase 1	EPBC2009/5081 Phase 2
Local	Southern (Putty Road Offset Area)	94		94	
	Southern	892			892
	Southern Total	986		94	892
	Northern	341			341
Regional	North Rothbury	41			41
	Goulburn River	1,066	1,066		
	Bowditch	520	520		
	Bowditch	82			82
	Putty	383			383
	Seven Oaks	519			519
	Condon View	345			345
Total		4,282	1,586	94	2,602

2. Condition Compliance

2.1 EPBC 2002/629

EPBC2002/629 Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments (Goulburn River BA, Bowditch BA)
1	<p>By no later than 31 July 2020, the person taking action must register the Biodiversity Management Areas identified in the map at Attachment A under a legally secured offset mechanism. The mechanism must provide enduring protection of no less than</p> <p>a) 1,586 ha of suitable habitat for <i>Anthochaera phrygia</i> (regent honeyeater) and <i>Lathamus discolor</i> (swift parrot).</p> <p>Evidence of registration must be provided to the Department within 30 days of registration of the legally binding covenant.</p>	Pending	<p>A request was sent to the Department of the Environment and Energy (DoEE) on 7 December 2017 to extend the due date for a legally binding conservation covenant over the biodiversity areas beyond 17 February 2018. The request was sought on the basis of aligning the timeframe with the NSW Project Approval SSD 6464. DoEE advised by email on 28 February 2018, that given the request was submitted well in advance of 17 February 2018, that no non-compliance would be recorded. After additional consultation and correspondence with DoEE and the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), further information was sent to DoEE on 11 September 2018 which noted that WML has been working with the OEH to secure the offsets as Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement (BSA's) pursuant to the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016. As this Act commenced in August 2017, many of the systems, processes and transitional arrangements were being developed by OEH and the newly created Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT). WML had consulted with OEH and developed a timeline to step through the process to register the BSA's, and an extension request was sent to DoEE based on the proposed timeline.</p> <p>Approval from DoEE was received on 14/10/2018, with reference to the 7 December 2017 extension request, for the variation to condition 1 to extend the timeframe by which legally binding covenants must be registered over the offset sites to 31 July 2020.</p> <p>Due to ongoing difficulties in reaching agreement with the NSW Biodiversity and Conservation Division (BCD) on whether the proposed offsets properties meet the species and ecosystem credit retirement requirements of the MTW State Approvals a further extension was sought. MTW sent a letter (dated 24 July 2020) to Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) requesting an extension of the timeframe to secure the offset areas until 31 July 2021. DAWE responded on 3 August 2020 acknowledging that MTW had contacted DAWE to remedy the potential breach of conditions of approval and that due to the high volume of approval requests it would take some time to respond to this request. DAWE responded to MTW on 7 October 2020 that the proposed timeframe for completion of the legally binding conservation mechanism process was too short and recommended that MTW review the schedule for completion. This request is still being progressed as MTW has not</p>

EPBC2002/629 Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments (Goulburn River BA, Bowditch BA)
			<p>been able to reach agreement with NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) and BCD on the mechanism/timing for retiring credits and securing the offsets.</p> <p>MTW submitted an administrative modification to NSW development consent SSD-6464 on 29 April 2021 to clarify biodiversity offset requirements for the Warkworth Continuation Project and to facilitate in-perpetuity conservation of biodiversity offset land. The Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) requested additional information on 9 August 2021 and further information on 11 October 2021, MTW provided responses to these requests on 2 September 2021 and 20 December 2021, respectively.</p> <p>Subsequently, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) in consultation with Biodiversity, Conservation and Science (BCS) advised MTW that a BSA is the only mechanism acceptable to the NSW Government for in-perpetuity security of biodiversity offset land. The establishment of a BSA requires biodiversity offset credits to be retired. Biodiversity offset credits for the MTW offset land were determined under prior mechanisms and need to be converted to current Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) credits. MTW is working with Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation (CPHR) Division (formerly BCS) and DPHI to progress BSAs for the offset land areas. The administrative modification to NSW development consent SSD-6464 will be withdrawn upon completion of the BSAs.</p>
2	<p>To offset the impacts to the regent honeyeater and swift parrot, the person taking the action must submit to the Minister for approval an Offset Management Plan (OMP) for all of the Biodiversity Management Areas by no later than 13 April 2014.</p> <p>The OMP must include, but not be limited to, the following information:</p>	Compliant	<p>Regional Offset Management Plan (ROMP) submitted to the Environment Assessment Branch of Department of Environment (DoE) for Minister approval 14 April 2014 (13 April 2014 was a Sunday). Regional OMP approved by Minister 06 August 2014.</p> <p>The Independent Audit completed in 2015 indicated that separate Offset Management Plans for Bowditch and Goulburn River BAs would be preferable. In addition, separate plans are required for the legally binding mechanism. Therefore, in February 2017 individual plans were submitted to the Department for approval. In response to comments received from the Department of Environment and Energy (DoEE), a further three versions of the individual plans were submitted during 2017. The final revision, submitted to DoEE in December 2017, was approved on 16 February 2018.</p> <p>The Goulburn River and Bowditch BA Management Plans were revised and submitted to DPE for approval in July 2022. The revisions were approved by DPE on 12 August 2022.</p>

EPBC2002/629 Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments (Goulburn River BA, Bowditch BA)
2a	a textual description and map to clearly define the location and boundaries of all of the Biodiversity Management Areas. This must be accompanied with the offset attributes and a shapefile	Compliant	Section 2.1 MP Location and Description
2b	details of management actions to protect and enhance the extent and condition of habitat values of the offset areas including but not limited to rehabilitation, weed control, fire management, erosion and sediment control, management of livestock and restrictions on access of no less than 1,586 hectares of habitat for the regent honeyeater and swift parrot	Compliant	Section 3 Objectives, Key Performance Indicators and Completion Criteria and Section 4 Conservation Management Actions of the MP.
2c	the timing, responsibilities and performance criteria for management actions	Compliant	Section 4 Conservation Management Actions of the MP.
2d	a monitoring plan including the undertaking of ecological surveys by a qualified ecologist to assess the success of the management actions against identified milestones and objectives	Compliant	Section 5 Monitoring of the MP.
2e	a process to report, to the department, the management actions undertaken in the offset areas and the outcome of those actions, including identifying any need for improved management	Compliant	Section 1.3 Function of the MP.
2f	a description of the potential risks to successful management and rehabilitation in the offset areas, and a description of the contingency measures that would be implemented to mitigate these risks	Compliant	Section 4 Conservation Management Actions of the MP.
2g	details of parties responsible for management, monitoring and implementing the plan, including their position or status as a separate contractor.	Compliant	Section 1.3.2 Key Stakeholders and Roles.
	The approved OMP must be implemented. The person taking the action must publish the approved OMP on their website within 1 month of the OMP being approved by the Minister. The approved OMP must remain published until the expiry of the approval or until such time as agreed in writing by the Minister.	Compliant	<p>The <i>Regional Offset Management Plan Annual Report 2021 (Attachment A)</i> provides a summary of the management and monitoring activities completed in 2021.</p> <p>Approved Regional Offset Management Plan was originally published on Rio Tinto Coal Australia website on 5 September 2014.</p> <p>The Regional Offset Management Plan has now been superseded by individual management plans for the relevant Biodiversity Areas. The current Offset Management Plans are published on the Yancoal MTW website at the link below: https://www.yancoal.com.au/our-sites/mount-thorley-documents/#mgt-docs</p>

EPBC2002/629 Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments (Goulburn River BA, Bowditch BA)
	<p>Note: For clarity, the Biodiversity Management Areas in condition 1 and identified on the map in Attachment A can accommodate offset requirements for more than one species habitat within the one area, if a qualified ecologist verifies that suitable habitat is present and includes specific habitat requirements for the relevant species.</p>		
3	<p>The Compliance Report (referred to in condition 4) due in 2015, and Compliance Reports due in each subsequent fifth year until the expiry of the approval, must be audited by an independent auditor. Prior to the commencement of each audit, the independent auditor and the audit criteria must be approved by the Department.</p>	Complaint	<p>The 2015 Compliance Report was audited in 2015 by an independent auditor (Peter Horn), approved by DoE on 24 July 2015.</p> <p>The Independent Audit report was sent to DoE on 20 October 2015.</p> <p>The 2019 Compliance Report was audited by an independent auditor (Hansen Bailey), approved by DPE on 27 – 30 April 2020.</p> <p>The Independent Audit Report was sent to DoE on 17 July 2020.</p> <p>The next audit is due in 2025.</p>
4	<p>Within three months of every 12 month anniversary of the Commencement of Construction, the person taking the action must publish a report (the Compliance Report) on their website addressing compliance with each of the conditions of this approval, including implementation of any plans as specified in the conditions. Documentary evidence providing proof of the date of publication and non-compliance with any of the conditions of this approval must be provided to the department at the same time as the Compliance Report is published. The person taking the action must also notify any non-compliance with this approval to the department in writing within 2 business days of becoming aware of the non-compliance. The person taking the action must continue to annually publish the Compliance Report until such time as agreed in writing by the Minister.</p>	Compliant	<p>This report. Commencement of Construction June 2004.</p>
5	<p>If the person taking the action wishes to carry out any activity otherwise than in accordance with the plans, as specified in the conditions, the person taking the action must submit to the department for the Minister's written approval a revised version of that plan. The varied activity shall not commence until the Minister has approved the revised plan in writing. If the Minister approves</p>	Compliant	<p>Individual management plans were submitted to the Department for approval in February 2017 and subsequent revisions were submitted in December 2017. The final revisions were approved on 16 February 2018.</p> <p>The Goulburn River and Bowditch BA Management Plans were revised and submitted to DPE for approval in July 2022. The revisions were approved by DPE on 12 August 2022.</p>

EPBC2002/629 Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments (Goulburn River BA, Bowditch BA)
	the revised plan that plan must be implemented in place of the plan originally approved.		
6	<p>If the Minister believes that it is necessary or convenient for the better protection of listed threatened species and communities or listed migratory species to do so, the Minister may require that the person taking the action make specified revisions to a management plan specified in the conditions and submit the revised plan for the Minister's written approval.</p> <p>The revised approved plan must be implemented. Unless the Minister has approved the revised plan the person taking the action must continue to implement the originally approved plan, as specified in the conditions.</p>	Compliant	Comments on the individual management plans were received from DoEE on 13/04/2017 and 22/06/2017. Agreed changes were made to the revised management plans submitted in December 2017.

2.2 EPBC 2009/5081

EPBC2009/5081 Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments (Southern BA, Northern BA, Putty BA, Condon View BA, Seven Oaks BA, Bowditch BA, North Rothbury BA)
1	<p>To offset the impact on the foraging habitat for <i>Anthochaera Phrygia</i> (regent honeyeater) and <i>Lathamus discolor</i> (swift parrot), the person taking the action must register a legally binding conservation mechanism over 94ha of land, as illustrated in the map at Attachment A as the Phase 1 Offset. The conservation mechanism must provide enduring protection for the Phase 1 Offset (Putty Road) and must be registered by 31 July 2020.</p> <p>Evidence of registration must be provided to the Department within 30 days of registration of the legally binding conservation mechanism.</p>	Pending	<p>A request was sent to DoEE on 7 December 2017 to extend the due date for a legally binding conservation covenant over the biodiversity areas beyond 17 February 2018. The request was sought on the basis of aligning the timeframe with the NSW Project Approval SSD 6464. DoEE advised by email on 28 February 2018, that given the request was submitted well in advance of 17 February 2018, that no non-compliance would be recorded. After additional consultation and correspondence with DoEE and the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), further information was sent to DoEE on 11 September 2018 which noted that WML has been working with the OEH to secure the offsets as Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement (BSA's) pursuant to the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016. As this Act commenced in August 2017, many of the systems, processes and transitional arrangements are being developed by OEH and the newly created Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT). WML had consulted with OEH and developed a timeline to step through the process to register the BSA's, and an extension request was sent to DoEE based on the proposed timeline.</p> <p>Approval from DoEE was received on 14/10/2018, with reference to the 7 December 2017 extension request, for the variation to condition 1 to extend the timeframe by which legally binding covenants must registered over the offset sites to 31 July 2020.</p> <p>Due to ongoing difficulties in reaching agreement with the NSW Biodiversity and Conservation Division (BCD) on whether the proposed offsets properties meet the species and ecosystem credit retirement requirements of the MTW State Approvals a further extension has been sought. MTW sent a letter (dated 24 July 2020) to Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) requesting an extension of the timeframe to secure the offset areas until 31 July 2021. DAWE responded on 3 August 2020 acknowledging that MTW had contacted DAWE to remedy the potential breach of conditions of approval and that due to the high volume of approval requests it would take some time to respond to this request. DAWE responded to MTW on 7 October 2020 that the proposed timeframe for completion of the legally binding conservation mechanism process was too short and recommended that MTW review the schedule for completion. This request is still being progressed as MTW has not been able to reach agreement with NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) and BCD on the mechanism/timing for retiring credits and securing the offsets.</p>

EPBC2009/5081 Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments (Southern BA, Northern BA, Putty BA, Condon View BA, Seven Oaks BA, Bowditch BA, North Rothbury BA)
			<p>MTW submitted an administrative modification to NSW development consent SSD-6464 on 29 April 2021 to clarify biodiversity offset requirements for the Warkworth Continuation Project and to facilitate in-perpetuity conservation of biodiversity offset land. The Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) requested additional information on 9 August 2021 and further information on 11 October 2021, MTW provided responses to these requests on 2 September 2021 and 20 December 2021, respectively.</p> <p>Subsequently, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) in consultation with Biodiversity, Conservation and Science (BCS) advised MTW that a BSA is the only mechanism acceptable to the NSW Government for in-perpetuity security of biodiversity offset land. The establishment of a BSA requires biodiversity offset credits to be retired. Biodiversity offset credits for the MTW offset land were determined under prior mechanisms and need to be converted to current Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) credits. MTW is working with Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation (CPHR) Division (formerly BCS) and DPHI to progress BSAs for the offset land areas. The administrative modification to NSW development consent SSD-6464 will be withdrawn upon completion of the BSAs.</p>
2	<p>To offset the impacts on the foraging habitat of the regent honeyeater and swift parrot, the person taking the action must submit to the Minister for approval an Offset Management Plan (OMP) for the Phase 1 Offset identified in Attachment A by no later than 13 April 2014.</p> <p>The OMP must include, but not be limited to the following:</p>	Compliant	<p>Draft Putty Road Offset - Offset Management Plan (OMP) submitted to Department of Environment and Energy (DoEE) 14 April 2014 (13 April was a Sunday). DoEE approval of Putty Road Offset OMP dated 4 July 2014. In February 2017 a Southern BA Offset Management Plan was submitted to the Department for approval, as it contains the Phase 1 Offset (Putty Road Offset Area) and the Phase 2 Offset. This plan is to be used as part of the legally binding mechanism to secure both the Phase 1 and 2 Offsets. A revised version of the Southern BA Management Plan was submitted to DoEE in December 2017 to address comments provided by DoEE on the February 2017 version. The Southern BA Management Plan was approved by DoEE on 16 February 2018.</p> <p>The Southern BA Management Plan was reviewed and submitted in November 2020. The revisions were approved by DPE on 20 July 2021.</p> <p>The Southern BA Management Plan was reviewed and submitted in July 2022. The revisions were approved by DPE on 12 August 2022.</p>
2a	a textual description and map to clearly define the location and boundaries of all of the offset areas. This must be accompanied with the offset attributes and a shapefile	Compliant	Section 2.1 Location and description of the MP
2b	details of management actions to protect and enhance the extent and condition of habitat values of the offset areas including but not limited to rehabilitation, weed control, fire management, erosion	Compliant	Section 3 Objectives, Key Performance Indicators and Completion Criteria and Section 4 Conservation Management Actions of the MP.

