BENGALLA MINE

Annual Community Consultation Report for EL 9431 – 4 July 2024 to 3 July 2025

BENGALLA

Prepared by:

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Annual Community Consultation Report for EL 9431

Project operator/titleholder	Bengalla Mining Company Pty Limited
Prospecting title type and number	Exploration Licence No. 9431
Original grant date/expiry date	Grant Date: 4 July 2022 Expiry Date: 4 July 2028
Reporting period	4 July 2024 to 3 July 2025
Exploration project name or location	Bengalla Mine
Date of report	1 September 2025
Name of authorised reporting officer	Craig White
Title of authorised reporting officer	Superintendent Continuation
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1 BACKGROUND

Bengalla Mining Company Pty Limited (BMC) operates the Bengalla Mine (Bengalla) located about 4 km west of Muswellbrook in the Upper Hunter of New South Wales. Bengalla operates under development consent State significant development (SSD) 5170 granted on 3 March 2015 under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (NSW).

In addition to seven mining leases, BMC holds Exploration Licence No. 9431 (EL 9431). BMC lodged an Application to Undertake Assessable Prospecting Operations (APO) 15 September 2023 at the Resources Regulator (RR). The APO included in part details regarding:

- types of drill hole;
- drill hole site plan;
- duration of drilling program;
- drilling program roster and hours;
- ancillary equipment; and
- rehabilitation cost estimate.

The APO was approved by the RR 20 November 2023.

Condition 3 of EL 9431 requires BMC to carry out community consultation in relation to the planning and conduct of activities under the licence in accordance with the *Exploration Code of Practice: Community Consultation* (May 2023) (CoP).[1]

The CoP includes a requirement to complete an Annual Community Consultation Report which must be made publicly available within two calendar months of the anniversary of the grant of the prospecting title by (relevantly) publishing it online on the titleholder's website.

2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Annual Community Consultation Report describes BMC's community consultation in relation to EL 9431 for the reporting period of 4 July 2024 to 3 July 2025 (the Reporting Period) in accordance with the CoP.

Exploration drilling proposed (the Activity) was defined as a medium impact activity in the Bengalla EL 9431 Community Consultation Strategy (the Strategy) (BMC, 2023).

Information regarding the Activity during the Reporting Period included establishment of an

[1] Although Condition 3 of EL 9431 refers to the 2016 version of the CoP. the definitions section of EL 9431 states "*A reference to a Code or Guideline is a reference to that document as amended or replaced from time to time*" and accordingly the May 2023 version has been referred to in this report.

Access Agreement between BMC and Hunter Valley Energy Coal Pty Limited (HVEC) to enable exploration drilling on HVEC land partly within EL 9431.

The Activity commenced 9 May 2024. No significant issues of concern or complaints relating to the Activity were received during the Reporting Period.

The Strategy was complied with no amendments to the Strategy required because of community consultation during the Reporting Period.

3 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION IN THE REPORTING PERIOD

The Activity commenced 9 May 2024 and was ongoing. All land within EL 9431 is owned by BMC or the Bengalla Joint Venturers except for MSC roads, Crown roads and one parcel of land owned by another mining company HVEC. During the Reporting Period the Activity was not undertaken over Council roads or Crown roads.

As required by Condition 3 of EL 9431, BMC prepared and implemented a Strategy for the Activity in accordance with the CoP. This report provides a summary of stakeholder groups identified, consultation activities undertaken and the objectives and outcomes of the community consultation.

3.1 Activity impact level and stakeholder identification

The Activity was determined to be medium impact through a risk assessment which was undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out in the CoP and documented in the Strategy.

Table 3 of the CoP provides the framework for identifying relevant community stakeholders with reference to the potential impact level of the Activity. For medium impact activities, the relevant stakeholders identified were:

- relevant mine owned land, community landholders and residents/tenants generally within 5 km of EL 9431;
- MSC in respect of MSC roads within EL 9431;
- Crown Lands (in respect of Crown roads within EL 9431);
- TfNSW;
- one landholder partly within EL 9431 being HVEC;
- two tenants within EL 9431 including the licensee of the HVEC land (noting the HVEC licensee was not resident at the property when the Activity occurred) and Bengalla Agricultural Company Pty Ltd (BAC);
- the CCC (the CCC has been established as required by the conditions of development consent State significant development 5170 for Bengalla and its members comprise representatives from BMC, the MSC and local community); and
- the Upper Hunter community.

EL 9431 does not have a condition regarding native title (as native title has been demonstrated to be extinguished in all the land and waters within EL 9431). In that context, no consultation was necessary with native titleholders or claimants. As a courtesy WLALC was notified.

3.2 Consultation requirements for medium impact activities

Where the Activity has been categorised as medium impact, the CoP requires the following minimum community consultation actions:

- consultation that may include phone conversation(s), meeting(s) and written communication(s), for example, email(s), letter(s) and/or newsletter(s); and
- responses to any correspondence or submissions.

Information is provided below about the consultation activities conducted, objectives of that consultation and outcomes achieved and issues raised in respect of non-government stakeholders and government stakeholders.

4 CONSULTATION WITH NON-GOVERNMENT STAKEHOLDERS

4.1 Consultation activities

The Strategy sets out the consultation plan for stakeholders in respect of the Activity. The part of the consultation plan relevant to non-government stakeholders is extracted at Table 1. The activities undertaken by BMC in accordance with that consultation plan are summarised at Table 3.

