



## DONALDSON COAL MINE

# BUSHLAND CONSERVATION AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN

### Version 3

Date: 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019

<i>version</i>	<i>issue date</i>	<i>Section/s modified</i>	<i>Reason for modification (including whether review or minor amendment)</i>	<i>modified by</i>
1	05.01.2005		Original	GSS Environmental
2	31.10.2005	All	Update content and contact details	GSS Environmental
3	30.04.2019	All	Change of formatting, contact details and additional information	Donaldson Coal
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## 1. Introduction

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The Abel underground and Donaldson open cut coal mines are located in close proximity to each other and are currently managed as an amalgamated mining complex. Donaldson has ceased operations and the majority of land has been rehabilitated whilst Abel is in 'care and maintenance' with restricted activities occurring across the mining complex. Activities that currently occur include water management, rehabilitation maintenance, land management (including weed management etc), maintenance of mining infrastructure and environmental monitoring activities.

This Bushland Conservation Area Management Plan (BCAMP) serves to meet the requirements of the Donaldson Development Consent. It is applicable whilst Donaldson is being rehabilitated and in mine closure.

The objectives of this revised BCAMP are:

- to manage impacts on native flora and fauna species and their habitats within the Bushland Conservation Area (BCA);
- identify the BCA and interface with the mine disturbance area;
- to ensure that standard practice flora and fauna management measures are applied;
- to fulfil the requirements of the Project Approval Conditions of consent.

This plan provides an overview of the Bushland Conservation Area (BCA) that surrounds the Donaldson Coal Mine. The BCA was developed to offset the disturbed areas of the Donaldson mine at a ratio of 1:2, disturbed land to conservation area. The plan refers to the integration with other plans that provide specific detail of how the BCA will be conserved in relation to restricting access, flora and fauna monitoring, weed and feral animal management and erosion and sediment control.

## 2. Project Location and Description

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The Donaldson BCA is located approximately 23km west of Newcastle. Other nearby towns include Beresfield, located 2km north-east, and Maitland located approximately 5km north east. The mines access, entries and primary surface facilities are located off John Renshaw Drive, Blackhill. Donaldson Coal Mine has had the majority of the site rehabilitated with only the West and Square Pit still disturbed and in use by the Abel Coal mine.

The BCA constitutes the land owned by Donaldson Coal that is outside of the approved 'mine disturbance area'. Figure 1 illustrates the area of the BCA.

Flora and fauna management and monitoring has occurred within the BCA since 2001. Baseline monitoring has been used to assess the impacts of the mining and post-mining to flora and fauna within the BCA.