EPBC2009/5081 Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments (Southern BA, Northern BA, Putty BA, Condon View BA, Seven Oaks BA, Bowditch BA, North Rothbury BA)
	and sediment control, management of livestock and restrictions on access to habitat for the regent honeyeater and swift parrot		
2c	the timing, responsibilities and performance criteria for management actions	Compliant	Section 4 Conservation Management Actions of the MP.
2d	a monitoring plan including the undertaking of ecological surveys by a qualified ecologist to assess the success of the management actions against identified milestones and objectives	Compliant	Section 5 Monitoring of the MP.
2e	a process to report, to the department, the management actions undertaken in the offset areas and the outcome of those actions, including identifying any need for improved management	Compliant	Section 1.3.2 Key Stakeholders and Roles.
2f	a description of the potential risks to successful management and rehabilitation in the offset areas, and a description of the contingency measures that would be implemented to mitigate these risks	Compliant	Section 4 Conservation Management Actions and Section 6 Risk Assessment of the MP.
2g	details of parties responsible for management, monitoring and implementing the plan, including their position or status as a separate contractor.	Compliant	Section 1.3.2 Key Stakeholders and Roles.
	<p>The approved OMP must be implemented.</p> <p>Note: Offset areas can accommodate offset requirements for more than one species habitat within the one area, if a qualified ecologist verifies that suitable habitat is present and includes specific habitat requirements for the relevant species.</p>	Compliant	<p>Implementation of the conservation management strategies and monitoring as described in the Putty Road OMP and the broader Local OMP is supported by their Annual Reports. The Local OMP describes the management of the area surrounding the Putty Road Offset, this area is referred to as the Southern Biodiversity Area.</p> <p>The <i>Local Offset Management Plan Annual Report 2024 (Attachment B)</i> provides a summary of the management and monitoring activities completed in 2024.</p>
3	<p>Prior to Commencement of Construction of Phase 2 of the action, the person taking the action must submit to the Minister details of at least 2,532 hectares of suitable habitat for the Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot (Phase 2 Offset) to offset impacts on foraging habitat for these two species.</p> <p>The details of offset sites must include offset attributes and shapefiles and ecological assessment reports. If the offset sites are</p>	Compliant	<p>Submission of the Phase 2 offsets details was on the 12 January 2016.</p> <p>Approval of Phase 2 offsets was 17 February 2016.</p>

EPBC2009/5081 Condition Condition Number	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments (Southern BA, Northern BA, Putty BA, Condon View BA, Seven Oaks BA, Bowditch BA, North Rothbury BA)
		<p>different to those offset sites previously approved under the approval granted on 9 August 2012, the new offset sites must be submitted to the Minister for approval.</p>
4	Pending	<p>To offset the impacts on the foraging habitat of the Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot, the person taking the action must register a legally binding conservation mechanism on all Phase 2 offsets by 31 July 2020.</p> <p>Evidence of registration must be provided to the Department within 30 days of registration of the legally binding conservation mechanism.</p> <p>A request was sent to DoEE on 7 December 2017 to extend the due date for a legally binding conservation covenant over the biodiversity areas beyond 17 February 2018. The request was sought on the basis of aligning the timeframe with the NSW Project Approval SSD 6464. DoEE advised by email on 28 February 2018, that given the request was submitted well in advance of 17 February 2018, that no non-compliance would be recorded. After additional consultation and correspondence with DoEE and the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), further information was sent to DoEE on 11 September 2018 which noted that WML has been working with the OEH to secure the offsets as Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement (BSA's) pursuant to the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016. As this Act commenced in August 2017, many of the systems, processes and transitional arrangements are being developed by OEH and the newly created Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT). WML had consulted with OEH and developed a timeline to step through the process to register the BSA's, and an extension request was sent to DoEE based on the proposed timeline.</p> <p>Approval from DoEE was received on 14/10/2018, with reference to the 7 December 2017 extension request, for the variation to condition 4 to extend the timeframe by which legally binding covenants must be registered over the offset sites to 31 July 2020.</p> <p>Due to ongoing difficulties in reaching agreement with the NSW Biodiversity and Conservation Division (BCD) on whether the proposed offsets properties meet the species and ecosystem credit retirement requirements of the MTW State Approvals a further extension has been sought. MTW sent a letter (dated 24 July 2020) to Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) requesting an extension of the timeframe to secure the offset areas until 31 July 2021. DAWE responded on 3 August 2020 acknowledging that MTW had contacted DAWE to remedy the potential breach of conditions of approval and that due to the high volume of approval requests it would take some time to respond to this request. DAWE responded to MTW on 7 October 2020 that the proposed timeframe for completion of the legally binding conservation mechanism process was too short and recommended that MTW review the schedule for completion. This request is still being progressed as MTW has not been able to reach agreement with NSW</p>

EPBC2009/5081 Condition Condition Number	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments (Southern BA, Northern BA, Putty BA, Condon View BA, Seven Oaks BA, Bowditch BA, North Rothbury BA)
5	Compliant	<p>Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) and BCD on the mechanism/timing for retiring credits and securing the offsets</p> <p>MTW submitted an administrative modification to NSW development consent SSD-6464 on 29 April 2021 to clarify biodiversity offset requirements for the Warkworth Continuation Project and to facilitate in-perpetuity conservation of biodiversity offset land. The Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) requested additional information on 9 August 2021 and further information on 11 October 2021, MTW provided responses to these requests on 2 September 2021 and 20 December 2021, respectively.</p> <p>Subsequently, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) in consultation with Biodiversity, Conservation and Science (BCS) advised MTW that a BSA is the only mechanism acceptable to the NSW Government for in-perpetuity security of biodiversity offset land. The establishment of a BSA requires biodiversity offset credits to be retired. Biodiversity offset credits for the MTW offset land were determined under prior mechanisms and need to be converted to current Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) credits. MTW is working with Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation (CPHR) Division (formerly BCS) and DPHI to progress BSAs for the offset land areas. The administrative modification to NSW development consent SSD-6464 will be withdrawn upon completion of the BSAs.</p>
5	Compliant	<p>The OMP is to be revised to include the approved Phase 2 offsets on or before 17 February 2017.</p> <p>Plans were submitted for approval on 15 February 2017 for the Southern, Northern, North Rothbury, Seven Oaks, Condon View and Putty BAs.</p> <p>The Southern and Northern BA Plans were reviewed and submitted November 2020. The revisions were approved by DPE on 20 July 2021.</p> <p>The Southern, Northern, North Rothbury, Seven Oaks, Condon View and Putty BA Management Plans were reviewed and submitted in July 2022. The revisions were approved by DPE on 12 August 2022.</p>
Re-establishment of Woodland in Biodiversity Management and Offset Areas		
6	Compliant	<p>Draft Putty Road Offset REP submitted to DoE 2 February 2015.</p> <p>Comments were received on the 18 July 2016.</p>

EPBC2009/5081 Condition Condition Number	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments (Southern BA, Northern BA, Putty BA, Condon View BA, Seven Oaks BA, Bowditch BA, North Rothbury BA)
<p>approval a Re-establishment Plan (REP) for the Phase 1 Offset area. The REP must include, but not be limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. details of the areas to be re-established (re-establishment areas) including location and maps; b. documentation including mapping of current environmental values relevant to MNES of the re-establishment areas; c. where revegetation through planting seedlings and/or seeds is intended, details of appropriate species and ratios of species relevant to historically occurring listed migratory and listed threatened species' habitat; d. the source and provenance of the seeds and/or seedlings which will be used; e. measures to address threats to MNES including but not limited to grazing pressure and damage by livestock and adverse impacts from feral animals and weeds; f. measures to provide fire management regimes appropriate for the MNES; g. measures to manage the MNES in accordance with the recommendations of the approved recovery plan for the migratory and threatened species; h. monitoring measures including ecological surveys to measure the establishment and ongoing success of the revegetation based on a comparison with high quality habitat for the MNES; i. performance measures and reporting requirements against identified objectives, including trigger levels for contingency measures to be taken to ensure performance measures and objectives are met; and j. identify persons responsible and arrangements for implementing the REP and for reporting on performance. <p>The approved REP must be implemented.</p>		<p>WML sought approval to address these comments in the Southern BA Management Plan, which was submitted on 15 February 2017. This plan includes a compliance table to show that all elements of this condition are met.</p> <p>The <i>Local Offset Management Plan Annual Report 2024 (Attachment B)</i> provides a summary of the management and monitoring activities completed in 2024.</p>

EPBC2009/5081 Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments (Southern BA, Northern BA, Putty BA, Condon View BA, Seven Oaks BA, Bowditch BA, North Rothbury BA)
7	The approved REP, as described in condition 6, must be revised by the person taking the action to include at least those activities as described in conditions 6a-j for the Phase 2 Offset. The revised REP must be submitted for approval by the Minister within 12 months of the Commencement of Construction of Phase 2 of the action. The approved revised REP must be implemented.	Compliant	<p>The REP is to be revised to include the approved Phase 2 offsets on or before 16 February 2017.</p> <p>The Management Plans submitted for the Southern, Northern, North Rothbury, Seven Oaks, Condon View and Putty BAs on 15 February 2017 for approval. These plans contained the requirements of the REP and include a compliance table to show that all elements of this condition are met.</p>
8	As a precautionary approach, the person taking the action must within 6 months of the date of this approval, or such other timeframe as specified in writing by the Minister, provide to the Minister any NSW Government approved water management plans which apply to the approved action.	Compliant	<p>Water Management Plan (WMP) approved by NSW regulator 10 September 2014. A copy of the WMP was sent to DoEE on 15 September 2014. No request has been received by DoEE to provide further copies of the WMP.</p> <p>The Water Management Plan was revised and submitted to NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) on 2/12/2015 following the WML and MTO Continuation Approvals. It was subsequently approved on 29/1/2016. A minor revision to update monitoring programmes was completed on 21/3/2016. A major revision was submitted to DPE on 16/5/2017, following the incorporation of stream and riparian health monitoring in Wollombi Brook and Loders Creek. The plan was approved 26 June 2017. The WMP was revised and submitted to DPE on 30 November 2017 to reflect the change to Yancoal ownership. The plan was approved 12 February 2018. The WMP was revised and submitted to DPE on 27 July 2018 following the Annual Review submission. Changes were made on 18 September 2018 in response to DP&E feedback and the revised plan was approved 20 September 2018.</p> <p>The WMP was reviewed and submitted to DPE on 30 April 2020 to include revised water management classifications following regulatory feedback and updates to HRSTS content. The revised plan was approved 13 May 2020.</p> <p>The WMP was reviewed and submitted to DPE on 28 July 2020 to include updated monitoring programmes revised triggers. An additional update was submitted on the 31 October 2021 and included the monitoring programmes revised triggers and surface water and groundwater monitoring location plans, and the incorporation of DPE feedback on rehabilitation runoff and water management infrastructure figures. Updates were also made to HRSTS licence discharge limits to align with current Environmental Protection Licences and change website references. The revised plan was approved 15 November 2021.</p>

EPBC2009/5081 Condition Number	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments (Southern BA, Northern BA, Putty BA, Condon View BA, Seven Oaks BA, Bowditch BA, North Rothbury BA)
		<p>The WMP was reviewed and submitted to DPE on 29 August 2023 to include updated monitoring programmes (revised triggers and groundwater monitoring location plan to remove locations that have been mined through). Updates to reflect Warkworth Continuation Project (SSD-6464 MOD2). Change from Mining Operations Plan references to Rehabilitation Management Plan references after commencement of the rehabilitation reforms. Update to figures and other minor revisions.</p> <p>The currently approved version of the WMP can be found at https://www.yancoal.com.au/our-sites/mount-thorley-documents/#mgt-docs</p>
<p>9</p> <p>The person taking the action must within 6 months of the date of this approval, or such other timeframe as specified by the Minister, provide to the Minister a report on:</p> <p>a. any updated modelling of surface and groundwater impacts that have been undertaken in preparing the water management plans</p> <p>b. how the water management plans have addressed groundwater and surface water impacts on nationally listed threatened species and ecological communities</p>	Compliant	<p>These conditions are addressed in the WMP (refer Condition 8).</p>
<p>10</p> <p>If, after receiving the water management plans described in condition 8 and the report in condition 9, the Minister is not satisfied the water management plans adequately address impacts on listed threatened species and ecological communities, the Minister may require in writing that the person taking the action provide additional information within a specified timeframe.</p>	Not triggered	
<p>11</p> <p>The person taking the action must, within 12 months of the Commencement of Construction of Phase 1, and within 12 months of the Commencement of Construction of Phase 2, submit to the Minister for approval a Mine Site Rehabilitation Plan (MSRP) for the progressive rehabilitation and revegetation of no less than 32ha woodland of mined areas for Phase 1 and 2,303ha of woodland habitat on mined areas for Phase 2.</p> <p>The MSRP must include, at a minimum, the following information:</p> <p>a. the desired outcomes/objectives of implementing the MSRP</p>	Compliant	<p>The Mine Site Rehabilitation Plan (MSRP) was contained within the Mining Operations Plans; a copy of which was submitted to DoEE 2 February 2015.</p> <p>Feedback was received from DoEE on the 18 July 2016.</p> <p>Approval was received to address these comments in the next revision of the Mining operations Plan. The revised Mining Operations Plan was submitted to DoEE for approval on 23 May 2019. Approval from DoEE was received on 11 March 2020.</p> <p>The revised Mining Operations Plan was submitted to DoEE on 18 November 2021. Approval from DoEE was received on 30 November 2021.</p>

EPBC2009/5081 Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments (Southern BA, Northern BA, Putty BA, Condon View BA, Seven Oaks BA, Bowditch BA, North Rothbury BA)
	<p>b. details of the vegetation communities to be rehabilitated and the timing of progressive rehabilitation</p> <p>c. a process to progressively report to the department the rehabilitation management actions undertaken and the outcome of those actions, and the mechanisms to be used to identify the need for improved management</p> <p>d. a description of the potential risks to successful management and rehabilitation on the project site, and a description of the contingency measures that would be implemented to mitigate these risks</p> <p>e. details of parties responsible for reviewing and implementing the plan</p> <p>f. details of long term management and protection of the mine site</p> <p>The approved MSRP must be implemented.</p>		<p>Rehabilitation Management Plans (RMPs), Annual Rehabilitation Reports (ARRs) and Forward Programs (FPs) are required to be prepared under the new standard rehabilitation conditions on mining leases. The RMP was first prepared on 28 July 2022. The RMP and FP documents takes the place of the Mining Operations Plan.</p> <p>In December 2023, MTW received approval from Resources Regulator on the associated Rehabilitation Objectives Statement and Final Landform and Rehabilitation Plan. The approved objectives and final landform have been incorporated into an updated RMP. The 2023 Annual Rehabilitation Report and 2024 Forward Program were prepared in March 2024. The RMP, FP and ARR were submitted to Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) for approval on 16 May 2024.</p>
12	<p>The person taking the action must submit to the Minister for approval a Mine Closure Plan (MCP) at least 6 months prior to the closure of the mine. The approved MCP must be implemented.</p> <p>Note: The person taking the action may develop a single mine rehabilitation plan to align with the requirements of this approval and those of the NSW Government.</p>	Not triggered	
13	<p>All survey data collected for the project must be collected and recorded so as to conform to data standards notified from time to time by the department. When requested by the department, the person taking the action must provide to the department all species and ecological survey data and related survey information from ecological surveys undertaken for MNES. This survey data must be provided within 30 business days of request, or in a timeframe agreed to by the department in writing. The department may use the survey data for other purposes.</p>	Compliant	<p>All survey data is retained by WML, the offset data is stored within the Biodiversity Offset Portal. Access to the portal was provided to DoEE in 2015.</p> <p>No requests for survey data have been received.</p>
14	<p>Within 14 days after the Commencement of Construction of Phases 1 and 2, the person taking the action must advise the department in writing of the actual date of Commencement of Construction.</p>	Compliant	<p>Phase 1 construction commenced on 3 February 2014 and WML notified DoEE in writing on 13 February 2014.</p>

EPBC2009/5081 Condition Condition Number	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments (Southern BA, Northern BA, Putty BA, Condon View BA, Seven Oaks BA, Bowditch BA, North Rothbury BA)
15	Compliant	<p>Phase 2 construction commenced on 16 February 2016 and WML notified DoEE in writing on 16 February 2016.</p> <p>Compliance report due before 3 May each year (based on date of commencement of construction 3 February 2014).</p> <p>2024 Compliance Report published on Yancoal MTW website 2 May 2025.</p>
16	Not triggered	
17	Compliant	Compliance Register submitted with this report (Attachment C)

EPBC2009/5081 Condition Condition Number	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments (Southern BA, Northern BA, Putty BA, Condon View BA, Seven Oaks BA, Bowditch BA, North Rothbury BA)	
18	The register must be submitted to the department at the time as the Compliance Report, as described at condition 15. If the person taking the action wishes to carry out any activity otherwise than in accordance with the plans, as specified in the conditions, the person taking the action must submit to the department for the Minister's written approval a revised version of that plan. The varied activity shall not commence until the Minister has approved the revised plan in writing. If the Minister approves the revised plan that plan must be implemented in place of the plan originally approved.	Not triggered	
19	If the Minister believes that it is necessary or convenient for the better protection of listed threatened species and communities or listed migratory species to do so, the Minister may require that the person taking the action make specified revisions to a management plan specified in the conditions and submit the revised plan for the Minister's written approval. The revised approved plan must be implemented. Unless the Minister has approved the revised plan the person taking the action must continue to implement the originally approved plan, as specified in the conditions.	Not triggered	
20	If, at any time after 5 years from the date of this approval, the person taking the action has not substantially commenced the action, then the person taking the action must not substantially commence the action without the written agreement of the Minister.	Not triggered	The action has commenced as per the Commencement of Construction (3 February 2014)
21	The person taking the action must maintain accurate records substantiating all activities and outcomes associated with or relevant to the above conditions of approval, including measures taken to implement the management plans required by this approval, and make them available upon request to the department. Such records may be subject to audit by the department or an independent auditor appointed and/or approved by the department, and used to verify compliance with the conditions of	Compliant	Records of activities and outcomes are maintained by WML.

EPBC2009/5081 Condition Condition Number	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments (Southern BA, Northern BA, Putty BA, Condon View BA, Seven Oaks BA, Bowditch BA, North Rothbury BA)
		approval. Summaries of audits will be posted on the department's website. The results of audits may also be publicised through the general media.
22	Compliant	All approved plans have been published on the Yancoal MTW website.
		Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister, the person taking the action must publish all plans referred to in these conditions of approval on their website. Each plan must be published on the website within 1 month of being approved. The person taking the action must notify the department within 5 business days of publishing the plan on their website and the plan must remain on the website for the period this approval has effect.

3. New environmental risks and potential threats to Matters of National and State Environmental Significance

No new environmental risks have been identified during the reporting period.

ATTACHMENT A:

Regional Offset Management Plan

Annual Report 2024



Regional Biodiversity Areas

Annual Report 2024

Annual report for the period from January to December 2024, for activities described in the Management Plans for all regional Warkworth Mining Limited offsets including:

- Goulburn River Biodiversity Area
- Seven Oaks Biodiversity Area
- Bowditch Biodiversity Area
- Putty Biodiversity Area
- Condon View Biodiversity Area
- North Rothbury Biodiversity Area

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Revision

Version No.	Version Details	Document Status	Date
1.0	Environment and Community Advisor	Final	31/03/2025

1 INTRODUCTION

This annual report is a requirement of the Management Plans for all regional Warkworth Mining Limited offsets for the 2024 reporting period from 1 January through to 31 December 2024.

