



Dartbrook Coal Mine Modification 7

IPC Presentation - Visual and Landscape Character Impacts

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IMPORTANCE OF LANDSCAPE

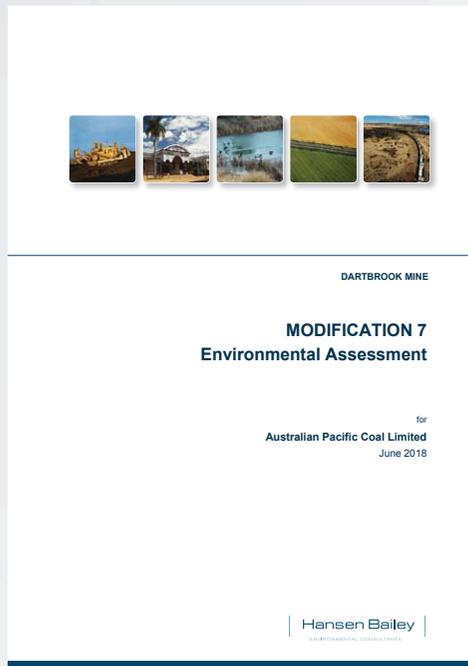
- Upper Hunter and Sedgenhoe Valleys are Rural and Highly Scenic without coal mining activities
- Proposed Dartbrook Mine Modification is the most northerly mine in the Hunter and extends into this highly scenic and valuable landscape

DARTBROOK COAL MINE

Mine Authorisation Boundary



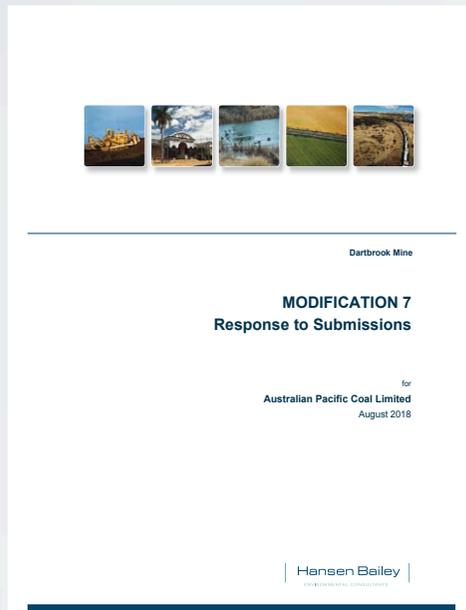
VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT



Environmental Assessment Report Mod 7 (AQC) - June 2018

- One (1) paragraph on visual impact assessment plus 2 photos
- “No private residences in the vicinity”
- “The New England Highway is the only public area affected”
- “Visual effect low”
- No mention of 192 B-Double truck movements every 3.5 minutes for 11 hours, or the impacts at the Kayuga Entry or coal handling facility at East Site

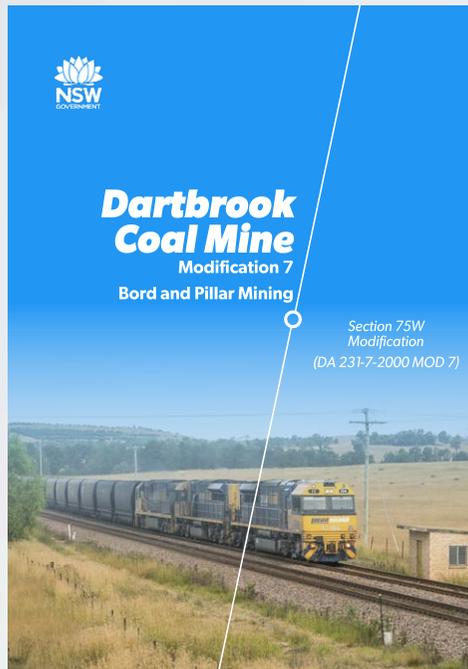
VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT



