



**NSW
Resources
Regulator**

FWP0001243

APPIN COLLIERY FORWARD PROGRAM

Saturday 1 July 2023 to Tuesday 30 June 2026

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Summary

DETAIL

Mine	Appin Colliery
Reference	FWP0001243
Forward program commencement date	Saturday 1 July 2023
Forward program end date	Tuesday 30 June 2026
Forward program revision (if applicable)	
Contact	Amy Alice Bradbury
Mining leases	CL 388 (1973), MPL 200 (1973), ML 1473 (1992), MPL 201 (1973), ML 1433 (1992), CCL 767 (1973), ML 1382 (1992), ML 1574 (1992), CCL 724 (1973), CL 381 (1973), ML 1698 (1992), ML 1678 (1992)
Project location	Endeavour Coal Pty Ltd
Date of submission	Thursday 28 September 2023

Important

The department may make the information in your program and any supporting information available for inspection by members of the public, including by publication on its website or by displaying the information at any of its offices. If you consider any part of your program to be confidential, please communicate this to the department via the message function on this submission within the NSW Resources Regulator Portal.

Three-year forecast – surface disturbance activities

Project description

Appin Mine consists of the merged Appin, Tower, and West Cliff collieries. Appin Mine is owned and operated by Endeavour Coal Pty Ltd, a subsidiary company of Illawarra Coal Holdings Pty Ltd, which is 100% owned by South32 Limited. Key areas associated with the current Appin operations include the Appin North Pit Top site, Appin West Pit Top site, Appin East Pit Top site, Appin East Ventilation Shaft 1/2 and 3 sites, Appin West Ventilation Shaft 6 and Ventilation Shaft 7/8 (Appin Mine Ventilation and Access (AMVA) Project) sites, Douglas North Substation site, West Cliff Coal Preparation Plant (WCCCPP), the Coal Wash Emplacement Area (CWEA) and North Cliff Mine site.

Description of surface disturbance activities

Exploration activities

Exploration is anticipated to occur in exploration titles EL4470 and A248 in addition to the mining title CCL 767. Consultation will be undertaken with all potentially affected landholders during the planning and assessment of any proposed exploration activity in these areas. The proposed exploration will include (but is not limited to):

- Exploration drilling (i.e. slim and large diameter, surface-to-inseam etc.).
- Seismic acquisition (2D and 3D).

Activities will be directed towards the provision of geological information to contribute to short to medium term mine planning in Appin Mine. This would focus on the definition of structures (such as faults, sills and dykes) within the mining domain to determine their impact on mains, surface infrastructure and adjacent longwall block lengths. An example of this is confirmation of the nature of the Wandinong Fault and dyke identification across the Appin Mining Domain. The primary techniques for structure definition will be borehole drilling and seismic. Geotechnical investigations (including boreholes and shallow pits) will be directed at confirming ground conditions for proposed ventilation shaft/s. Groundwater boreholes will be drilled for monitoring purposes. The activities will be reported in the Annual Review.

Construction activities

The following construction activities are planned to be executed over the next three years:

- Continuation of the AMVA Project including, construction and operation of two ventilation shafts (VS) and associated infrastructure.

- Upgrade of the current 8000 tonne product bins at the WCCPP. Works are planned to commence in late FY24 with completion expected in FY27.
- Completion of the concrete settling tanks, P3 and P4a dosing systems to improve water quality for reuse and discharge.
- Upgrade of the haul road system between the CWEA and the WCCPP.
- Relocation of the drill mud slurry ponds.
- Engineering for the lifting and upgrade of Wedderburn Road.
- Upgrade of the Sewage Treatment System at Appin North.
- Removal/ emplacement of remaining coal wash that had been stored at Appin North pending approval of an Operational Purpose Deduction or beneficial reuse.

Mining schedule

Mining development method and sequencing and general mine features.

