



**Resources
Regulator**

ARR0001829

AUSTAR COAL MINE ANNUAL REHABILITATION REPORT

Tuesday 1 July 2025 to Tuesday 30 June 2026

Summary table

Detail	
Mine	Austar Coal Mine
Reference	ARR0001829
Annual report period commencement date	Tuesday 1 July 2025
Annual report period end date	Tuesday 30 June 2026
Forward program	FWP0001709
Mining leases	CCL 728 (1973), CCL 752 (1973), CML 2 (1992), DSL 89 (1901), ML 1157 (1906), ML 1283 (1906), ML 1345 (1992), ML 1388 (1992), ML 1550 (1992), ML 1661 (1992), ML 1666 (1992), ML 1677 (1992), ML 1851 (1992), MPL 1364 (1906), MPL 204 (1906), MPL 217 (1906), MPL 23 (1906), MPL 233 (1906), MPL 269 (1906)
Lease holder(s)	Austar Coal Mine Pty Limited
Contact	Julie McNaughton
Date of submission	Monday 28 September 2026

Document URL

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Important

The department may make the information in your program and any supporting information available for inspection by members of the public, including by publication on its website or by displaying the information at any of its offices. If you consider any part of your program to be confidential, please communicate this to the department via the message function on this submission within the Resources Regulator Portal.

Mine Details

Project description

Austar Coal Mine is a closed underground coal mine located approximately 10 km southwest of Cessnock in the Lower Hunter Valley in NSW. Austar Coal Mine incorporates the former Pelton, Ellalong, Cessnock No.1 (Kalingo) and Bellbird South Collieries. The Austar Pit top site is located on Middle Road, Paxton, and the Coal Handling and Preparation Plant (CHPP) site is located at Wollombi Road, Pelton. Mining was approved under two major project approvals: Bellbird South (DA 29/95) and Stage 3 (PA 08_0111), along with numerous development approvals from Cessnock City Council. DA 29/95 expired on 14 February 2022 whilst PA 08_0111 expires on 31 December 2030. Austar is currently progressing closure planning with investigations and studies being undertaken to inform the closure process. Early works closure activities are being undertaken including mine sealing, decommissioning and demolition.

Life of mine

0 years

Current development consents, leases and licences

Development consents granted under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*



DA29/95
DA29/95
DA29/95
DA29/95
DA29/95
DA29/95
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PA 08_0111
PA 08_0111
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PA 08_0111

Authorisations covering the mining area granted under the *Mining Act 1992*

CCL 728 (1973), CCL 752 (1973), CML 2 (1992), DSL 89 (1901), ML 1157 (1906), ML 1283 (1906), ML 1345 (1992), ML 1388 (1992), ML 1550

(1992), ML 1661 (1992), ML 1666 (1992), ML 1677 (1992), ML 1851 (1992), MPL 1364 (1906), MPL 204 (1906), MPL 217 (1906), MPL 23 (1906), MPL 233 (1906), MPL 269 (1906)

Any other approvals, licences, or authorities issued by government agencies that are relevant to the progress of mining operation and rehabilitation activities

WAL 19181 WAL 41504 Numerous Cessnock City Council DA's Environment Protection Licence (EPL) 416

Summary of the scope and/or purpose of the new applications or modifications to existing approvals (if applicable)

There were no changes to the status, scope or purpose of the listed development consents, leases, licenses or other relevant authorities during the reporting period.

Changes to land ownership and land use

No changes to land ownership or land use related to the mining area occurred during the reporting period.

Surface disturbance and rehabilitation activities during the reporting period

Surface disturbance and rehabilitation activities that were conducted and an analysis of the progress against the rehabilitation schedule

Surface disturbance and rehabilitation progressed in accordance with the previous forward program. Austar completed demolition works at CMA 1 (Pit Top) between June 2025 and February 2026. Demolition at CMA 2 (CHPP) was completed between April 2025 and September 2025. During demolition, contamination validation sampling was undertaken, and the unexpected finds procedure was implemented. Hazardous materials were managed and disposed of by the demolition contractor. Following completion of demolition at CMA 1 and CMA 2, drainage construction and temporary stabilisation of disturbance footprints was completed progressively as required. Sealing of the Old Drophole borehole in CMA 5 was completed in June 2026 with rehabilitation planned for July 2026. Powerline removal is being completed progressively, with powerline infrastructure from CMA 1 to CMA 4 removed during November 2025. Desilting of Kalingo Dam was completed during the previous reporting period. Construction of a clean water diversion drain was finalised during Q3 2025. These works were completed to minimise the Kalingo Dam catchment prior to decommissioning and rehabilitation works scheduled to commence Q3 2026.

Rehabilitation planning activities that were conducted, including any specialist studies

During the reporting period, Austar continued to progress the Closure Feasibility Study (FS), which commenced in March 2024. The FS progressed substantially, with most of the supporting technical assessments advanced. The FS and associated closure designs are continuing, with remaining work focused on integration of the technical assessments into final landform designs, resolution of residual technical and approval matters, and development of the implementation pathway for closure. FS is scheduled for completion in 2027. In parallel with the FS investigations, Austar continued development of a State Significant Development (SSD) modification application and preparation of supporting technical studies to provide the approval pathway for closure works not otherwise covered by existing

approvals. Specialist studies including biodiversity and ecological surveys were substantially progressed during the reporting period. The final project description continues to be refined based on the FS technical study outputs, identified constraints, and closure designs.

Overview of subsidence repair and/or remediation works undertaken

Subsidence has been deemed completed in approved mining areas and no maintenance or remediation activities were required during the reporting period. Subsidence repairs may be required from time to time in historic mining areas, these repairs are currently carried out by Subsidence Advisory NSW.

Overview of rehabilitation management and maintenance activities

Weed management was completed during the reporting period, focusing on key areas such as CHPP boundaries and creek lines, Aberdare Extended Emplacement Area (EEA), Bellbird Areas 12 and 13, the Kalingo Infrastructure area and creek lines, and Kitchener SIS. Weed management was also completed more broadly across mining lease areas in accordance with the site Weed Action Plan and Annual Weed Report. The primary targeted weeds which were controlled during the reporting period included *Acacia saligna*, Blackberry, Camphor Laurel, Date Palm, Fireweed, Green Cestrum, Inkweed, Lantana, Mother of Millions, Senna and Tobacco Bush. Endemic seed collection was ongoing to establish a seed storage bank for future rehabilitation activities. Upgrades and installation of concrete barriers and signage were completed to minimise trespasser access to Bellbird Areas 12 and 13, and Aberdare EEA. Slashing of grasslands areas and clean-up and removal of dumped rubbish was undertaken within the Bellbird Area 12 and 13, Kitchener Surface Infrastructure Site and the Aberdare EEA.

Details of any rehabilitation actions taken as required by any letters, notices or directions issued by government agencies, including the Resources Regulator

No letters, notices or directions requiring rehabilitation actions were received from NSW Resources Regulator or any other government agency during the reporting period.

Details of any rehabilitation areas that have achieved the final land use

No rehabilitation areas achieved the final land use during the reporting period.

Key production milestones

MATERIAL	UNIT	FWP0001709 YEAR1		THIS REPORT
Stripped topsoil (if applicable)	(m ³)	0		0
Rock/overburden	(m ³)	0		0
Ore	(Mt)	0		0
Reject material¹	(Mt)	0		0
Product	(Mt)	0		0

¹This includes coarse rejects, tailings and any other wastes resulting from beneficiation.

Disturbance and rehabilitation statistics

Current disturbance and rehabilitation progression

ELEMENT		UNIT	THIS REPORT
A1	Total disturbance footprint - surface disturbance	(ha)	214.86
B	Total active disturbance	(ha)	153.79
C	Rehabilitation - land preparation	(ha)	23.32
D	Ecosystem and land use establishment	(ha)	37.76
E	Ecosystem and land use development	(ha)	0
F	Rehabilitation completion	(ha)	0

Rehabilitation key performance indicators (KPIs)

ELEMENT		UNIT	THIS REPORT
G	New disturbance area	(ha)	0
H	New rehabilitation commenced during annual reporting period	(ha)	0
I	Established rehabilitation	(ha)	0
J	Annual rehabilitation to disturbance ratio	%	
K	Rehabilitated land to total mine footprint	%	0

Progressive achievement of established rehabilitation

ELEMENT		UNIT	THIS REPORT
L	Established rehabilitation for agricultural final land uses	%	0
M	Established rehabilitation for native ecosystem final land uses	%	0
N	Established rehabilitation for other/non-vegetated final land uses	%	0

Variation to the rehabilitation schedule

Identify the components of the most recent forward program that were not achieved

Filling and demolition of No.1 shaft was not progressed as planned in year 1 of the previous forward program due to ongoing work to confirm suitability of demolition material for shaft filling. Removal of the dam wall and rehabilitation of the Kalingo dam did not progress as scheduled in Year 1 of the previous forward program. Works commenced in Q3 2026.

Key factors that delayed progressive rehabilitation

No factors significantly delayed the progressive rehabilitation schedule during the reporting period.

Outline actions that will be included in the forward program and carried out to minimise disturbance and undertake progressive rehabilitation as far as reasonably practical

Further disturbance and rehabilitation will be undertaken in accordance with the Rehabilitation Management Plan and the FY 2026 Forward Program.