The annual report provides a summary of the key management activities completed across the biodiversity offsets located within the Goulburn River, Seven Oaks, Bowditch, Putty, Condon View and North Rothbury Biodiversity Areas (BAs).

The management plans describe the conservation management strategies and monitoring to achieve, and measure improvement and protection of the offset's biodiversity values. It is a compliance requirement of the Commonwealth and NSW environmental approvals to implement the management plans.

The Regional Offset Management Plan (ROMP) was prepared to satisfy the consent requirements for the New South Wales (NSW) Hunter Valley Operations (HVO) South Project Approval (PA 06_0261) and the Warkworth Mine Commonwealth EPBC 2002/629 Approval. In November 2015, the NSW Warkworth Continuation Project Approval (SSD-6464) was granted providing both NSW and Commonwealth approval for the same disturbance area. Phase 2 of the EPBC2009/5081 action also commenced on 16 February 2016. In response to the granting of these approvals, Management Plans for the Bowditch and Goulburn River BA's have been prepared to satisfy the Commonwealth approval EPBC2009/5081 and the NSW consent (SSD-6464), replacing the ROMP. On 10 October 2016 HVO was granted approval (EPBC2016/7604), The Condon View BA provides 168ha of suitable direct offset to be compliant with this approval. Management Plans have also been prepared and submitted for the regional BAs: Seven Oaks, Putty, Condon View and North Rothbury.

The Biodiversity Offset Portal contains all the supporting documentation for this report, including photo point monitoring. Access to the portal is restricted, relevant regulators have been provided with login details; please contact Mount Thorley Warkworth should you require assistance.

2 LOCATION AND LANDHOLDER DETAILS

The locations of the regional BAs are shown in **Figure 1**, further details are provided in **Table 1**. The land is owned by Warkworth Mining Limited (WML). The Goulburn River BA is owned by Warkworth Mining Limited and has a portion of the total area designated as an offset for Hunter Valley Operations (HVO). Details of the Warkworth and HVO Offset areas are in **Table 2 and Figure 1 and 2**.

Table 1 Regional Biodiversity Areas

Biodiversity Area	Local Government Area	Land Owner	Area (ha)	Offset Area (ha)	Location
Goulburn River	Upper Hunter / Mid-Western	Warkworth Mining Limited	1,539	1,206	'The Rivers' 30km west of Merriwa, via Dulhunty Road, Comialla Road and Golden Hwy.
Bowditch	Muswellbrook	Warkworth Mining Limited	607	602	3km north of Sandy Hollow, 3450 Wybong Road, via Golden Hwy.
Seven Oaks	Mid-Western	Warkworth Mining Limited	521	519	35km west of Merriwa via Ulan Road, Summer Hill Road, Durridgerie Road and Smedes Road.
Condon View	Singleton	Warkworth Mining Limited	445	345	5km west of Putty via Box Tree Clearing Trail off Putty Valley Road.
Putty	Singleton	Warkworth Mining Limited	386	383	5km south of Putty via Box Gap Road.
North Rothbury	Cessnock	Warkworth Mining Limited	41	41	1km south of North Rothbury via Wine Country Drive.

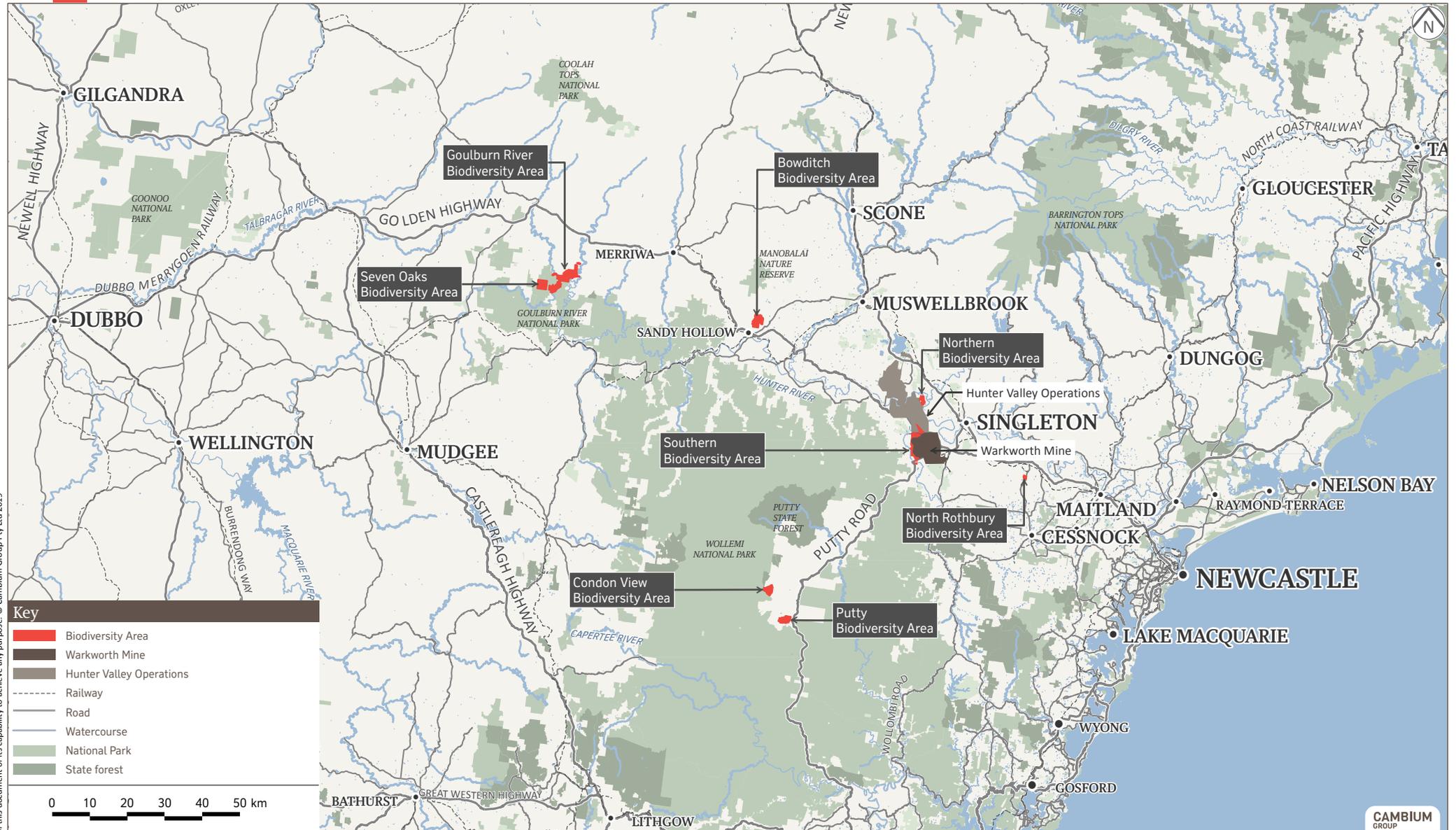
Table 2 Goulburn River Biodiversity Area

Biodiversity Area	Land Owner	Area (ha)	Warkworth Offset Area (ha)	HVO Offset Area (ha)
Goulburn River	Warkworth Mining Limited	1,539	1,066	140

Location of the Warkworth Mining Limited Biodiversity Areas

Annual Compliance Report

Figure 1

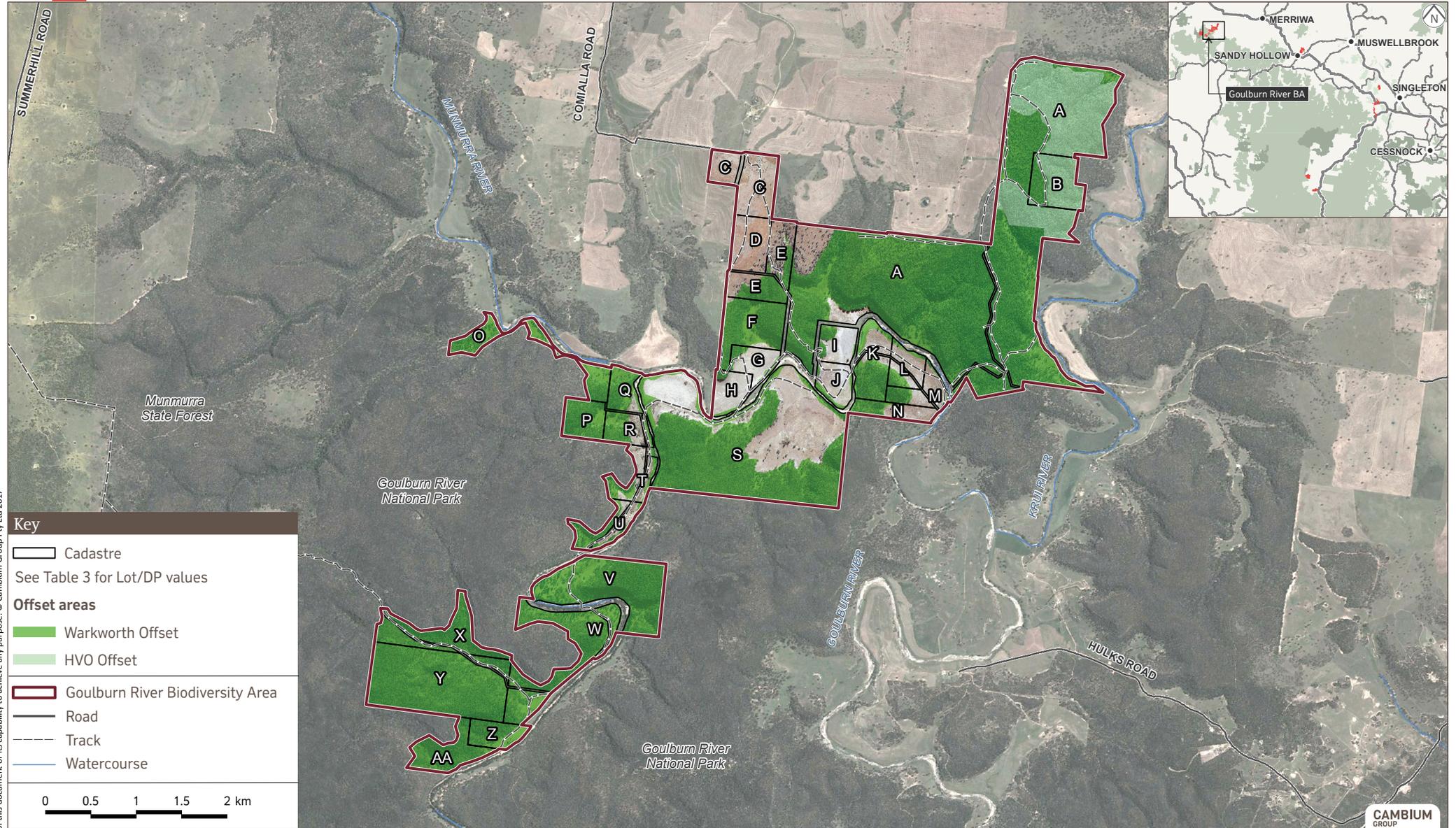


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Cadastral boundaries and offset areas at the Goulburn River Biodiversity Area

Management Plan 2022

Figure 2



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3 SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES – 2024

Table 3 provides a summary of the activities undertaken during the reporting period (Year 8) and the progress in attaining the Performance Criteria for the key Conservation Management Strategies in the management plans.

3.1 Summary of climatic conditions

Figure 4 shows the monthly actual rainfall in 2024 compared to the long-term average for the regional Biodiversity Areas for the reporting period. The Putty region received 638mm which was 98mm below the long-term average. North Rothbury received 704mm, 32mm below the long-term average. Sandy Hollow received 669mm which was 74mm above the long-term average and the Merriwa region received 738mm, 140mm above the long-term average.

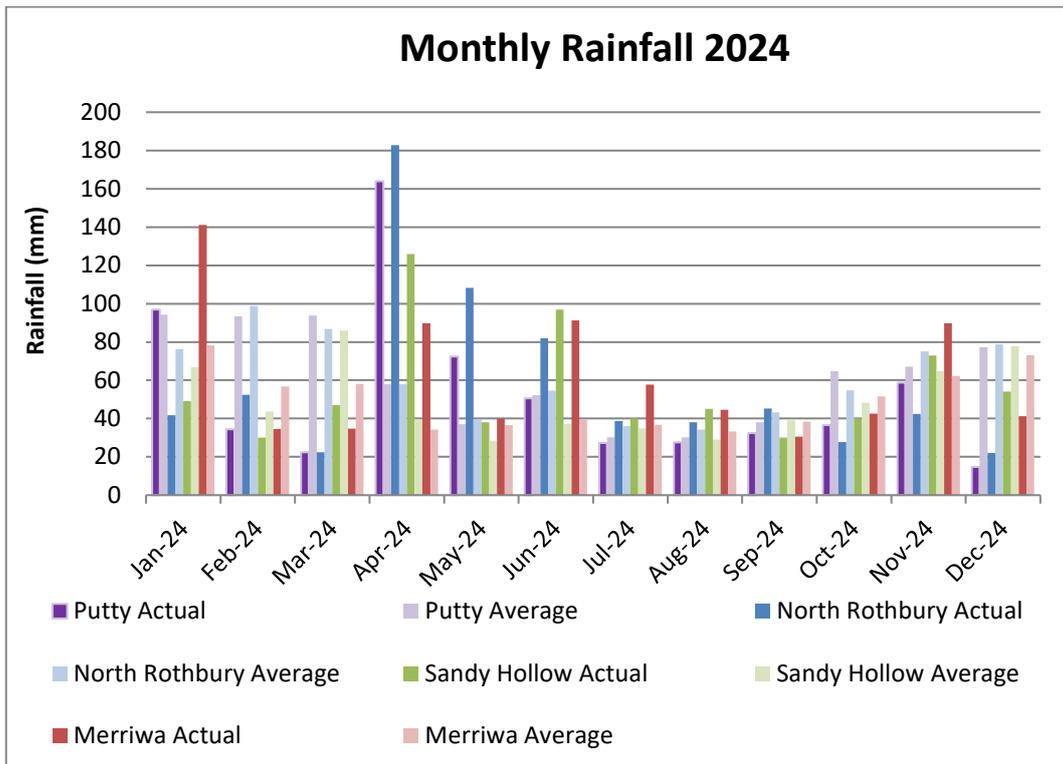


FIGURE 4 MONTHLY RAINFALL - 2024

Table 3 Summary of progress against Performance Criteria

Conservation Actions	Year 1 to Year 4	Year 5 to Year 10 (2024 is Year 8)	Completion Criteria	Actions 2025
ACTIVE RESTORATION				
Goulburn River BA Yellow Box – Grey Box – Red Gum grassy woodland (21.5ha) and River Oak riparian woodland (24.2ha)				
<i>Performance Criteria</i>	<i>Collection of seed. Plant propagation. Tubestock planted. Completed survival assessment.</i>		<i>Planting achieves above 70% survival.</i>	
Activity / Progress	<p>Seed collection was undertaken at the Goulburn River BA in 2021.</p> <p>In 2019 17,000 tube stock was planted into 21.5ha of Yellow Box-Red Gum grassy woodland and 24.2ha of River Oak riparian woodland.</p> <p>The site preparation for these sites included ripping by dozer and weed control. To mimic nature the tree species were planted at a spacing of 5 -30m. All plants were watered, fertilised and protected with a tree guard.</p> <p>In 2020 maintenance of planting areas was undertaken and included infill planting of 12,000 tubestock.</p> <p>Survival assessments undertaken.</p>	<p>In 2021 maintenance of planting areas was undertaken and included infill planting of 12,000 tubestock into areas that could be accessed.</p> <p>In 2022 planting of 10,000 tube stock was delayed due access issues crossing the Goulburn River.</p> <p>In 2023 maintenance of planting areas was undertaken and included infill planting of 10,000 tubestock into areas that could be accessed.</p> <p>In 2024 maintenance of planting areas was undertaken.</p>	<p>Propagate plants.</p> <p>Undertake infill planting of Yellow Box – Grey Box – Red Gum grassy woodland and River Oak riparian woodland tubestock species.</p> <p>Undertake survival assessments.</p>	
All Regional BA's				
<i>Performance Criteria</i>	<i>Review monitoring data to identify areas that require re-planting. If re-planting is identified, develop a re-establishment plan and implement within 12 months</i>			
Activity / Progress	<p>Ecological monitoring results have identified infill planting requirements in the River Oak riparian areas of the Goulburn River BA and Cassinia/Acacia regenerating Shrubland/Woodland of the Seven Oaks BA.</p> <p>Infill planting in these areas is scheduled for 2025.</p>			