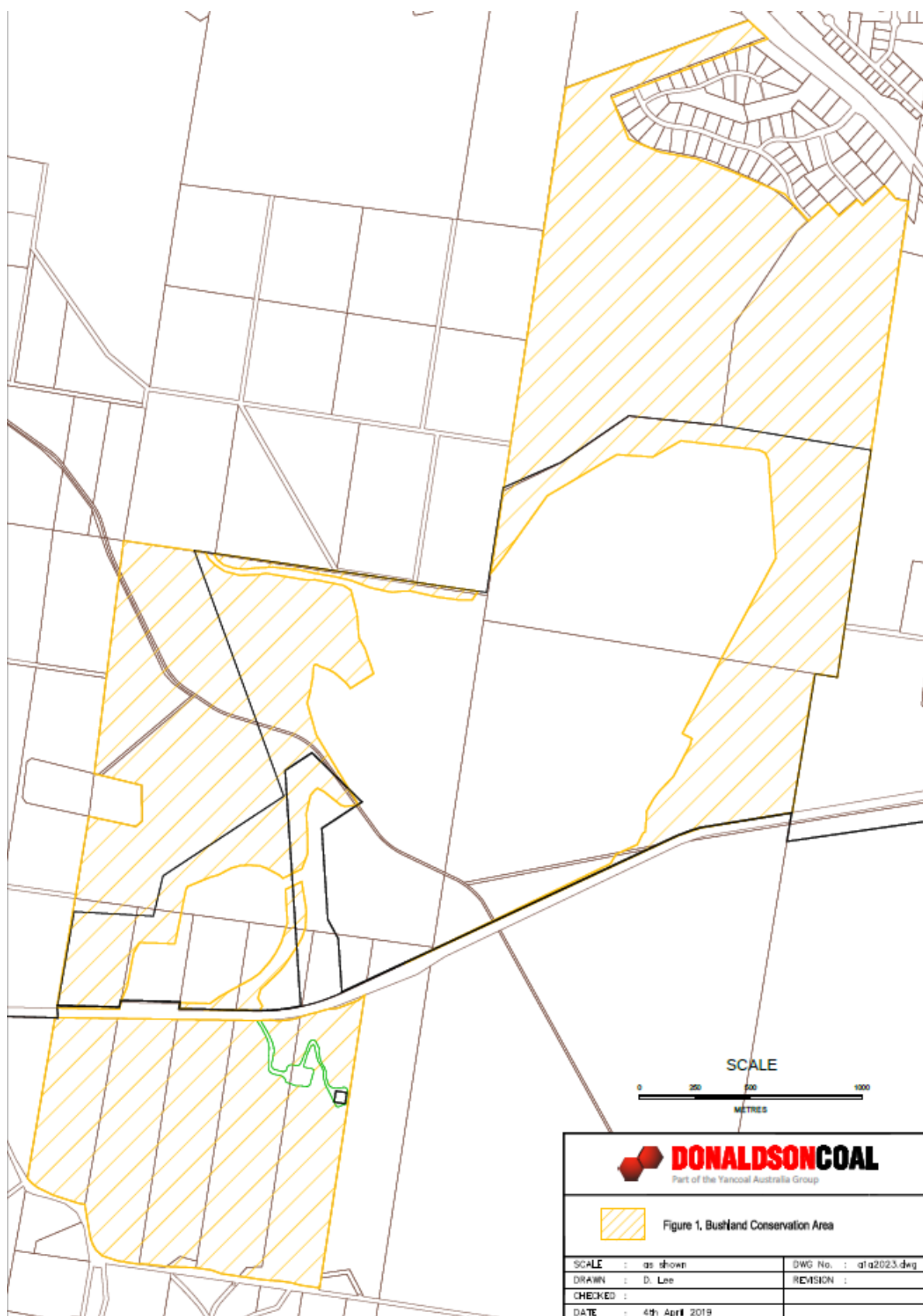


Figure 1 Bushland Conservation Area

### 3. Statutory Requirements

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This BCAMP has been compiled to meet the requirements of the Donaldson Coal Development Approvals (DA 98/01173 and DA 118/698/22). The Donaldson Development Approval DA 98/01173 lodged with Maitland Council and DA 118/698/22 lodged with Cessnock Council was originally granted by the Minister on the 14th October 1999 and subsequently modified on two occasions for an extension of the pit limits and extension to the mine life. This BCAMP is required within Schedule 2, Conditions 74 and 74A which state;

74. *Prior to 31 October 2005, the Applicant shall revise the Bushland Conservation Area Management Plan to compensate for the extension of the disturbance area in the vicinity of Weakley's Flat Creek, to the satisfaction of the Director-General, and provide an updated Plan to the OEH, Councils and the Community Consultative Committee.*
- 74A. *By 30 September 2011, the Applicant shall revise the Bushland Conservation Area Management Plan to the satisfaction of the Director-General. The revised plan must:*
- (i) be prepared in consultation with OEH; and*
  - (ii) include the 3 hectares of land removed from the approved mining area, as detailed in the letter from Donaldson Coal Pty Limited to the Minister for Planning dated 25 March 2011.*

### 4. Bushland Conservation Area Management

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The BCA is the undisturbed area surrounding the Donaldson Coal Mine. It is in place to offset the disturbance that has occurred from the Donaldson Project. The original BCA was determined in consultation with OEH and Councils in 2000.

The BCA will be managed in accordance with Appendix 1 that outlines the key management commitments and the relevant management plan that discusses the commitment.

#### 4.1 Integration with Flora and Fauna Management Plan

Several management plans outline the specific detail and mitigation strategies used to ensure the conservation of the BCA. The primary management plan that deals with the management of the BCA is the Flora and Fauna Management Plan (F&FMP). The F&FMP includes a number of management areas that apply to the BCA. These include;

- Exclusion of clearing within the BCA
- Restriction of access to the BCA
- Fencing of areas around the Donaldson Coal
- Feral animal control
- Weed management
- Bushfire management
- Prevention and removal of rubbish
- Flora and fauna monitoring

## 5. Roles and Responsibilities

Table 5-1 list the roles and responsibilities relevant to the management of the BCA;

*Table 5-1 BCAMP Roles and Responsibilities*

Role	Responsibility
Operations Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide sufficient resources to manage the BCA including the security of the area.</li> </ul>
Environment and Community Relations Superintendent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring the commitments within Appendix 1 are being met.</li> <li>That the various related Management Plans outlined in Appendix 1 are being followed and monitored through environmental audits and inspections;</li> <li>Ensuring that employees are aware of the commitments in the relevant management plans by incorporating key aspects of the plan in risk assessments, training and environmental awareness interactions;</li> <li>Updating the various operational Environmental Management Plans in accordance with the Development Consent or as directed by the Secretary; and</li> <li>Ensure inspections of the BCA are being conducted and facilitate the maintenance of access tracks.</li> </ul>
Employees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report incidents within the BCA to the Environment and Community Relations Superintendent.</li> <li>Report security breaches on Donaldson owned land.</li> </ul>

## 6. Review Procedure

The performance of the BCAMP will be reviewed at least every 3 years, after an incident within the BCA or as requested by the Secretary. The review will include:

- A review of the review of the relevant management plans for the development;
- Identification of any failure to meet key environmental commitments listed in Appendix 1 since the previous review, and a description of what actions were (or are being) taken to ensure these are met; and,
- A review of the measures that will be implemented over the coming 3 years to improve the performance of the BCA.