Response to Submission Report (AQC) - August 2018

- 2 pages on visual impact assessment plus 1 map
- Focuses on shaft shed with inadequate assessment of truck movements, stockpiles and other facilities
- Private houses not properly assessed - only 1 house identified as being impacted
- Incorrectly states that other houses are screened by topography or vegetation
- Local roads or streets were not assessed

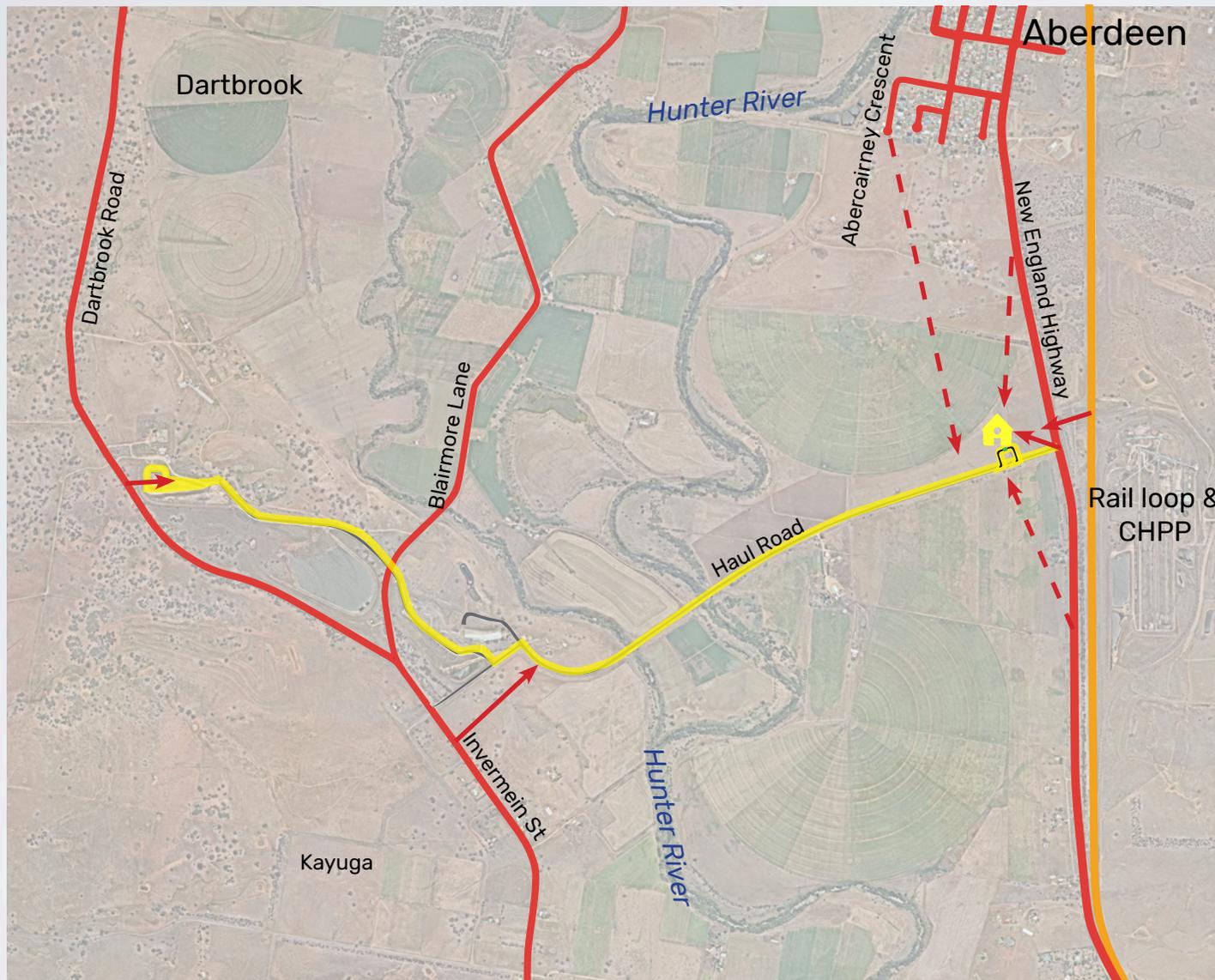
VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT



Assessment Report (DPE) - January 2019

- Visual impacts are not mentioned in the report
- “Social impacts actually experienced would be more akin to a new mine”

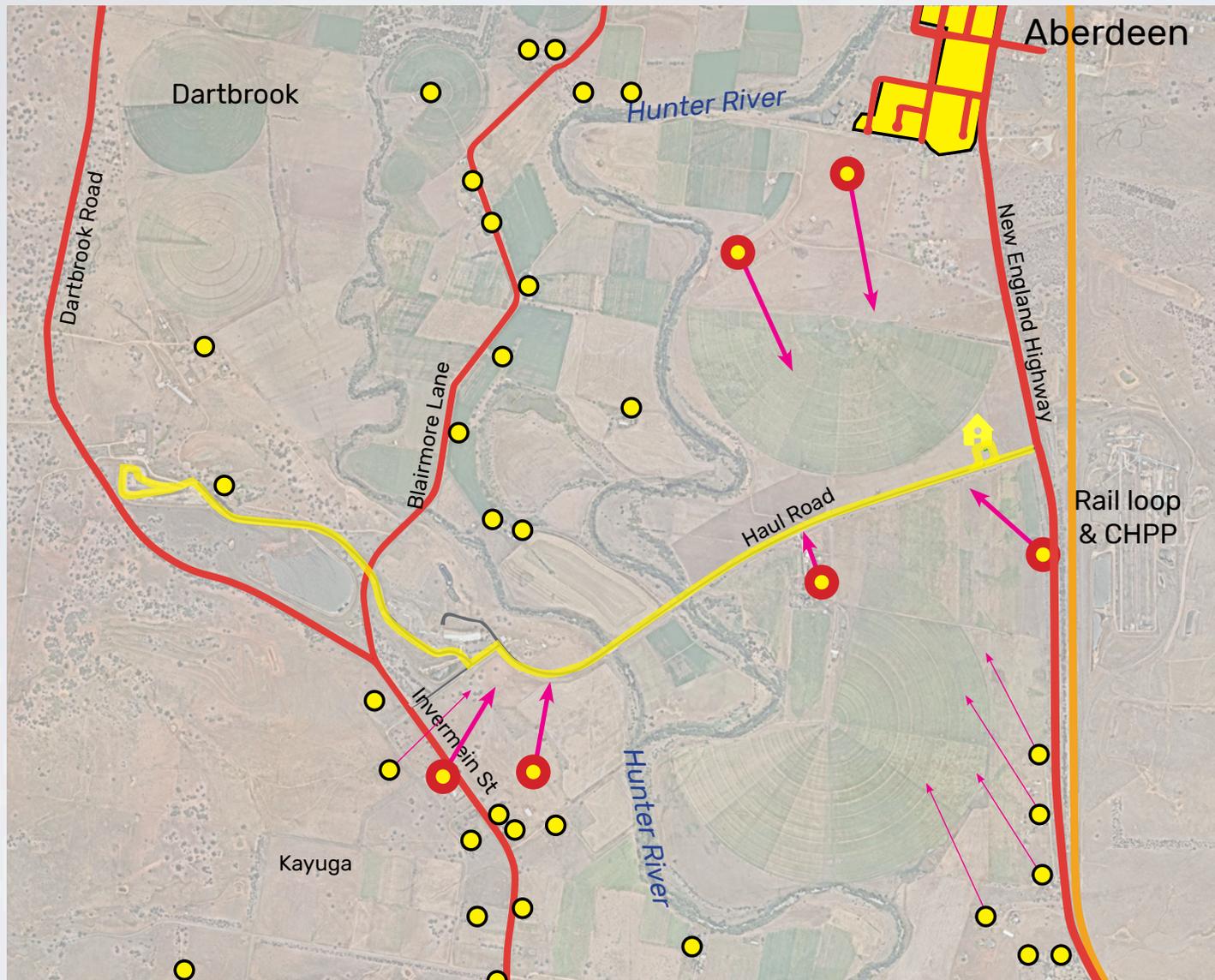
PUBLIC AREAS



- National Highway - New England Highway
- Main Regional rail line - Main Northern Rail Line
- 3 Local rural roads
- Local Streets in Aberdeen