Conservation Actions	Year 1 to Year 4	Year 5 to Year 10 (2024 is Year 8)	Completion Criteria	Actions 2025
PASSIVE RESTORATION				
Weed control and monitoring				
<i>Performance Criteria</i>	<p>At least two weed control events each year for species listed in Table 14 of Management Plans and other weeds recorded from monitoring activities.</p> <p>Complete Ecological Monitoring, Rapid Condition Assessments and Property Inspections.</p>	<p>At least one weed control event each year for species listed in Table 14 of Management Plans and other weeds recorded from monitoring activities.</p> <p>Complete Ecological Monitoring, Rapid Condition Assessments and Property Inspections.</p>	<p>Ecological monitoring data indicates a trajectory for reduction in exotic plant cover over three consecutive assessments.</p>	
Activity / Progress		<p>Weed contractor engaged to undertake weed control activities across all Regional BAs throughout the year to control noxious species and stop weeds spreading into previously un-infested areas.</p> <p>In 2024 weed control targeted the following species: African boxthorn (<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>), African lovegrass (<i>Eragrostis curvulva</i>), African olive (<i>Olea europaea</i>), Blackberry (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>), Blue heliotrope (<i>Heliotropium amplexicaule</i>), Bridal creeper (<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>), Cadaghi (<i>Corymbia torelliana</i>), Castor oil (<i>Ricinus communis</i>), Cats claw creeper (<i>Dolichandra unguis-cati</i>), Common ragwort (<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>), Cootamundra Wattle (<i>Acacia baileyana</i>), Creeping pear (<i>Opuntia humifusa</i>), Fireweed (<i>Scenecio madagascariensis</i>), Green cestrum (<i>Cestrum parqui</i>), Grevillea (<i>Grevillea robusta</i>), Jacaranda (<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i>), Lantana (<i>Lantana camara</i>), Narrow-leaf cotton bush (<i>Gomphocarpus fruticosus</i>), Paterson's curse (<i>Echium plantagineum</i>), Prickly pear (<i>Opuntia stricta</i>), Queensland Wattle (<i>Acacia podalyriifolia</i>), Robinia (<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>), St John's wort (<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>), Sticky nightshade (<i>Solanum sisymbriifolium</i>), Trad (<i>Tradescantia fluminensis</i>), Tree of heaven (<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>), Whiskey grass (<i>Andropogon virginicus</i>), Willows (<i>Salix sp.</i>), Yucca (<i>Yucca aloifolia</i>).</p> <p>Rapid Condition Assessments, Property Inspections and Ecological Monitoring were completed in 2024.</p>		<p>Control noxious species and stop weeds spreading into previously un-infested areas.</p> <p>Undertake Rapid Condition Assessments.</p> <p>Undertake Property Inspections.</p>

Conservation Actions	Year 1 to Year 4	Year 5 to Year 10 (2024 is Year 8)	Completion Criteria	Actions 2025
Pest control and monitoring				
<i>Performance Criteria</i>	<p><i>At least two control events each year for species listed in Management Plans, and any other species recorded from monitoring activities.</i></p> <p><i>All actions recorded in the Annual Report.</i></p> <p><i>Active participation in programme coordinated by Hunter Local Land Service (HLLS), this may include local control actions.</i></p> <p><i>Complete Rapid Condition Assessments and Property Inspections.</i></p>	<p><i>At least one control event each year for species listed in Management Plans, and any other species recorded from monitoring activities.</i></p> <p><i>All actions recorded in the Annual Report.</i></p> <p><i>Active participation in programme coordinated by HLLS, this may include local control actions.</i></p> <p><i>Complete Rapid Condition Assessments and Property Inspections.</i></p>	<p><i>No observed vertebrate pest or damage.</i></p> <p><i>Ecological monitoring demonstrates a trajectory to benchmark values for all attributes measured over three consecutive assessments (the average of all plots).</i></p>	
Activity / Progress		<p>In 2024 vertebrate pest contractors were engaged to undertake programmes across all Regional BAs.</p> <p>Two 1080 ground baiting programmes targeting wild dogs and foxes were undertaken in autumn and spring in conjunction with neighbouring landholders and HLLS.</p> <p>A ground shooting program was undertaken at the Goulburn River BA in March controlling two cats, one fox, two rabbits and one hare.</p> <p>A ground shooting program was undertaken at the Seven Oaks BA in March controlling 20 rabbits, one feral pig, one fox and two feral cats.</p> <p>Noisy Miner ground shoots were undertaken at the Goulburn River and the Bowditch BA in July and August under a Licence to Harm Protected Animals (Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016). The programmes aim to assist the survivability of the Regent Honeyeater. The Goulburn River BA programme which is in its eighth consecutive year resulted in the control of 303 Noisy Miners over seven days. The Bowditch BA programme resulted in the control of 55 Noisy Miners over four days. This is the third Noisy Miner programme undertaken on this offset and will continue in 2025.</p> <p>Aerial shoots conducted by NPWS at the Goulburn River and Seven Oaks BA's in April and September controlled 15 feral pigs.</p> <p>Rapid Condition Assessments, Property Inspections and Ecological Monitoring were completed in 2024.</p>		<p>Participate in HLLS and NPWS Aerial Baiting/shooting programmes.</p> <p>Undertake shooting and baiting programmes.</p> <p>Undertake a control programme for Noisy Miners in the Regent Honeyeater breeding area at GRBA.</p> <p>Undertake Rapid Condition Assessments.</p> <p>Undertake Property Inspections.</p>

Conservation Actions	Year 1 to Year 4	Year 5 to Year 10 (2024 is Year 8)	Completion Criteria	Actions 2025
Grazing				
<i>Performance Criteria</i>	<p><i>Grazing is conducted in accordance with the Management Plan.</i></p> <p><i>Boundary fences maintained.</i></p> <p><i>Complete Rapid Condition Assessment and Property Inspections.</i></p>			
Activity / Progress	<p>No strategic grazing implemented on BAs in 2024.</p> <p>Rapid Condition Assessment and Property Inspections were completed in 2024.</p> <p>Boundary fences repaired at North Rothbury and Goulburn River BAs in 2024.</p>			<p>Undertake Rapid Condition Assessments.</p> <p>Undertake Property Inspections.</p> <p>Maintenance of boundary fences.</p>
Regional BA Bushfire Management Plan (BFMP) and monitoring				
<i>Performance Criteria</i>	<p><i>Actions implemented.</i></p> <p><i>Review and revise if required.</i></p> <p><i>Complete Rapid Condition Assessments and Property Inspections</i></p>	<p><i>Actions implemented.</i></p> <p><i>Review and revise if required.</i></p> <p><i>Complete Rapid Condition Assessments and Property Inspections.</i></p> <p><i>Completed ecological fire management plan.</i></p>	<p><i>All required actions of BFMP have been implemented.</i></p> <p><i>BFMP has been reviewed annually and revised if required.</i></p>	
Activity / Progress	<p>BFMP reviewed.</p> <p>Fuel load assessments were undertaken on Putty, Condon View, North Rothbury, Seven Oaks, Goulburn River and Bowditch BAs in 2024.</p> <p>A hazard reduction burn for the Seven Oaks BA was undertaken in May 2023, which treated approximately 90 Ha and reducing the fuel load to low.</p> <p>A Hazard Reduction Burn for North Rothbury BA was approved however conditions were outside the prescribed limits, so the burn was rescheduled for 2025.</p> <p>Slashing of fire breaks was undertaken at North Rothbury and Goulburn River BAs.</p> <p>Rapid Condition Assessments, Property Inspections and Ecological monitoring were completed in 2024.</p>			<p>Review BFMP.</p> <p>Implement a bushfire fuel hazard reduction programme.</p> <p>Undertake annual fuel load assessments on all Regional BAs.</p> <p>Undertake the Hazard Reduction Burn at North Rothbury BA.</p> <p>Undertake Rapid Condition Assessments.</p> <p>Undertake Property Inspections.</p>

Conservation Actions	Year 1 to Year 4	Year 5 to Year 10 (2024 is Year 8)	Completion Criteria	Actions 2025
Erosion monitoring inspections and reports				
<i>Performance Criteria</i>	<i>Complete Rapid Condition Assessment and Property Inspections</i>			
Activity / Progress	Erosion areas inspected/monitored at North Rothbury, Bowditch, Goulburn River and Condon View BA's. Rapid Condition Assessment and Property Inspections were completed in 2024.			Undertake Rapid Condition Assessment. Undertake Property Inspections. Inspect/monitor erosion areas identified at North Rothbury, Goulburn River and Condon View BA's. Repair erosion area at Bowditch BA.
Dam conversion and rehabilitation and monitoring				
<i>Performance Criteria</i>	<i>Prepare dam conversion plan.</i> <i>Dam conversion complete and rehabilitation has stabilised the site.</i> Property inspections.	<i>Observed natural flow regime and no erosion.</i> <i>Property inspections.</i>	<i>All works completed.</i>	
Activity / Progress		Property inspections undertaken in 2024. A dam conversion plan was prepared in 2021.		Implement the dam conversion plan. Undertake Property Inspections.
Natural Regeneration and monitoring				
<i>Performance Criteria</i>	<i>Annual weed control, vertebrate pest and fire management actions implemented as per management plans.</i> <i>Complete Rapid Condition Assessment and Property Inspections.</i>		<i>Ecological monitoring demonstrates a trajectory to benchmark values for all attributes measured over three consecutive assessments (the average of all plots).</i>	
Activity / Progress	Rapid Condition Assessment, Ecological Monitoring and Property Inspections undertaken in 2024. Actions implemented as per management plans – see above.			Implement actions as per Management plans. Undertake Rapid Condition Assessment. Undertake Property Inspections.

Conservation Actions	Year 1 to Year 4	Year 5 to Year 10 (2024 is Year 8)	Completion Criteria	Actions 2025
Controlled Activities				
<i>Performance Criteria</i>	<p><i>No reported incidents of prohibited actions undertaken by Yancoal, contractors, consultants or other agents of Yancoal.</i></p> <p><i>Any clearing of vegetation reported in Annual Report.</i></p> <p><i>Signage and locks (where required) maintained.</i></p> <p><i>Complete risk assessment for any recreation activities.</i></p> <p><i>All occupants of residents compliant with requirements of the MP.</i></p> <p><i>No Cultural Heritage sites knowingly disturbed and any protective barricading maintained.</i></p> <p><i>Damaged and unwanted fences removed.</i></p> <p><i>All Property Inspections completed.</i></p>			
Activity / Progress	<p>No reported incidents of prohibited actions undertaken in 2024.</p> <p>There was one reported incident at North Rothbury BA in 2024, which involved unauthorised access by a neighbouring resident. The resident realigned a section of the boundary fence and also used a small excavator to push up ground cover in the area. The neighbour was provided with a letter advising that no future unauthorised access was permitted and if any actions were deemed required, that these needed to be communicated to Yancoal MTW for follow up as required. The boundary fence was repaired and reinstated along its correct alignment.</p> <p>Cultural Heritage sites are barricaded.</p> <p>Signage and locks maintained.</p> <p>Regular property inspections were undertaken in 2024.</p>			<p>Undertake Property Inspections.</p> <p>Repair Cultural Heritage barricading where required.</p>

4 MONITORING ACTIVITIES

The following table provides a summary of the monitoring activities undertaken as detailed in the management plans. Monitoring reports and results are available on the Biodiversity Offset Portal.

Table 4 Monitoring Activity Summary

Monitoring	2024	Date/s	Completed by
Bird Assemblage	X	July – November 2024, next due July – October 2026	Future Fauna
Habitat Restoration	X	September – November 2024, next due September – November 2026	Mosaic Ecology and Leaf ERC
Rapid Condition Assessment	X	August/September/November 2024 next due September – November 2025	Franks Fencing (Land Management Advisor)
Property Inspection	X	Mar/April/October/November 2024, next due April/November 2025	Mosaic Ecology

4.1 Bird assemblages monitoring

Bird assemblage monitoring is undertaken every two years as part of the ecological monitoring requirements to assess changes in the condition and extent of the woodland habitats within the BAs and the ongoing usage of these habitats by woodland birds, including the critically endangered regent honeyeater and swift parrot.

Previous bird monitoring methodology (2014 – 2018) included two-hectare, 20-minute area searches with one visit to each monitoring site during winter and early spring. In 2020 the bird monitoring methodology changed to increase site visits so that each site was visited three times between July and October, to cover the period when swift parrots and regent honeyeaters are most likely to be present. The maximum count of all bird species detected visually or audibly during the survey period and within the boundaries of each survey site were recorded. Data from the 2020 monitoring program demonstrated that three visits to each monitoring site is sufficient to record most bird species regularly occupying the monitoring sites. In 2022 eighteen new monitoring sites were added to the monitoring programme to help increase the likelihood of detecting regent honeyeaters or swift parrots occupying the BAs.

A total 120 species of birds were recorded throughout the eight Biodiversity Areas in 2024 representing an increase of seven species compared to 2022 data. A total of 10 threatened bird species were detected during surveys. Relative to 2022, total species richness increased slightly at all Biodiversity Areas except Condon View. Bird abundance measures were more mixed, with slight increases at Putty, Southern BA and Condon View, slight decreases at North Rothbury and Northern BA and little change at the other three Biodiversity Areas. None of the changes in bird species richness or abundance within Biodiversity Areas were statistically significant relative to 2022. Turquoise parrots colonised the Goulburn River Biodiversity Area for the first time since monitoring commenced in 2014.

A Regent honeyeater was located for the first time on Condon View. This was a zoo-bred bird released in the lower Hunter Valley six weeks prior. Between six and ten Regent honeyeaters were detected on the Goulburn River BA, where two pairs nested. Regent honeyeaters were recorded in two new areas of the property. No Swift parrots were detected occupying the Biodiversity Areas in 2024.

The following are the recommendations and discussion summaries for the Regional Biodiversity Areas.

Seven Oaks BA

After three visits, a total of 67 bird species were detected during standardised surveys, representing a recovery to the 2020 diversity levels after a decrease in 2022. Bird species richness dropped slightly in 2024 at Seven Oaks based on one visit to each monitoring site, though species richness measures based on three visits have remained stable since 2020. There was a slight decrease in bird abundance at Seven Oaks in 2024 relative to 2020.

Three threatened species were detected during standardised surveys: Speckled warbler, Varied sittella and Hooded robin. Two Glossy black cockatoos were heard opportunistically outside of the monitoring sites on dusk. Hooded robin numbers remain healthy on Seven Oaks, despite evidence of significant declines in this species in other strongholds (e.g. Capertee Valley) in recent years (R. Crates, Pers. Obs). The South-eastern hooded robin has been uplisted to endangered under the EPBC Act (DCCEEW 2023). Hooded robins tend to prefer more open and less heavily-timbered areas at Seven Oaks, so future habitat restoration planned for Seven Oaks should consider leaving some more open areas where the Hooded robins occur.

As for the other Biodiversity Areas, there was again very little eucalypt and mistletoe blossom on Seven Oaks in 2024, but there was again less evidence of feral pigs on the property than in 2020. Feral cats were heard during the survey period. There was evidence of an increase in the local Noisy miner population. At this stage, Noisy miner management is not considered necessary at Seven Oaks, although the situation should be monitored for continued increases in the Noisy miner population in the near future.

Management recommendations include:

- Small-scale restoration plantings of Regent honeyeater feed trees
- Continue pest management of pest species, including feral pigs and cats
- Consider leaving some open areas to maintain suitable habitat for the local population of Hooded robins.

Goulburn River BA

After three visits, a total of 89 bird species were detected during standardised surveys representing an increase of 18 and 11 species on the 2020 and 2022 data, respectively. Seven threatened species were detected: Regent honeyeater, Speckled warbler, Brown treecreeper, Varied sittella, Dusky woodswallow, Little lorikeet and Turquoise parrot. Surprisingly, 2024 is the first year that Turquoise parrots have occupied with GRBA since monitoring commenced in 2015 (R.Crates, Pers.Obs). A pair of birds occupied the downstream end of Thompson's Flat and may well have bred close to this location. 2024 also saw high numbers of Emu's occupying the Goulburn River BA. Groups included many juveniles, suggesting 2023 was an excellent breeding season for this species in the area.

Nectar resources were more abundant in spring on the Goulburn River. White box generally did not flower in winter however it was a good year for yellow box. Flowering yellow box is the primary reason why regent honeyeaters returned to the GRBA in relatively good numbers in 2024. Needle-leaf mistletoe was flowering lightly in many sections of the river and appears to have continued to recover from mass mortality during the 2019/20 drought. It is also noted that its host species Casuarina

cunninghamiana has suffered mortality along some sections of the Goulburn River. Some areas of yellow box also appear to be in increasingly poor health.

Ongoing Noisy miner management continues to suppress Noisy miner numbers on the Goulburn River, though small numbers of miners remain. No noisy miners were detected occupying known regent honeyeater breeding areas within the property.

Evidence of feral pig activity along the Goulburn River was markedly lower than in previous years, although there has been an observed increase in the number of ground-based weeds on the GRBA. This may be impacting the suitability of the GRBA for ground-welling bird species such as Red-browed finch, Double-barred finch and Diamond firetail.

Management recommendations include:

- Consider increasing weed management efforts on the river flats.
- Continue/increase tree guard collection.
- Replant the riparian zone and broader river flats as suggested in the recent statement of advice provided by Future Fauna and Mosaic Ecology (Crates 2024; Moen 2024).
- Continue management of feral pigs, cats and Noisy miners.
- Consider revising the plan of management to permit Regent honeyeater nest protection efforts. Monitoring has shown that most regent honeyeater nests fail due to a range of native avian and mammalian species. Targeted management of these species with the vicinity of active Regent honeyeater nests has been effective at boosting the success rate of nests in Capertee National Park recently (Crates et al. 2024).

Putty

The only eucalypt blossom at Putty in 2024 occurred in the gums lining the Putty Creek. No stringybark or ironbark flowered at Putty in 2024. After three visits, a total of 62 bird species were detected during standardised surveys, representing an increase of 6 species on 2022 surveys. After one visit, the 33 species detected was lower than all previous years' data. Indeed, bird activity at Putty was unusually low early in the season, although as the data shows, activity increased later in spring.

Four threatened species were detected on Putty in 2020: Little lorikeet, Speckled warbler, Varied sittella and Grey-crowned babbler. Glossy black cockatoos and Barking owls were also both heard opportunistically within the site, outside of standardised surveys.

Noisy miner numbers were again generally low on Putty and again there was minimal visible evidence of feral / pest species presence on the property, except for a large deer stag (probable red deer) encountered on one visit.

Management recommendations include:

- Consider small scale restoration plantings of Regent honeyeater feed trees on cleared flats.
- Continue pest management.

Condon View

After three visits, a total of 58 bird species were detected during standardised surveys; an increase of three species on 2022 data. After one visit, the 34 species detected on surveys represented an increase on 2020 data but a decrease on the 2022 data. As was the case for neighbouring Putty, bird activity in the late winter/early spring period was low at Condon View, though it increased as the spring progressed.