Rehabilitation monitoring and research findings

Rehabilitation monitoring

The rehabilitation monitoring carried out in the annual reporting period

Austar currently completes rehabilitation monitoring at Bellbird Areas 12 and 13, the Aberdare EEA, and Kalingo. Reference baseline monitoring is completed in parallel with this and includes two forest reference sites (one at Bellbird Areas 12 and 13, and one at Kalingo) and at two forest sites on Austar land located in proximity to Kitchener SIS. Annual rehabilitation monitoring was completed at the rehabilitation areas and reference sites in late April 2026. Monitoring included visual inspections and photo monitoring, and recommendations were provided on progression against proposed completion criteria. Methodologies included walkover inspections comprising a traverse of the rehabilitated areas with the following documented:

- General assessment of the health of the rehabilitated vegetation
- Visual assessment of vegetation cover, species diversity and stage of growth
- Identification of weeds and pests including density of infestation and observable impacts on rehabilitation
- Evidence of erosion (rill, gully and tunnel)
- Stability and functioning of any erosion and sediment control and water management structures
- Evidence of unauthorised access to the rehabilitated areas and
- Evidence of use of rehabilitation area by native fauna species.

Forest monitoring comprised a 20 m by 20 m plot, as well as a 50 m transect. Monitoring of the 50m transect assessed percentage of native canopy, and mid-storey cover; and presence of native ground cover (grass, shrub, other), bare ground and leaf litter. The 20 m by 20 m plot included full floristic survey and photo monitoring. Grassland monitoring comprised 5m x 5m plots assessing percentages of vegetation, weeds, canopy vegetation, documentation of flora species, their cover and abundance, and photo monitoring.

Status of performance against rehabilitation objectives and rehabilitation completion criteria

The monitoring program that has been implemented

Results from monitoring completed during the reporting period were tabulated by the monitoring consultant and compared against the Trigger Action Response Plan (TARP) in the RMP. Performance criteria, monitoring requirements and final land use vegetation types for the site are being reviewed and refined as part of the detailed mine closure planning work currently being undertaken. Based on the monitoring results, rehabilitation performance was variable. While all sites continued to achieve groundcover and surface stability objectives, performance criteria relating to vegetation composition, structural development, weed abundance and pasture condition were not consistently achieved across all sites. Many areas are not yet demonstrating self-sustaining vegetation outcomes.

Are all rehabilitation areas in Landform Establishment phase or higher represented in the monitoring program to assess performance against the rehabilitation objectives and approved or, if not yet approved rehabilitation completion criteria and final landform and rehabilitation plan?

No

Year rehabilitation areas will be included as part of the monitoring program

2028

An appraisal of whether rehabilitation is moving towards achieving the proposed rehabilitation objectives, approved or, if not yet approved, rehabilitation completion criteria and final landform and rehabilitation plan as soon as reasonably practicable.

Landform stability and groundcover objectives have generally been achieved, however continued active management will be required to address weed infestation, improved vegetation structure and support progression toward long-term rehabilitation objectives, completion criteria and closure outcomes. Across all sites, weed presence and disturbance (e.g. vehicle access, subsidence impacts and unauthorised access) are the primary factors limiting rehabilitation success. Evidence of natural recruitment of native species is occurring; however, this has not yet transferred into achievement of target vegetation composition or structural condition. The current completion criteria will be further refined during FS, with proposed final completion criteria and an updated final landform and rehabilitation plan submitted to the RR for consultation and approval following completion of detailed mine closure planning.

Appraisal description

Rehabilitation is moving towards achieving the final land use as soon as reasonably practicable.

Rehabilitation monitoring program findings

Rehabilitation monitoring results for the reporting period demonstrate that site condition has changed variably across the monitored areas when compared to the previous reporting period. Assessment against the rehabilitation objectives and completion criteria indicate that achievement of criteria relating to surface stability groundcover was generally favourable across the monitored areas, while criteria relating to weed and vegetation composition, structural development and pasture condition were not consistently achieved. Across forest rehabilitation areas, Area 12 continues to demonstrate gradual improvement, particularly in terms of vegetation cover and stability, indicating progression toward rehabilitation objectives. In contrast, Area 13 and Kalingo East show limited improvement or declining trends, driven primarily by increased weed cover and constrained development of native species richness, species composition and structural complexity. Within pasture areas (Aberdare), conditions remained variable, with increases in native species richness but reductions in pasture species richness and cover at several sites, although groundcover remains adequate and weed outcomes are variable. While completion criteria relating to landform stability and groundcover were generally achieved, criteria relating to vegetation composition, weed abundance, structural development and pasture condition were not consistently achieved across all monitoring areas.

Performance issues and their causes including identification of any knowledge gaps that must be addressed

Rehabilitation monitoring identified weed competition, ongoing disturbance from vehicle tracks and unauthorised access, subsidence-related impacts and localised erosion as the main performance issues. Key knowledge gaps relate to the effectiveness of ongoing weed control, the pace of native species recruitment, pasture condition recovery and the ability of existing management measures to reduce unauthorised access and disturbance pressure. Austar has a site wide Annual Weed Action Plan in place incorporating the rehabilitation areas. Weed management works are undertaken by a specialist contractor on a regular basis throughout the year. Weed management in the rehabilitation areas is ongoing, with weed works focusing on recommended actions and areas, including rehabilitation areas and creek lines across site during the reporting period. Evidence of unauthorised access (such as 4WD tracks, motorbike riders and push bike riders) continues to be problematic in the Bellbird Areas 12 & Area 13 and Aberdare EEA. Given proximity of these areas to urban

areas, such aspects are difficult to control. Measures are in place to strengthen site security and exclude trespassers through the installation of concrete barriers, maintenance of fencing and ongoing security patrols.

Outcomes of rehabilitation research and trials

RRT NUMBER	PROJECT/TRIAL NAME	OBJECTIVE OF TRIAL/PROJECT	METHODOLOGY	EXPECTED DATE OF COMPLETION	STATUS	ON TRACK?
RRT0001130	Growth Medium Trial	Evaluation of composted municipal green waste material as a growth medium, as an alternative to topsoil.	Three rehabilitation trial plots have been established. Plot 1 has no compost, Plot 2 has 50mm of composted growth medium Plot 3 has 100mm of composted growth medium. Soil testing will be used to inform amelioration requirements. All three plots will be seeded with key canopy, shrub and groundcover species of the Lower Hunter Spotted Gum Ironbark Forest vegetation community and a cover crop. Ongoing monitoring will inform suitability of compost use as a growth medium.	31 Dec 2025	Ongoing	Yes
RRT0001111	Growth medium trial	Evaluation of composted municipal green waste material as a growth medium, as an alternative to topsoil.	Three rehabilitation trial plots to be established. One plot to have no compost, second plot to have 50mm of composted growth medium and the third plot to have 100mm of composted growth medium. Soil testing will be used to inform amelioration requirements. All three plots will be seeded with key canopy, shrub and groundcover species of the Lower Hunter Spotted Gum	31 Dec 2025	Ongoing	Yes

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			Ironbark Forest vegetation community. Ongoing monitoring will inform suitability of compost use as a growth medium.			
RRT0001187	RRT0001130	Evaluation of composted municipal green waste material as a growth medium, as an alternative to topsoil.	Three rehabilitation trial plots have been established. Plot 1 has no compost, Plot 2 has 50mm of composted growth medium Plot 3 has 100mm of composted growth medium. Soil testing will be used to inform amelioration requirements. All three plots will be seeded with key canopy, shrub and groundcover species of the Lower Hunter Spotted Gum Ironbark Forest vegetation community and a cover crop. Ongoing monitoring will inform suitability of compost use as a growth medium.	31 Dec 2026	Ongoing	Yes
RRT0001155	Coal Waste Blending Trial	To inform materials handling, excavation, blending and placement strategies through the execution of bulk earthworks, with a focus on optimising processes for tailings and coarse coal reject (CCR) man	Tailings will be excavated from the NWTD, dewatered as required, and transported to a trial location at the CHPP. Materials will be spread or blended with coarse coal reject (CCR) to evaluate drying rates, handling behaviour, and suitability for placement in containment cells. Observations, geotechnical testing, and laboratory analysis will be conducted to optimize	30 Jun 2026	Ongoing	Yes

			processes.			
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Outcomes of completed trials and research

N/A

Attachment 1 - Reporting Definitions

REPORTING CATEGORY		DEFINITION
A1	Total disturbance footprint - surface disturbance	All areas within a mining lease that either have at some point in time or continue to pose a rehabilitation liability due to surface disturbance activities. The total disturbance footprint is the sum of the total active disturbance, decommissioning, landform establishment, growth medium development, ecosystem and land use establishment, ecosystem and land use development and rehabilitation completion (see definitions below). Underground mining operations should not include the footprint of underground mining areas/subsidence management areas in the total disturbance footprint.
A2	Underground Mining Area	Underground mining operations areas/subsidence management areas.
B	Total active disturbance	Includes on-lease exploration areas, stripped areas ahead of mining, infrastructure areas, water management infrastructure, sewage treatment facilities, topsoil stockpile areas, access tracks and haul roads, active mining areas, waste rock emplacements (active/unshaped/in or out-of-pit), tailings dams (active/unshaped/uncapped) and temporary stabilised areas (e.g. areas sown with temporary cover crops for dust mitigation and temporary rehabilitation).
C	Rehabilitation - land preparation	Includes the sum of all disturbed land within a mining lease that have commenced any, or all, of

REPORTING CATEGORY		DEFINITION
		the following phases of rehabilitation - decommissioning, landform establishment and growth medium development. Refer to the glossary of terms in this document for the definition of these phases of rehabilitation.
D	Ecosystem and land use establishment	Includes the area which has been seeded/planted with the target vegetation species for the intended final land use. However, vegetation has not matured to a stage where it can be demonstrated that it will be sustainable for the long term and or require only a maintenance regime consistent with target reference/analogue sites. Typically, rehabilitation areas would be in this phase for at least two years (and usually more) before rehabilitation can be classified as being in the ecosystem and land use development phase. This phase does not apply to infrastructure areas that are being retained as part of final land use for the site.
E	Ecosystem and Land Use Development	Rehabilitation has matured to a level where target revegetation outcomes are on a trajectory towards meeting the final rehabilitation objectives and rehabilitation completion criteria (as verified by monitoring). This phase includes infrastructure areas that are to be retained for an approved post mining land use, following completion of all necessary measures to render the infrastructure fit for this purpose (for example structural integrity).