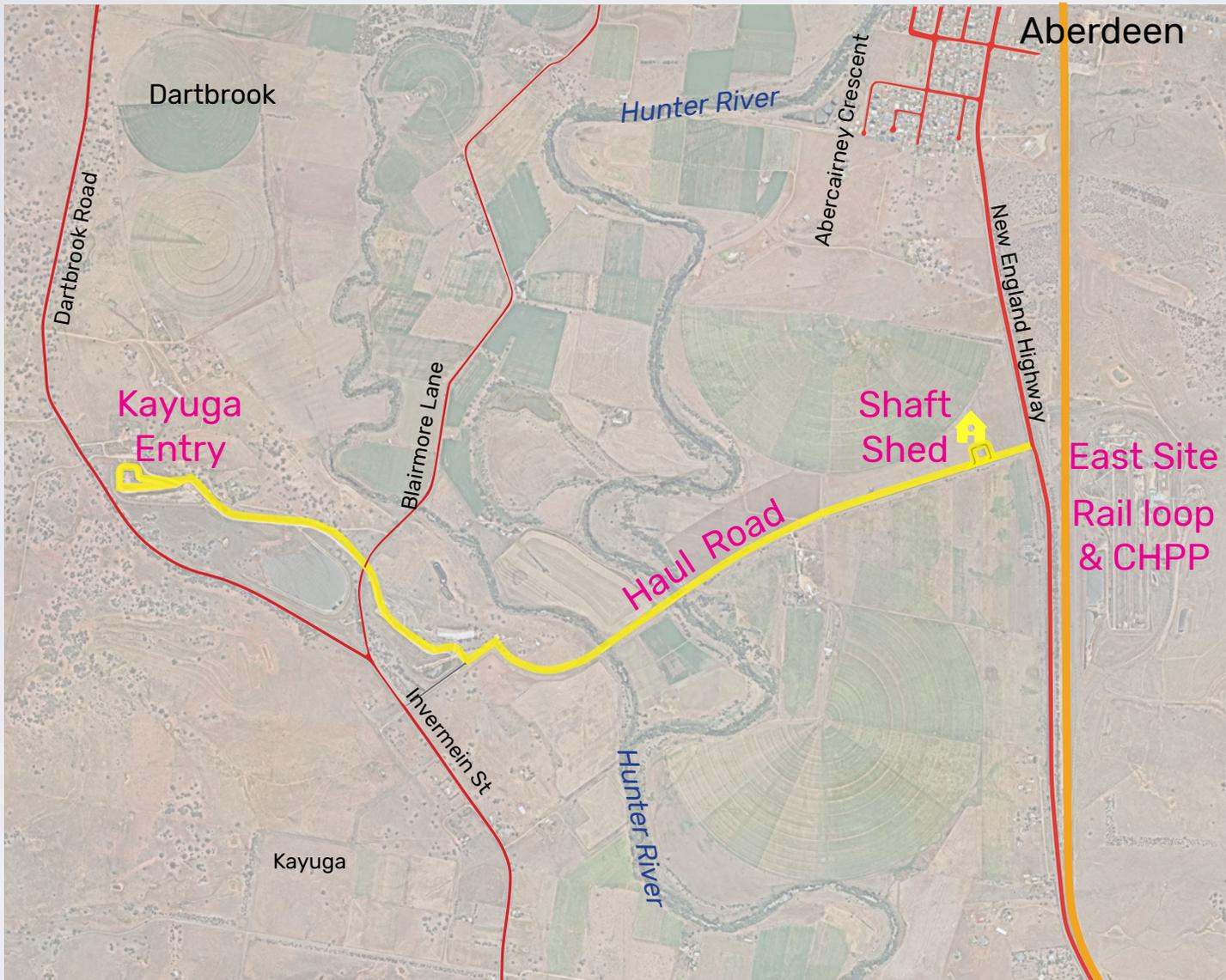
PRIVATE AREAS



- Houses
- Houses with clear views

- 30 houses (approx.) in vicinity of the project
- 15 houses (approx.) have views of proposed mining activities
- 6 houses between 120m to 1200m have clear views of proposed mining activities

