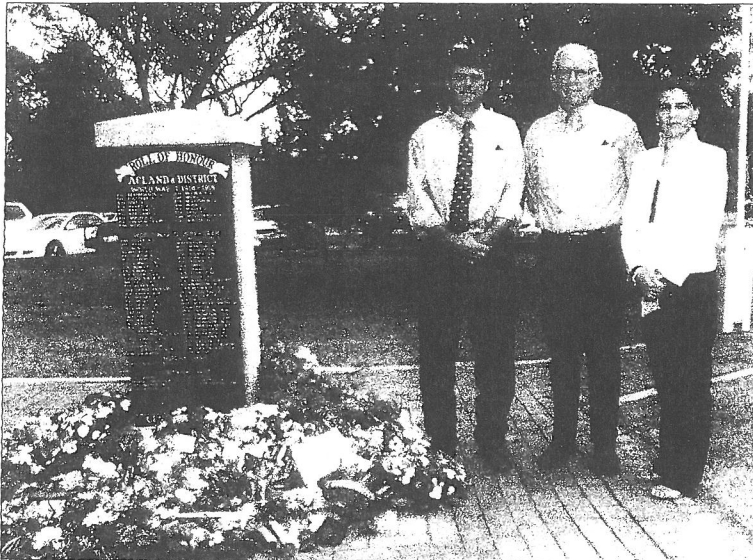


Future of Acland memorial still in doubt

May 1st 2012



The future of the war memorial at Acland rests with the company that operates the Acland coal mine, and the State Government. These organisations were represented at the Anzac service at Acland by Ben Muirhead, pastoral manager of Acland Pastoral Co, Jim Randel, general manager of Acland Coal, and Deb Frecklington, newly elected Member for Nanango.

At the end of the Anzac Day service at Acland last Wednesday, the New Hope coal mining company was thanked for its participation in the commemoration.

In his vote of thanks that concluded the service, Sid Plant said that never before had so many from the nearby mine been involved in the Anzac Day service.

Mr Plant thanked coal mine general manager Jim Randel and the 18 or so staff who attended.

"This place is special to us," Mr Plant said, referring to the war memorial in Tom Doherty Park in what is left of Acland.

"You might have other ambitions for it," Mr Plant said, a reference to plans to mine the town area in Stage 3 of the Acland mine development.

But many at the service had "new hope" that the new State Government might

prevent Stage 3 from proceeding.

They refer to promises made before the election by the LNP that further development of the Acland mine would be stopped.

Organiser of the Acland Anzac service Col Ambrose said the LNP made that promise.

However, he was disappointed that in the council campaign, mayoral candidates Peter Taylor and Paul Antonio have "not come out clearly" and said they wanted to stop stage three. Mr Ambrose suggested there might be a way to save the war memorial, even if some mining proceeded.

"If you ask all the people here today if they wanted the memorial to stay, they would answer 'yes'."

"I hope it's here next year," Mr Ambrose said.

Acland's last official resident, Glen Beutel said the

promise of the LNP was a great relief.

"It's now up to the government.

"But the memorial should stay," said Mr Beutel, who has refused to sell his home to the New Hope coal mining group.

It was thought the 2010 Anzac Day service was would be the last at Acland.

The Toowoomba Regional Council had planned to move the memorial to Kulpi.

But Col Ambrose has questioned that decision, and suggests it was an idea of only one councillor.

The approvals from government sanctioning the developing of Stage 3 mining have taken much longer than expected, and each year the number of people attending services at Acland is increasing.

On Wednesday an estimated 250 gathered around the war memorial for the commemoration service, and these included people from Brisbane.



Among the estimated 250 people who attended the ANZAC Day service at Acland, were Justin and Maria Hughston who rode in from Muldu just north-west of Acland. Their dog Axel would not stay at home and rested under a tree during the service.

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Burning issues

With the onset of spring weather and predictions by authorities of a severe bush fire season, Ergon Energy is warning the community about power disruptions caused by burning off.

Manager Regional Services Craig Harris said the community faced the problem of bush fires and burning off annually and quite often wooden power poles were destroyed.

"After wet seasons in recent years, there is an abundance of on-ground fuel and a heightened level of alert for Ergon Energy fire authorities and property owners alike," he said.

Footpath work

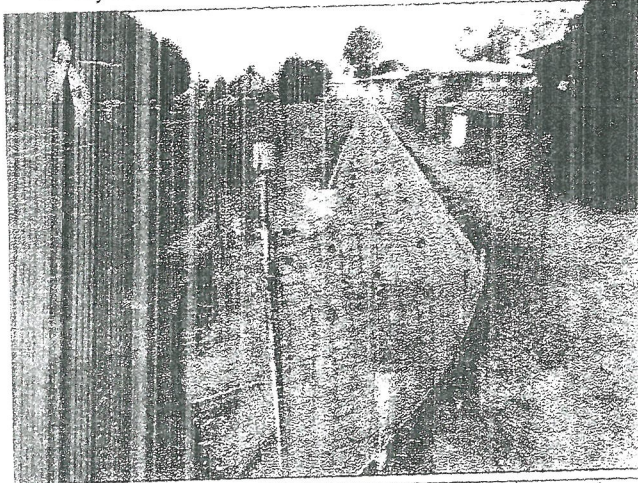
Toowoomba Regional Council Infrastructure Committee chair Cr Carol Taylor said a council work team from the Oakey depot was constructing a footpath on the northern side of Aylmer Street, Oakey.

Cr Taylor said the footpath would extend from Campbell to Joseph streets.

Work is expected to be completed in early October.

Cr Taylor said the project

funding was allocated in the recent 2012/13 Budget, which included funding of more than \$1 million for footpath repairs and upgrades across the region.



ABOVE: The footpath under construction on the northern side of Aylmer Street, Oakey

Teachers rally for

Teachers and principals from Oakey and surrounding areas have rallied against the Queensland Government that their conditions are not for sale.

The QTU members organised the rally claiming that the Government has made only one offer during lengthy enterprise bargaining negotiations,

and that offer aims to strip away more than 20 working conditions.

QTU President Kevin Bates, who attended the rally, said the QTU and its

New director appointed

New Hope Corporation Limited has announced that Ms Sue Palmer has been appointed as a non-executive Director and Chairperson of the Audit Committee of the Company.

In an ASX Announcement it was revealed that Ms Palmer is a Chartered Accountant who holds a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Queensland.

With a career spanning over 30 years, Ms Palmer brings an extensive and current knowledge to the New Hope board in all aspects of accounting, finance, financial reporting, risk management, and corporate governance.

Ms Palmer has held a range of senior executive financial roles with a diverse range of organisations including PriceWaterhouse, Incitec, CS Energy, Leighton Contractors and most recently as CFO and Executive Director for Thiess Pty Ltd.

She also served as a director

and audit committee Chairperson for MSF Sugar.