Seven threatened species were present on Condon View in 2022: Little lorikeet, Grey-crowned babbler, Varied sittella, Dusky woodswallow, Gang-gang cockatoo, Speckled warbler and Regent honeyeater. This is the first time Regent honeyeater has been detected on Condon View. Seven species represents two more threatened species detected on the property than in 2018 and 2020, and one more than in 2022. No Hooded robins were detected at Condon View again this year, suggesting the species may well have gone locally extinct at this location.

There was minimal evidence of feral species impact on Condon View, though domestic cows were again observed within the Biodiversity Area. In positive news, the health of some of the gum species on the lower slopes and flats that had deteriorated between 2020 and 2022 is showing signs of improvement.

Management recommendations include:

- Continue pest management
- Ensure cows are excluded.

North Rothbury

Twenty-five species were detected at monitoring sites after a single survey, which represents a decrease of three species on the 2022 data. As in 2020 and 2022, there was no blossom in spotted gum and broad-leaved ironbark in winter/spring. Noisy miner numbers remain high in the eastern section of the property, where there is some evidence of a decline in the health of spotted gum and broad-leaved ironbark. The abundance of small forest birds is markedly higher in the western side of the property, which does not form part of the Noisy miner colony. Two threatened species were detected on North Rothbury: Grey-crowned babbler and Varied sittella. No Speckled warblers were detected in 2024, as they were in 2022. There was minimal evidence of impacts of feral species on the property this spring.

Management recommendations include:

- Noisy miner management through understorey and mid-storey regeneration.

Bowditch

After three visits, a total of 58 bird species were detected during standardised surveys, representing an increase of six species on the 2022 data. After one visit, the 42 species detected on surveys remained the same as for 2020 and 2022. Woodland bird abundance at Bowditch was similar in 2024 to 2022, though it important to note that Noisy miner numbers have declined markedly on the property since 2022 surveys, and therefore for bird abundance to remain stable suggests Noisy miners have been replaced by other species. Three threatened species were detected on Bowditch in 2024: Speckled warbler, Grey-crowned babbler and Varied sittella.

No deer, no cattle and no other feral species were observed occupying Bowditch during bird surveys and Noisy miner management appears to have suppressed the local population effectively.

Management recommendations include:

- Small-scale restoration plantings of Regent honeyeater feed trees.
- Continue pest management, such as deer and Noisy miners

4.2 Habitat restoration monitoring

This habitat restoration study completes the sixth monitoring event and fifth post

baseline for Goulburn River and Bowditch BAs and fourth post baseline for all the other Regional BAs. The habitat restoration monitoring programme assesses the changes in key attributes within the BA through time as grassland communities are restored to woodland. Monitoring was undertaken across all BAs in Spring 2024.

The following are the recommendations and discussion summaries for the Regional Biodiversity Areas.

Seven Oaks BA

2024 monitoring results indicate that vegetation is regenerating naturally in some plots and not in others. Canopy cover is generally low across the regenerating woodland but should improve naturally in higher resilience areas. Mid-storey cover is low at some plots, likely corresponding to the mulching of Sifton Bush in previous years and the burn carried out in 2023. Mid-storey cover should improve over time but planting in the low-resilience areas will be required. Native plant species richness was highest in the ground layer. Fallen logs and tree hollow scores are also low.

Management recommendations include:

- Planting of canopy and mid-storey species in areas identified as having lower resilience
- Weed control targeting priority weeds
- Pest management for feral pigs and rabbits.

Goulburn River BA

The remnant woodland and grassland vegetation at the Goulburn River BA is generally stable but in variable condition.

Data from Yellow Box – Grey Box – Red Gum grassy woodland monitoring plots shows that the vegetation is stable, with all sites achieving the Benchmark range for Canopy cover. Native species richness was well above the Benchmark minimum for all plots. 132 native species were recorded across all plots, representing 40 families. The native mid storey and ground layer shrub scores are low throughout, while ground layer grasses and other categories are within the Benchmark range or higher than the Benchmark maximum. Exotic cover is very low except for monitoring plot H1. Logs on the ground and tree hollows were above Benchmark for most plots and the 2024 mean for these two attributes was above the Benchmark minimum.

Data from Slaty Gum - Grey Box shrubby woodland monitoring plots shows that the vegetation has high species richness and good overstorey cover. Ground layer - grasses cover was above the Benchmark maximum and the other types of ground cover were lower than Benchmark. Logs on the ground was below Benchmark but tree hollows were above the Benchmark minimum.

Data from the River Oak riparian grassy tall woodland monitoring plots shows that this vegetation type is in poor condition. Canopy cover is present at both plots, although it is very variable across the transect due to previous clearing. The remnant trees are restricted to the river bench and all vegetation is cleared from the high bank. Planting has occurred but the young trees so far are not contributing to canopy cover. Native diversity is low in this vegetation type as is mid storey and ground layer cover. Native grasses dominate the ground layer. Exotic cover is medium to high but mostly composed of low-priority annual species

The grassland data shows that the derived grassland is dominated by native grasses but that exotic cover is still high. Native species richness is lower than the woodland minimum and no mid-storey or over-storey is present.

Management recommendations include:

- Consider planting or seeding of native understorey, mid-storey and canopy species to assist sites to achieve Benchmark values.
- Weed control targeting priority weeds.

Bowditch BA

2024 monitoring results indicate that the woodland vegetation is generally stable and will continue to recover from past disturbance with some management intervention. The Narrow Leaved Ironbark Woodland exceeds the Benchmark minimum for all except Native Ground stratum shrubs and fallen log length. Selected canopy planting may be necessary if canopy recruitment does not improve over time.

The Redgum Rough Barked Apple Woodland has two plots with mean values meeting or exceeding Benchmark values for all attributes except Ground stratum shrubs, number of hollows and/or Fallen Logs. One plot (H1) showed signs of inundation by water resulting in a significant difference in the ground layer and mid storey failing to match several Benchmark ranges. Previous years data for this plot show similar results. It is possible that the hydrology of this site means the vegetation doesn't conform to this woodland and it will never meet the Benchmark Range.

Management recommendations include:

- Establish a replacement monitoring plot for H1
- Weed control targeting priority weeds.
- A limited planting program to improve canopy cover and shrub diversity

Putty BA

2024 monitoring results indicate that the vegetation is generally stable and will continue to recover from past disturbance with some management intervention.

The data from plots in regenerating forest shows that the vegetation is not meeting the Benchmark scores for some attributes. A total of 78 native plant species representing 33 families was recorded at all monitoring plots. However, native species richness is below the Benchmark minimum for all plots. Mean native vegetation cover is low in the overstorey, midstorey, ground layer grasses and ground layer other attributes. Fallen logs and tree hollows were also generally lower than Benchmark.

Plot H5 is located in a drainage depression and vegetation here can be characterised as native sedgeland.

Management recommendations include:

- Increasing habitat quality by installing nest boxes and placing logs on the ground.
- Consider planting native herbs and shrub layer cover and diversity in areas where cover is low and to increase landscape connectivity and habitat for threatened species.
- Weed control targeting priority weeds.
- Establish a replacement monitoring plot for H5

Condon View BA

2024 monitoring results indicate the woodland remnants are recovering from past disturbance.

Woodland site data shows that the vegetation is stable, with a generally low Overstorey and Mid storey cover but good ground cover. The ground cover is concentrated in the grasses category. Native species richness is good, being above Benchmark minimum on average. A total of 82 native species representing 31 Families were recorded across the

five plots. Exotic species diversity and cover are low. Habitat quality is variable but a significant amount of fallen timber is present and tree hollows are above Benchmark.

Management recommendations include:

- Consider planting understorey species where cover is low and to increase landscape connectivity and habitat for threatened species.
- Weed control targeting priority weeds.
- Exclude cattle from biodiversity area

North Rothbury BA

The 2024 monitoring results show that the vegetation has achieved many of the Benchmark attributes or is trending towards them.

Data from the Red Ironbark – Spotted Gum shrubby woodland monitoring plots shows that the vegetation has good floristic diversity and structural complexity, with all mean attributes above Benchmark except for number of tree hollows. The vegetation in North Rothbury plots supported 108 native plant species representing 33 families.

Although some priority weeds were recorded, total exotic plant cover was very low and the majority of exotic cover was represented by non-priority exotic species. Data from the Forest Red Gum – Grey Box grassy woodland monitoring plots shows that the vegetation has excellent floristic diversity compared to Benchmark values and that all Benchmark values are met for the percentage cover attributes in all three plots. Fallen logs and tree hollow numbers are below Benchmark. A range of priority weeds were recorded, including in the ground layer and midstorey. Total exotic plant cover was very low and the majority of exotic cover was represented by non-priority exotic species.

Management recommendations include:

- Weed control targeting priority weeds.
- Consider increasing habitat quality by installing nest boxes and placing logs on the ground.
- Move access tracks away from monitoring plots

5 PROGRESS IN ATTAINING CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES AGAINST KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The primary conservation objectives for the Regional BAs are to:

- enhance landscape connectivity within the surrounding landscape;
- improve fauna movement and flora dispersal opportunities within the surrounding landscape;
- increased condition and area of suitable habitats for threatened fauna species within protected reserves, specifically for the Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot;
- provide refuge and habitat for local fauna populations and transient species, particularly threatened species; and
- enhance network of protected vegetation within the Hunter Valley.

Table 3 details the progress in attainment of the long-term conservation objectives. The baseline data presented is from the first monitoring completed in 2014. The Rapid

Condition Assessment (RCA) monitoring results indicate that the vegetation and habitat health is being maintained in comparison to the baseline data **Table 5 – Table 10**.

6 ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

No new environmental risks have been identified during the reporting period.

Table 5 Goulburn River BA: Biodiversity Values and KPIs

Biodiversity Value	Nested Conservation Value(s)	Description and baseline metric	KPI	Progress comment
Woodland (MZ2, MZ3, MZ4, MZ5 and MZ7)		Total area: 1,169ha RCA Average Health rating 17.6/20	Maintain or increase area, connectivity and habitat condition over 10 years	RCA Average health rating 2015 – 17/20 2016 – 17.1/20
	Fauna Habitat	Moderate potential habitat for Swift Parrot and Regent Honeyeater	improved habitat condition over 10 years	2017 – 17.1/20 2018 – 18.1/20 2019 – 18.4/20 2020 - *17.5/20 2021 - *17.4/20 2022 - *18.2/20 2023 – 17.8/20 2024 – 17.4/20 Area and health maintained *Some sites were inaccessible due to high water levels in the Goulburn River.

Table 6 Bowditch BA: Biodiversity Values and KPIs

Biodiversity Value	Nested Conservation Value(s)	Description and baseline metric	KPI	Progress comment
Woodland (MZ1, MZ2 and MZ4)		Total area: 602ha RCA Average Health rating 18.1/20	Observed and measured increase or maintained RCA scores over 10 years	RCA Average Health rating 2015 – 18/20 2016 – 18.4/20
	Fauna Habitat	Moderate potential habitat for Swift Parrot and Regent Honeyeater	Maintain or increase the condition and extent of habitat and bird usage over 10 years	2017 – 17.1/20 2018 – 17.7/20 2019 – 17.7/20 2020 – 18.1/20 2021 – 18.3/20 2022 – 18.7/20 2023 – 18.3/20 2024 – 18.8/20 Area and health maintained

Table 7 Seven Oaks BA: Biodiversity Values and KPIs

Biodiversity Value	Nested Conservation Value(s)	Description and baseline metric	KPI	Progress comment
Woodland (MZ3, MZ4 and MZ5)		Total area: 519ha RCA Average Health rating 17.9/20	Observe an increase in area, connectivity and habitat condition over 10 years	RCA Average Health rating 2016 – 18/20 2017 – 17.3/20
	Fauna Habitat	Moderate potential habitat for Swift Parrot and Regent Honeyeater	Maintain or increase the condition and extent of habitat and bird usage over 10 years	2018 – 17.6/20 2019 – 17.6/20 2020 – 18.2/20 2021 – 18.2/20 2022 – 18.2/20 2023 – 18/20 2024 – 18.2/20 Area and health maintained

Table 8 Condon View BA: Biodiversity Values and KPIs

Biodiversity Value	Nested Conservation Value(s)	Description and baseline metric	KPI	Progress comment
Woodland (MZ2 and MZ4)		Total area: 515ha RCA Average Health rating 19.2/20	Maintain or increase area, connectivity and habitat condition over 10 years	RCA Average Health rating 2016 – 20/20 2017 – 18.2/20
	Fauna Habitat	Moderate potential habitat for Swift Parrot and Regent Honeyeater	Maintain or increase the condition and extent of habitat and bird usage over 10 years	2018 – 18.6/20 2019 – 18.6/20 2020 – 19/20 2021 – 19.3/20 2022 – 19.3/20 2023 – 19.7/20 2024 – 19.7/20 Area and health maintained

Table 9 Putty BA: Biodiversity Values and KPIs

Biodiversity Value	Nested Conservation Value(s)	Description and baseline metric	KPI	Progress comment
Woodland (MZ2, MZ3 and MZ4)		Total area: 383ha RCA Average Health rating 17.1/20	Observe an increase in area, connectivity and habitat condition over 10 years	RCA Average Health rating 2016 – 17.3/20 2017 – 17.6/20
	Fauna Habitat	Moderate potential habitat for Swift Parrot and Regent Honeyeater	Maintain or increase the condition and extent of habitat and bird usage over 10 years	2018 – 17.8/20 2019 – 15.6/20 2020 – 16.2/20 2021 – 16.8/20 2022 – 17/20 2023 – 17.3/20 2024 – 18/20 (Bushfire in July and December 2019 reduced the health rating)

Table 10 North Rothbury BA: Biodiversity Values and KPIs

Biodiversity Value	Nested Conservation Value(s)	Description and baseline metric	KPI	Progress comment
Woodland (MZ1 and MZ2)		Total area: 41ha RCA Average Health rating 18.7/20	Observe an increase in area, connectivity and habitat condition over 10 years	RCA Average Health rating 2016 – 18/20 2017 – 18.2/20
	Fauna Habitat	Moderate potential habitat for Swift Parrot and Regent Honeyeater	Maintain or increase the condition and extent of habitat and bird usage over 10 years	2018 – 19/20 2019 – 18.7/20 2020 – 19/20 2021 – 19/20 2022 – 19/20 2023 – 18.75/20 2024 – 18.25/20 Area and health maintained

ATTACHMENT B:

Local Offset Management Plan Annual Report 2024



Local Biodiversity Areas

Annual Report 2024

Annual report for the period from January to December 2024, for activities described in the Management Plans for all Local Warkworth Mining Limited offsets including:

- Southern Biodiversity Area (including the Putty Road Offset Area)
- Northern Biodiversity Area

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Revision

Version No.	Version Details	Document Status	Date
1.0	Environment and Community Advisor	Final	31/03/2025

1 INTRODUCTION

This annual report is a requirement of the management plans for all Local Warkworth Mining Limited offsets for the 2024 reporting period (1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024).

The report provides a summary of the key management activities completed across the biodiversity offset located within the Southern (includes the Putty Road Offset Area) and Northern Biodiversity Areas (BAs).

The management plans describe the conservation management strategies and monitoring to achieve, and measure improvement and protection of the offset's biodiversity values. It is a compliance requirement of the Commonwealth and NSW environmental approvals to implement the management plans.

The Local OMP (November 2014) was prepared to satisfy the consent requirements for the New South Wales (NSW) Warkworth Mine Development Approval (DA 300-9-2002i) and replaces the former *Flora and Fauna Management Plan* and *Warkworth Sands Woodland (WSW) Offset Area OMP*. In November 2015 the NSW Warkworth Continuation Project Approval (SSD-6464) was granted providing both NSW and Commonwealth approval for the same disturbance area. Phase 2 of the EPBC2009/5081 action also commenced on 16 February 2016. In response to the granting of these new approvals, new Management Plans for the Southern and Northern BA have been prepared to satisfy the Commonwealth approval EPBC2009/5081 and the NSW consent (SSD-6464), replacing both the Local and Putty Road OMPs.

The Biodiversity Offset Portal contains the supporting documentation for this report, including photo point monitoring. Access to the portal is restricted, relevant regulators have been provided with login details; please contact Mount Thorley Warkworth should you require assistance.

2 LOCATION AND LANDHOLDER DETAILS

The locations of the local BAs are shown in **Figure 1**, **Figure 2** and **Figure 3**, details are provided in **Table 1**.