Table 1 Consultation with non-government stakeholders during the Reporting Period

Stakeholder	Purpose	Consultation Method	Timing
Upper Hunter community	Consider advising about the Activity and survey area	No consultation required	Not applicable (NA)
1 landholder and 2 tenants within EL 9431	Negotiate Land Access Agreement where required	Consultation with HVEC and then Access Agreement with HVEC	Prior to commencing the Activity
	Advise about the Activity	HVEC tenant not resident when Activity occurred and BAC contacted by phone	BAC tenant contacted prior to commencing the activity
Landholders including residents/tenants and businesses	Consider advising about the Activity and survey area	No consultation required	NA

generally within 5 km of EL 9431			

4.2 Objectives of consultation with non-government stakeholders

The Strategy sets out the consultation objectives for the Activity, which are extracted below. BMC aims to maintain good relationships with government agencies, other stakeholders and the local community. BMC's community liaison objectives are:

- ensure that Bengalla consistently builds upon its credibility within the region through a process of engagement and transparency within neighboring communities;
- be proactive rather than reactive;
- build awareness and provide information on current and future plans;
- keep all stakeholders well informed;
- establish working relationships with stakeholders;
- address any concerns where appropriate, held by residents and other stakeholders; and
- minimise any potential disruptions and inconvenience to residents and operations.

4.3 Summary of discussions, outcomes and issues

No significant issues of concern or complaints relating to the Activity were received during the Reporting Period other than the execution of an Access Agreement between BMC and HVEC for the Activity on HVEC land partly within EL 9431.

5 CONSULTATION WITH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

5.1 Consultation activities

The Strategy sets out the consultation plan for stakeholders in respect of the then proposed Activity. The part of the consultation plan relevant to government agencies is extracted at Table 2. The activities undertaken by BMC in accordance with that consultation plan are summarised at Table 3.

Table 2 Consultation with government agencies during the Reporting Period

Stakeholder	Purpose	Proposed Strategy Consultation Method	When
TfNSW	Advise about the Activity should they receive any community enquiries	No consultation required	NA

MSC	Advise about the Activity should they receive any community enquiries	No consultation required	NA
Crown Lands	Advise about the Activity should they receive any community enquiries	No consultation required	NA

5.2 Objectives of consultation with government agencies

The objectives of consultation activities for government agencies are consistent with those for non-government stakeholders described at Section 4.2.

5.3 Summary of discussions, outcomes and issues

No significant issues of concern or complaints relating to the Activity were received during the Reporting Period.

6 COMPLIANCE WITH THE STRATEGY

BMC complied with the community consultation actions set out in the Strategy in respect of the Activity for the Reporting Period. A summary of the community consultation actions taken during the Reporting Period in accordance with the Strategy is set out in Table 3.

7 SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/COMPLAINTS AND RESPONSES

No significant issues of concern or complaints relating to the Activity were received during the Reporting Period.

No complaints were received about the Activity and accordingly no actions were required to address complaints.

8 AMENDMENTS TO THE STRATEGY OR ACTIVITY

No amendments to the Strategy or Activity were required because of conducting the Activity during the Reporting Period.

9 FURTHER COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

BMC will conduct further consultation as required regarding the Activity.

Table 3 Consultation with stakeholders during the Reporting Period

Stakeholder	Purpose	Proposed Consultation Method	Timing	Consultation Method Undertaken	Date
MSC	Advise about the Activity should they receive any community enquiries	Email/letter to advise of Activity and key details including nature of Activity, proposed commencement and duration, and Activity area Enquiries to BMC Superintendent Continuation	Prior to commencing Activity	No consultation required	NA
Crown Lands	Advise about the Activity should they receive any community enquiries	Email to advise Activity and key details including nature of Activity, proposed commencement and duration, and Activity area Enquiries to BMC Superintendent Continuation	Prior to commencing Activity	No consultation required	NA
TfNSW	Advise about the Activity should they receive any community enquiries	Email(s)/letter(s) to advise of the Activity and key details including nature of Activity, proposed commencement and duration, and Activity area Enquiries to BMC Superintendent Continuation	Prior to commencing Activity	No consultation required	NA
NSW RR	Provided written notification of commencement of surface disturbance activities Provided Exploration Risk Assessment and Rehabilitation Objectives and Completion Criteria	Email providing Exploration Risk Assessment and Rehabilitation Objectives and Completion Criteria Enquiries to BMC Superintendent Continuation	14 days prior to commencing Activity	No consultation required	NA

Bengalla CCC	Advise about the Activity should they receive any community enquiries	Presentation to Bengalla CCC	Prior to commencing survey	Presentation updating EL 9431 Activity progress	28 Aug 2024 27 Nov 2024 26 Feb 2025
1 Private landholder within EL 9431 and 2 Tenants within EL 9431	Negotiate Land Access Agreement(s) where required	Consultation and written correspondence as required	Prior to accessing land	Access to private HVEC land occurred during the Reporting Period following execution of an Access Agreement	12 Feb 2025
	Advise about the proposed Activity and Activity area	Phone call and/or email/letter to advise of Activity and key details including nature of Activity, proposed commencement and duration, and Activity area	Prior to commencing survey	Tenant on HVEC land not resident during the Activity and BAC tenant advised about the Activity by phone	BAC tenant ongoing
Private landholders including residents/tenants and businesses generally within 5 km of EL 9431	Consider advising about the proposed Activity and Activity area	Phone call and/or email to advise of Activity and key details including nature of Activity, proposed commencement and duration, and Activity area	Prior to commencing survey	No consultation required	NA
Upper Hunter community	Consider advising about the proposed Activity and Activity area	Newspaper advertisement	Prior to commencing survey	No advertisement required	NA