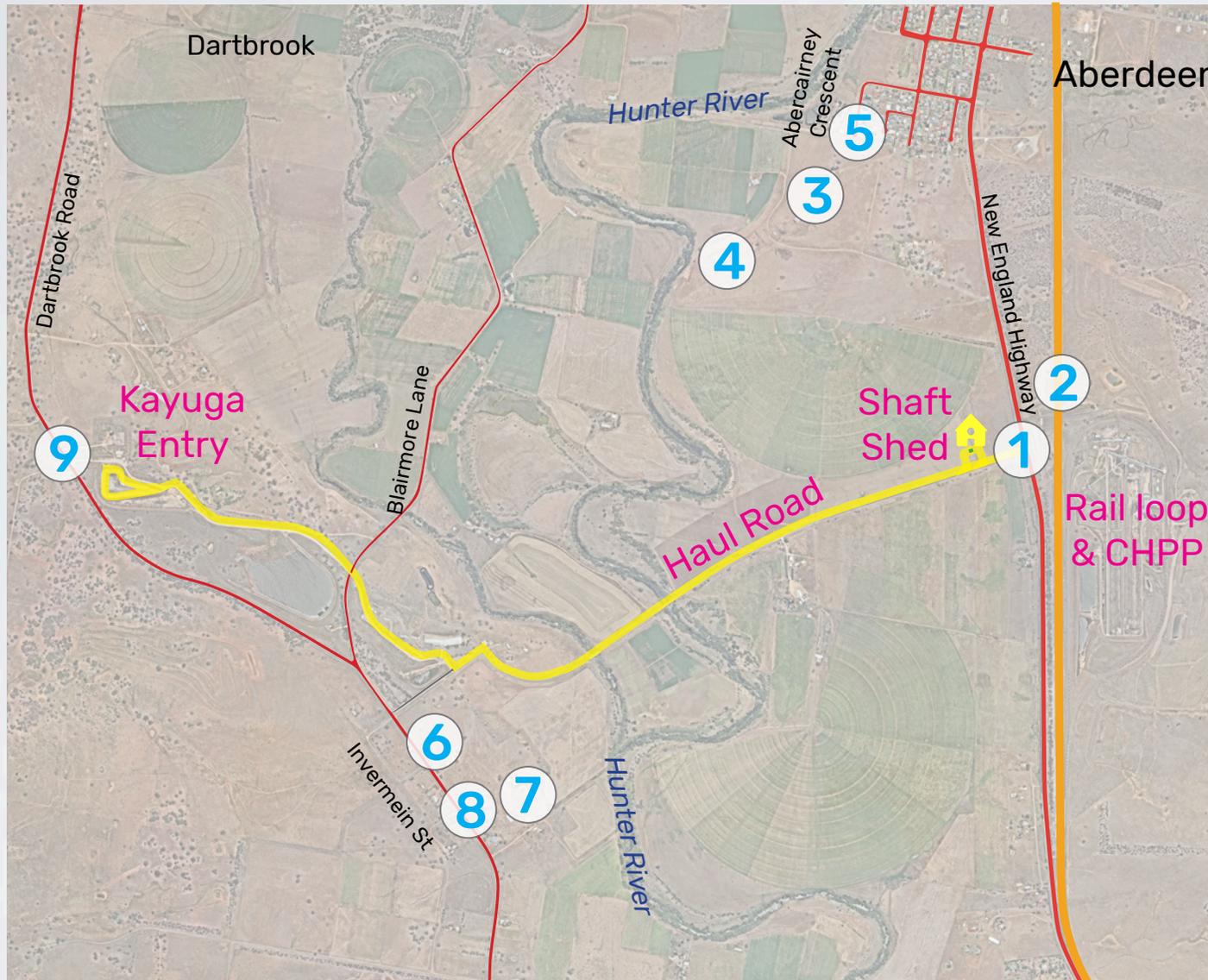
VISUAL EFFECTS



- Public Road
- Private Road
- Train Line

- Shaft Shed + New Access Road
 - No footprint dimensions
- Haul Trucks - 192 oneway trips
 - 7am-6pm (1 every 3.5min) (11 hours a day)