Ms Palmer will join the board on 1 November 2012.

In other New Hope news, its Quarterly Activities Report has revealed that the introduction of Statutory Regional Planning by the new Queensland State Government is impacting the process and timing of the Supplementary EIS for the New Acland Continuation plan.

The report stated that during the period significant dialogue was undertaken with all key stakeholders regarding a revised development plan.

It also noted that Sedgman has completed a coal processing and infrastructure study.

Asking the question in Oakey

New Hope cuts through fog to impress

Luke Forrester

New Hope Corp chief executive Robert Neale has warned of the "cumulative burden" of new taxes and increased royalties on the coal industry in delivering a full-year result that satisfied investors looking for capital returns.

While declining to criticise the Queensland government directly for its recent decision to lift coal royalties, Mr Neale said yesterday that in conjunction with the mining tax and the carbon tax, it would result in more project delays and cancellations in the state's coal sector.

"You can understand that governments are struggling to repair their own balance sheets given the excesses of the past, but it's the cumulative burden that really dents the industry," he told *The Australian Financial Review*.

New Hope Corporation

Full year	2012	2011
Sales (\$m)	767.7	1,186.5
Pretax (\$m)	198.8	719.1
Net (\$m)	167.1	503.1
EPS	20.6¢	17.7¢
Final div [*]	25¢	20¢
*Payable	Nov 6	
Close		
Shares (last)	\$4.55	Change +37¢

In response to the recent slump in coal prices, the ongoing strength of the Australian dollar and the new taxes, New Hope is reviewing the pace at which it progresses its development projects.

"There's always a bit of a fog on the horizon, but I guess the fog is getting a bit denser," Mr Neale said of the market conditions.

But despite the unfavourable environment, the company managed to impress the market with its full-year results yesterday.

Its shares rose 37¢ to \$4.55 after the announcement.

The net profit of \$167.1 million was a little below market consensus. But that was more than made up for by a 20¢ special dividend, which will be paid with a 5¢ final dividend.

"The market was expecting around 10¢ on top of the 5¢," RBSMorgans analyst Tom Sartor said. "It was probably a smart move in a market that is so focused on dividend returns."

New Hope, whose major shareholder Washington H Soul Pattison failed to find a buyer for the company in a \$5 billion auction earlier this year, retains \$1.5 billion in cash on its balance sheet.

Mr Neale said this meant it was

well positioned to move on acquisition opportunities that would be immediately earnings accretive, either in coal or another energy commodity. He couldn't predict if the difficult conditions for coal companies would create more opportunities than usual.

"We're in a situation where we don't have to buy or sell anything tomorrow," he said.

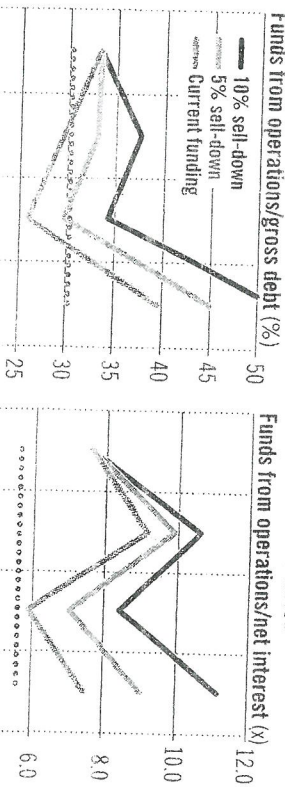
"I can just run the business properly and take my time. Time is our friend, rather than our enemy."

One of the growth options New Hope is reviewing is an expansion of the Acland mine, a project that the new Queensland government has threatened to block in favour of preserving land for farming.

The company is understood to still be in negotiations with the government on the matter and may be close to reaching a compromise.

Lacking buyers

Origin debt metrics under different scenarios



..... Dotted line = S&P's critical limits for ratio of funds from operations to gross debt, and fund operations to net interest ratio, before Origin's credit rating would be cut.

17/9 BG sales woes fuel worries ON CSC-ING

Angela Macdonald-Smith

BG Group's retreat from plan to sell a stake in the state's coal industry

17/9
BG Group has stepped back from

Japanese t has follow the Austr snapping t Queensland \$US1.7 mi acquire D Asian pro food opera The dea California Itochu a k \$450 milli a supplier Woolworth on five b packaging Queensland distribution Zealand. Under t exclusive ri trademark food in Asi Zealand. D registered i Dolicious, Bobby Ban **Cashed in houses in buying an overseas. Itochu, J**



Office of the Premier

For reply please quote: *MC/NC – TF/13/1388 – DOC/13/34281*

- 8 MAR 2013

Mr Glenn Beutel

Executive Building
100 George Street Brisbane
PO Box 15185 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3224 4500
Facsimile +61 7 3221 3631
Email ThePremier@premiers.qld.gov.au
Website www.thepremier.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Beutel

Thank you for your letter of 23 January 2013 about the New Acland Coal Project expansion. I have been requested to reply to you on the Premier's behalf.

Enquiries have been made with the Office of the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and it is understood that a response has been prepared and will be forwarded to you in the near future.

Please be assured that the Deputy Premier will give your concerns full consideration.

Again, thank you for bringing this matter to the Premier's attention.

Yours sincerely

DIRECTOR OF POLICY



**Queensland
Government**

Why the local MP changed her mind

According to the Member for Nanango, Mrs Deb Frecklington, right, there has been a lot of misinformation out there in relation to Acland. Let's clear it up with the real



story: The proposal has the

same name but is not the same project. My statement still stands.

I would not have supported the then proposed stage 3 due to the impact on agricultural land and the footprint of the proposal which included

the town of Acland. The amended stage 3 includes the following changes to the original proposal. Preserving the course of Lagoon Creek, moving the Jondaryan rail load-out facility eight kilometres from the town, moving mining activity 10 kilometres from Oakey. *Cont. page 4.*

All Handbags & Jewellery

Acland Stage 3 - Why the local member changed her mind

Continued from Page 3

Other amendments to the original proposal included no relocation of the heritage-listed New Acland colliery, reducing the impact on strategic cropping land by around 2300 hectares, reducing throughput from up to 10 million tonnes a year to a maximum of 7.5 million tonnes a year, reducing the proposed mine life from 2042 to 2029.

This amended project means hundreds of jobs, securing the future of our small towns while meeting the concerns of the community in relation to the footprint on agricultural land.

The Co-ordinator General has imposed strict conditions to protect land and groundwater, including baseline studies and ongoing monitoring of water bores. Other key conditions in the Co-ordinator-General's report include a new rail load-out facility, 8km from the town of Jondaryan, must transport all product from day one of operating the Stage 3 project, thereby replacing the existing Jondaryan rail load-out facility which is 1km from the town, stringent noise and dust lim-

its that require best practice, dust and noise monitoring and management systems with alarms to notify if limits are close to being met, allowing for an immediate change in mine activities, a new sealed road from Acland to Jondaryan.

