

Status of actions implemented by the interagency taskforce

Category	Actions	Status update	IEPMC recommendation references
Governance	1. establish an interagency taskforce	Complete The NSW Government has established an inter-agency taskforce with representatives from key agencies including the Department of Planning and Environment, the Department of Regional NSW and WaterNSW. The taskforce continues to meet regularly to oversee and implement the action plan.	Part 2: 13
Governance	2. establish an ongoing independent expert panel	Complete In October 2020, the department established the Independent Advisory Panel for Underground Mining (IAPUM). The IAPUM will provide government with access to independent expert advice on the assessment and management of underground coal mining proposals. The IAPUM is chaired by Emeritus Professor Jim Galvin and has provided advice on a range of mining proposals and post approval matters since its inception. Find out more about the IAPUM and its members .	Part 1: 13 Part 2: 30
Regulation	3. provide a revised estimate of total surface water losses	Ongoing	Part 2: 27 & S3.6.2
Regulation	4. provide an estimate of the cost of surface water losses	Ongoing	Part 2: 12 S3.6.2

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Regulation	<p>5. establish a regulatory regime to licence surface water losses</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>The NSW Government has implemented a new water allocation trade rule to enable mines to account for incidental surface water take. The changes allow WaterNSW to trade water allocation to mines located in the Special Areas of the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment.</p> <p>Read more about the new rules.</p> <p>The NSW government has also approved an offsetting regime for any new mining development in the Special Areas of the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment. This requires mining companies to offset all surface water losses by paying the retail price of water. The Minister for Lands and Water will have the authority to spend these funds on projects that will increase Sydney’s drinking water supply.</p>	<p>Part 1: 9</p> <p>Part 2: 17, 24, 25</p>
Regulation	<p>6. develop quantitative performance measures and TARPs</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>New standard conditions of consent for underground mines were developed as part of the recommended conditions for the Dendrobium Extension Project.</p> <p>The department has incorporated these conditions as standard conditions for any new state significant development underground mining proposals.</p> <p>These new standard conditions incorporate the report’s recommendations to require applicants to develop quantitative performance measures and implement trigger action response plans to respond to any exceedances of performance measures.</p>	<p>Part 1: 19</p> <p>Part 2: 6-9</p>

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<p>Regulation</p>	<p>7. improve standard of environmental assessment documents</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>As part of the Department of Planning and Environment’s <u>Rapid Assessment Framework</u> (RAF) reforms, new State Significant Development Guidelines have been introduced to improve the quality of environmental assessments and documentation for all SSD projects.</p> <p>Amendments have been made to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000 (EP&A Reg) which support these guidelines.</p> <p>The EP&A Reg will be amended further on 1 July 2022 to require environmental impact statements for SSD projects to be prepared by a registered environmental assessment practitioner (REAP) certified under specific professional schemes accredited by the Planning Secretary of the Department of Planning and Environment.</p> <p>The Independent Advisory Panel for Underground Mining (IAPUM) will continue to be involved in providing specialist expert advice on proposed underground mining within the Greater Sydney Water Catchment Special Areas and will continue to be consulted during any post-approval subsidence or extraction plan processes within these areas.</p> <p>Read more about the IAPUM.</p>	<p>Part 1: 1-3, 6, 8 10-12, 16, 18, 20</p> <p>Part 2: 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 11, 14, 21, 23, S3.7(w), S5.4.4(B)</p>

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<p>Regulation</p>	<p>8. continue to improve surface water & groundwater monitoring</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Standard conditions of consent relating to the management, monitoring and mitigation of impacts to surface and groundwater were strengthened and improved as part of the recommended conditions for the Dendrobium Extension Project.</p> <p>The department has incorporated these conditions as standard requirements for any new SSD underground mining proposals. This includes updates to the standard Groundwater Management Plan conditions to include more frequent reviews of the groundwater models for the development, incorporation of the IAPUM’s recommendations regarding surface and groundwater models and inclusion of a requirement to commission an independent peer review if requested by the Planning Secretary.</p> <p>These conditions would also require the applicant to consider and implementation relevant recommendation of expert agencies, including DPIE Water, the Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development and the Independent Advisory Panel for Underground Mining.</p> <p>WaterNSW has also published new Water Monitoring Guidelines for Underground Mining Activities in the Special Areas.</p>	<p>Part 1: 4, 5, 7, 14, 15 & 17</p> <p>Part 2: 15 & 16</p>
<p>Mine closure</p>	<p>9. develop risk contours for future groundwater recovery</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Part 2: S3.6.2</p>