REPORTING CATEGORY		DEFINITION
F	Rehabilitation Completion	The Resources Regulator has determined in writing that the mining area has achieved the approved rehabilitation objectives and approved rehabilitation completion criteria and final landform and rehabilitation plan following the submission of Form: <i>Rehabilitation completion and/or review of rehabilitation cost estimate and/or notification of mine or petroleum site closure</i> .
G	New active disturbance area	The area of any new active disturbance that has been created during the annual reporting period (definition A1 in Table 5).
H	New rehabilitation commenced during annual reporting period	The sum of any new rehabilitation commenced in the annual reporting period. These areas may be in the rehabilitation land preparation phase or the ecosystem & land use establishment phase (definitions C and D in Table 5).
I	Established rehabilitation (hectares)	The total area of land that is verified to be within either the ecosystem and land use development phase or the rehabilitation completion phase (definitions E & F in Table 5).
J	Annual rehabilitation to disturbance ratio	The rehabilitation to disturbance ratio (H/G) indicates how many hectares of new rehabilitation are undertaken for each hectare of land disturbed during the year. A ratio of 1/1 indicates that the area of new rehabilitation and disturbance in that year are the same.
K	% Rehabilitated land to total mine footprint	The proportion of the total mine footprint (area of land that has been disturbed by past or present surface disturbance activities) that has established rehabilitation ($I/A1 \times 100$). For open cut mining, the proportion of the total mine footprint verified to be "established rehabilitation" should substantially increase as an operation progresses towards mine closure.

REPORTING CATEGORY		DEFINITION
L	Established rehabilitation for agricultural final land uses (hectares)	The percentage of total area of land that is verified to be within either the ecosystem and land use development phase or the rehabilitation completion phase (definitions E & F in Table 5) that have been returned to an agricultural final land use.
M	Established rehabilitation for native ecosystem final land uses (hectares)	The percentage of total area of land that is verified to be within either the ecosystem and land use development phase or rehabilitation completion phase (definitions E & F in Table 5) that have been returned to native ecosystem final land use.
N	Established rehabilitation for other/non-vegetated final land uses (hectares)	The percentage of total area of land that is verified to be within either the ecosystem and land use development phase or the rehabilitation completion phase (definitions E & F in Table 5) that have been returned to other/non-vegetated final land use.

Attachment 2 - Definitions

WORD	DEFINITION
Active	In the context of rehabilitation, land associated with mining domains is considered 'active' for the period following disturbance until the commencement of rehabilitation.
Active mining phase of rehabilitation	In the context of rehabilitation, the active mining phase of rehabilitation constitutes the rehabilitation activities undertaken during mining operations such as salvaging and managing soil resources, salvaging habitat resources, and native seed collection. This phase also includes management actions taken during operations to manage risks to rehabilitation and enhance rehabilitation outcomes such as selective handling of waste rock and management of tailings emplacements.
Analogue site	In the context of rehabilitation, an analogue site is a 'reference site' that represents an example of the defining characteristics (such as vegetation composition and structure or agricultural productivity) of the final land use. Characteristics of analogue sites can be assessed to develop the rehabilitation objectives and completion criteria for final land use domains.
Annual rehabilitation report and forward program	As described in the Mining Regulation 2016.
Annual reporting period	As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.
Closure	A whole-of-mine-life process, which typically culminates in the relinquishment of the mining lease. It includes decommissioning and rehabilitation to achieve the approved final land use(s).

WORD	DEFINITION
Decommissioning	The process of removing mining infrastructure and removing contaminants and hazardous materials.
Decommissioning Phase of Rehabilitation	Activities associated with the removal of mining infrastructure and removal and/or remediation of contaminants and hazardous materials. In the context of the rehabilitation management plan this phase of rehabilitation may also include studies and assessments associated with decommissioning and demolition of infrastructure or works carried out to make safe or 'fit for purpose' built infrastructure to be retained for future use(s) following lease relinquishment.
Department	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.
Disturbance	See Surface Disturbance.
Disturbance area	An area that has been disturbed and that requires rehabilitation. This may include areas such as on-licence exploration areas, stripped areas ahead of mining, infrastructure areas, water management infrastructure, sewage treatment facilities, topsoil stockpile areas, access tracks and haul roads, active mining areas, waste emplacements (active/unshaped/in or out-of-pit), tailings dams (active/unshaped/uncapped), and areas requiring rehabilitation that are temporarily stabilised (i.e. managed to minimise dust generation and/or erosion).
Domain	An area (or areas) of the land that has been disturbed by mining and has a specific operational use (mining domain) or specific final land use (final land use domain). Land within a domain typically has similar geochemical and/or geophysical characteristics and therefore requires specific rehabilitation

WORD	DEFINITION
	activities to achieve the associated final land use.
Ecosystem and Land Use Development	This phase of rehabilitation consists of the activities to manage maturing rehabilitation areas on a trajectory to achieving the approved rehabilitation objectives and completion criteria. For vegetated land uses this phase may include processes to develop characteristics of functional self-sustaining ecosystems, such as nutrient recycling, vegetation flowering and reproduction, and increasing habitat complexity, and development of a productive, self-sustaining soil profile. This phase of rehabilitation may include specific vegetation management strategies and maintenance such as tree thinning, supplementary plantings and weed management.
Ecosystem and Land Use Establishment	This phase of rehabilitation consists of the processes to establish the approved final land use following construction of the final landform. For vegetated land uses this rehabilitation phase includes establishing the desired vegetation community and implementing land management activities such as weed control. This phase of rehabilitation may also include habitat augmentation such as installation of nest boxes.
Exploration	Has the same meaning as that term under the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007.
Final landform and rehabilitation plan	As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.

WORD	DEFINITION
Final land use	As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.
Form and way	Means the form and way approved by the Secretary. Approved form and way documents are available on the department's website.
Growth Medium Development	This phase of rehabilitation consists of activities required to establish the physical, chemical and biological components of the substrate required to establish the desired vegetation community (including short lived pioneer species). This phase may include spreading the prepared landform with topsoil and/or subsoil and/or soil substitutes, applying soil ameliorants to enhance the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of the growth media, and actions to minimise loss of growth media due to erosion.
Habitat	Has the same meaning as that term under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 and the Fisheries Management Act 1994 (as relevant).
Indicator	An attribute of the biophysical environment (e.g. pH, topsoil depth, biomass) that can be used to approximate the progression of a biophysical process. It can be measured and audited to demonstrate (and track) the progress of an aspect of rehabilitation towards a desired completion criterion (i.e. defined end point). It may be aligned to an established protocol and used to evaluate changes in a system.
Land	As defined in the Mining Act 1992.