- Kayuga entry area
 - Stockpile ROM 8m high
 - Haul truck parking and service facilities
- Coal handling and stockpiles at East Site

VIEWPOINTS

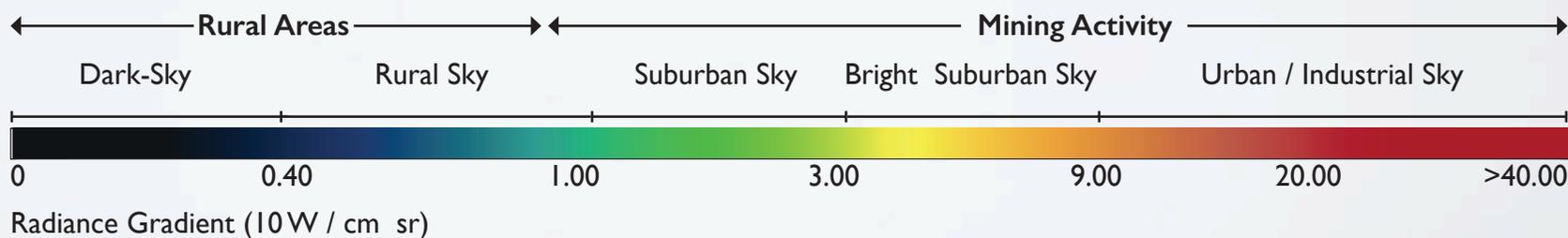
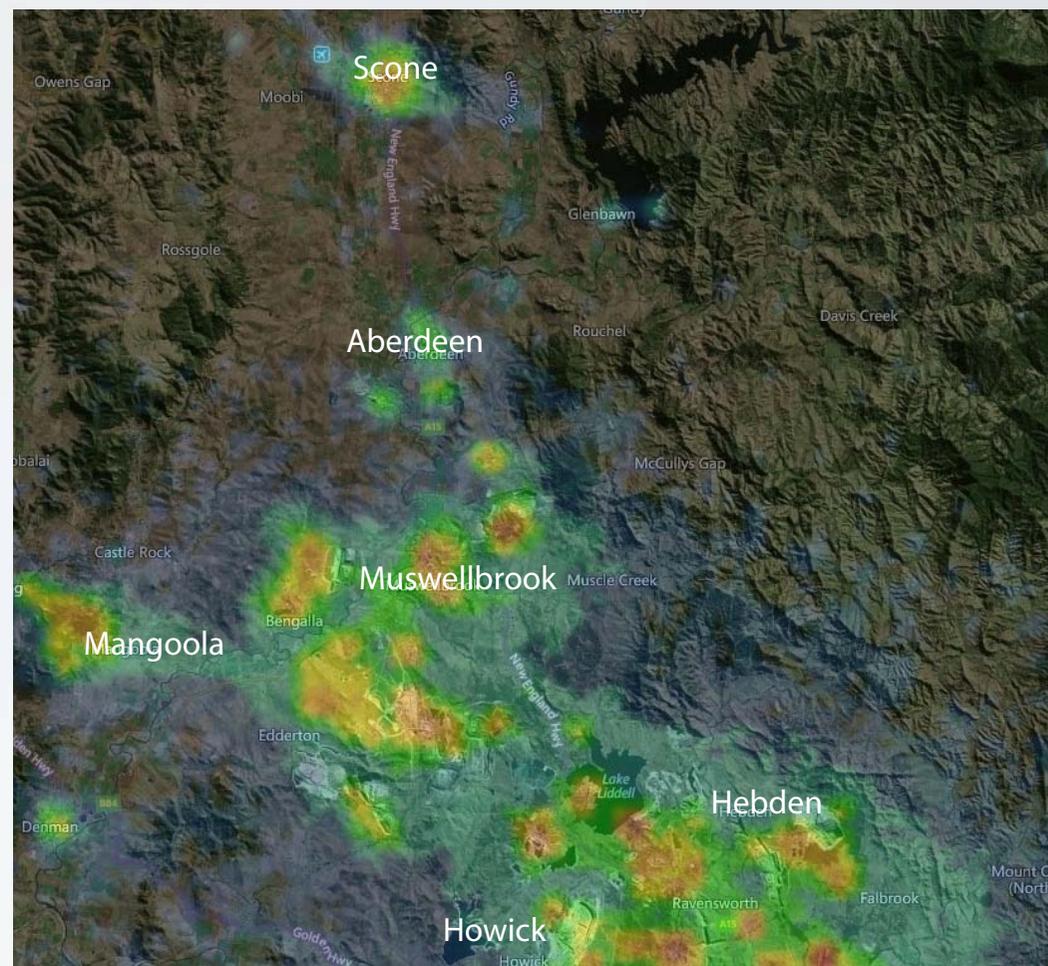


