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Redbank Creek

Corrective Management Action Plan

SEPTEMBER 2020 | Newsletter #5

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 for production of steel.

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 has resulted in fracturing of pool beds, such that some pools only retain water after heavy periods of rain.

Subsidence movements within the vicinity of Redbank Creek have now 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.

Progress Report

Mapping of pools, including detailed surveying and 3D mapping, characterization drilling, and remediation of five pools has been completed. Remediation involved drilling small holes to a depth of 2 m and injecting an approved Polyurethane Injection Resin (PUR) to effectively seal fractures.

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

Pools 26, 27, 28 and 29

Remediation works at 4 pools commenced in July 2020. Works include the construction of a grout curtain wall at Pool 26, and grouting of the upper 2m at Pools 27, 28 and 29. The grout curtain wall is 40m, to a depth of 12m. Boreholes are drilled at 2m apart, to a depth of 12m and PUR is injected into holes to create an impermeable layer that pushes water to the surface. Repairs to surface cracks in the existing concrete weir have been completed. Preliminary results are encouraging, with recent rains filling Pool 26 such that has filled and maintained its water level throughout the length of the project to date.

Remediation at Pools 27, 28 and 29 is currently taking place. Works involve drilling small holes to a depth of 2 m and injecting an approved Polyurethane Injection Resin (PUR) to seal surface fractures. Works are still progressing but preliminary evidence has suggested a greatly increased capacity for pools to hold water.

Works are expected to be completed in October 2020.

Future Works

Further remediation works are currently being planned at other affected sites at Redbank Creek.

For More Information

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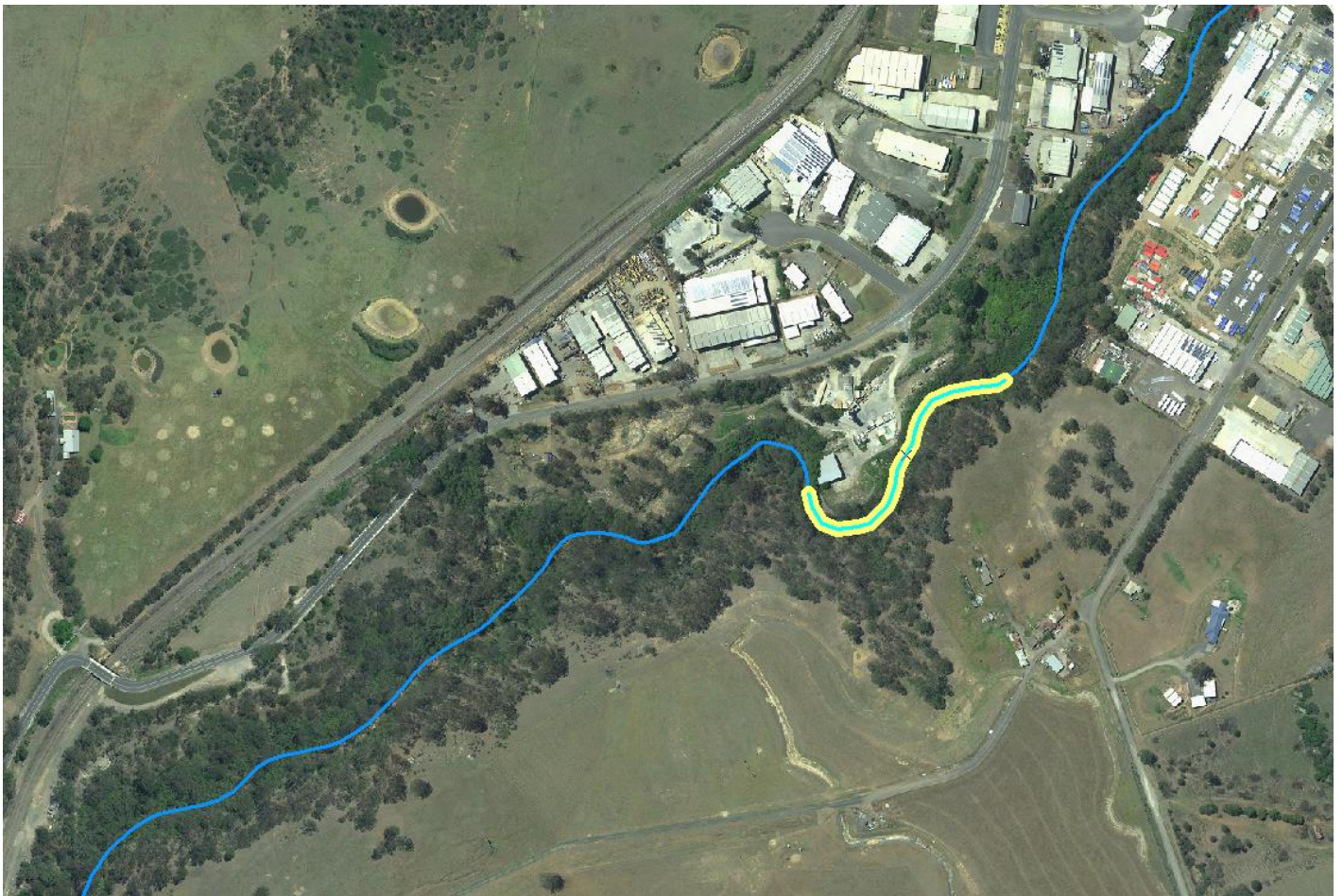


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Figure 1: Pool 26, 27, 28 and 29 locations



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