WORD	DEFINITION
Landform Establishment	This phase of rehabilitation consists of the processes and activities required to construct the final landform. In addition to profiling the surface of rehabilitation areas to the approved final landform profile this phase may include works to construct surface water drainage features, encapsulate problematic materials such as tailings, and prepare a substrate with the desired physical and chemical characteristics (e.g. rock raking or ameliorating sodic materials).
Large mine	As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.
Lease holder	The holder of a mining lease.
Life of mine	The timeframe of how long a mine is approved to mine, from commencement to closure.
Mine rehabilitation portal	Means the Resources Regulator's online portal that lease holders must use (via a registered account) to: ▪ upload rehabilitation geographical information system (GIS) spatial data ▪ develop rehabilitation GIS spatial data (using online tracing functions) ▪ generate rehabilitation plans and rehabilitation statistics using the map viewer and Rehabilitation Key Performance Indicator functionalities. Data submitted to the mine rehabilitation portal is collated in a centralised geodatabase for use by

WORD	DEFINITION
	the Resources Regulator to regulate rehabilitation performance of lease holders.
Mining area	As defined in the Mining Act 1992.
Mining domain	A land management unit with a discrete operational function (e.g. overburden emplacement), and therefore similar geophysical characteristics, that will require specific rehabilitation treatments to achieve the final land use(s).
Mining land	As defined in the Mining Act 1992.
Native vegetation	Has the same meaning as that term under section 60B of the Local Land Services Act 2013.
Overburden	Material overlying coal or a mineral deposit.
Performance indicator	An attribute of the biophysical environment (for example pH, slope, topsoil depth, biomass) that can be used to demonstrate achievement of a rehabilitation objective. It can be measured and audited to demonstrate (and track) the progress of an aspect of rehabilitation towards a desired completion criterion, that is, a defined end point. It may be aligned to an established protocol and used to evaluate changes in a system.
Phases of rehabilitation	The stages and sequences of actions required to rehabilitate disturbed land to achieve the final land use. The phases of rehabilitation are:

WORD	DEFINITION
	▪ active mining ▪ decommissioning ▪ landform Establishment ▪ growth medium development ▪ landform Establishment ▪ ecosystem and land use establishment ▪ ecosystem and land use development
Progressive rehabilitation	The progress of rehabilitation towards achieving the approved rehabilitation completion criteria. This may be described in terms of domains, phases, performance indicators and rehabilitation completion criteria.
Rehabilitation Completion	The final phase of rehabilitation when a rehabilitation area has achieved the approved rehabilitation objectives and rehabilitation completion criteria for the final land use. Rehabilitation areas may be classified as complete when the Resources Regulator has determined in writing that the relevant rehabilitation obligations have been fulfilled following submission of <i>Form ESF2 Rehabilitation completion and/or review of rehabilitation cost estimate application</i> by the lease holder.
Rehabilitation Completion criteria	As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.
Rehabilitation cost estimate	As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.

WORD	DEFINITION
Rehabilitation management plan	As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.
Rehabilitation objectives	As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.
Rehabilitation risk assessment	As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.
Rehabilitation schedule	The defined timeframes for progressive rehabilitation set out in the forward program.
Relevant stakeholders	Means any persons or bodies who may be affected by the mining operations, including rehabilitation, carried out on the lease land, and includes: ▪ the relevant development consent authority ▪ the local council ▪ the relevant landholder(s) ▪ community consultative committee (if required under the development consent) or equivalent consultative group ▪ affected land holder(s) ▪ government agencies relevant to the final land use ▪ affected infrastructure authorities (electricity, telecommunications, water, pipeline, road, rail authorities) ▪ local Aboriginal communities, and ▪ any other person or body determined by the Minister to be a relevant stakeholder in relation to

WORD	DEFINITION
	a mining lease.
Risk	The effect of uncertainty on objectives. It is measured in terms of consequences and likelihood (AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009).
Secretary	The Secretary of the department.
Security deposit	An amount that a mining lease holder is required to provide and maintain under a mining lease condition, to secure funding for the fulfilment of obligations under the lease (including obligations that may arise in the future).
Surface disturbance	Includes activities that disturb the surface of the mining area, including mining operations, ancillary mining activities and exploration.
Tailings	A combination of the fine-grained solid material remaining after the recoverable metals and minerals have been extracted from the mined ore, and any process water ² .
Waste	Has the same meaning as that term under the <i>Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997</i> .

²Commonwealth of Australia (DITR), 2007. Tailings Management.

Attachment 3 - Rehabilitation Complaints

DATE	COMPLAINANT	COMPLAINT DETAILS	RESPONSE DETAILS	STATUS OF RESPONSE	DATE RESPONSE COMPLETED (IF APPLICABLE)
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Attachment 4 - Stakeholder consultation

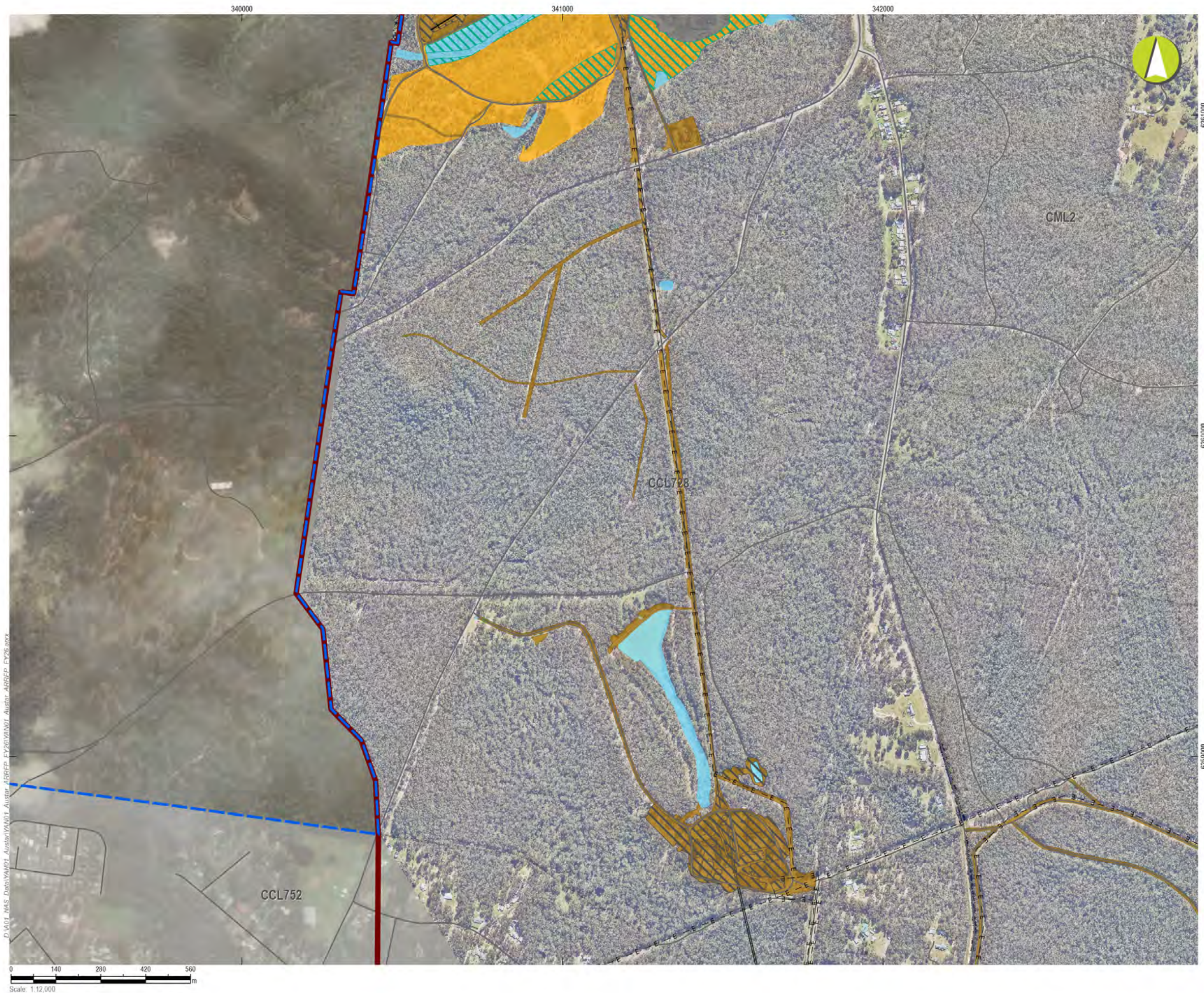
DATE	STAKEHOLDER	CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES AND FORMS	MATTERS SUBJECT TO CONSULTATION	ACTIONS TAKEN
17 Jun 2026	EPA / DPHI / Resources Regulator	Meeting	Six-monthly multi-agency closure update meeting.	Presentation Distributed.
19 Nov 2025	EPA/ DPHI / Resources Regulator	Meeting	6 monthly multi-agency closure update	Presentation distribute
10 Sep 2025	Resources Regulator	Meeting	Quarter 3 Closure Update Meeting	Presentation Distributed
26 May 2026	DPHI	Inspection	DPHI completed compliance inspection of CHPP, Pit Top and Kitchener SIS focusing on demolition areas and sediment basins.	No follow up actions
1 Apr 2025	Resources Regulator	Meeting/ site inspection	Decommissioning Targeted Assessment Program	No feedback received to date.
4 Feb 2026	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development	Meeting	Meeting was held as part of an audit of post mining land use opportunities. Discussion was held on the status of closure planning and execution and any post mining land use opportunities identified.	No follow up actions

21 Aug 2025	Registered Aboriginal Parties	Meeting	Austar provided update on the closure project. SEC Newgate provided an overview of the Yancoal Indigenous Cultural Awareness training.	Minutes Distributed
23 Jul 2025	NPWS	Meeting	Austar provided update on the closure project and raised removal of infrastructure in Werakata SCA including water pipelines, subsidence markers, groundwater monitoring bores and exploration bores.	Minutes distributed
25 Mar 2026	Resources Regulator	Meeting	Quarter 1 Closure Update	Coal combustibility information provided to the Resources Regulator as requested in the meeting. Presentation distributed.

Attachment 5 - Plans

Plan 1A attachment not provided.

Plan 1B attachment not provided.