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<p>Mine closure</p>	<p>10. develop new conditions on mine closure and water quality</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>The Department of Planning and Environment developed new conditions relating to water quality and mine closure and as part of the assessment and recommended conditions for the Dendrobium Extension Project.</p> <p>The department has incorporated these new conditions as standard requirements for any new underground mining proposals within the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment Special Areas.</p> <p>Furthermore, prior to the Dendrobium determination, the IAPUMs recommendations informed the department's development of new consent conditions pertaining to water management and mine closure for the Russell Vale Mine Underground Expansion Project which was approved on 8 December 2020. The Russell Vale Expansion Project is also located within the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment and conducts underground mining using bord and pillar methods.</p> <p>The department will continue to consider the recommendations of the Panel and apply the new Standard Conditions to any new proposals for mining in the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment.</p> <p>The department also continually reviews the Trigger Action Response Plans (TARPs) applicable to various environmental performance measures during the extraction plan approvals process. This enables the department to continually monitor and review the mine's environmental performance standards.</p>	<p>Part 2: 26, 28, 29 & S3.6.2</p>

Studies & research

11. analyse regional economics of coal mining and steelmaking

Complete

Analysis of regional economics of coal mining and steelmaking is summarised in the Dendrobium Mine Extension Project Assessment Report (Section 6.10), prepared by the Department of Planning and Environment.

The assessment report accepted the key conclusions outlined in BAEconomic’s independent review of the economic assessment completed in respect of the project. The independent review concluded the following:

The historical linkages and dependencies between Illawarra Metallurgical Coal and the primary steelmaking operations conducted at BlueScope mean that the failure of one would compromise the other.

Without the Dendrobium Mine, it is likely that Illawarra Metallurgical Coal would be unviable as a business unit for South32 and the Appin Mine would be closed, or possibly sold to a smaller player. The closure of these mines would lead to the immediate loss of around 1700 high paying jobs.

Without product from Illawarra Metallurgical Coal, Port Kembla Coal Terminal would become unviable. This, in turn, may well lead to the closure of the remaining mines in the Southern Coalfield and the loss of a further 740 coal mining jobs. This would provide a second pathway by which BlueScope may be forced to close its primary steelmaking operation at Port Kembla with a consequent loss of around 3000 local jobs.

Conservatively, the closure of these coal mining and steelmaking operations could cause the Wollongong region around \$6.4 billion per year in lost regional product. The estimated loss of the Australian economy as a whole could be as high as \$10.7 billion per year.

Ultimately, the department concluded that the Dendrobium Mine Extension Project was critically linked to the ongoing health and productivity of the key industrial entities of the Wollongong region and the

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		overall health of its economy and employment.	
Studies & research	12. continue (and upgrade) existing swamp research programs	Complete WaterNSW has finalised an arrangement with South32 to fund the continuation of swamp monitoring and the existing research program	Part 2: 18 & 19
Studies & research	13. research on regional movement of bedding planes	Ongoing The Department of Planning and Environment has commissioned a study into the regional movement of bedding planes in the Sydney drinking water catchment. The study is expected to be finalised in late 2023.	Part 2: 3
Data	14. standardise mining company reports	Complete The Department of Planning and Environment has published the Extraction Plan Guideline which will be used by mining companies to inform the preparation of standard post approval mining documents.	Part 2: 20
Data	15. collate existing data and store within centralised database	Ongoing	Part 2: 22