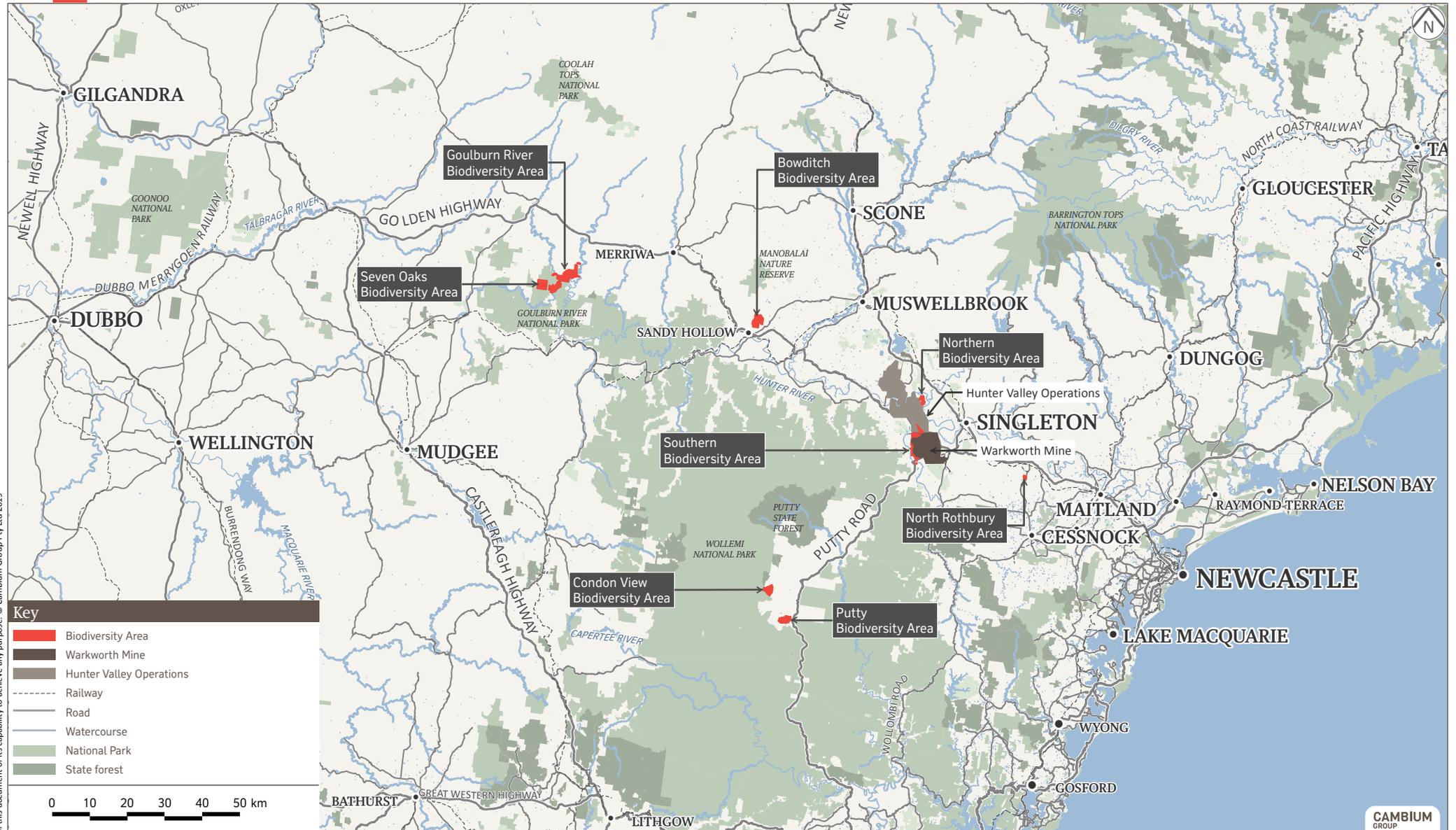
Table 1 Local Biodiversity Areas

Biodiversity Area	Land Owner	Area (ha)	Offset Area (ha)	Location
Northern BA	Coal & Allied Operations Pty Ltd	344	341	Approximately 7km north of the Warkworth Mining Lease and in close proximity to the Hunter Valley Operations. Accessed via Comleroi Road.
Southern BA (including the Putty Road Offset)	Coal & Allied Operations Pty Ltd Miller Pohang Coal Company Pty Ltd Warkworth Mining Limited	1,023	986	Immediately west and north of Warkworth Mine. Intersected by Putty Road in the south, and Wallaby Scrub Road and the Golden Highway in the north.

Location of the Warkworth Mining Limited Biodiversity Areas

Annual Compliance Report

Figure 1

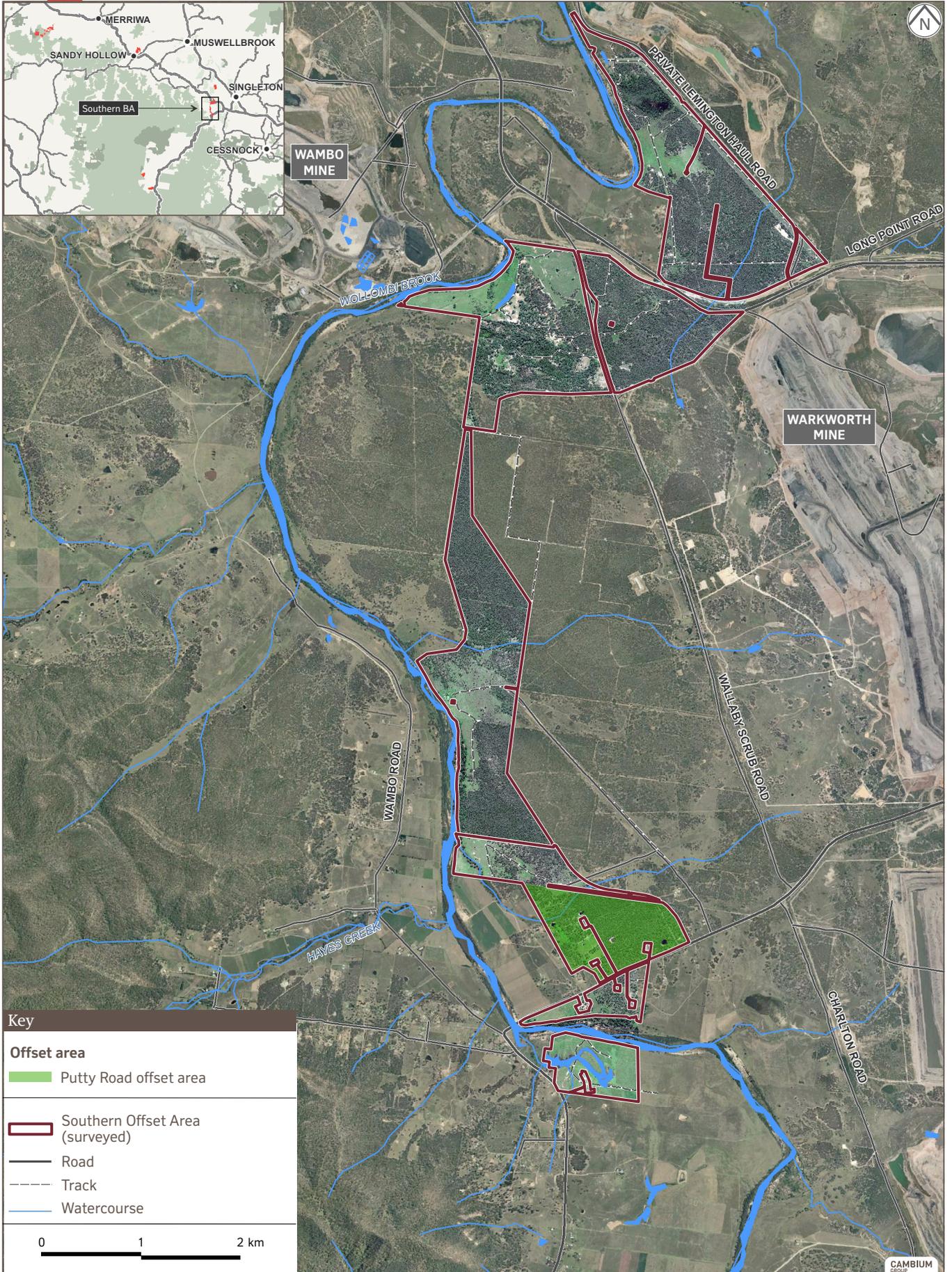


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Southern Biodiversity Area - Putty Road offset area

Annual Compliance Report

Figure 2



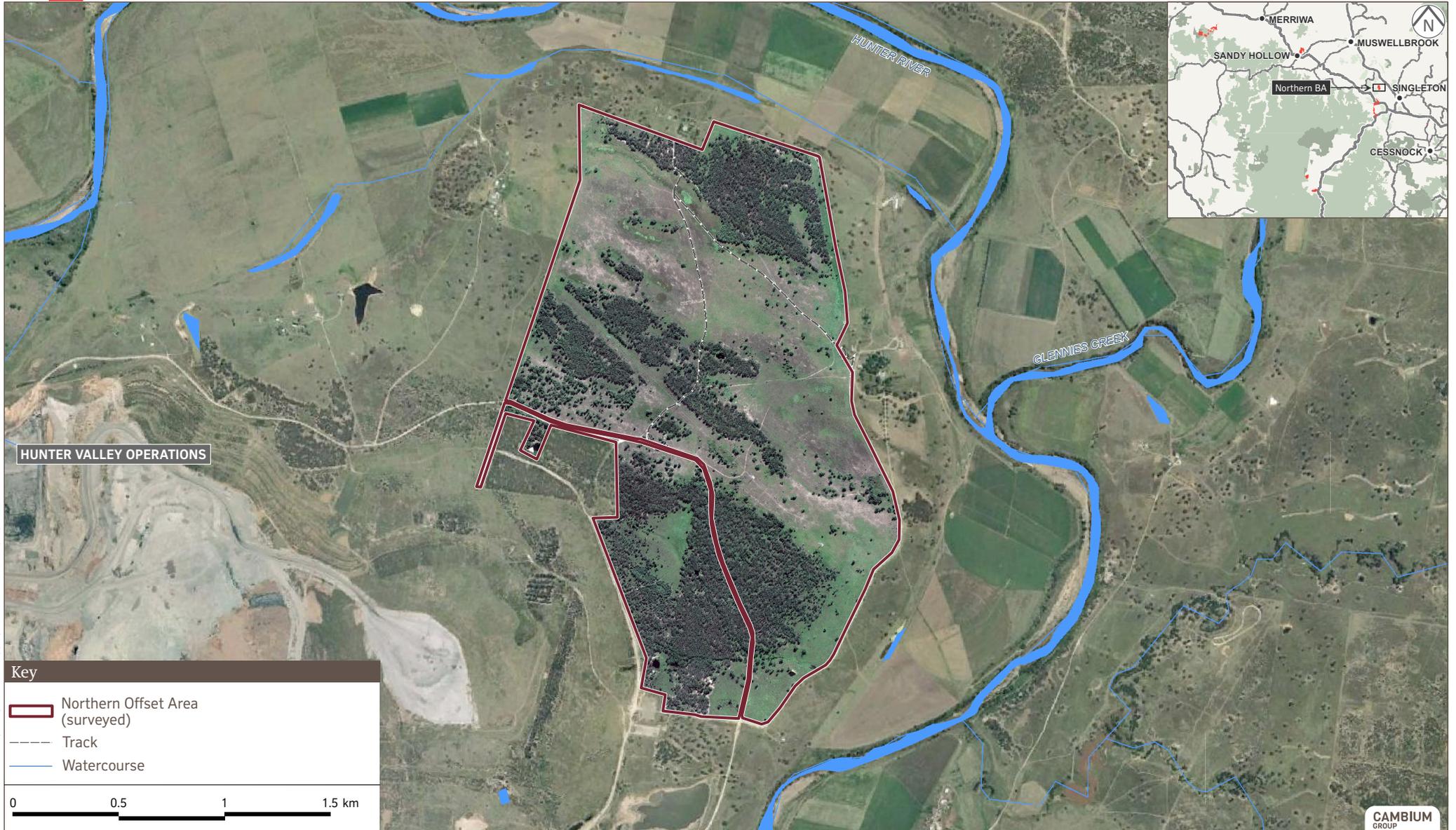
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Northern Biodiversity Area

Annual Compliance Report



Figure 3



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3 SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES – 2024

Table 2 provides a summary of the activities undertaken during the reporting period (Year 8) and the progress in attaining the Performance Criteria for the key Conservation Management Strategies in the management plans.

3.1 Summary of climatic conditions

Figure 4 and **Figure 5** show the monthly actual rainfall compared to the long-term average for the Northern BA and Southern BA for the reporting period. In 2024, rainfall was above average for February, April, May, June, July and August, with relatively minimal rainfall in March and December and close to or below average for remaining months. The Southern BA received ~707mm of rainfall which was ~10mm above the long-term average and the Northern BA received ~699mm which was ~24mm above the long-term average.

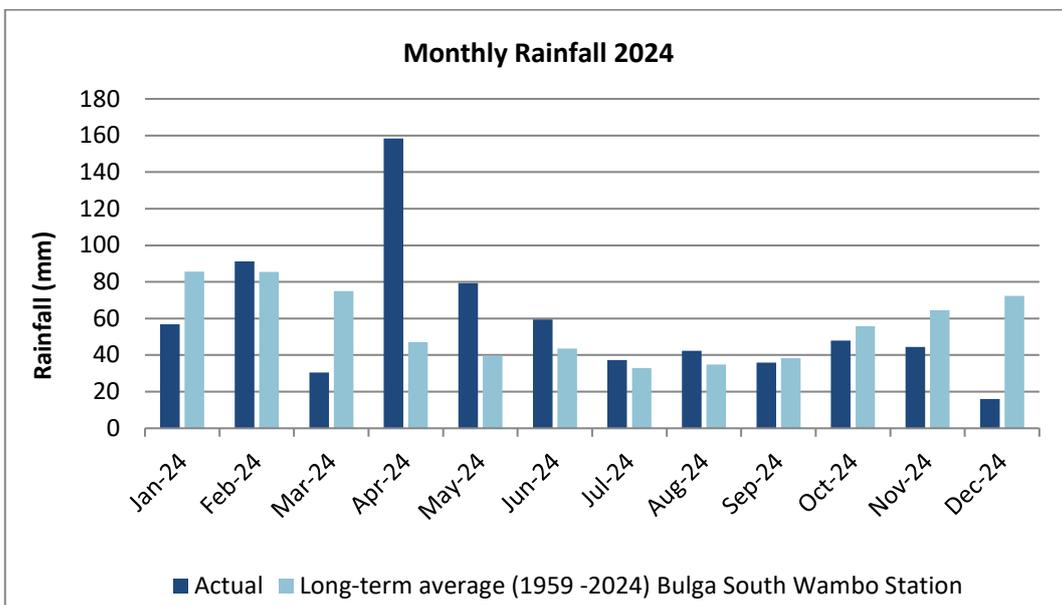


FIGURE 4 MONTHLY RAINFALL – NORTHERN BA

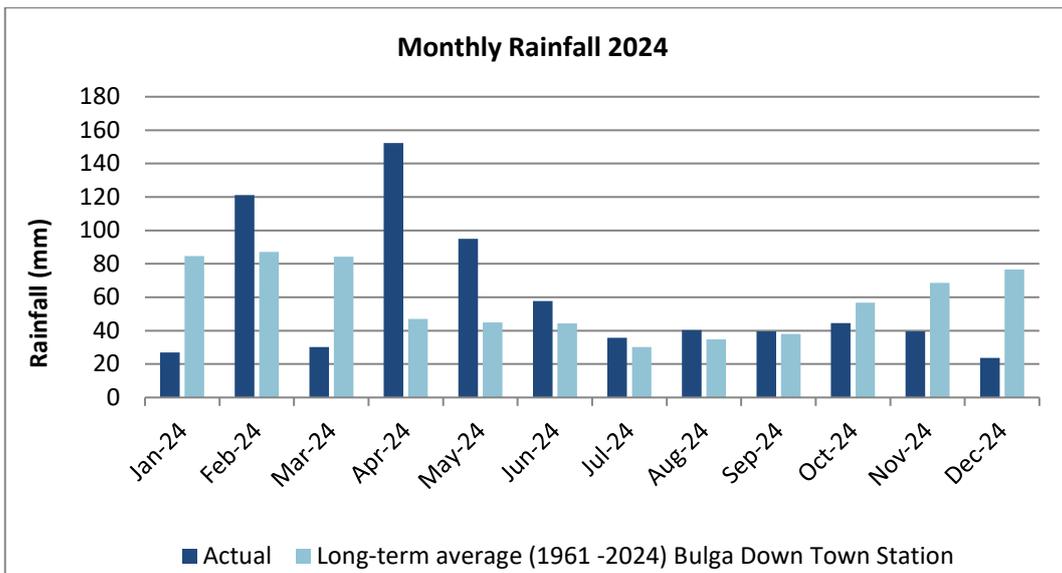


FIGURE 5 MONTHLY RAINFALL – SOUTHERN BA

Table 2 Summary of progress against Performance Criteria

Conservation Actions	Year 1 to Year 5	Year 6 to Year 10 (2024 is Year 8)	Completion Criteria	Actions 2025
ACTIVE RESTORATION				
Southern BA WSW planting (40ha)				
<i>Performance Criteria</i>	<i>Collection of seed. Plant propagation. Tubestock planted. Completed survival assessment.</i>	<i>Biennial ecological monitoring completed</i>	<i>Ecological monitoring demonstrates a trajectory toward the reference site or the benchmark values for HU872 for all attributes measured over the three consecutive assessments (the average of all plots).</i>	
Activity / Progress	Seed collection and plant propagation was undertaken. In 2017 1ha of WSW tubestock was planted in the Southern BA. In 2018 14 ha of WSW tubestock was planted in the Southern BA including replanting the sand quarry and old orchard areas. In 2019 maintenance of planting areas was undertaken and included infill planting of over 9,000 tubestock. In 2020 maintenance of planting areas was undertaken and included infill planting of over 2,000 tubestock. Survival assessments were completed for all planting areas.	Seed collection and plant propagation was undertaken. In 2022 planting of tubestock included 3,000 WSW tubestock in the grassland area of Southern BA1 and infill planting of 4,400 tubestock throughout the Southern BA. Ecological monitoring undertaken in 2022 and 2024. In 2023 planting of tubestock included 800 WSW tubestock in the grassland area of Southern BA1. In 2024, WSW planting progressed with ~5000 m ³ of WSW sand stripped from ahead of mining at MTW and hauled to the Southern BA3. This WSW sand was spread, seeded with native grasses and then 4,000 WSW tubestock were planted into the planting areas. Survival assessment completed for planting areas.		Propagate plants. Undertake survival assessments. Undertake infill planting to restore Warkworth Sands Woodland in the Southern BA.