A flora and fauna conservation zone along the section of Lagoon Creek in the mining lease area, with a particular focus on improving koala habitat, independent verification of the design and construction of the rail spur infrastructure to minimise potential flooding impacts.

The New Acland mine expansion will now be considered by the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment for approval. If approved, the proponents would then need to seek State Government approval for a mining lease under the Mineral Resources Act 1989 and an Environmental Authority under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 and will also be assessed under the QLD Governments new Regional Planning Interests Act which came into effect in June this year.

y for Highfields Labor

Woombe Qld 4350 for the Australia

HIGH COUNTRY HERALD - JANUARY 27, 2015 - 3

TO THE EDITOR

Saving Acland

Mrs Deb Frecklington (Herald 23/12/14) seems to be singing from the New Hope (proponent) song book, along with their cheer squad.

Deb Frecklington's claim that the varied Stage 3 of Acland mine has saved the heritage listed Acland No. 3 Colliery from removal is incorrect.

As I understand it, permission had never been granted to remove the infrastructure and develop the site.

The project now includes losing three of the four access roads to Acland.

This will strangle the town and reduce any tourist potential of the Acland Colliery and railway heritage as well as restrict access to Tom Doherty Park, home to the soldiers memorial, especially for ANZAC Day services.

Despite this, Deb Frecklington now thinks the new footprint of the mine saves Acland, the koala population, the ration of 35 new trees will save the remaining koala population, and the irretrievable loss of the best agricultural land in the lease is worthy of her support.

Is the Member for Nanango also supporting the sale of Tom Doherty Park to the proponent? - Glenn Beutel, Acland.

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Enquiries Ruth Brown
Telephone (07) 4699 4304
Your Reference
Our Reference SWR/C90536 (Pt 4)



Department of
**Environment and
Heritage Protection**

17 April 2013

Mr Glen Beutel

Dear Mr Beutel

Noise Complaint - New Acland Coal Mine

I am writing in relation to your complaint regarding environmental noise nuisance allegedly being caused by mining activities at the New Acland Coal (NAC) mine and the subsequent noise logging conducted at your residence from 24 – 29 October 2012 by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP).

After the noise monitoring was completed at your residence, the most representative sample periods were analysed. The periods chosen contained clearly audible mine noise during periods when sleep may be affected and contained the least amount of extraneous noises such as roosters and bird noise. The noise samples were analysed to remove the extraneous noise and where applicable penalties were applied for the presence of tonal and impulsive noises such as banging noise caused by rocks being dropped into the trays of dump trucks. The analysed data revealed that the noise limit of $L_{A,T,1hr}$ 40dB(A) defined in NAC's environmental authority was exceeded on all four sample periods. The limit was exceeded by a range of 1.1dB(A) – 7.2dB(A).

It should be noted that during the monitoring periods a light breeze was blowing predominantly from the east and the north east which may have assisted in the propagation of mine noise towards your residence.

In accordance with condition D4 (as shown below) of environmental authority MIN100550507, New Acland Coal has been requested to take action to implement noise abatement measures so that emissions of noise from mining activities do not result in further environmental nuisance.

(D4) If monitoring indicates exceedance of the limits in Schedule D- Table 1 and 2, then Environmental Authority holder must:

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Website www.ehp.qld.gov.au
ABN 46 640 294 485

6 weeks gone since Oct 12

- a) *Address the complaint including the use of appropriate dispute resolution if required; and*
- b) *Immediately implement noise abatement measures so that emissions of noise from the activity do not result in further environmental nuisance.*

The mine will not be able to fulfil condition D4(a) as it is understood that you do not wish to have contact with the mine, enabling them to discuss the complaint with you in person.

New Acland Coal has been advised of the outcomes of the noise monitoring conducted by EHP and has been instructed to implement procedures to reduce noise nuisance and ensure compliance with the conditions of their environmental authority. EHP will advise you in due course of the actions that New Acland Coal take to mitigate noise from mining activities.

Following this action, EHP will undertake further monitoring to assess the effectiveness of actions taken, and whether compliance with conditions of the environmental authority have been achieved.

Should you require further information with regard to this matter, please contact of this office on

Yours sincerely

**Manager, Environmental Services
Regional Services – South-West**

rec 7 May 13

Enquiries Ruth Brown
Telephone (07) 4699 4304
Your Reference
Our Reference SWR/090536 (Pl 4)



Department of
**Environment and
Heritage Protection**

5 May 2013 posted 6 May 2013

Mr Glen Beutel

Dear Mr Beutel

Noise Complaint - New Acland Coal Mine

I am writing in relation to your complaint regarding environmental noise nuisance allegedly being caused by mining activities at the New Acland Coal (NAC) mine.

Following analysis of the noise monitoring data collected in October 2012, the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) requested that New Acland Coal (NAC) take action to implement noise abatement measures so that emissions of noise from the mining activities do not result in further environmental nuisance. This is to ensure compliance with condition D4 of their environmental authority MIN100550507 which states;

(D4) If monitoring indicates exceedence of the limits in Schedule D- Table 1 and 2, then the Environmental Authority holder must:

- a) Address the complaint including the use of appropriate dispute resolution if required; and*
- b) Immediately implement noise abatement measures so that emissions of noise from the activity do not result in further environmental nuisance.*

NAC have already implemented a number of noise abatement measures to reduce the potential for environmental nuisance caused by the operation at the mine, including;

- installation of electric horns for general use on all equipment
- installation of downward facing cicada beepers on equipment used at night
- trials of noise suppression equipment on mining equipment

EHP is continuing to investigate noise abatement measures implemented on various mine noise sources, to address the requirements of condition D4(b).

In response to EHP's letter, NAC have requested that a dispute resolution process be initiated with you to endeavour to address your concerns regarding noise nuisance issues. While it is understood that in the past you have indicated you do not wish to deal directly with any representatives of the mine, could you please confirm in writing by 17 May 2013 if you are willing to enter into a dispute resolution process to discuss possible noise mitigation measures that could be implemented at your residence.

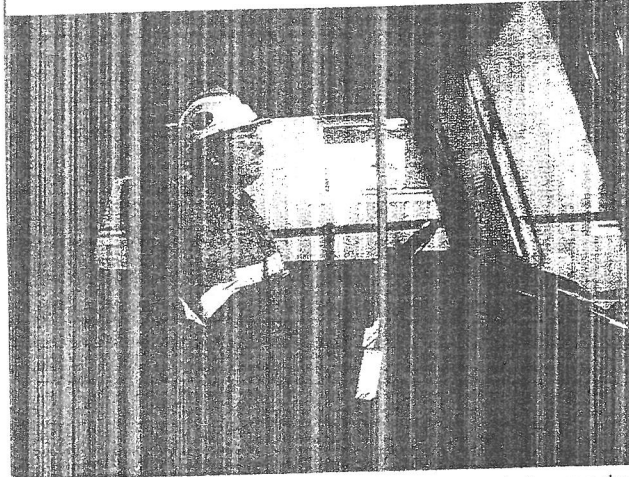
Should you require further information with regard to this matter, please contact of this office or

Yours sincerely

**Manager, Environmental Services
Regional Services – South-West**

Brothers at the Park

Continuous improvement at New Acland



The team at New Acland is always working on ways to improve the operation and this includes the use of heavy machinery, which plays a pivotal role in any mining operation.

