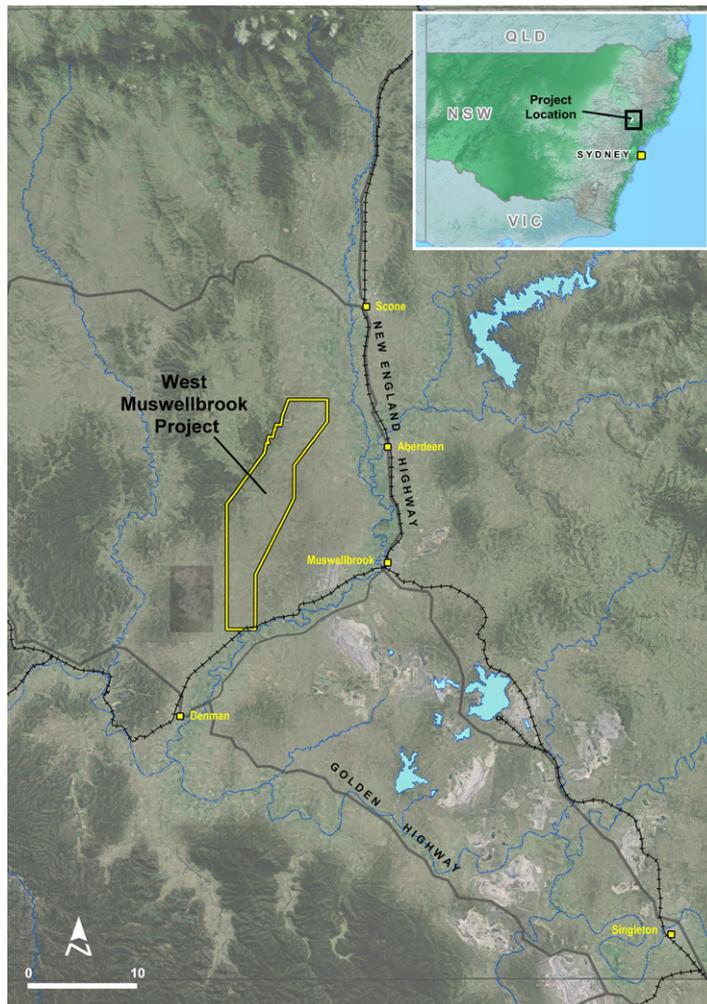


# West Muswellbrook Project

Muswellbrook Coal Company (MCC) has a long history in the Muswellbrook community, dating back to the establishment of the original Muswellbrook Coal Mine in 1907. Since 1989 MCC has been wholly owned and operated by Idemitsu Australia Resources.

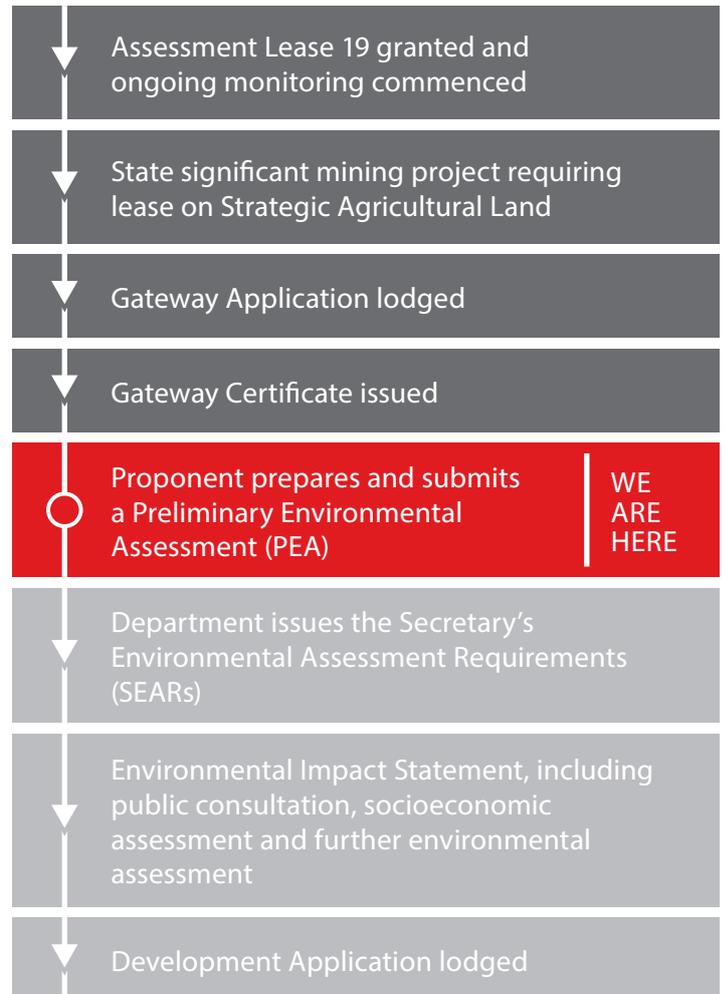
MCC has held an assessment lease (AL 19) for a potential new mine at West Muswellbrook since 2009. In December 2014, MCC lodged a Gateway Application to the Mining and Petroleum Gateway Panel. The Panel has now completed its assessment and issued a Conditional Gateway Certificate. The Conditional Gateway Certificate is valid for five years.

MCC will consider and respond to the Panel's recommendations during the development approval and environmental assessment stages of the project, due to commence later this year.



West Muswellbrook Project map.

## Planning process



## Weather station

The West Muswellbrook weather station records temperature, humidity, wind speed and direction, rainfall, solar radiation, evaporation, barometric pressure and fire danger index for the northern part of the project area.

The weather station mast was damaged in late 2014 during a storm.

The damaged mast on the weather station was replaced in October 2015 and the weather station is again functioning fully.



The West Muswellbrook weather station monitors local conditions for the northern part of the project area.

## Groundwater drilling program

Muswellbrook Coal Company (MCC) is continuing work on the drilling program for the site, which is focussed on establishing additional boreholes for the purpose of monitoring and sampling groundwater.

The program commenced in July 2015 and is now two-thirds complete.

Additional information from these new locations will be combined with existing groundwater monitoring data, in order to improve the exiting groundwater model for the project area.

It is proposed to install three clustered PVC monitoring bores, two alluvial monitoring bores and four multi-level Vibrating Wireline Piezometer sites (VWP). Some of the VWP sites will involve boreholes in excess of 300 metres deep which will be close to the deepest holes drilled in the project area.



Additional boreholes being drilled on site for groundwater sampling and monitoring.

## Co-Ag learning venture

A partnership between MCC and St Joseph's High School has provided the school's agriculture department with 40 hectares of land at Castlerock.

The property, known as 'Olive Grove', will play a major role in the practical learning component of agriculture studies, including providing opportunities for students to practice animal handling and crop management.

Olive Grove will also provide a greater scope for the agriculture department to achieve some long term goals including; establishing a breeding herd of cattle that can replace the current steers purchased for shows; and using the farm as a valuable resource for property planning and trial options for students.

"There is a saying, 'if you eat, you are involved in agriculture'. We would like to introduce this concept to as many students as possible and allow them to build an understanding and appreciation of what is involved in the production of primary industries," Lisa Bright, Head of Agriculture at St Joseph's High School said.

MCC hopes the property will be actively managed by the student body and will be sustainable in its production methods; showcasing the relationship between mining and agriculture.

## Other news

In December 2015, MCC had the pleasure of meeting with the new Member for Upper Hunter, Michael Johnsen and providing Mr Johnsen with a general introduction to the project.

## Contacts and further information

If you have any questions or queries about the project, please contact:

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