Conservation Actions	Year 1 to Year 5	Year 6 to Year 10 (2024 is Year 8)	Completion Criteria	Actions 2025
Southern BA CHGBIW planting (240ha)				
<i>Performance Criteria</i>	<i>Collection of seed. Plant propagation. Tubestock planted. Completed survival assessment.</i>	<i>Biennial ecological monitoring completed.</i>	<i>Ecological monitoring demonstrates a trajectory toward the reference site or the NSW Biometric HU817 for all attributes measured over three consecutive assessments (the average of all plots).</i>	
Activity / Progress	<p>Seed collection and plant propagation was undertaken.</p> <p>Restoration activities included tubestock planting of Central Hunter Grey Box – Ironbark Woodland in the Southern BA.</p> <p>In 2017, 89 ha of the Southern BA was planted with over 13,000 tubestock planted into rip lines.</p> <p>In 2018 118 ha of the Southern BA was planted with over 20,000 tubestock planted into rip lines.</p> <p>In 2019 maintenance of planting areas was undertaken and included infill planting of over 10,000 tubestock.</p> <p>In 2020 maintenance of planting areas was undertaken and included infill planting of over 3,800 tubestock.</p> <p>In 2021 maintenance of planting areas was undertaken and included infill planting of 9,000 tubestock.</p> <p>The site preparation for these sites included ripping by dozer and weed control. To mimic nature the tree species were planted at a spacing of 5 -10m and shrubs species planted in clumps as commonly found with understory species within this vegetation type. All plants were watered, fertilised and protected with a tree guard.</p> <p>Survival Assessments were completed for all planting areas.</p>	<p>Seed collection and plant propagation was undertaken.</p> <p>In 2022 maintenance of planting areas was undertaken and included infill planting of 7,000 tubestock.</p> <p>In 2024 maintenance of planting areas was undertaken and included infill planting of 4,780 tubestock.</p> <p>Ecological monitoring undertaken in 2022 and 2024.</p> <p>Survival assessment completed for planting areas.</p>		

Conservation Actions	Year 1 to Year 5	Year 6 to Year 10 (2024 is Year 8)	Completion Criteria	Actions 2025
Southern BA ROF planting (26ha)				
<i>Performance Criteria</i>	<i>Collection of seed. Plant propagation. Tubestock planted. Completed survival assessment.</i>		<i>Survival assessment greater than 70%</i>	
Activity / Progress	<p>Seed collection and plant propagation was undertaken.</p> <p>Restoration activities included planting River Oak Forest in the Southern BA.</p> <p>In 2018, 11ha of the Southern BA was planted with over 2,000 tubestock planted into rip lines.</p> <p>In 2019 maintenance of planting areas was undertaken and included infill planting of over 800 tubestock.</p> <p>In 2020 maintenance of planting areas was undertaken and included infill planting of 3,200 tubestock.</p> <p>In 2021 maintenance of planting areas was undertaken and included infill planting of 4,000 tubestock. The site preparation for this site included ripping by dozer and weed control. To mimic nature the tree species were planted at a spacing of 5 -10m and shrubs species planted in clumps as commonly found with understory species within this vegetation type. All plants were watered, fertilised and protected with a tree guard.</p> <p>Survival Assessments were completed for all planting areas.</p>	<p>In 2022 maintenance of planting areas was undertaken and included infill planting of 5,000 tubestock.</p> <p>In 2024 maintenance of planting areas was undertaken and included infill planting of 1,460 tubestock.</p> <p>Seed collection and plant propagation was undertaken.</p> <p>Survival assessment completed for planting areas.</p>		

Conservation Actions	Year 1 to Year 5	Year 6 to Year 10 (2024 is Year 8)	Completion Criteria	Actions 2025
Northern BA WSW planting (195ha)				
<i>Performance Criteria</i>	<i>Collection of seed. Plant propagation. Tubestock planted. Completed survival assessment.</i>	<i>Biennial ecological monitoring completed.</i>	<i>Ecological monitoring demonstrates a trajectory toward the reference site or the benchmark values for HU872 for all attributes measured over three consecutive assessments (the average of all plots).</i>	
Activity / Progress	<p>Seed collection and plant propagation was undertaken.</p> <p>Restoration activities included planting Warkworth Sands Woodland in the Northern BA.</p> <p>In 2014 work commenced to restore over 80 hectares of Warkworth Sands Woodland, this involved the planting of seedlings and the relocation of sand salvaged ahead of mining activities.</p> <p>In 2017, 10,800 tubestock were planted into 44 50x50m patches. Topsoil from ahead of mining operations at MTW was salvaged and hauled to the Biodiversity Area prior to planting commencing. In total Ten patches received 50mm of topsoil over the whole patch, two received 50mm of topsoil over half the patch, 12 received 25mm of topsoil over the patch and ten received no topsoil. Holes were dug for tubestock, either by hand or auger and all plants were watered, fertilised and protected with a tree guard.</p> <p>In 2018 maintenance of planting areas was undertaken and included infill planting of over 8,000 tubestock.</p> <p>In 2019 maintenance of planting areas was undertaken and included infill planting of over 3,000 tubestock.</p> <p>In 2020 planting progressed at the Northern BA with 9,112m³ of WSW sand stripped ahead of mining at MTW and hauled to the Northern Biodiversity Area. 5,480m³ of this WSW sand was spread into strips and seeded with native grasses to increase the groundcover diversity then planted with 4,500 tubestock</p>	<p>Seed collection and plant propagation was undertaken.</p> <p>In 2022 maintenance of planting areas was undertaken and included infill planting of 3,400 WSW tubestock.</p> <p>Ecological monitoring undertaken in 2022 and 2024.</p> <p>Planting of 10,000 Warkworth Sands Woodland tube stock was delayed due to access issues transporting sand into the planting areas, this was rescheduled for 2023.</p> <p>In 2023, WSW planting progressed with ~5,000 m³ of WSW sand stripped from ahead of mining at MTW and hauled to the Northern Biodiversity Area. This WSW sand was spread into strips and more broadly in some areas, seeded with native grasses and then 10,000 WSW tubestock were planted into the planting areas.</p> <p>In 2024, WSW planting progressed with ~13,000 m³ of WSW sand stripped from ahead of mining at MTW and hauled to the Northern Biodiversity Area. This WSW sand was spread into strips and more broadly in some areas, seeded with native grasses and then 15,100 WSW tubestock were planted into the planting areas.</p> <p>Survival Assessments were completed for planting areas.</p>	<p>Propagate plants.</p> <p>Undertake track maintenance to allow sand to be transported to the planting areas.</p> <p>Spread topsoil from ahead of mining operations at MTW into the Northern BA planting areas.</p> <p>Undertake planting of Warkworth Sands Woodland tube stock.</p> <p>Undertake survival assessments.</p>	

Conservation Actions	Year 1 to Year 5	Year 6 to Year 10 (2024 is Year 8)	Completion Criteria	Actions 2025
	<p>In 2021 WSW planting progressed with 3,632 m³ of sand from ahead of mining at MTW spread into strips and seeded with native grasses then planted with 1,500 tubestock.</p> <p>Survival Assessments were completed for all planting areas</p> <p>A separate Ecological monitoring program was undertaken in 2021 to capture the WSW planting areas.</p>			
Northern BA CHGBIW planting (23ha)				
<i>Performance Criteria</i>	<p><i>Collection of seed. Plant propagation. Tubestock planted.</i></p> <p><i>Completed survival assessment.</i></p>	<p><i>Biennial ecological monitoring completed.</i></p>	<p><i>Ecological monitoring demonstrates a trajectory toward the reference site or the NSW Biometric HU817 for all three attributes measured over three consecutive assessments (the average of all plots).</i></p>	
Activity / Progress	<p>Restoration activities included tubestock planting of Central Hunter Grey Box – Ironbark Woodland in the Northern BA.</p> <p>In 2017, 6ha of the Northern BA was planted with 2,780 tubestock planted into rip lines. The site preparation for this site included ripping by dozer and weed control. To mimic nature the tree species were planted at a spacing of 5 -10m and shrubs species planted in clumps as commonly found with understory species within this vegetation type. All plants were watered, fertilised and protected with a tree guard.</p> <p>In 2018 maintenance of planting areas was undertaken and included infill planting.</p> <p>Survival Assessments were completed for all planting areas.</p>	<p>Ecological monitoring undertaken in 2022 and 2024.</p>		

Conservation Actions	Year 1 to Year 5	Year 6 to Year 10 (2024 is Year 8)	Completion Criteria	Actions 2025
PASSIVE RESTORATION				
Weed control and monitoring				
<i>Performance Criteria</i>	<p>At least two weed control events each year for species listed in Table 14 of Management Plans and other weeds recorded from monitoring activities.</p> <p>All actions recorded in Annual Report.</p> <p>Complete Rapid Condition Assessments and Property Inspections.</p>	<p>At least one weed control event each year for species listed in Table 14 of Management Plans and other weeds recorded from monitoring activities.</p> <p>All actions recorded in Annual Report.</p> <p>Complete Rapid Condition Assessments and Property Inspections.</p>	<p>Ecological monitoring data indicates a trajectory for reduction in exotic plant cover over three consecutive assessments.</p>	
Activity / Progress	<p>Weed contractor engaged to undertake weed control activities at the Northern and Southern BA throughout the year.</p> <p>Rapid Condition Assessment and Property Inspections were completed.</p>	<p>In 2024 weed control targeted the following species:</p> <p>African boxthorn (<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>), African lovegrass (<i>Eragrostis curvulva</i>), African olive (<i>Olea europaea</i>), Aloe vera (<i>Aloe barbadense</i>), Balloon vine (<i>Cardiospermum grandiflorum</i>), Bidens (<i>Bidens pilosa</i>), Black locust (<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>), Blackberry nightshade (<i>Solanum nigrum</i>), Blue heliotrope (<i>Heliotropium amplexicaule</i>), Brazilian nightshade (<i>Solanum seaforthianum</i>), Brome grass (<i>Bromus catharticus</i>), Cats claw creeper (<i>Dolichandra unguis-cati</i>), Common evening primrose (<i>Oenothera biennis</i>), Coolatai grass (<i>Hyparrhenia hirta</i>), Couch grass (<i>Elymus repens</i>), Creeping pear (<i>Opuntia humifusa</i>), European olive (<i>Olea europaea</i>), Fireweed (<i>Senecio madagascariensis</i>), Galenia (<i>Galenia pubescens</i>), Golden wreath wattle (<i>Acacia saligna</i>), Green cestrum (<i>Cestrum parqui</i>), Inkweed (<i>Phytolacca octandra</i>), Lantana (<i>Lantana camara</i>), Lily of the Nile (<i>Agapanthus sp.</i>), Mother of millions (<i>Bryophyllum delagoense</i>), Moth vine (<i>Araujia sericifera</i>), Paterson's curse (<i>Echium plantagineum</i>), Potato vine (<i>Solanum seaforthianum</i>), Prickly pear (<i>Opuntia stricta</i>), Rhodes grass (<i>Chloris gayana</i>), Rye grass (<i>Lolium sp.</i>), Silky oak</p>		<p>Control noxious species and stop weeds spreading into previously un-infested areas.</p> <p>Undertake Rapid Condition Assessments.</p> <p>Undertake Property Inspections.</p>

Conservation Actions	Year 1 to Year 5	Year 6 to Year 10 (2024 is Year 8)	Completion Criteria	Actions 2025
		<p><i>(Grevillea robusta)</i>, Silverleaf nightshade <i>(Solanum elaeagnifolium)</i>, Stinking roger <i>(Tagetes minuta)</i>, Teddy bear vine <i>(Cyanotis beddomei)</i>, Telegraph weed <i>(Heterotheca grandiflora)</i>, Toadflax <i>(Linaria vulgaris)</i>, Tree of Heaven <i>(Ailanthus altissima)</i>, Turkey rhubarb <i>(Rumex sagittatus)</i>, Wild oats (<i>Avena fatua</i>), Vipers bugloss (<i>Echium vulgare</i>)</p> <p>Rapid condition assessments and property inspections were completed.</p>		
Pest control and monitoring				
<i>Performance Criteria</i>	<p>At least two control events each year for species listed in Table 20 of Management Plans, and any other species recorded from monitoring activities.</p> <p>Active participation in programme coordinated by Hunter Local Land Service (HLLS), this may include local control actions.</p> <p>Complete biannual inspection and report all works completed and actions for next year.</p>	<p>At least one control events each year for species listed in Table 17 of Management Plans, and any other species recorded from monitoring activities.</p> <p>Active participation in programme coordinated by HLLS, this may include local control actions.</p> <p>Complete biannual inspection and report all works completed and actions for next year.</p>	<p>No observed vertebrate pest or damage.</p> <p>Ecological monitoring demonstrates a trajectory to benchmark values for all attributes measured over three consecutive assessments (the average of all plots).</p>	
Activity / Progress	<p>Vertebrate pest contractor was engaged to undertake programmes across the Southern and Northern BA.</p> <p>Biannual property inspections were undertaken.</p>	<p>In 2022 a vertebrate pest contractor was engaged to undertake programmes across the Southern and Northern BA.</p> <p>In 2023, 1080 ground baiting programmes were undertaken targeting wild dogs and foxes in autumn and spring, across the Southern and Northern BA. Both programmes were coordinated with HLLS and neighbouring landholders across the broader Hunter Valley area.</p> <p>In 2023, a trapping program was undertaken targeting pigs in Spring, across MTW and the Southern BA.</p> <p>In 2024, 1080 ground baiting programmes were undertaken targeting wild dogs and foxes in autumn and spring, across the Southern and</p>		<p>Undertake vertebrate pest management including 1080 ground baiting programmes scheduled for autumn and spring to target wild dogs and foxes.</p> <p>Undertake pig trapping and baiting program across MTW and the Southern and Northern BA's.</p> <p>Undertake biannual property Inspections.</p>

Conservation Actions	Year 1 to Year 5	Year 6 to Year 10 (2024 is Year 8)	Completion Criteria	Actions 2025
		<p>Northern BA. Both programmes were coordinated with HLLS and neighbouring landholders across the broader Hunter Valley area.</p> <p>In 2024, a ground baiting program and a trapping/ground baiting program were undertaken in Autumn and Winter respectively, targeting pigs across MTW and the Southern and/or Northern BA's.</p> <p>Biannual property inspections were undertaken.</p>		
Grazing				
<i>Performance Criteria</i>	<p><i>Grazing is conducted in accordance with the Management Plan.</i></p> <p><i>Boundary fences maintained.</i></p> <p><i>Complete Rapid Condition Assessment and Property Inspections.</i></p>			
Activity / Progress	<p>No strategic grazing was undertaken in the BAs in 2024.</p> <p>Boundary fence repairs/replacements undertaken in the Southern BA.</p> <p>Property Inspections and Rapid Condition Assessments were undertaken in 2024.</p>			<p>Undertake Property Inspections.</p> <p>Undertake Rapid Condition Assessments.</p> <p>Maintain boundary fences.</p>
Bushfire Management Plan (BFMP), Ecological burn and monitoring				
<i>Performance Criteria</i>	<p><i>Actions implemented.</i></p> <p><i>Review and revise if required.</i></p> <p><i>Complete Rapid Condition Assessments and Property Inspections.</i></p>	<p><i>Actions implemented.</i></p> <p><i>Review and revise if required.</i></p> <p><i>Complete Rapid Condition Assessments and Property Inspections.</i></p> <p><i>Completed ecological fire management plan for MZ1, MZ3, MZ5, MZ7, MZ8 and MZ9.</i></p>	<p><i>All required actions of BFMP have been implemented.</i></p> <p><i>BFMP has been reviewed annually and revised if required.</i></p>	

Conservation Actions	Year 1 to Year 5	Year 6 to Year 10 (2024 is Year 8)	Completion Criteria	Actions 2025
Activity / Progress	<p>BFMP reviewed.</p> <p>Firebreaks were slashed.</p> <p>Property Inspections and Rapid Condition Assessments were undertaken.</p>	<p>BFMP reviewed.</p> <p>Firebreaks were slashed at the Southern BA in 2023 and 2024. Areas were also slashed at Northern BA related to planting preparation activities, but which also served as firebreaks.</p> <p>Property Inspections and Rapid Condition Assessments were undertaken in 2022, 2023 and 2024.</p>		<p>Review BFMP.</p> <p>Undertake Property Inspections.</p> <p>Undertake Rapid Condition Assessments.</p> <p>Undertake fuel load assessments.</p> <p>Slash firebreaks.</p>
Infrastructure Improvements and monitoring				
<i>Performance Criteria</i>	<p><i>Completed GDP for all infrastructure improvement actions.</i></p> <p><i>Maintenance of tracks and fences completed at least every 3 years.</i></p> <p><i>Property Inspections undertaken.</i></p>			.
Activity / Progress	<p>GDP completed for WSW planting programs in the Southern and Northern BA in 2024.</p> <p>Boundary fences maintained, and Property Inspections undertaken in 2024.</p>			<p>Maintain tracks and boundary fences.</p> <p>Undertake Property Inspections</p>
Erosion monitoring inspections and reports				
<i>Performance Criteria</i>	<i>Complete Rapid Condition Assessment and Property Inspections</i>			
Activity / Progress	<p>Rapid Condition Assessments and Property Inspections undertaken in 2024.</p> <p>An erosion area was identified at the Southern BA and repair works required have been assessed.</p>			<p>Undertake Rapid Condition Assessments.</p> <p>Undertake Property Inspections.</p> <p>Monitor/repair erosion area identified in SBA5</p>
Dam conversion and rehabilitation and monitoring				
<i>Performance Criteria</i>	<p><i>Prepare dam conversion plan.</i></p> <p><i>Dam conversion complete and rehabilitation has stabilised the site.</i></p> <p><i>Property inspections.</i></p>	<p><i>Observed natural flow regime and no erosion.</i></p> <p><i>Property inspections.</i></p>	<i>All works completed.</i>	
Activity / Progress	<p>Property inspections undertaken.</p> <p>Dam conversion plan prepared.</p>	<p>Property inspections undertaken.</p>		<p>Implement actions from dam conversion plan.</p> <p>Undertake Property Inspections.</p>

Conservation Actions	Year 1 to Year 5	Year 6 to Year 10 (2024 is Year 8)	Completion Criteria	Actions 2025
Natural Regeneration and monitoring				
<i>Performance Criteria</i>	Annual weed control, vertebrate pest and fire management actions implemented as per management plans. <i>Complete Rapid Condition Assessments and Property Inspections.</i>		<i>Ecological monitoring demonstrates a trajectory to benchmark values for all attributes measured over three consecutive assessments (the average of all plots).</i>	
Activity / Progress	Actions implemented in 2024 as per management plans. Rapid Condition Assessments, Ecological Monitoring and Property Inspections undertaken in 2024.			Undertake Property Inspections. Undertake annual weed control. Undertake Rapid Condition Assessments.
Controlled Activities				
<i>Performance Criteria</i>	<p><i>No reported incidents of prohibited actions undertaken Yancoal, contractors, consultants or other agents of Yancoal.</i></p> <p><i>Any clearing of vegetation reported in Annual Report.</i></p> <p><i>Signage and locks (where required) maintained.</i></p> <p><i>Complete risk assessment for any recreation activities.</i></p> <p><i>All occupants of residents compliant with requirements of the MP.</i></p> <p><i>No Cultural Heritage sites knowingly disturbed and any protective barricading maintained.</i></p> <p><i>Damaged and unwanted fences removed.</i></p> <p><i>All Property Inspections completed.</i></p>			
Activity / Progress	<p>In 2017 trespassing and illegal tree clearing and timber getting within the Southern Biodiversity Area resulted in felling approximately 40 full sized trees and 100 small trees. This unauthorised activity was reported to both Department of Environment and Energy and Department of Planning and Environment in October 2017. Internal fences and waste were removed from the Southern BA areas to be planted in 2018 and sections of boundary fence at the Northern BA and Southern BA were repaired and replaced where needed. New Biodiversity Area signs were installed in 2017. In 2024 there were no reported incidents or prohibited actions undertaken on the Biodiversity Areas. In 2023, sections of boundary fence at the Northern BA and Southern BA were repaired and replaced where needed. In 2024, sections of boundary fence and a gate at the Southern BA were repaired and replaced where needed. Regular property inspections were undertaken.</p>			Undertake Property Inspections.