Planned mining activities will generally be conducted in Appin Area 7 as mining has now concluded in Appin Area 9. Roadway development in Appin Area 7 will be maintained, with a target of one to two panels in advance of longwall extraction. Current operations in Appin Area 7 will continue in generally a northerly direction. Panels will be extracted from west to east as per current practice, with run of mine (RoM) coal being conveyed to the surface at Appin East and Appin North. RoM coal conveyed to Appin East will be stored in surface loading bins or on temporary stockpiles before being trucked to the WCCPP for processing. RoM coal conveyed to Appin North will be either stockpiled or directly fed to WCCPP for processing.

Areas identified for emplacements, the sequencing of emplacements, construction, and management.

RoM coal from Appin Mine will continue to be processed at the WCCPP with a small percentage processed at the Dendrobium Coal Preparation Plant (DCPP) on an as needed basis. The coal wash from the WCCPP will continue to be emplaced at the CWEA, with coal wash from the DCPP only being emplaced at the CWEA if beneficial reuses of the coal wash are unable to be sourced. IMC actively seeks opportunities for the beneficial reuse of coal wash from the DCPP.

Emplacement operations will take place within the Stage 3 CWEA. The Stage 3 CWEA is currently undergoing a proposed design change which may result in the removal of the need to construct a new Emplacement Pond (EP) 4. This will rely on the findings of the Stage 4 cultural heritage review. Typically, 0.7 to 0.8Mt of coal wash will be emplaced at the CWEA annually from the WCCPP. Additional coal wash may be emplaced if beneficial reuse options are not available for the coal wash generated from processing Dendrobium RoM product by the DCPP. Rehabilitation of the CWEA takes place progressively as each section of embankment fill reaches the finished level in accordance with the Appin Mine Coal Wash Emplacement Area Management Plan (CWEAMP).

Processing infrastructure activities and the location of tailings facilities and schedule for emplacement.

RoM coal from Appin Mine will continue to be processed at the WCCPP with a small percentage processed at the DCPP on an as needed basis. The coal wash from the WCCPP will continue to be emplaced at the CWEA, with coal wash from the DCPP only being emplaced at the CWEA if beneficial reuses of the coal wash are unable to be sourced.

Waste disposal and materials handling operations

Waste will be managed in accordance with the Appin Mine Waste Management Plan (WMP). The WMP has been developed to meet Condition 29 of Schedule 4 of the Appin Mine Project Approval. Emplacement of coal wash is managed in accordance with the approved CWEAMP.

Presently there are comprehensive waste segregation processes in place (on- and off-site) which significantly reduces the amount of general waste going to landfill. General or specific exempted waste may be disposed of on-site in the CWEA with prior approval by the Manager Surface and Infrastructure and Appin North Specialist Environment. Waste generated by the project that is required to be taken off-site is collected and segregated into appropriate waste types by a licenced waste contractor to enable the proper facilitation of waste classification, recycle, storage, transport, disposal and tracking.

The WMP and CWEAMP are available on the IMC website: <https://www.south32.net/what-we-do/our-locations/australia/illawarra-metallurgical-coal/documents>.

Key production milestones

MATERIAL	UNIT	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
Stripped topsoil <small>(if applicable)</small>	(m ³)	21,000	15,000	15,000
Rock/ overburden	(m ³)	0	0	0
Ore	(Mt)	3.89	4.42	5.61
Reject material¹	(Mt)	0.63	0.69	0.95
Product	(Mt)	3.26	3.73	4.66

¹ This includes coarse rejects, tailings and any other wastes resulting from beneficiation.

Three-year rehabilitation forecast

Rehabilitation planning schedule

Rehabilitation planning schedule

Progressive rehabilitation of the CWEA: Rehabilitation of the CWEA surface will take place progressively as each section of embankment fill reaches the finished level. Generally, an estimated 3 ha of the CWEA will be rehabilitated per year.

Progressive closure of redundant assets: IMC is currently progressing investigations and studies to inform the rehabilitation works and approvals required at the North Cliff Site and Bulli Shaft sites as part of IMC's Redundant Infrastructure Program. Executing the rehabilitation work remains subject to the outcomes of these investigation and studies, as well as external and internal approval processes. Therefore, a detailed schedule of key activities has not yet been prepared.