Following discussions with our near neighbours, New Acland has worked hard to reduce possible noise, even though our equipment meets all requirements.

The latest modification is the installation of electric horns on all of our big machines, following a successful trial last year which showed electric horns were superior to the air-horns which came as standard equipment.

Other significant modifications to our heavy machinery fleet recently included GPS-style collision avoidance systems, plus 'cicada'-style reversing beepers.

The mine is also trialling an upgraded, state-of-the-art muffler system on the trucks which aims to further reduce possible noise - again despite the fact that the standard equipment meets all requirements.

For more information please visit Helen Braithwaite at the New Hope Community Information Centre in Campbell Street, Oakey, or phone 07 4691 3445.



New Hope Group



**SERVICE
ADVICE
BRANDS
PRICE**

Rec: 19/8/13

Enquiries Ruth Brown
Telephone (07) 4699 4304
Your Reference
Our Reference SWR/090536 (Pt 4)



Department of
**Environment and
Heritage Protection**

15 August 2013

Mr Glen Beutel

Dear Mr Beutel

Noise Complaint - New Acland Coal Mine

I am writing in relation to your complaint regarding environmental noise nuisance, particularly sleep disturbance, allegedly being caused by mining activities at the New Acland Coal (NAC) mine. To investigate the complaint officers from the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) conducted noise monitoring in Acland and the surrounding area using two methods: unattended noise logging conducted at your residence from 9 – 12 July 2013 and attended noise monitoring in and around Acland on the night of 10 – 11 July 2013.

After the noise monitoring was completed, data from both monitoring techniques was analysed including representative samples periods of night time noise taken from the hours of data collected from the monitoring at your property. The sample periods chosen contained clearly audible mine noise during periods when sleep may be affected and contained the least amount of extraneous noise. The analysed data revealed that the noise limit of $L_{Aeq, 1hr}$ 40dB(A) defined in NAC's environmental authority was exceeded during all three sample periods taken from the unattended monitoring and also during the attended monitoring conducted in Acland.

EHP recently met with representatives of NAC and their noise consultant, who were advised of the results of the noise monitoring conducted in July. EHP has subsequently written to NAC seeking advice on what measures have been taken to reduce noise nuisance and ensure compliance with the conditions of their environmental authority and what additional measures will be taken to mitigate noise from the mine.

Following this action, EHP will undertake further monitoring to assess the effectiveness of actions taken, and whether, at the time of this monitoring, compliance with noise limits is achieved.

Inquiries Ruth Brown
Telephone 4699 4304
Your Reference
Our Reference SWR/09053R(Pt 6)



Department of
Environment and
Heritage Protection

5 February 2014

Mr Glenn Beutel

Dear Mr Beutel

RE: Noise complaint – New Acland Coal Mine

I am writing to provide you with an update of the actions taken in response to your complaint regarding environmental noise nuisance allegedly being caused by mining activities at the New Acland Coal (NAC) mine.

As you are aware as a result of your complaints, EHP requested that NAC take action to implement noise abatement measures. In response to EHP's request, this week NAC began a twelve month trial of a noise mitigation procedure referred to as a trigger action response plan (TARP).

The TARP involves real time monitoring of noise via continuous noise monitoring equipment set up in Acland. This equipment has an alarm system to provide a message to mine staff that when conditions occur that are indicative of a potential exceedance of the limits set in the environmental authority, alarms will be broadcast to NAC staff via the mine's UHF radio network. The broadcast of an alarm provides instantaneous awareness that there is a noise issue which will result in a direct and immediate response to rectify the problem.

Response actions to the first alarm include shutting down loading machinery closest to Acland and moving dozers to lower levels in the pit. If noise levels continue to trigger an alarm, the TARP sets out further actions of shutting down additional machinery and processes in an effort to reduce the noise levels to be in compliance with their environmental authority conditions. ~~Following an alarm event, NAC will undertake a review of the effectiveness of the response by analysing the noise data.~~

The TARP is one of a number of noise abatement measures that have recently been undertaken by NAC in an effort to reduce noise emissions at night. These measures have been outlined in a previous letter to you however if you would like further information regarding measures please contact _____ of this office on _____

Yours Sincerely

Manager
Environmental Services
Southern Region (West)
Environmental Services & Regulation

Enquiries Ruth Brown
Telephone 4699 4304
Your Reference
Our Reference SWR/090536(Pt 5)



Department of
**Environment and
Heritage Protection**

14 November 2013

Mr Glen Beutel

Dear Mr Beutel

RE: Noise complaint – New Acland Coal Mine

I am writing in relation to your complaint regarding environmental noise nuisance allegedly being caused by mining activities at the New Acland Coal (NAC) mine.

Since the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) conducted noise monitoring in and around Acland in July 2013, EHP requested that NAC take action to implement noise abatement measures so that emissions of noise from the mining activities do not result in environmental nuisance.

Over the next 12 months, NAC have committed to undertake a number of noise abatement measures including modifications to machinery, the relocation of the primary haul road which includes construction of a noise bund along the haul road and the investigation of operational changes to reduce noise emissions at night. NAC have also agreed to provide a monthly update to EHP of the progress and noise mitigation measures being implemented.

Consequently EHP is liaising regularly with NAC to investigate the effectiveness of noise abatement measures implemented on various mine noise sources in an effort to ensure compliance with their environmental authority. EHP will ensure you are kept up to date with the outcomes of these investigations.

Should you require further information with regard to this matter, please contact of this office on .

**Manager
Environmental Services
Southern Region (West)
Environmental Services & Regulation**

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ABN 46 640 294 485

Enquiries Ruth Brown
Telephone 4699 4304
Your Reference
Our Reference SWR/C90536(Pt 6)



Department of
**Environment and
Heritage Protection**

22 April 2014

Mr Glenn Beutel

Dear Mr Beutel

RE: Noise complaint – New Acland Coal Mine

Further to the letter to you from the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) dated 5 February 2014, I am writing to provide you with an update of the actions taken in response to your complaint regarding environmental noise nuisance allegedly being caused by mining activities at the New Acland Coal (NAC) mine.

As outlined in the abovementioned letter, as a result of your complaint and results of noise monitoring undertaken by EHP in July 2013, EHP requested that NAC take action to implement noise abatement measures. One of these noise abatement measures was the implementation of a noise trigger action response plan (TARP) in February 2014.

