



Bloomfield Colliery Continuation Project

Community Newsletter 1 – January 2024

Introduction

Bloomfield Collieries Pty Limited (The Bloomfield Group), owns and operates the Bloomfield Colliery (the Colliery) east of Maitland.

The Colliery currently operates in accordance with Project Approval 07_0087. Mining operations under the existing approval may take place until 31 December 2030.

We seek to continue mining at the site for another five years, until 31 December 2035.

The assessment methodology for the continuation project has been approved by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI), and preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) assessment requirements has now commenced for the modification.

Who is the Bloomfield Group?

The Bloomfield Group is a proud Australian-owned and operated mining and engineering group. We have been part of the lower Hunter community for more than 85 years. We employ local people and work with local small businesses, and we support our community by investing in various community projects (<https://www.bloomcoll.com.au/foundation>).

About Bloomfield Colliery

Mining has been carried out at the site since the late 1850's, with Bloomfield taking over the Mining Lease in 1937. For the past 86 years, Bloomfield has maintained continuous operations on the site. Underground mining operations on the site ceased in 1992. Open-cut mining operations began in 1964 and are ongoing.

The Bloomfield Colliery has approval to operate 24 hours per day, seven days per week. It currently employs 93 personnel over 15 standard shifts a week across its operations, including the mining, administration and maintenance areas.

A range of real-time and predictive environmental monitoring is undertaken at the Colliery to minimise impacts on local communities, with the results regularly reviewed and reported annually.

In line with the approved final land use, substantial cattle grazing occurs on rehabilitated sections of the site today.

What is the Bloomfield Colliery Continuation Project?

Approval of the project will allow a continuation of mining in the current area.

Mining is proposed to occur in two locations, as shown on the project map: the Creek Cut Area and the Workshop Area.

The continuation of mining does not involve an increase in production, additional equipment or additional infrastructure. In fact, the proposed approved annual production level will be reduced.

The natural topography to the west and north of the proposed operations will continue to mitigate noise and visual impacts, and mining will not occur any closer to residential areas than has previously occurred.

Benefits

Improved final landform: The proposed modification would result in beneficial changes to the currently approved post mining landform by reducing the size of the final void and reducing rehabilitated slope angles supportive of the final land use (cattle grazing).

Opportunity to address legacy matters associated with the site: Mining has been carried out at the site since the late 1850's. This project provides the opportunity to mine an area of shallow historic underground workings, thereby removing the potential for subsidence and voids to occur at the surface and providing improved long term stability benefits for the final landform.

Employment and economic benefits for the local community, the State of NSW, and Australia: Continued mining will mean ongoing employment and additional taxation payable to both the State and Commonwealth Governments from the additional years of mining. Royalties will also be paid to the State on the additional resource that will be mined. These royalties contribute to funding NSW hospitals, schools, essential services, and infrastructure projects.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Preparation of the EIS has commenced. Specialist technical studies being prepared to inform the EIS include:

- Water Resources (surface water & groundwater)
- Soils and geology
- Rehabilitation and final landform
- Biodiversity
- Aboriginal Heritage
- Noise and vibration
- Air Quality
- Social Impact Assessment

We anticipate that the EIS will be submitted to DPHI in around May/June 2024.



Legend	
	Mining Lease
	Existing project area
	Additional project area for mining

Bloomfield Colliery Project Map



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Community Engagement

Community engagement is an important component of the project's planning and assessment process, and there will be opportunities for communities to learn about and provide input into the project including:

- Updates to our Community Consultative Committee
- Project newsletters
- The Bloomfield Group website, where people can register to receive information: <https://www.bloomcoll.com.au/sustainability/environmental-management/bloomfield-assessments/bloom-cont-1>
- One-on-one information sessions. These are planned to occur between 19 and 23 February 2024. To register for a briefing, please email bloomfieldcontinuation@bloomcoll.com.au
- Engagement with Registered Aboriginal Parties

Community Survey

We are undertaking a community survey to better understand how local communities view potential impacts and benefits that may result from the continuation of Bloomfield's operations. The results of the survey will inform the Social Impact Assessment and EIS.

The survey can be completed online by scanning the QR code below or visiting <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GSCXW3Q>. Hard copies of the community survey can be made available if requested. We ask that the survey be completed by 22 February 2024. Please note that your responses will remain confidential.



Community Consultative Committee Membership Opportunities

The Bloomfield Colliery Community Consultative Committee (CCC) generally meets three times per year, with the aim of keeping the community informed regarding the progress of the operations and environmental performance. The CCC is an important forum for open discussion between the community, local government, stakeholders and Bloomfield Colliery representatives. If you are a community member or a local stakeholder group and would like to enquire about joining the CCC, please contact the Independent Chairperson, Lisa Andrews at lisaandrews.ic@gmail.com.

Further information

If you have any questions about the project or would like to register for a one-on-one information session, please contact:

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