Rehabilitation of areas affected by subsidence: Impacts associated with Longwalls 32 to 38 have been identified in the Georges River, some requiring rehabilitation. The rehabilitation will be undertaken in accordance with the Georges River Remediation Plan (GRRP). The schedule may be impacted by land access agreements and environmental issues such as site access, bushfire, drought and wet weather. IMC will continue to work with the Resources Regulator to progress this project and provide a progress report at 6 monthly intervals for the duration of the program. The intended schedule is provided in the GRRP, found on the IMC website: <https://www.south32.net/what-we-do/our-locations/australia/illawarra-metallurgical-coal/documents>.

Stakeholder consultation

Table 19 (Page 44) of the Appin Mine Rehabilitation Management Plan (RMP) details the proposed stakeholder consultation activities over the next three years. This is available on the IMC website: <https://www.south32.net/what-we-do/our-locations/australia/illawarra-metallurgical-coal/documents>.

Rehabilitation studies, risk assessments and/ or design work

Table 20 (Page 49) of the Appin Mine RMP contains a Forward Work Program which describes the studies and design work required over the next three years. This is available on the IMC website: <https://www.south32.net/what-we-do/our-locations/australia/illawarra-metallurgical-coal/documents>.

Rehabilitation research and trials

RRT NUMBER	PROJECT/ TRIAL NAME	OBJECTIVE OF TRIAL/ PROJECT	METHODOLOGY	EXPECTED DATE OF COMPLETION	STATUS
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Rehabilitation maintenance and corrective actions

Land access agreements to undertake the GRRP progressed slower than anticipated in FY23 due to the number of landholders and their requirements. IMC will continue to work with landholders to progress land access agreements into FY24.

Progressive rehabilitation in the CWEA was less than predicted partly due to high rainfall and wet weather conditions, but also due to the CWEA final landform undergoing a review. Once the review has been completed, IMC will revise the forecasted plan. This is likely to occur in the next Forward Program.

Rehabilitation schedule

The rehabilitation of the CWEA surface will take place progressively as each section of embankment fill reaches the finished level. The area of land cleared within the CWEA and dedicated as the active emplacement area will be restricted to an operational size of 18 ha (where practical, with a maximum area of 21 ha) and will be progressively rehabilitated to achieve this. Soil from clearing areas is not stockpiled where possible and is utilised directly on areas that have reached final landform design.

IMC is currently progressing investigations and studies to inform the rehabilitation works and approvals required at the North Cliff Site and Bulli Shaft sites. Executing the rehabilitation work remains subject to the outcomes of these investigation and studies, as well as external and internal approval processes. Therefore, a detailed schedule of key activities has not yet been prepared.

Land access agreements are continuing to be progressed for the GRRP.

All disturbance will be accounted for and monitored through the permit to disturb and approved pre-clearing process. This minimises unnecessary disturbance as each area is required to be approved by an Environmental Representative who is aware of the clearing allocation and requirements for each area approval.

Refer to the Forward Work Program in the RMP for further details. This is available on the IMC website: <https://www.south32.net/what-we-do/our-locations/australia/illawarra-metallurgical-coal/documents>.

Subsidence remediation for underground operations

Impacts associated with Longwalls 32 to 38 have been identified in the Georges River, some requiring rehabilitation. The rehabilitation will be undertaken in accordance with the GRRP. The rehabilitation work is proposed to be carried out in several stages, as grouting works will need to be conducted iteratively. Pools with more significant impacts will generally be targeted as a priority, as this may then indirectly improve the condition of pools with lesser impacts. The staged nature of the rehabilitation project has been designed to enable improvements and efficiencies to be incorporated in later activities.

Therefore, the activities listed may be adjusted during implementation. Results from the WC21 rehabilitation trial at Dendrobium Mine will confirm the specific methodology to be used in the Georges River.

The subsidence area for current longwalls will be monitored and remediated where required in accordance with the relevant extraction plan.