While the TARP proved to be effective in alerting the mine operators when noise levels were above limits specified in the conditions of their environmental authority (EA), it relied on a quick response time from operators to shut down equipment to reduce the noise levels which sometimes was not always possible for operational reasons.

Consequently NAC refined the TARP to add an additional noise abatement measure referred to as the dashboard method, which involves an operator listening to live stream audio of noise emissions from the mine and alerting the mine operators before the noise levels exceed the limits specified in the EA. During a recent trial period, NAC has found that this measure has resulted in full compliance with the night time noise levels.

As a result of this, NAC will fully implement this additional noise abatement measure in May when all relevant supervisors and open cut examiners are fully trained in the use of the dashboard. Both the TARP and the dashboard will run consecutively to monitor mine noise at night. In addition to this other noise abatement initiatives are also being implemented on certain machinery including an overall reduction in the number of machines operating at any one time.

NAC has committed to keep EHP up to date with the results of these measures. EHP will also undertake its own noise monitoring in Acland in winter when weather conditions will

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ABN 46 640 294 485

provide worst case scenario as far as noise propagation from the mine is concerned. You will be informed of the results of this noise monitoring following its analysis.

Should you require further information with regard to this matter, please contact on

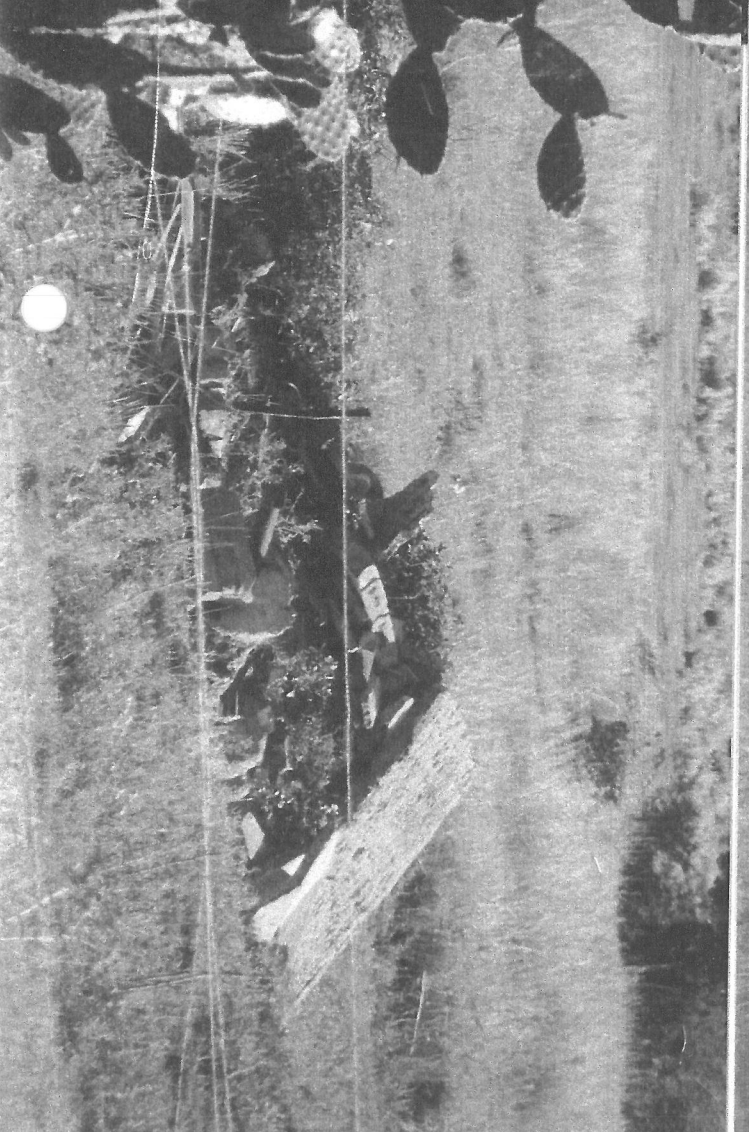
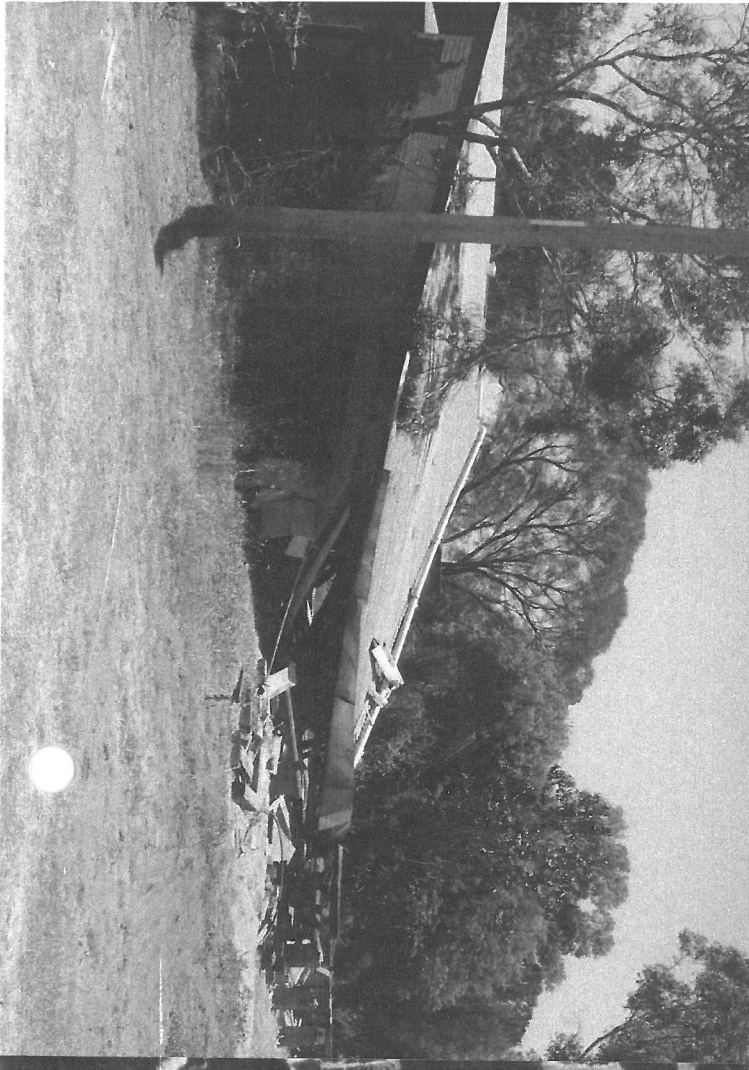
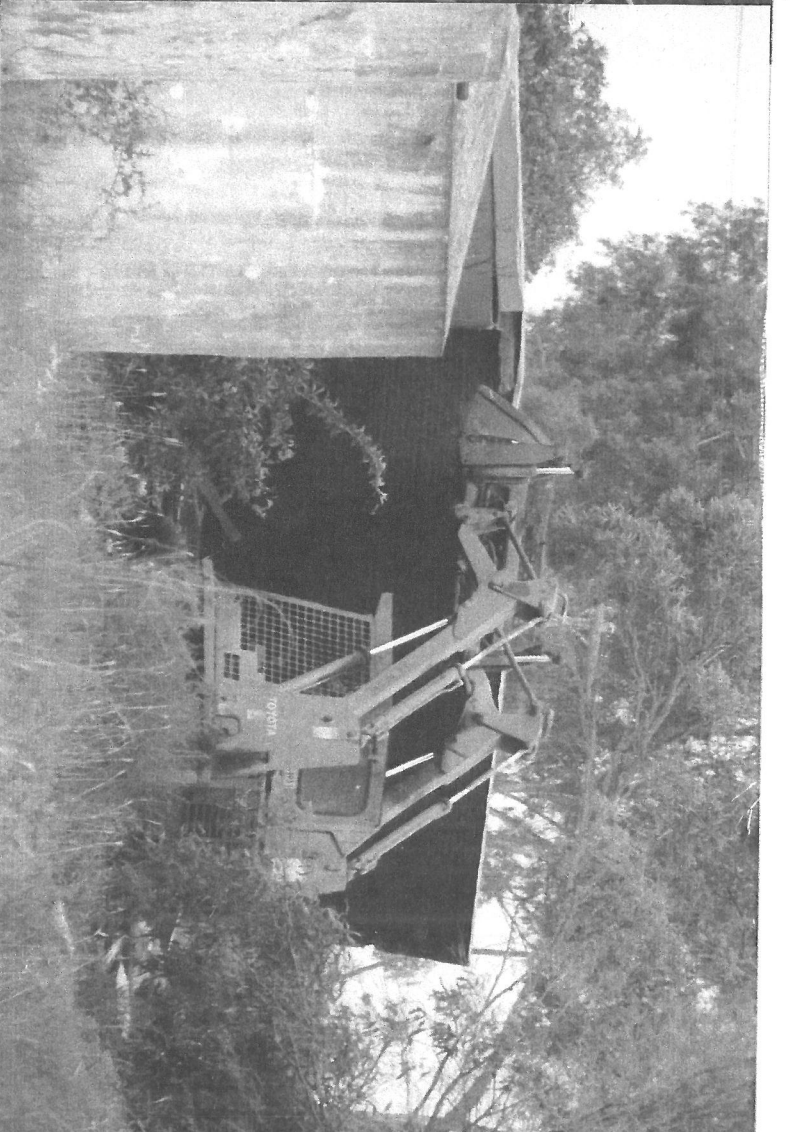
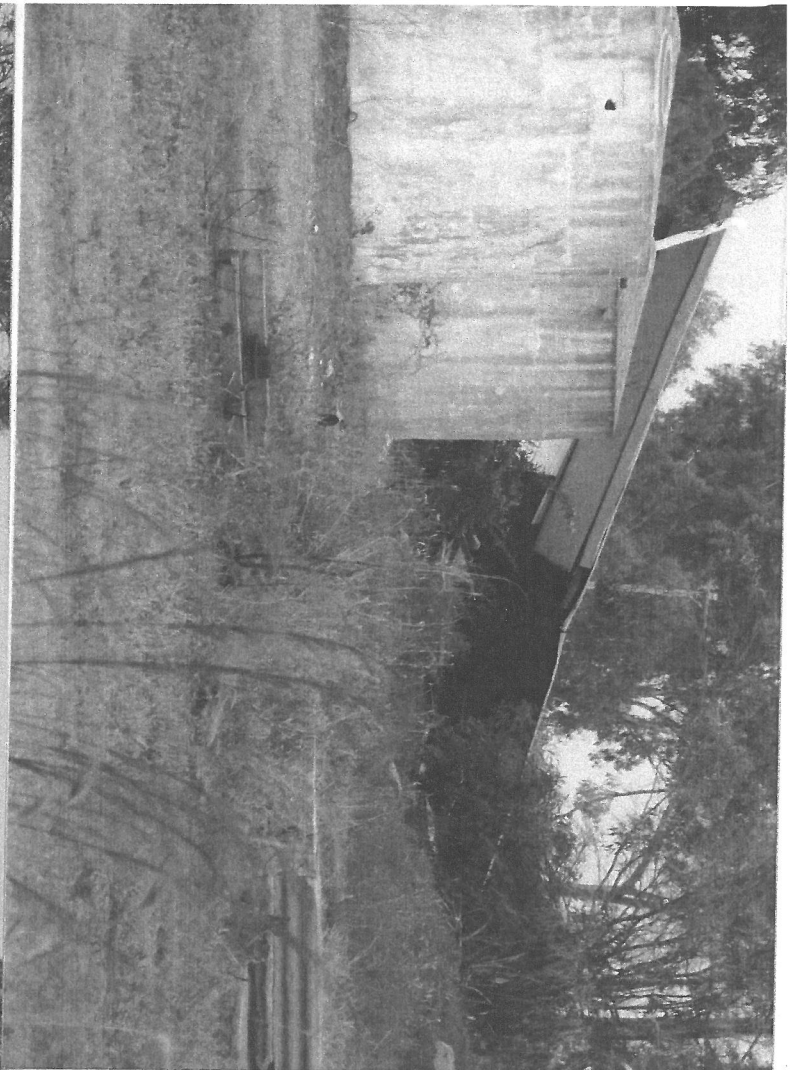
Yours Sincerely

