

Warkworth Project

This project is the same as the earlier application and has the same impact on residents of Bulga

No person has studied this case better than Chief Justice Brian Judge Preston, during the court hearings he had that much knowledge of the case that he could pull up Rio Tinto's legal team midstream when they were trying to pull the wool over his eyes and send them scurrying back to the proponent for answers.

He didn't take a couple of weeks to study the evidence provided by both sides, he took months studying the evidence before he made his decision..

Two courts have rejected this project but still the Department of Planning still looks for loopholes to overcome legal issues.

Would it be fair to say as a farmer I should be able to illegally clear a couple hundred acres because the Land and Environment Court is a toothless tiger and can be ignored.

Many Bulga residents based their future plans on the 2003 deed of agreement. Again ignorance was the tool chosen by the department of Planning and Warkworth Mine.

My wife and I live on a elevated farm that has direct view of both projects It also gives uninterrupted noise travel.

My wife has trouble sleeping when the noise levels are high. She used to ring and complain about the noise, but was given the usual reply that the Renaud's noise monitor shows no exceedance. This monitor is placed in the lowest point in Bulga with scrub between it and the mine.

My wife gave up in the finish and stopped ringing
Other village residents have done the same and gave up.
The point is, that the list of complainants held by Warkworth is not the full list of affected people.

Visual Impact

We, like a lot of others have a direct view of the mine

Bulga is on the western side of the Wollombi brook with the sloping ground coming away from the mountain range down towards the brook on the eastern side of Bulga.

When families decide to build a home they looked at their block then decide on the position and orientation of their new home to take advantage of the best available view.

The general sloping ground towards the east has over years lead to most Rural homes being built facing east to give a better view from the front of the house.

In the past this was an appealing view with undulating farmland in the foreground and Barrington tops and mountains north of Maitland in the background.

This beautiful view is slowly disappearing and will be replaced with a 80 to 120 degree view of overburden

These Residents find this very depressing.

Picture 1

This is Figure 4.9 In Response to Submissions

It is a view from front verandah.

In the worst case it shows overburden either side of Scholes hill

Picture 2

This is Figure 4.3 out of the Mt Thorley Visual Amenity

This plan shows mining right up to the Putty road in the south west corner (Marked with a circle)

Picture 1 Worst case still shows all the trees still in place in this area and no exposed mine.

This area will also be part of the final void and will not be rehabbed.

Picture 3

This shows my interpretation of exposed mine and overburden from the information supplied by maps. The toe of the overburden is slightly lower and could be worse than shown if trees are removed further back from the high wall

This is a vast difference from Worst case in **Picture 1**

Warkworth's EIS stated that a Site Specific visual Assessment can be done to reduce the impact .

Warkworth have already one of these on our property.

The result was to place a row of trees in our house yard to block off the view of the mine

This is shown in Mitigation Worst Case in **Picture 1**.

The problem was that it also blocked off visual access to my farm in that direction.

As we all know, photo's don't give a true perspective of the view , the PAC is welcome to come to our property to get a true understanding of the current view and future impact.

Hubert Upward



Mount Thorley Project

The extension of this mine to dump overburden from Warkworth Mine should not be allowed. The overburden should be contained within the footprint of the Warkworth mine.

It also should be stored to fill the final void at Warkworth Mine instead of leaving a massive hole that will fill with extremely high saline water.

This highly saline water at Warkworth Mine will eventually back feed to the Wollombi and Hunter rivers.

The Hunter already has a rising salt problem and will only continue to rise in the future. Nobody can deny that.

The dumping of overburden from Warkworth mine onto the Mount Thorley site will double the impact on the village of Bulga.

Noise will be increased as mining and dumping will be side by side giving a broader source.

Mount Thorley Visual Amenity Study states

1.3 Findings Summary (VIA) has determined that the overall visual impact of the proposal is not likely to be noticeably different from those under the existing approvals. These existing impacts are generally assessed as low.

How can they say that when in two and a half years the mine is supposed to be finished and the overburden rehabilitated.

There is a vast difference between rehabbed overburden and an ongoing and larger overburden view. In the current consent there is no overburden in the Saddle Ridge area and some of the Mt Thorley mine has been rehabbed.

Visual impact will be doubled as Bulga will be faced with a bigger and closer stockpile instead of full rehabilitation that should happen at the end of the current Mount Thorley Lease

Photo 4

This shows a view of Mt. Thorley Mine from the side of our house,. Here you can see the rehab done by the previous mine owner around 20 years ago. The view of this rehab will be replaced by fresh overburden.

If approved both these projects will give an 80 degree view of overburden, and for those that are closer to the mine it will be greater than 80 degrees

Picture 2

This shows Mt Thorley mining and overburden emplacement from Warkworth going as far north as the Putty Road almost joining Warkworth mine. (Marked with X's) However **Picture 1** worst case shows it stopping much further south.

