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Redbank Creek

Corrective Management Action Plan

June 2022 | Newsletter #12

Project Background

Tahmoor Coking Coal Operations (TCCO) has been operating since 1979, and produces premium quality coking coal, which is combined with iron in the steelmaking process. Redbank Creek is a tributary of the Nepean River. It generally consists of Hawkesbury Sandstone bedrock with a progressive series of rock bars and pools. TCCO's longwall panels have extracted coal below Redbank Creek from Longwall 25 to Longwall 32. Longwall mining has caused subsidence impacts that have resulted in fracturing of pool beds, causing some pools to only retain water after heavy periods of rain.

Subsidence movements within the vicinity of Redbank Creek have ceased, enabling TCCO to plan and implement a remediation project to restore the pools within Redbank Creek.

TCCO have prepared a Redbank Creek Corrective Management Action Plan (Redbank Creek CMAP) that outlines the proposed remediation works including creek characterisation, pool mapping and pool rehabilitation works. The Redbank Creek CMAP has been approved by the NSW Resources Regulator.

Works have been developed in consultation with and approved by relevant government departments including, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) – Resources Regulator, DPIE – Planning, Department of Primary Industries (DPI) – Fisheries, Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR), Wollondilly Shire Council and the Tahmoor Coal Community Consultative Committee.

Redbank Creek Rehabilitation

Mapping of pools, characterisation drilling, and remediation of **twelve pools** and **three rock bars** has been completed to date. Remediation of the rock bar involves the construction of a grout curtain wall at a depth of the fracture network. Boreholes are drilled 2m apart, Polyurethane grout (PUR) is injected into boreholes to create an impermeable layer that redirects the water to the surface.

PUR has been used successfully for creek rehabilitation in Sydney Catchment Authority areas as it has minimal ecotoxicological effects and has proven highly effective.

Monitoring of the remediation sites suggests an increased capacity for the pools to hold water. Monitoring will continue throughout a variety of climatic conditions.

Additional Ground Characterisation

Additional ground characterisation has been carried out at Pool RB6 and was completed in March 2022 to assist with a review of the current remediation strategy at RB6. Pool RB5 ground characterisation has been completed in May 2022, the results will assist in developing the remediation strategy at Pool RB5.

Upcoming Works

Pool RB5 and Pool 21 remediation is expected to commence on 26 June 2022 as per approved schedule. The works will consist of the construction of a grout curtain wall at Pool RB5 and the construction of a shallow grid pattern grout at Pool 21 to rehabilitate the pool's holding capacity.

Remediation works at RB5 and Pool 21 will be carried out between **6:00 am to 5:00pm, Monday to Friday** and are expected to be completed in December 2022.

For More Information

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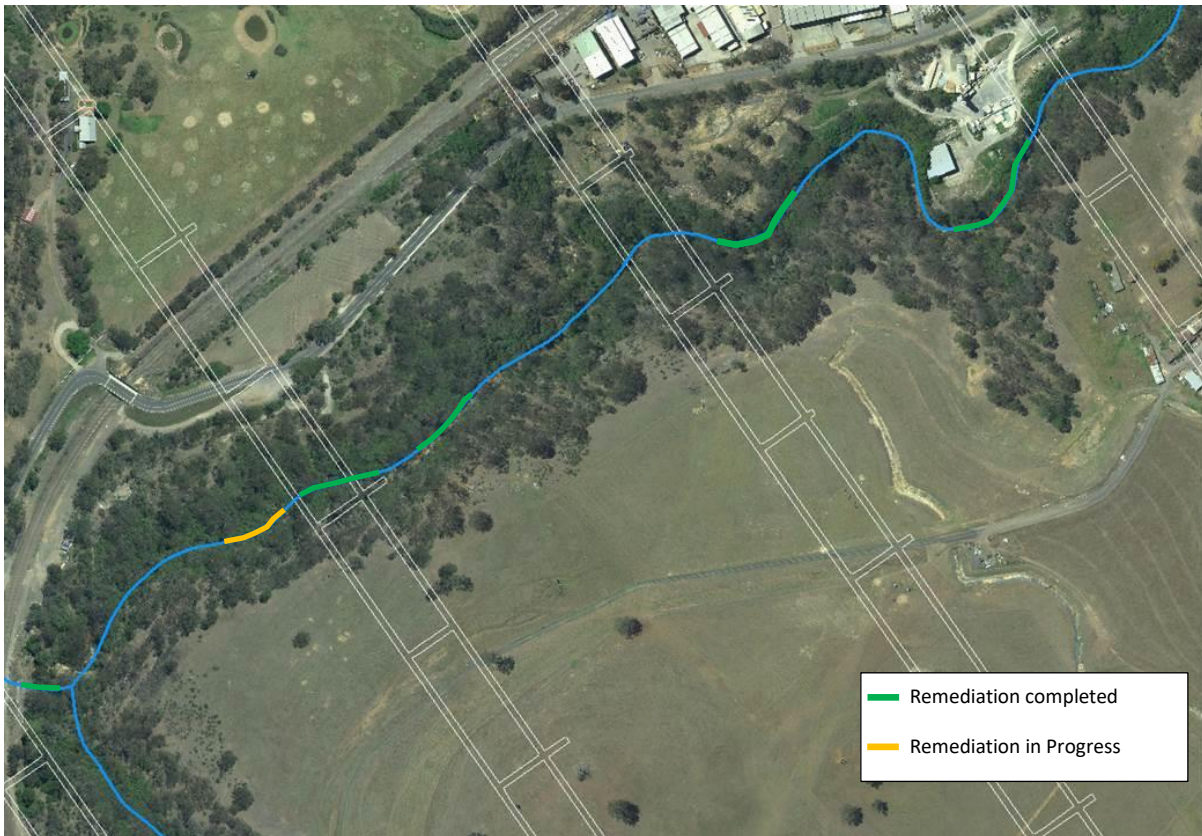


Figure 1: Location of Pools

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