**Manager
Environmental Services
Southern Region (West)
Environmental Services & Regulation**



Rufous Hummer

↙
27 Oct '09
Okas Sablin photograph
9/Nov '13





New Acland Coal Pty Ltd

ABN 90 081 022 380

Contact

Paul Statham
Phone: +61 7 3810 0518
Fax: +61 7 3810 0555
Mobile: 0427 724 987
Email: pstatham@newhopecoal.com.au



4th September 2008

Mr Glenn Beutel

*Re Sarah Horta
same response*

Dear Glenn

I am writing in response to your letter of 2nd September 2008 raising concerns about the relocation of trees growing on New Acland's property in the Acland township.

We certainly appreciate the significance of some trees in the town to the residents and do not intend to clear trees in the town unnecessarily in the coming few months. However, currently we are relocating trees from New Acland properties in order to enable the safe removal of houses from these properties. This tree removal process will accelerate over the coming months as more houses are relocated from the township.

As New Acland Coal is planning towards having a new mining lease granted for Stage 3 in late 2009/early 2010, we do not consider the tree relocation works and house removal activities as being premature in the overall process.

Further information about the proposed regime of house removal activities within Acland will be provided in the near future by Sinclair Knight Merz.

If you have any further questions or queries about this matter, please do not hesitate to contact myself using the contact details above.