Progressive mining and rehabilitation statistics

Three-yearly forecast cumulative disturbance and rehabilitation progression

FORECAST	UNIT	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
A Total surface disturbance footprint	(ha)	295.58	301.25	305.4
B Total active disturbance	(ha)	219.19	212.37	200.57
P Total new area of land proposed for active rehabilitation	(ha)	10.56	23.04	38.99

Rehabilitation key performance indicators (KPIs)

FORECAST	UNIT	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
O Total new active disturbance area	(ha)	14.68	5.68	4.15
P Total new area of land proposed for active rehabilitation during the reporting period	(ha)	10.56	12.49	15.95
Q Annual rehabilitation to disturbance ratio		0.72	2.2	3.84

Attachment 1 – Reporting Definitions

REPORTING CATEGORY	DEFINITION
<p>A Total disturbance footprint – surface disturbance</p>	<p>All areas within a mining lease that either have at some point in time or continue to pose a rehabilitation liability due to surface disturbance activities.</p> <p>The total disturbance footprint is the sum of the total active disturbance, decommissioning, landform establishment, growth medium development, ecosystem and land use establishment, ecosystem and land use development and rehabilitation completion (see definitions below).</p> <p>Underground mining operations should not include the footprint of underground mining areas/subsidence management areas in the total disturbance footprint.</p>
<p>B Total active disturbance</p>	<p>Includes on-lease exploration areas, stripped areas ahead of mining, infrastructure areas, water management infrastructure, sewage treatment facilities, topsoil stockpile areas, access tracks and haul roads, active mining areas, waste rock emplacements (active/unshaped/in or out-of-pit), tailings dams (active/unshaped/uncapped) and temporary stabilised areas (e.g. areas sown with temporary cover crops for dust mitigation and temporary rehabilitation).</p>
<p>C Rehabilitation – land preparation</p>	<p>Includes the sum of all disturbed land within a mining lease that have commenced any, or all, of the following phases of rehabilitation – decommissioning, landform establishment and growth medium development.</p> <p>Refer to the glossary of terms in this document for the definition of these phases of rehabilitation.</p>
<p>D Ecosystem and land use establishment</p>	<p>Includes the area which has been seeded/planted with the target vegetation species for the intended final land use. However, vegetation has not matured to a stage where it can be demonstrated that it will be sustainable for the long term and or require only a maintenance regime consistent with target reference/ analogue sites.</p> <p>Typically, rehabilitation areas would be in this phase for at least two years (and usually more) before rehabilitation can be classified as being in the ecosystem and land use development phase. This phase does not apply to infrastructure areas that are being retained as part of final land use for the site.</p>

REPORTING CATEGORY	DEFINITION
O	The area of any new active disturbance that will be created during the next three years, as defined under definition A1 (definition A1 Table 5).
P	The sum of any new rehabilitation to be commenced in the next three years. These areas may be in the phases “Rehabilitation - Land Preparation” or the “Ecosystem & Land Use Establishment” (definitions C & D in Table 5).
Q	The rehabilitation to disturbance ratio (S/ R) indicates how many hectares of new rehabilitation are undertaken for each hectare of land disturbed during the three years. A ratio of 1/1 indicates that the area of new rehabilitation and disturbance in that period are the same.

Attachment 2 – Definitions

WORD	DEFINITION
Active	In the context of rehabilitation, land associated with mining domains is considered 'active' for the period following disturbance until the commencement of rehabilitation.
Active mining phase of rehabilitation	In the context of rehabilitation, the active mining phase of rehabilitation constitutes the rehabilitation activities undertaken during mining operations such as salvaging and managing soil resources, salvaging habitat resources, and native seed collection. This phase also includes management actions taken during operations to manage risks to rehabilitation and enhance rehabilitation outcomes such as selective handling of waste rock and management of tailings emplacements.
Analogue site	In the context of rehabilitation, an analogue site is a 'reference site' that represents an example of the defining characteristics (such as vegetation composition and structure or agricultural productivity) of the final land use. Characteristics of analogue sites can be assessed to develop the rehabilitation objectives and completion criteria for final land use domains.
Annual rehabilitation report and forward program	As described in the Mining Regulation 2016.
Annual reporting period	As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.
Closure	A whole-of-mine-life process, which typically culminates in the relinquishment of the mining lease. It includes decommissioning and rehabilitation to achieve the approved final land use(s).
Decommissioning	The process of removing mining infrastructure and removing contaminants and hazardous materials.
Decommissioning Phase of Rehabilitation	Activities associated with the removal of mining infrastructure and removal and/or remediation of contaminants and hazardous materials. In the context of the rehabilitation management plan this phase of rehabilitation may also include studies and assessments associated with decommissioning and demolition of infrastructure or works carried out to make safe or 'fit for purpose' built infrastructure to be retained for future use(s) following lease relinquishment.