LEGEND

- Project Approval Boundary
- Colliery Holding Boundary
- Austar Mine Plan
- Road
- Railway
- Electricity Transmission Line

Current Authorisations

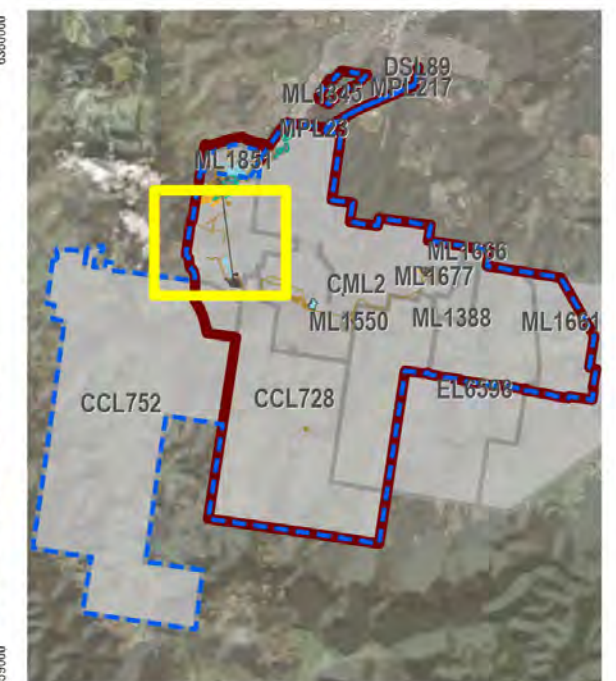
- Coal - Current Titles

Rehabilitation Phase

- Decommissioning
- Ecosystem and Land Use Establishment

Mining Domain Type

- Domain 1: Infrastructure Area
- Domain 2: Tailings Storage Facility
- Domain 3: Water Management Area
- Domain 4: Overburden Emplacement Area
- Domain 7: Beneficiation Facility



Austar Coal ARRFP

CMA 1 - Austar Pit Top Facilities

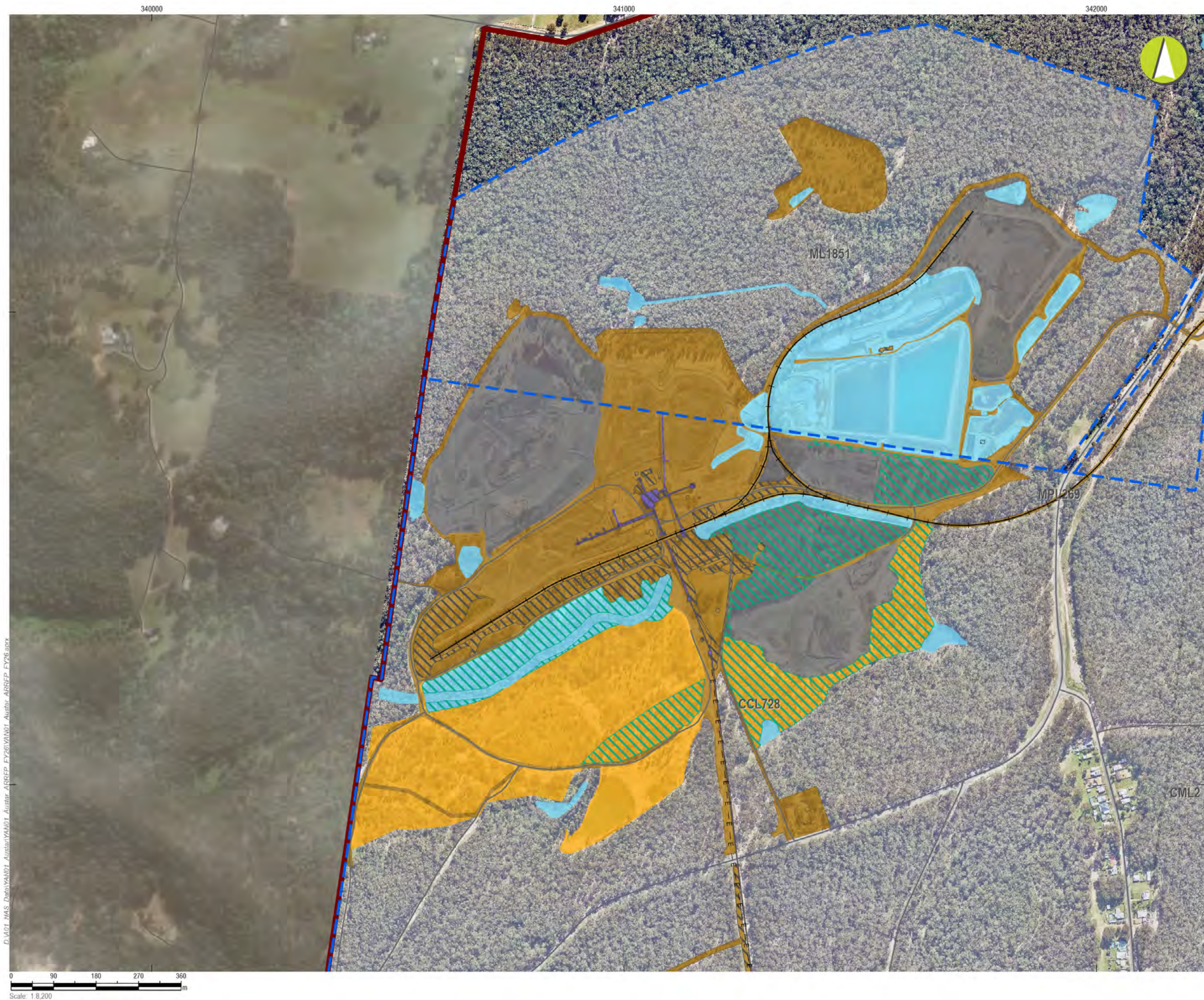
Current Status of Mining and Rehabilitation

PLAN 1A

Mine name	Austar Coal Mine
Plan name	Austar Coal Mine ARRFP
Year of anticipated relinquishment	TBA on final submission
Data theme submission ID No.	xxxx xxxx
Spatial Reference	GDA2020 MGA Zone 56
Plan date (date created)	10/09/2026

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LEGEND

- Project Approval Boundary
- Colliery Holding Boundary
- Road
- Railway
- Electricity Transmission Line

Current Authorisations

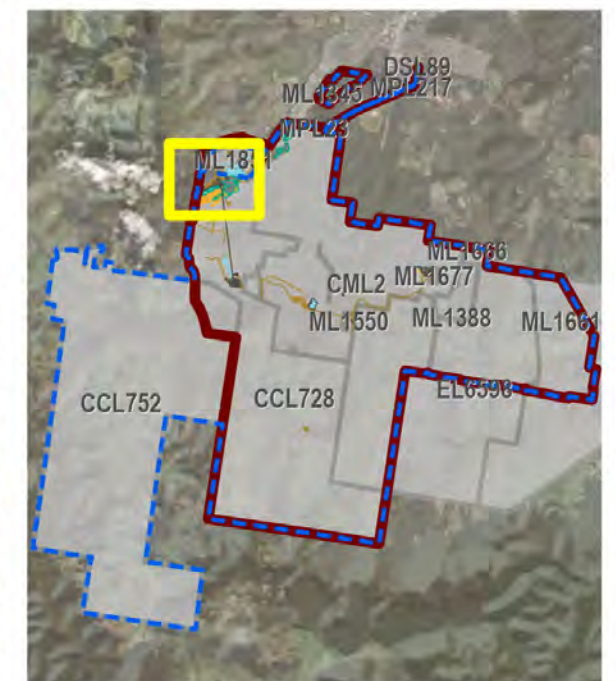
- Coal - Current Titles

Rehabilitation Phase

- Decommissioning
- Ecosystem and Land Use Establishment

Mining Domain Type

- Domain 1: Infrastructure Area
- Domain 2: Tailings Storage Facility
- Domain 3: Water Management Area
- Domain 4: Overburden Emplacement Area
- Domain 7: Beneficiation Facility



Austar Coal ARRFP

CMA 2 - Pelton CHPP - Inset 1

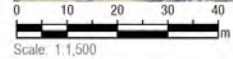
Current Status of Mining and Rehabilitation

PLAN 1A

Mine name	Austar Coal Mine
Plan name	Austar Coal Mine ARRFP
Year of anticipated relinquishment	TBA on final submission
Data theme submission ID No.	xxxx xxxx
Spatial Reference	GDA2020 MGA Zone 56
Plan date (date created)	10/09/2026



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LEGEND

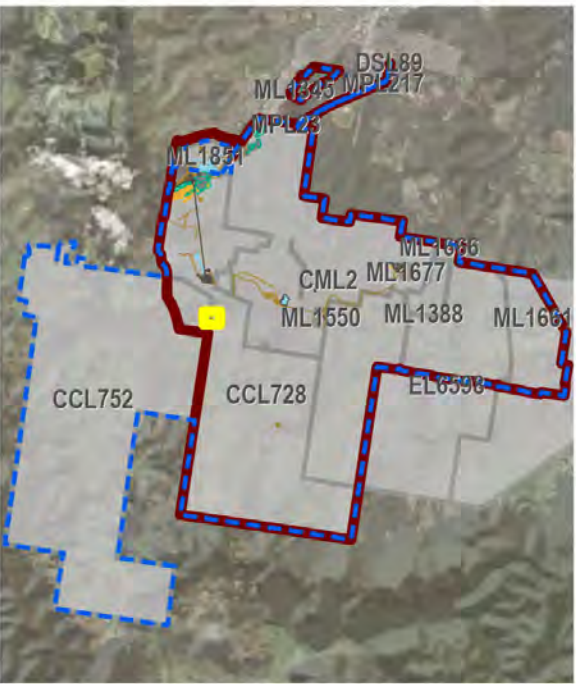
- Project Approval Boundary
- Colliery Holding Boundary
- Austar Mine Plan
- Road
- Railway
- Electricity Transmission Line