4 MONITORING ACTIVITIES

The following table provides a summary of the monitoring activities undertaken as detailed in the MP. Monitoring reports and results are available on the Biodiversity Offset Portal.

Table 3 Monitoring Activity Summary

Monitoring	2024	Date/s	Completed by
Bird Assemblage	X	July – November 2024, next due July – October 2026	Future Fauna
Habitat Restoration	X	September - November 2024, next due September – November 2026	Mosaic Ecology and Leaf ERC
Rapid Condition Assessment	X	September and December 2024, next due September – November 2025	Franks Fencing (Land Management Advisor)
Property Inspection	X	April/May/November 2024, next due April/November 2025	Environment and Community Advisor

4.1 Bird assemblages monitoring

Bird assemblage monitoring is undertaken every two years as part of the ecological monitoring requirements to assess changes in the condition and extent of the woodland habitats within the BAs and the ongoing usage of these habitats by woodland birds, including the critically endangered regent honeyeater and swift parrot.

Previous bird monitoring methodology (2014 – 2018) included two-hectare, 20-minute area searches with one visit to each monitoring site during winter and early spring. In 2020 the bird monitoring methodology changed to increase site visits so that each site was visited three times between July and October, to cover the period when swift parrots and regent honeyeaters are most likely to be present. The maximum count of all bird species detected visually or audibly during the survey period and within the boundaries of each survey site were recorded. Data from the 2020 monitoring program demonstrated that three visits to each monitoring site is sufficient to record most bird species regularly occupying the monitoring sites.

In 2022 eighteen new monitoring sites were added to the monitoring programme to help increase the likelihood of detecting regent honeyeaters or swift parrots occupying the BAs.

In 2024 a total of 120 species were recorded throughout the eight Biodiversity Areas representing an increase of seven species compared to 2022 data. A total of 10 threatened bird species were detected during surveys. Relative to 2022, species richness increased slightly at Northern and Southern Biodiversity Areas. Bird abundance measures were mixed with slight increases at Southern BA and slight decreases at Northern BA.

The following are the recommendations and discussion summaries for the Local Biodiversity Areas.

Northern BA

After three visits, a total of 35 bird species were detected during standardised surveys, which equals the 2022 count. After one visit, overall species richness was higher in 2024 (49) than in all previous years. Grey-crowned babbler was again the only threatened species detected during standardised surveys in Northern BA in 2024. Noticeably high

numbers of small woodland birds including Rufous whistlers, Western gerygones and various Thornbill species were recorded around restoration plantings. Similar to Southern BA, there was no eucalypt or mistletoe blossom, which likely suppressed the number of nectarivorous species present during surveys.

Noisy miner numbers remain high in the Northern BA, with counts at all sites ranging from 2 – 15 individuals.

Management recommendations include continuation of planting works and consideration of noisy miner management.

Southern BA

After three visits, a total of 64 bird species were detected during standardised surveys. This represents a slight increase in species richness on previous years. Three threatened species were detected: Speckled warbler, Grey-crowned babbler and Varied sittella. No Dusky woodswallows or Little eagles were detected in 2024 as they were in 2022. Red-capped robin numbers have increased in Southern BA since they were detected for the first time there in 2022.

There was very little eucalypt or mistletoe flowering and no apparent lerp infestations within the Southern BA during 2024 surveys. Impact of feral species appears to have remained low relative to previous years. Evidence of rabbit abundance was generally low and there were fewer signs of fresh pig tracks than have been noted in previous years.

Young plantings are steadily improving and will offer improved habitat for small woodland birds over the coming years as they continue to mature. Management recommendations include continuation of planting works.

4.2 Habitat restoration monitoring

This study completes the fifth round of habitat restoration monitoring for the Southern BA and the sixth for the Northern BA. A separate monitoring program was undertaken across the Northern BA in Spring 2021 and included an additional eight transitional plots to capture the WSW planting activities undertaken between 2014 - 2021. The habitat restoration monitoring programme assesses the changes in key attributes within the BA through time as grassland communities are restored to woodland. The following are the recommendations and discussion summaries for the Local Biodiversity Areas.

2024 monitoring results indicate that the reference sites are in relatively good condition considering the history of disturbance whereas the transition sites, whilst improving, generally have attributes that are below the reference mean values.

The Grey Box Ironbark woodland reference sites attributes were variable across the plots. The mean values were above Benchmark for Species richness, Overstorey cover, ground layer grasses and fallen logs. Exotic plant cover was quite low (below 1%) at all sites.

The Grey Box Ironbark transition sites generally show lower attribute scores when compared to reference sites. For most sites native species richness is comparable to the reference minimum values, although well below the mean values. Native grasses contribute the most to species diversity. Native plant cover scores are also usually low compared to reference mean values (except for native grass cover). Many sites achieve

scores above the reference site minima and some had scores within the Benchmark range. Many calculated mean scores were above the reference site minima but only native ground layer (grass) cover achieved the reference mean value. Overstorey regeneration is evident in the <10cm (Diameter at Breast Height) category, both from planting activities and natural regeneration. The CHGBIW Transition 3 plot failed to achieve any of the reference attributes. This site is situated in a depression which was flooded for several months during 2022.

Warkworth Sands Woodland reference sites mean values achieved the Benchmark range for five of the eight attributes. Cover was generally above Benchmark for the Overstorey and ground layer grasses attributes but did not achieve the Benchmark for mid storey plants or the ground layer plants shrubs and other attributes. Exotic plant cover was variable, with the mean score being 2.2 percent, which is a reduction from the 2022 monitoring round. Fallen logs were often below Benchmark but the mean value is comparable to the Benchmark at 85 percent of the minimum. 115 native species were recorded in WSW plots, representing 50 families.

Warkworth Sands woodland transition sites total native species richness is low compared to reference mean values. Native species diversity is spread across all vegetation categories but is largely lower than the corresponding reference mean value. Native plant cover scores are also usually low compared to reference mean values except in the native ground layer (other) category which is patchy. Some sites achieve scores above the reference site minima and several calculated mean scores were above the reference site means. Recent plantings, soil translocation and direct seeding have increased biodiversity and total stems in many plots but the plants were generally too small to significantly increase canopy cover.

Vegetation at the Hunter Lowland Redgum Forest plots showed a decline in individual plot and mean values from 2022, maintaining Benchmark for three of eight key attributes. 60 native species were recorded in HLRF plots, representing 35 families.

Management recommendations include:

- Pest management for feral pigs and rabbits.
- Weed management to reduce priority weeds and planting to increase the diversity of native canopy and mid-storey species.
- Consideration of selectively thinning sites with high stem densities of more than 1000/Ha to decrease competition and increase total length of logs on the ground and artificial tree hollows.

5 **PROGRESS IN ATTAINING CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES AGAINST KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

The primary conservation objectives for the local offset areas (including the Putty Road Offset) are to:

- enhance biodiversity values across the BAs;
- protect the WSW Offset Area and Putty Road Offset Area under a legally binding conservation covenant;
- increase the condition of WSW and Ironbark EECs and observe a transition from grassland to woodland;
- enhance habitat and foraging opportunities for the woodland birds; and
- contribute to and enhance the existing network of protected vegetation within the Hunter Valley.

Table 2 indicates the progress in attainment of the long-term conservation objectives, the ecological monitoring data supports the continued implementation of the conservation management strategies.

6 **ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT**

No new environmental risks have been identified during the reporting period.

Table 4 Local Offset Areas Biodiversity Values and Key Performance Indicators

Area	Biodiversity Value	Description and baseline metric	KPI	Progress comment
Southern BA	Ironbark Woodland	Total area: 446.7ha RCA Average Health rating 18/20 (MZ1)	Extent and condition of woodland over 10 years.	RCA results: 2014 – 18/20 2015 – 18/20 2016 – 18/20 2017 – 18.5/20 2018 – 18.5/20 2019 – 18/20 2020 – 17.5/20 2021 – 17.5/20 2022 – 18/20 2023 – 18/20 2024 – 18/20 Area and health maintained.
	Ironbark Grassland	Total area: 258.4ha	Transition of grassland to woodland.	2024 monitoring supports continued implementation of the conservation management strategies.
	WSW	Total area: 137ha RCA Average Health rating 17.1/20 (MZ3)	Extent and condition of woodland over 10 years.	RCA results: 2014 – 16/20 2015 – 18/20 2016 – 17/20 2017 – 18/20 2018 – 18/20 2019 – 18/20 2020 – 17/20 2021 – 17/20 2022 – 16/20 2023 – 16/20 2024 – 17/20 Area and health maintained.

Area	Biodiversity Value	Description and baseline metric	KPI	Progress comment
WS Grassland		Total area:40.3ha	Transition of grassland to woodland.	2024 monitoring supports continued implementation of the conservation management strategies.
Hunter Lowland Red Gum Forest		Total area: 32.4ha RCA Average Health rating 18.4/20 (MZ5)	Extent and condition over 10 years.	RCA results: 2014 – 17/20 2015 – 19/20 2016 – 19/20 2017 – 19/20 2018 – 18.5/20 2019 – 18.5/20 2020 – 19/20 2021 - * 2022 - * 2023 – 18/20 2024 – 18/20 *Sites were inaccessible due to flooding
Fauna Habitat		Low potential habitat	Observe maintenance or increase habitat condition rating over 10 years	2024 monitoring supports continued implementation of the conservation management strategies.

Area	Biodiversity Value	Description and baseline metric	KPI	Progress comment
Northern BA	Ironbark Woodland	Total area: 103.6ha RCA Average Health rating 18.6/20 (MZ1)	Extent and condition of woodland over 10 years.	RCA results: 2014 – 18/20 2015 – 18.5/20 2016 – 19.5/20 2017 – 19.5/20 2018 – 18/20 2019 – 18/20 2020 – 19/20 2021 – 19/20 2022 – 18.5/20 2023 - 18.5/20 2024 – 18/20 Area and health maintained.
	Ironbark Grassland	Total area: 23.1ha	Transition of grassland to woodland.	2024 monitoring supports continued implementation of the conservation management strategies.
	WSW	Total area: 19.5ha RCA Average Health rating 18.5/20 (MZ3)	Maintain woodland extent over 10 years.	RCA results: 2014 – 17.5/20 2015 – 18/20 2016 – 19/20 2017 – 19/20 2018 – 18.5/20 2019 – 18.5/20 2020 – 19/20 2021 – 18.5/20 2022 – 18.5/20 2023 – 18.5/20 2024 – 18.5/20 Area and health maintained.
	WS Grassland	Total area: 194.5	Transition of grassland to woodland	2024 monitoring supports continued implementation of the conservation management strategies.

Area	Biodiversity Value	Description and baseline metric	KPI	Progress comment
	Fauna Habitat		Observe maintenance or increase habitat condition rating over 10 years	2024 monitoring supports continued implementation of the conservation management strategies.

ATTACHMENT C:

EPBC 2009/5081 Compliance Register

(Condition 17)

EPBC 2009/5081 Compliance Register (Condition 17)

Condition	Documents	Date due (as per Approval)	Date submitted	Date approved	Date Plan on website	Date DoEE notified	Date review due
2	Putty Road Offset Management Plan	13-Apr-2014	14-Apr-2014	04-Jul-2014	31-Jul-2014	31-Jul-2014	within 12 months of the approval of the Phase 2 Offset (refer Condition 5)
5	Southern BA Management Plan	17-Feb-2017	15-Feb-2017 14-Dec-2017 (revised version) 13-Nov-2020 (revised version) 28-Jul-2022 (revised version)	30-Apr-2018 20-Jul-2021 12-Aug-2022	28-Feb-2019 22-Jul-2021 10-Nov-2022	N/A	12-Aug- 2026
6	Re-Establishment Management Plan	03-Feb-2015	02-Feb-2015	Not yet received	N/A	N/A	within 12 months of the Commencement of Construction of Phase 2
7	Putty, Seven Oaks, Goulburn River, Bowditch and North Rothbury Biodiversity Area Management Plans	17-Feb-2017	15-Feb-2017 14-Dec-2017 (revised versions) 28-Jul-2022 (revised version)	16-Feb-2018 (DoEE) 30-Apr-2018 (DPE) 12-Aug-2022	28-May-2018 10-Nov-2022	N/A	12-Aug- 2026
	Northern Management Plan		15-Feb-2017 14-Dec-2017 (revised version) 13-Nov-2020 (revised version) 28-Jul-2022 (revised version)	16-Feb-2018 (DoEE) 25-Sep-2018 (DPE) 20-Jul-2021 12-Aug-2022	27-Sep-2018 22-Jul-2021 10-Nov-2022	N/A	12-Aug- 2026
	Condon View Biodiversity Area Management Plan		15-Feb-2017 10-Oct-2017 (revised version) 28-Jul-2022 (revised version)	12-Aug-2022	4-Nov-2022	N/A	12-Aug- 2026
8	Water Management Plan	03-Aug-2014	15-Sep-2014 (following approval by NSW regulator 10-Sep-2014) 30-Apr-2020 (revised version). 28-Jul-2020 (revised version)	20-Sep-2018 (DPE) 13-May-2020 (DP&E) 15-Nov-2021	27-Sep-2018 13-May-2020 3-Feb-2022 (most recent version)	15-Sep-2014	N/A

Condition	Documents	Date due (as per Approval)	Date submitted	Date approved	Date Plan on website	Date DoEE notified	Date review due
11	Mine Site Rehabilitation Plan (Phase 1)	03-Feb-2015	02-Feb-2015	Not yet received	N/A	N/A	within 12 months of the Commencement of Construction of Phase 2
	Mine Site Rehabilitation Plan (Phase 2)	17-Feb-2017	23-Jan-2019 (following approval by NSW regulator 14-Dec-2018)	11-Jun-2019 (DPE) 11-Mar-2020 (DAWE)	N/A	N/A	N/A
			18-Nov-2021.	30-Nov-2021	19-Jan-2022	2-Aug-2022	
			28-Jul-2022	N/A for New RMP process	11-Aug-2022	Within 30 days of approval of a rehabilitation outcome document.	
		30-Jan-2024	As above	30-Jan-2024		As above	
12	Mine Closure Plan	6 months prior to mine closure	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
15	Compliance Report	03-May-2015 (and annually thereafter)	28-Apr-2015	N/A	28-Apr-2015	28-Apr-2015	03-May-2016
		03-May-2016	03-May-2016	N/A	03-May-2016	03-May-2016	03-May-2017
		03-May-2017	01-Jun-2017	N/A	10-Jun-2017	01-Jun-2017	03-May 2018
		03-May-2018	03-May-2018	N/A	03-May-2018	03-May-2018	03-May 2019
		03-May-2019	03-May-2019	N/A	03-May-2019	03-May-2019	03-May 2020
		03-May-2020	03-May-2020	N/A	03-May-2020	03-May-2020	03-May 2021
		03-May-2021	03-May-2021	N/A	03-May-2021	03-May-2021	03-May-2022
		03-May-2022	03-May-2022	N/A	03-May-2022	03-May-2022	03-May-2023
		03-May-2023	03-May-2023	N/A	03-May-2023	03-May-2023	03-May-2024
		03-May-2024	03-May-2024	N/A	03-May-2024	03-May-2024	03-May-2025
03-May-2025	02-May-2025	N/A	02-May-2025	02-May-2025	03-May-2026		