WORD	DEFINITION
Department	The Department of Regional NSW.
Disturbance	See Surface Disturbance.
Disturbance area	<p>An area that has been disturbed and that requires rehabilitation.</p> <p>This may include areas such as on-licence exploration areas, stripped areas ahead of mining, infrastructure areas, water management infrastructure, sewage treatment facilities, topsoil stockpile areas, access tracks and haul roads, active mining areas, waste emplacements (active/unshaped/in or out-of-pit), tailings dams (active/unshaped/uncapped), and areas requiring rehabilitation that are temporarily stabilised (i.e. managed to minimise dust generation and/or erosion).</p>
Domain	<p>An area (or areas) of the land that has been disturbed by mining and has a specific operational use (mining domain) or specific final land use (final land use domain). Land within a domain typically has similar geochemical and/or geophysical characteristics and therefore requires specific rehabilitation activities to achieve the associated final land use.</p>
Ecosystem and Land Use Development	<p>This phase of rehabilitation consists of the activities to manage maturing rehabilitation areas on a trajectory to achieving the approved rehabilitation objectives and completion criteria.</p> <p>For vegetated land uses this phase may include processes to develop characteristics of functional self-sustaining ecosystems, such as nutrient recycling, vegetation flowering and reproduction, and increasing habitat complexity, and development of a productive, self-sustaining soil profile.</p> <p>This phase of rehabilitation may include specific vegetation management strategies and maintenance such as tree thinning, supplementary plantings and weed management.</p>
Ecosystem and Land Use Establishment	<p>This phase of rehabilitation consists of the processes to establish the approved final land use following construction of the final landform.</p> <p>For vegetated land uses this rehabilitation phase includes establishing the desired vegetation community and implementing land management activities such as weed control. This phase of rehabilitation may also include habitat augmentation such as installation of nest boxes.</p>
Exploration	Has the same meaning as that term under the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007.

WORD	DEFINITION
Final landform and rehabilitation plan	As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.
Final land use	As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.
Form and way	Means the form and way approved by the Secretary. Approved form and way documents are available on the Department’s website.
Growth Medium Development	<p>This phase of rehabilitation consists of activities required to establish the physical, chemical and biological components of the substrate required to establish the desired vegetation community (including short lived pioneer species).</p> <p>This phase may include spreading the prepared landform with topsoil and/or subsoil and/or soil substitutes, applying soil ameliorants to enhance the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of the growth media, and actions to minimise loss of growth media due to erosion.</p>
Habitat	Has the same meaning as that term under the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> and the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> (as relevant).
Indicator	An attribute of the biophysical environment (e.g. pH, topsoil depth, biomass) that can be used to approximate the progression of a biophysical process. It can be measured and audited to demonstrate (and track) the progress of an aspect of rehabilitation towards a desired completion criterion (i.e. defined end point). It may be aligned to an established protocol and used to evaluate changes in a system.
Land	As defined in the <i>Mining Act 1992</i> .
Landform Establishment	<p>This phase of rehabilitation consists of the processes and activities required to construct the final landform.</p> <p>In addition to profiling the surface of rehabilitation areas to the approved final landform profile this phase may include works to construct surface water drainage features, encapsulate problematic materials such as tailings, and prepare a substrate with the desired physical and chemical characteristics (e.g. rock raking or ameliorating sodic materials).</p>
Large mine	As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.
Lease holder	The holder of a mining lease.