Current Authorisations

- Coal - Current Titles

Mining Domain Type

- Domain 1: Infrastructure Area



Austar Coal ARRFP

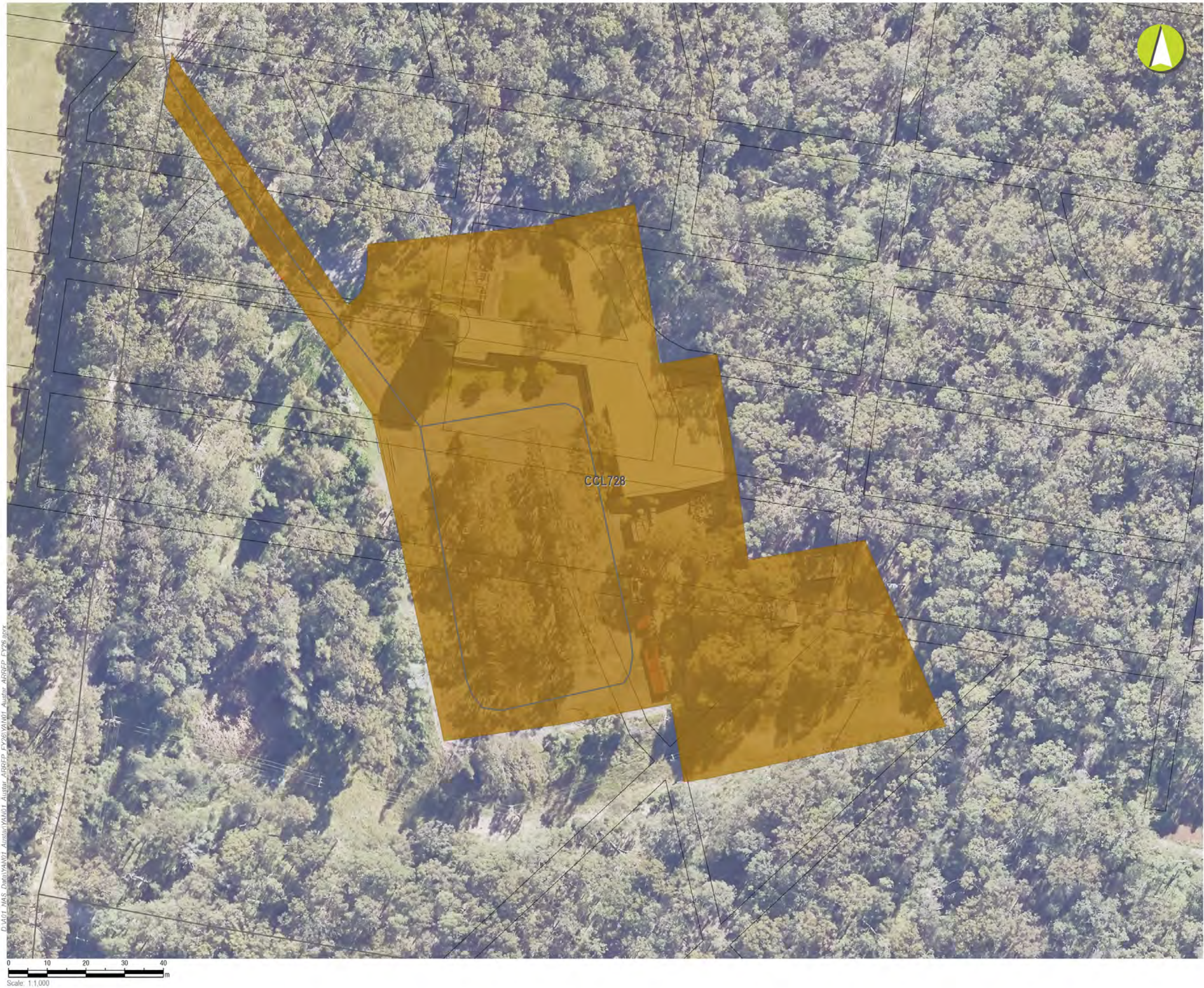
CMA 3 - No.1 Shaft - Inset

Current Status of Mining and Rehabilitation

PLAN 1A

Mine name	Austar Coal Mine
Plan name	Austar Coal Mine ARRFP
Year of anticipated relinquishment	TBA on final submission
Data theme submission ID No.	xxxx xxxx
Spatial Reference	GDA2020 MGA Zone 56
Plan date (date created)	10/09/2026

Source: PA Boundaries, Mining Leases (Yancoal, 2026).
Rehabilitation and Disturbance (Yancoal, 2026).
LPI Data (NSW Spatial, 2026)



LEGEND

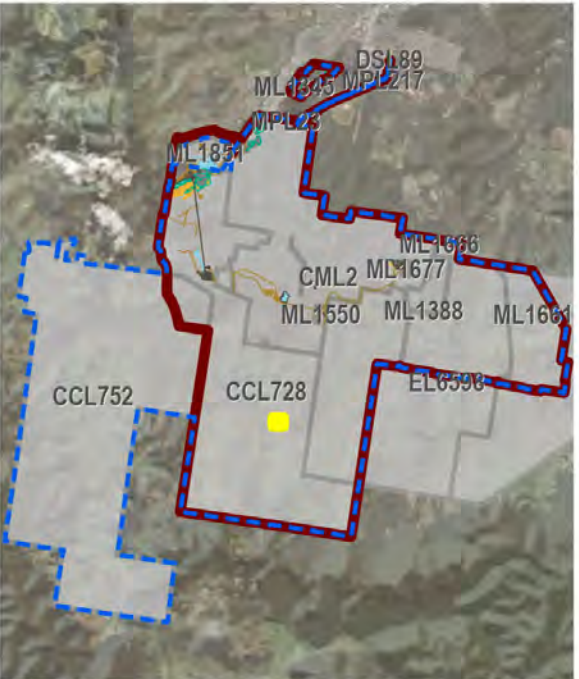
- Project Approval Boundary
- Colliery Holding Boundary
- Austar Mine Plan
- Road
- Railway
- Electricity Transmission Line

Current Authorisations

- Coal - Current Titles

Mining Domain Type

- Domain 1: Infrastructure Area



Austar Coal ARRFP

CMA 4 - No.2 Shaft - Inset

Current Status of Mining and Rehabilitation

PLAN 1A

Mine name	Austar Coal Mine
Plan name	Austar Coal Mine ARRFP
Year of anticipated relinquishment	TBA on final submission
Data theme submission ID No.	xxxx xxxx
Spatial Reference	GDA2020 MGA Zone 56
Plan date (date created)	10/09/2026



LEGEND

- Project Approval Boundary
- Colliery Holding Boundary
- Austar Mine Plan
- Road
- Railway
- Electricity Transmission Line