Picture 3

This shows my interpretation of exposed mine and overburden from the information supplied by maps. It shows the exposed mine and overburden much further north

This could be worse than shown if trees are removed further back from the high wall

All the photos in the EIS were taken from river flat level or at higher level where it had a hill between the photographer and the mine

Visual Mitigation

Warkworth's EIS states that a Site Specific visual Assessment can be done on properties that have high visual impact

As I said before they have done one for the Warkworth site which will block off visual access to our farm in that direction.

If they suggest another one for the Mount Thorley site this will block visual access to the rest of the farm.

This will lock us in. We may as well live in a house block in a Sydney Suburb instead of having the open view that myself, and my parents have had for seventy five years

Others in Bulga will have the same decision Have a board view of overburden of have your view blocked off 20 meters in front of your house.

Again I invite the PAC to our property to witness what photo's cant show.

Thank You

Regards
Hubert Upward





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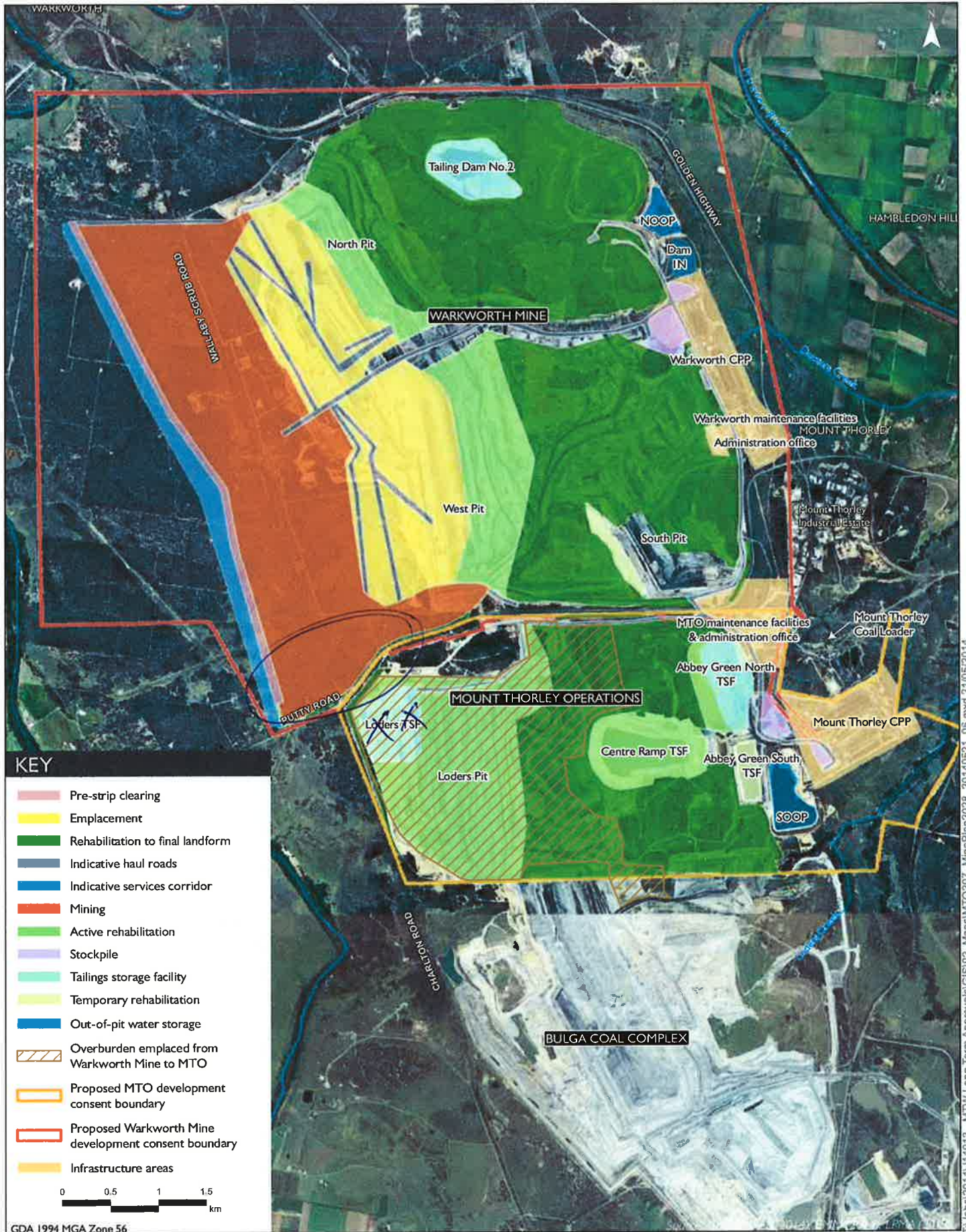


Figure 4.3 Indicative Year 14 Mine Plan



P3

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P4