- Public Road
- Private Road
- Train Line

Viewpoints		Distances to nearest Mining Activity (metres)
①	New England Highway	240m
②	Main Northern Rail Line	400m
③	House near Aberdeen	1200m
④	House near Aberdeen	1200m
⑤	Aberdeen - Abercairney Crescent	1300m
⑥	Kayuga - Invermein St	500m
⑦	Houses in Kayuga	500m
⑧	Houses in Kayuga	500m
⑨	Dartbrook Road	150m

INDIRECT VISUAL IMPACTS

- Light pollution a significant and daily indirect visual impact on the areas close to mining
- Mines in a suburban to urban / industrial sky
- Rural areas outside of Aberdeen and Scone are in a dark to rural sky
- Dartbrook mine facilities are visible in this image even though the mine was inactive at the time of the photo
- Therefore when active, the mine will be yellow and red and much brighter.



MITIGATION

- Tree Screening cannot be relied upon to provide a permanent visual barrier
- Existing tree plantings are varied in health and density
- Over time, the tree canopies will grow above the eyeline, exposing the mining activities to passing travellers on the Highway and Rail Line.



- Existing tree screens opposite the shaft shed site are growing slowly and with large gaps



- Existing tree screens on the embankment next to the rail line opposite the shaft shed site are in poor condition and quite transparent



- An example of maturing tree screens demonstrating the transparency as the canopies grow taller

CONCLUSION

- Visual impact has been overlooked throughout this assessment process
- EA - inadequate Visual Impact Assessment - lacking detail and overlooks sensitive receivers
- DPE requests Social Impact Assessment including visual impact assessment
- Response to Submissions Report - inadequate /understates impacts
- DPE Assessment Report does not mention Visual Impact and yet states that the 'Modification 7' is to be assessed as being "akin to a new mine"
- The proposed mining activities including 192 truck movement per day across the open rural floodplain, large buildings and stockpiles, and 24/7 activities at East Site, will create a significant visual impact on the rural character of the valley
- The Upper Hunter Valley landscapes and agricultural land uses need to be protected from the visual impacts of coal mining.