Any major amendments to the BCAMP that affect its application will be undertaken in consultation with the appropriate regulatory authorities and stakeholders. Minor changes such as formatting edits may be made with version control.

The BCAMP may also be revised due to:

- Deficiencies being identified;
- Introduction of additional mitigation measures or controls within the referred management plans;
- Results from the monitoring and review program, including exceedances of criteria;
- Changing environmental requirements;
- Improvements in knowledge or technology becoming available;
- Changes in legislation; or
- Identification of a requirement to alter the BCAMP following a risk assessment.

## 7. Evaluating and Reporting

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The Abel/Donaldson Mine will adhere to the procedures and environmental management, reporting and auditing requirements in accordance with each Project Approval.

An annual review will be prepared each year to review the environmental performance of the operation and include a review of management within the BCA and describe measures taken to improve environmental performance. The Annual Review will be provided to relevant agencies and be placed on the Donaldson Coal website at [www.doncoal.com.au](http://www.doncoal.com.au).

## Appendix 1

Summary of Management Actions Applicable to the Bushland Conservation Area Management Plan			
Key Management Area	Brief Description of Key Management Commitments	Relevant Operational Management Plan	Site Responsibility
<b>Flora and Fauna</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No clearing or disturbance within the BCA.</li> <li>- Stock are excluded from the site.</li> <li>- Access is limited to mining equipment or public vehicles (no mine equipment outside nominated mine disturbance area).</li> <li>- Fencing of the site along John Renshaw Drive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Flora &amp; Fauna Mgt Plan</b></li> <li>- <b>Erosion &amp; Sediment Control Plan</b></li> <li>- <b>Flora &amp; Fauna Mgt Plan</b></li> <li>- <b>Flora &amp; Fauna Mgt Plan</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Environment and Community Relations Superintendent</li> <li>- Qualified Ecologist</li> </ul>
<b>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Archaeology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Aboriginal sites/artefacts identified within the BCA are monitored 5 yearly by an Archaeologist and representative from the local Aboriginal Community to determine whether they are being disturbed by natural or other processes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Aboriginal Management Plan</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Environment and Community Relations Superintendent</li> <li>- Qualified Archeologist</li> <li>- Representatives of the Local Aboriginal Lands Council.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Heritage &amp; Archaeological Mgt Plan are revised 3 yearly to enable the local Aboriginal community the opportunity to provide ongoing comment into the management of all sites within the BCA.</li> <li>- Stock are excluded from the site</li> <li>- Access to the mine site is limited</li> <li>- Fencing of the site along John Renshaw Drive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Aboriginal Management Plan</b></li> <li>- <b>Erosion &amp; Sediment Control Plan</b></li> <li>- <b>Flora &amp; Fauna Mgt Plan</b></li> <li>- <b>Flora &amp; Fauna Mgt Plan</b></li> </ul>	
<b>Invasive Weeds</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Weed material (from clearing) within the disturbance site to be managed so that it does not spread into the BCA.</li> <li>- Weed control and monitoring.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Flora &amp; Fauna Mgt Plan</b></li> <li>- <b>Erosion &amp; Sediment Control Plan</b></li> <li>- <b>Flora &amp; Fauna Mgt Plan</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Environment and Community Relations Superintendent</li> <li>- EPA licenced contractor</li> </ul>
<b>Feral Animal Control</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To control the number of feral animals on the site;</li> <li>- Targeted baiting and trapping will be utilised as required.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Flora &amp; Fauna Mgt Plan</b></li> <li>- <b>Flora &amp; Fauna Mgt Plan</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Environment and Community Relations Superintendent</li> </ul>
<b>Erosion &amp; Sediment Control</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The maintenance of specific erosion and sediment control structures along existing tracks and roads within the BCA area.</li> <li>- Maintenance of sediment and erosion control structures adjacent to and downstream of the BCA.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Erosion &amp; Sediment Control Plan</b></li> <li>- <b>Flora &amp; Fauna Mgt Plan</b></li> <li>- <b>Erosion &amp; Sediment Control Plan</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Environment and Community Relations Superintendent</li> </ul>