Current Authorisations

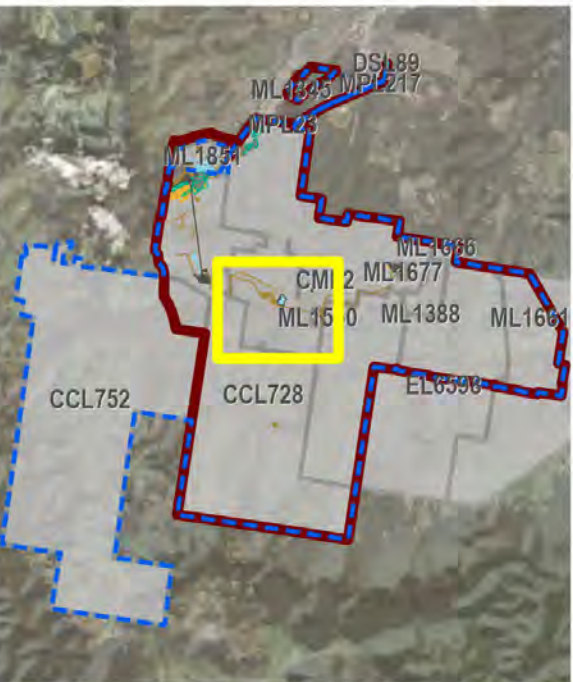
- Coal - Current Titles

Rehabilitation Phase

- Decommissioning

Mining Domain Type

- Domain 1: Infrastructure Area
- Domain 3: Water Management Area



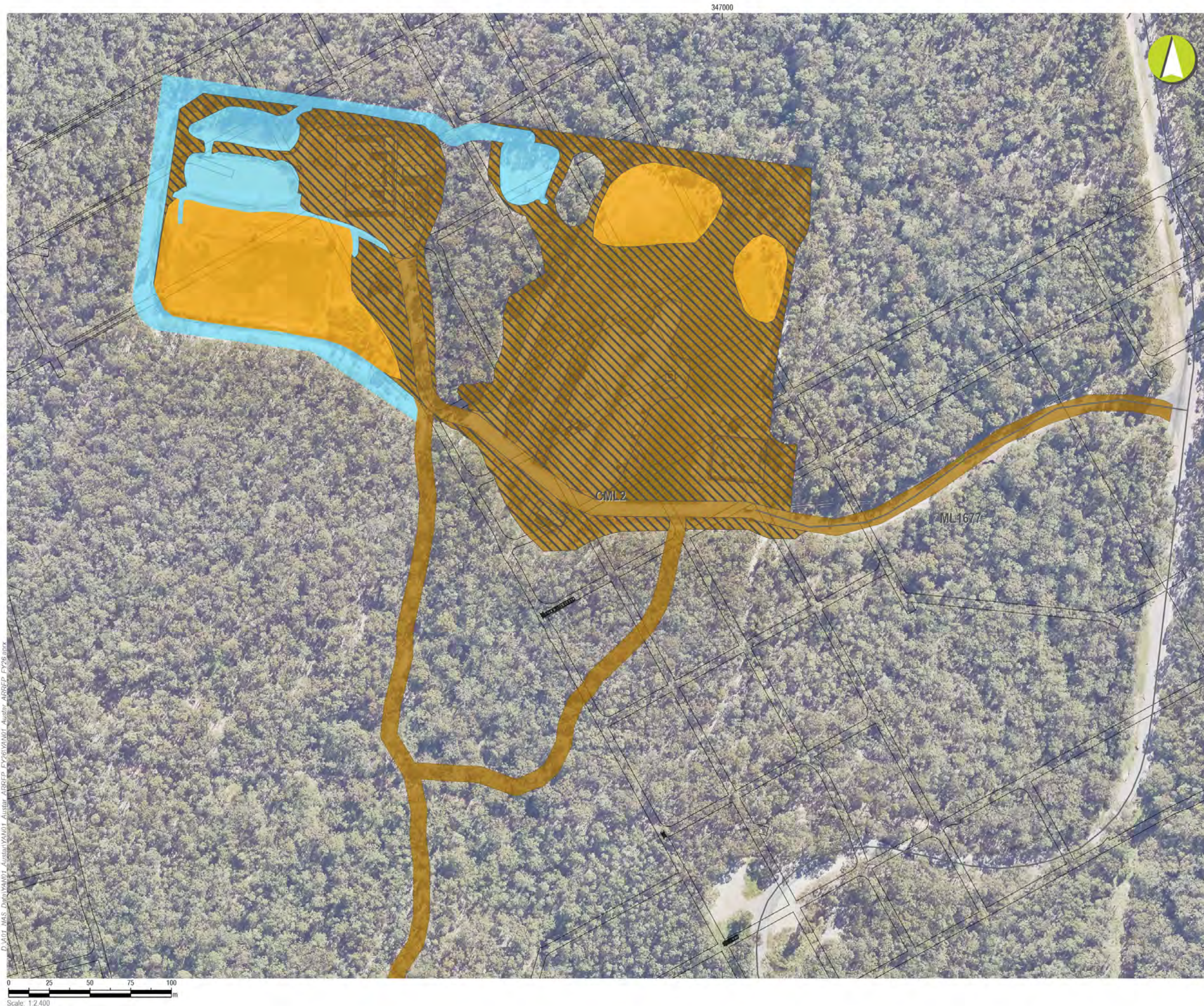
Austar Coal ARRFP

CMA 5 - Cessnock No.1 Colliery / Kalingo Infrastructure Area

Current Status of Mining and Rehabilitation

PLAN 1A

Mine name	Austar Coal Mine
Plan name	Austar Coal Mine ARRFP
Year of anticipated relinquishment	TBA on final submission
Data theme submission ID No.	xxxx xxxx
Spatial Reference	GDA2020 MGA Zone 56
Plan date (date created)	10/09/2026



LEGEND

- Project Approval Boundary
- Colliery Holding Boundary
- Austar Mine Plan
- Road
- Railway
- Electricity Transmission Line

Current Authorisations

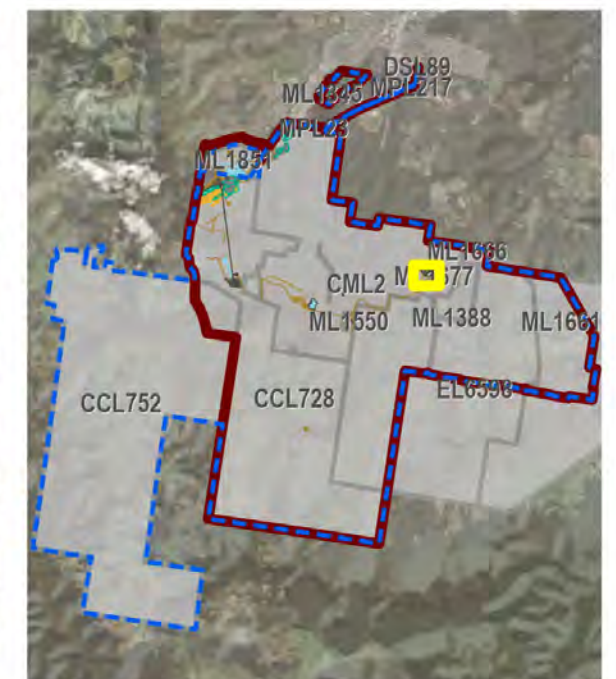
- Coal - Current Titles

Rehabilitation Phase

- Decommissioning

Mining Domain Type

- Domain 1: Infrastructure Area
- Domain 3: Water Management Area
- Domain 4: Overburden Emplacement Area



Austar Coal ARRFP

CMA 6 - Kitchener Surface Infrastructure Site

Current Status of Mining and Rehabilitation

PLAN 1A

Mine name	Austar Coal Mine
Plan name	Austar Coal Mine ARRFP
Year of anticipated relinquishment	TBA on final submission
Data theme submission ID No.	xxxx xxxx
Spatial Reference	GDA2020 MGA Zone 56
Plan date (date created)	10/09/2026



LEGEND

- Project Approval Boundary
- Colliery Holding Boundary
- Road
- Railway
- Electricity Transmission Line