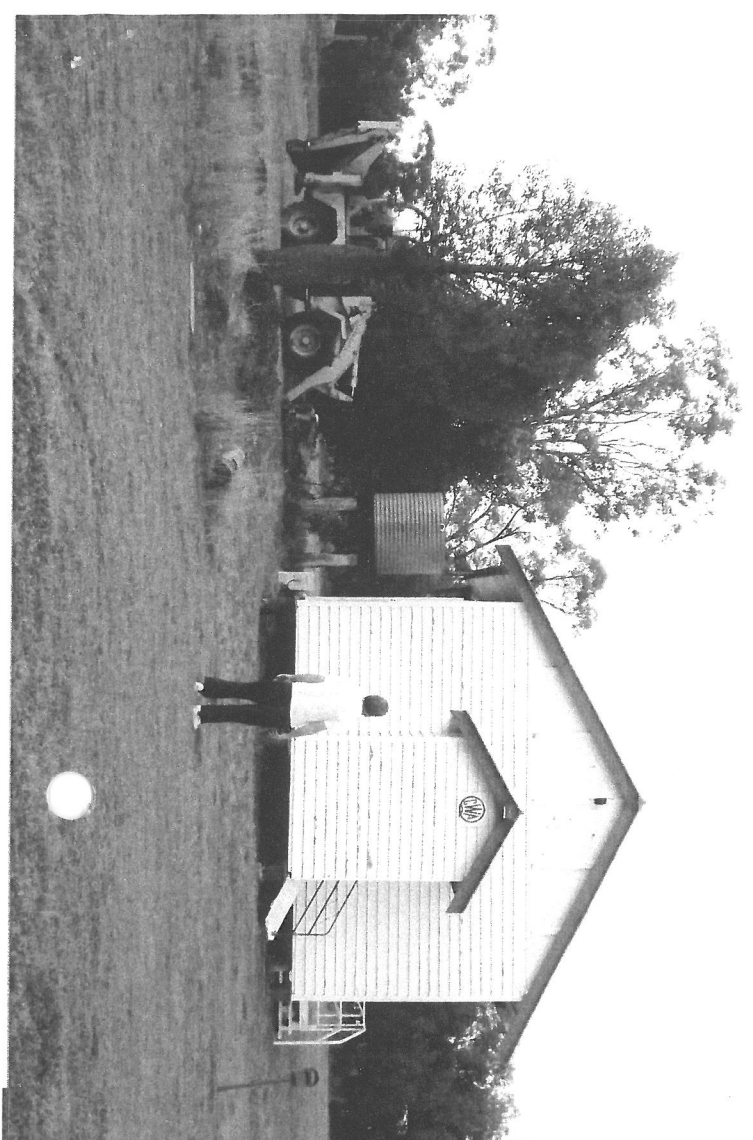
Yours faithfully,
NEW ACLAND COAL PTY LTD