<b>Surface &amp; Groundwater Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Routine Samples are taken at both upstream and downstream sites on the three (3) creeks passing through the property.</li> <li>- Macroinvertebrate &amp; streambed/bank assessments are undertaken at the six sites every six months</li> <li>- Groundwater samples are routinely collected at a number of piezometers located throughout the BCA. Monitoring includes both water quality and Standing Water level.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Water Management Plan</b></li> <li>- <b>Water Management Plan</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Environment and Community Relations Superintendent</li> <li>- Water Monitoring Contractors</li> <li>- Aquatic Ecologist</li> <li>- Environment and Community Relations Superintendent</li> </ul>
<b>Bushfire and Hazard Reduction Burning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hazard reduction regimes are to be implemented to maintain natural ecological value within the BCA.</li> <li>- Fuel free &amp; Fuel reduction zones will be created around the mine buildings and key infrastructure areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Fire Management Plan</b></li> <li>- <b>Flora &amp; Fauna Mgt Plan</b></li> <li>- <b>Fire Management Plan</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Environment and Community Relations Superintendent</li> <li>- Local Rural Fire Brigade</li> <li>- Rural Fire Service (RFS)</li> </ul>
<b>Conservation of Threatened &amp; Endangered Species</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No clearing or disturbance within the BCA</li> <li>- Stock are excluded from the site</li> <li>- Access is limited (no mine equipment outside nominated mine disturbance area)</li> <li>- Fencing of the site along John Renshaw Drive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Flora &amp; Fauna Mgt Plan</b></li> <li>- <b>Erosion &amp; Sediment Control Plan</b></li> <li>- <b>Flora &amp; Fauna Mgt Plan</b></li> <li>- <b>Flora &amp; Fauna Mgt Plan</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Environment and Community Relations Superintendent</li> <li>- Qualified Ecologist</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Delineation of boundaries to be cleared (if required)</li> <li>- Implementation of the <b><i>Tetratheca juncea</i> Management Plan</b>. This plan outlines the specific management requirements for the population of <i>Tetratheca juncea</i> found to exist on the western end of the property. This report has been developed following the determination of the <i>Tetratheca juncea</i> conservation area, <b><i>Tetratheca juncea</i> Survey Report &amp; Conservation Area Identification (Gunninah, 2000)</b>.</li> <li>- A survey has been undertaken to identify Owl Nest and/or Roost Sites within the BCA.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Flora &amp; Fauna Mgt Plan</b></li> <li>- <b>Environmental Management System</b></li> <li>- <b>Flora &amp; Fauna Mgt Plan</b></li> <li>- <b><i>Tetratheca juncea</i> Mgt Plan</b></li> <li>- <b>Flora &amp; Fauna Mgt Plan</b></li> </ul>	
<b>Clearing &amp; Vegetation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No clearing of vegetation allowed within the BCA.</li> <li>- The Environment and Community Relations Superintendent or their delegate undertakes regular inspections of the BCA to ensure that the area is being managed appropriately.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Flora &amp; Fauna Mgt Plan</b></li> </ul>	- Environment and Community Relations Superintendent
<b>Access &amp; Site Security</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Installation of a fence along John Renshaw Drive</li> <li>- Erection of warning signs at access points into the Bushland Area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Flora &amp; Fauna Mgt Plan</b></li> <li>- <b>Erosion &amp; Sediment Control Plan</b></li> </ul>	- Environment and Community Relations Superintendent

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Delineation of areas outside the mine disturbance area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Flora &amp; Fauna Mgt Plan</b></li> </ul>	
<b>Seed Collection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Native Seed collection and propagation will be undertaken to enhance the regeneration of indigenous vegetation within the areas of disturbance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Erosion &amp; Sediment Control Plan</b></li> <li>- <b>Mining Operations Plan</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Environment and Community Relations Superintendent</li> </ul>
<b>Illegal Dumping of wastes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The removal of rubbish from the site (rubbish, car bodies, etc).</li> <li>- The Environment and Community Relations Superintendent or their delegate undertakes regular inspections of the BCA to ensure that the area is being managed appropriately.</li> <li>- Access is limited (no mine equipment outside nominated mine disturbance area).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Flora &amp; Fauna Mgt Plan</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Environment and Community Relations Superintendent</li> </ul>
<b>Monitoring &amp; Measurement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A program to monitor the flora &amp; fauna impacts in the BCA has been undertaken since the commencement of mining. A series of permanent monitoring quadrants have been established across the site. A detailed baseline report and subsequent annual reports have been completed for all monitoring sites.</li> <li>- The results of the monitoring are reported in the Annual Review.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Flora &amp; Fauna Mgt Plan</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Qualified Ecologist</li> <li>- Environment and Community Relations Superintendent</li> </ul>

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