Current Authorisations

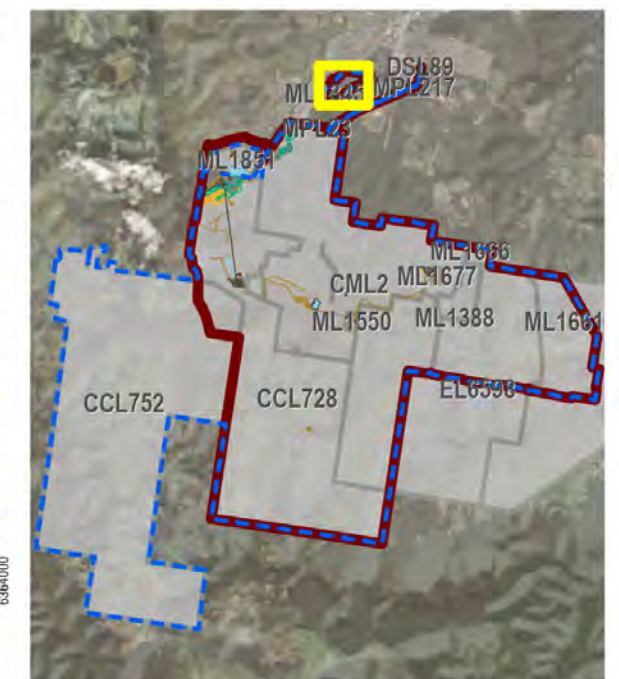
- Coal - Current Titles

Rehabilitation Phase

- Ecosystem and Land Use Establishment

Mining Domain Type

- Domain 2: Tailings Storage Facility



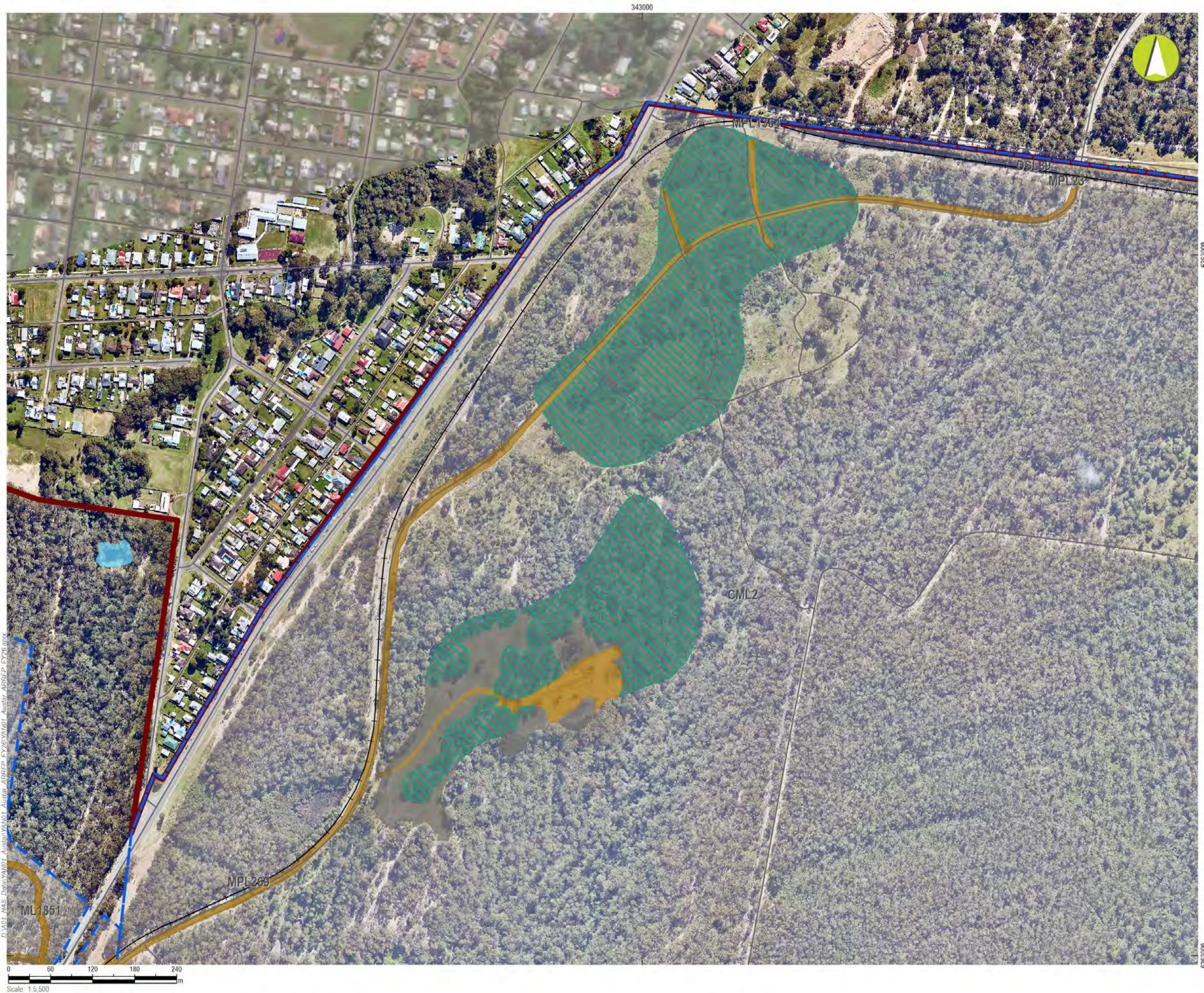
Austar Coal ARRFP

CMA 7 - Aberdare Extended Emplacement Area

Current Status of Mining and Rehabilitation

PLAN 1A

Mine name	Austar Coal Mine
Plan name	Austar Coal Mine ARRFP
Year of anticipated relinquishment	TBA on final submission
Data theme submission ID No.	xxxx xxxx
Spatial Reference	GDA2020 MGA Zone 56
Plan date (date created)	10/09/2026



LEGEND

- Project Approval Boundary
- Colliery Holding Boundary
- Road
- Railway
- Electricity Transmission Line

Current Authorisations

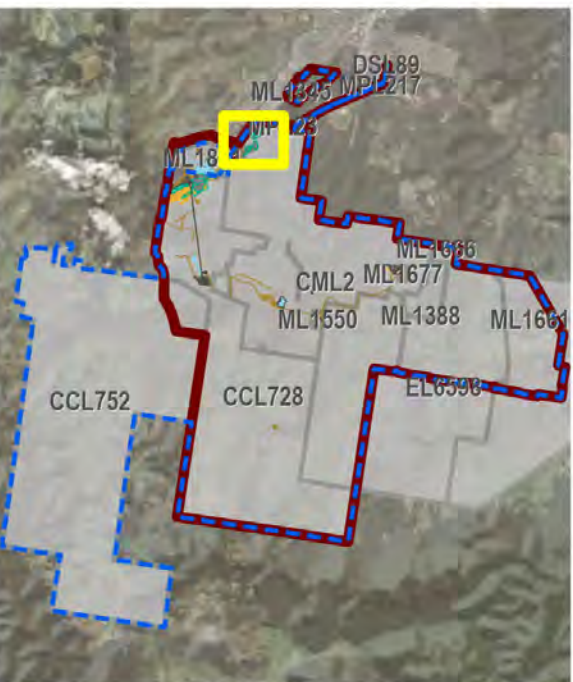
- Coal - Current Titles

Rehabilitation Phase

- Ecosystem and Land Use Establishment

Mining Domain Type

- Domain 1: Infrastructure Area
- Domain 2: Tailings Storage Facility
- Domain 3: Water Management Area



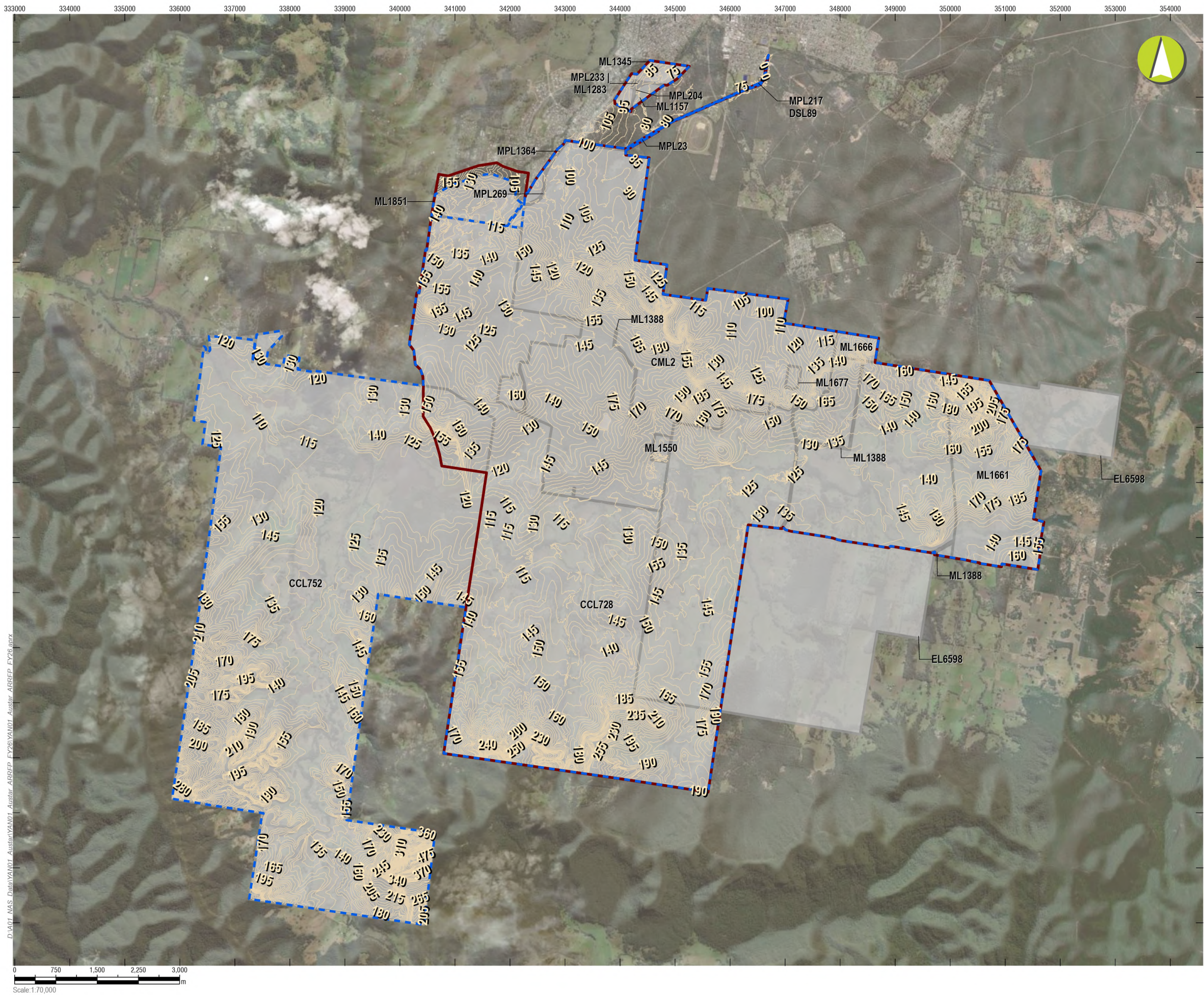
Austar Coal ARRFP

CMA 8 - Bellbird Areas 12 and 13 - Inset

Current Status of Mining and Rehabilitation

PLAN 1A

Mine name	Austar Coal Mine
Plan name	Austar Coal Mine ARRFP
Year of anticipated relinquishment	TBA on final submission
Data theme submission ID No.	xxxx xxxx
Spatial Reference	GDA2020 MGA Zone 56
Plan date (date created)	10/09/2026



LEGEND

- Project Approval Boundary
- Colliery Holding Boundary
- Current Landform Contours (5m)
- Current Authorisations**
- Coal - Current Titles

Austar Coal ARRFP

Current Landform Contours

Plan 1B

Mine name	Austar Coal Mine
Plan name	Austar Coal Mine
Year of anticipated relinquishment	TBA on final submission
Data theme submission ID No.	xxxx
Spatial Reference	GDA2020 MGA Zone 56
Plan date (date created)	8/09/2026