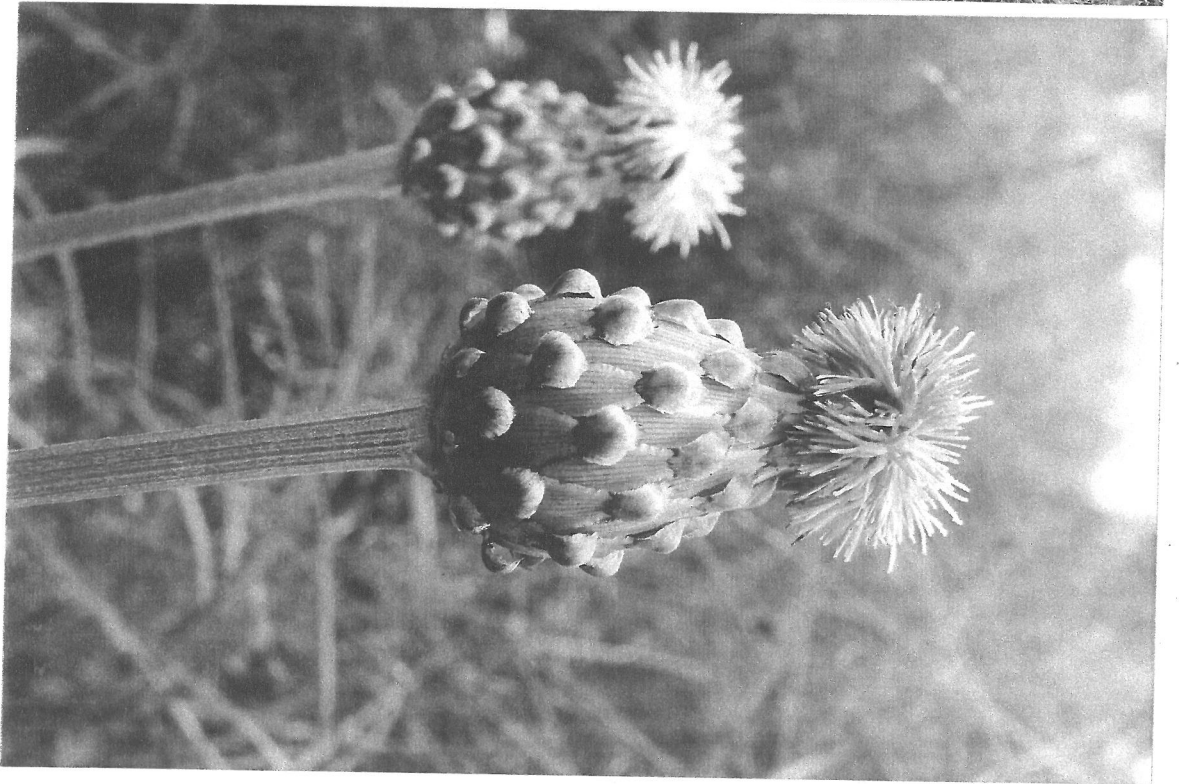
Senior Environmental Officer

BEUTEL LETTER SEPTEMBER 2008.DOC

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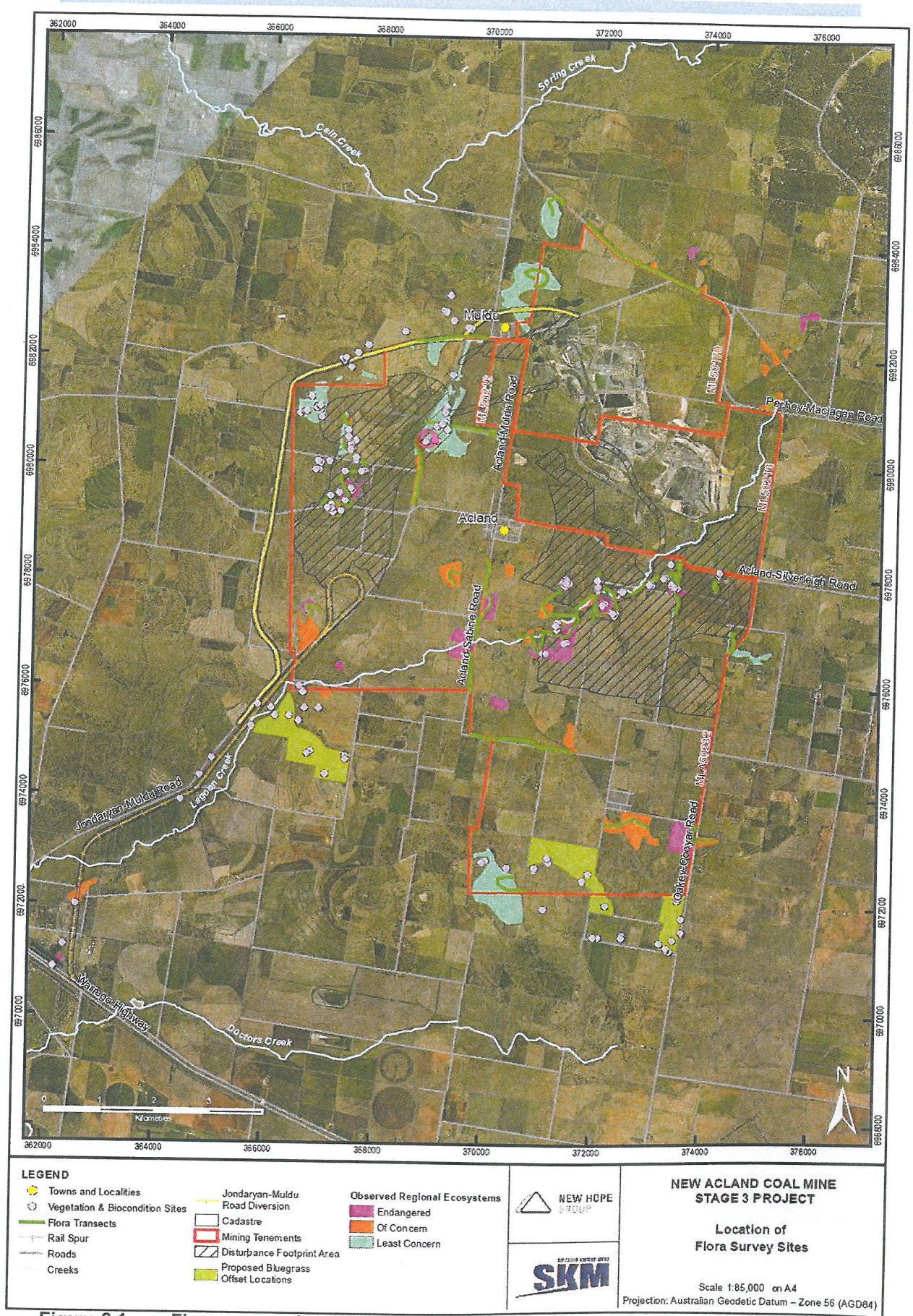


Figure 8.1 Flora survey sites



Figure 8.4 Threatened ecological communities and species locations

Occurrence within project area

Figure 8.3 shows the locations across the project site where REs and threatened flora were located. The map confirms the austral cornflower was located at three sites near the proposed rail spur.

While the map appears to show the proposed rail spur traverses one site where the species was found, the proponent has advised this is due to the scale of the map. The location data for the austral cornflower was captured during site surveys using a hand-held GPS that had a tolerance of 16m.

The proponent has confirmed the three sites where the species were located are within the road reserve of the Jondaryan-Muldu Road. The proposed rail spur is located in an adjacent property outside the road reserve, with the location not affected by the spur.

The species was not confirmed at any other location in the project area. However, the species may occur in suitable habitat that is to be cleared for the project, including isolated fragments of forest red gum, poplar box, mountain coolibah, and affected areas of Queensland bluegrass.

Impacts of the proposed action

Possible impacts include indirect effects including pest and weed invasion, water quality and bushfire management.

Due to its proximity to the rail spur, indirect impacts may occur due to the infrastructure's potential effects on hydrogeological conditions, dust, and noise.

Residual impact

No significant residual impact on the species is likely to occur from the project works

Recovery plans, conservation advices and threat abatement plans

- Commonwealth Conservation Advice on *Stemmacantha australis* (Threatened Species Scientific Committee, 2008).
- The Commonwealth has decided a recovery plan for the species is not required.
- There is no specific threat abatement plan for the austral cornflower.

Threats to the species include:

- land clearing
- habitat fragmentation
- grazing pressures
- competition with weeds
- road works and maintenance in road or rail corridors where the species may be found.

Threat abatement actions advised by the conservation advice include:

- minimise grazing
- monitor known species to manage threats

- control access routes to exclude the public
- ensure road widening does not impact on the species.

Avoidance and mitigation measures

The project is not likely to directly impact on the austral cornflower. Mitigation measures previously described for listed species confirmed at the project site are relevant for indirect impacts to the austral cornflower, these include management of dust, land impacts, soil and erosion, water, waste, contaminants.

Coordinator-General's conclusion: MNES that may be found on site

While suitable habitat for the king blue-grass exists on-site, it is acknowledged the species was not located during site surveys, including in areas that would be favourable to the species—such as project-affected areas of brigalow and bluegrass TECs.

With regard to the austral cornflower, the proponent has confirmed the species was not located on the project site during surveys. Such surveys included areas of Queensland blue-grass, poplar box and other eucalypts, and road reserves, which may provide suitable habitat.

However, as the species was located in three areas adjacent to the proposed rail spur, and that suitable habitat as described in the species conservation advice is located in the project area, it is considered likely that the species may be found on site, and possibly in areas to be cleared or disturbed for project works. If accepted by the minister, the MMP is to address the potential for impact on the austral cornflower and propose management strategies in accordance with the Commonwealth's approved conservation advice for the species.

As part of the MMP relating to austral cornflower, the proponent may consider measures such as introducing (or, if the species is located on site, reintroducing) the species into suitable areas on site. Particular attention would be best focused on areas that are to be managed to reduce recognised threats to the species, such as weeds and grazing.

The MMP is to address how the species may be impacted by road works to be undertaken by the project, and how impacts are to be avoided to ensure no net loss due to project works.

In addition, I recommend a further condition to the Minister for the Environment that, although the species have not been identified on-site, the MMP include management and mitigation measures to address potential impacts to *Dichanthium queenslandicum*, (king blue-grass), *Picris evae*, (hawkweed), and *Thesium austral* (austral toadflax).

To the extent that impacts can be mitigated, I consider the measures proposed to protect *Rhaponticum australe* (austral cornflower), *Dichanthium queenslandicum*, (king blue-grass), *Picris evae*, (hawkweed), and *Thesium austral* (austral toadflax) along with my recommended conditions will be such that there is not likely to be a significant residual impact to these species.