WORD	DEFINITION
Life of mine	The timeframe of how long a mine is approved to mine, from commencement to closure.
Mine rehabilitation portal	<p>Means the NSW Resources Regulator’s online portal that lease holders must use (via a registered account) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ upload rehabilitation geographical information system (GIS) spatial data ■ develop rehabilitation GIS spatial data (using online tracing functions) ■ generate rehabilitation plans and rehabilitation statistics using the map viewer and Rehabilitation Key Performance Indicator functionalities. <p>Data submitted to the mine rehabilitation portal is collated in a centralised geodatabase for use by the NSW Resources Regulator to regulate rehabilitation performance of lease holders.</p>
Mining area	As defined in the <i>Mining Act 1992</i> .
Mining domain	A land management unit with a discrete operational function (e.g. overburden emplacement), and therefore similar geophysical characteristics, that will require specific rehabilitation treatments to achieve the final land use(s).
Mining land	As defined in the <i>Mining Act 1992</i> .
Native vegetation	Has the same meaning as that term under section 60B of the <i>Local Land Services Act 2013</i> .
Overburden	Material overlying coal or a mineral deposit.
Performance indicator	An attribute of the biophysical environment (for example pH, slope, topsoil depth, biomass) that can be used to demonstrate achievement of a rehabilitation objective. It can be measured and audited to demonstrate (and track) the progress of an aspect of rehabilitation towards a desired completion criterion, that is, a defined end point. It may be aligned to an established protocol and used to evaluate changes in a system.

WORD	DEFINITION
Phases of rehabilitation	<p>The stages and sequences of actions required to rehabilitate disturbed land to achieve the final land use. The phases of rehabilitation are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ active mining ■ decommissioning ■ landform Establishment ■ growth medium development ■ ecosystem and land use establishment ■ ecosystem and land use development.
Progressive rehabilitation	<p>The progress of rehabilitation towards achieving the approved rehabilitation completion criteria. This may be described in terms of domains, phases, performance indicators and rehabilitation completion criteria.</p>
Rehabilitation Completion	<p>The final phase of rehabilitation when a rehabilitation area has achieved the approved rehabilitation objectives and rehabilitation completion criteria for the final land use. Rehabilitation areas may be classified as complete when the NSW Resources Regulator has determined in writing that the relevant rehabilitation obligations have been fulfilled following submission of <i>Form ESF2 Rehabilitation completion and/or review of rehabilitation cost estimate</i> application by the lease holder.</p>
Rehabilitation Completion criteria	<p>As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.</p>
Rehabilitation cost estimate	<p>As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.</p>
Rehabilitation management plan	<p>As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.</p>
Rehabilitation objectives	<p>As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.</p>
Rehabilitation risk assessment	<p>As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.</p>
Rehabilitation schedule	<p>The defined timeframes for progressive rehabilitation set out in the forward program.</p>

WORD	DEFINITION
Relevant stakeholders	Means any persons or bodies who may be affected by the mining operations, including rehabilitation, carried out on the lease land, and includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ the relevant development consent authority ■ the local council ■ the relevant landholder(s) ■ community consultative committee (if required under the development consent) or equivalent consultative group ■ affected land holder(s) ■ government agencies relevant to the final land use ■ affected infrastructure authorities (electricity, telecommunications, water, pipeline, road, rail authorities) ■ local Aboriginal communities, and ■ any other person or body determined by the Minister to be a relevant stakeholder in relation to a mining lease.
Risk	The effect of uncertainty on objectives. It is measured in terms of consequences and likelihood (AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009).
Secretary	The Secretary of the Department.
Security deposit	An amount that a mining lease holder is required to provide and maintain under a mining lease condition, to secure funding for the fulfilment of obligations under the lease (including obligations that may arise in the future).
Surface disturbance	Includes activities that disturb the surface of the mining area, including mining operations, ancillary mining activities and exploration.
Tailings	A combination of the fine-grained solid material remaining after the recoverable metals and minerals have been extracted from the mined ore, and any process water ² .
Waste	Has the same meaning as that term under the <i>Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997</i> .

² Commonwealth of Australia (DITR), 2007. *Tailings Management*.

Attachment 3 – Plans

Plan 2A - Mining and Rehabilitation Year 1.zip

Plan 2B - Mining and Rehabilitation Year 2.zip

Plan 2C - Mining and Rehabilitation Year 3.zip

Forward Program (LARGE MINE) v2.1