SOUTH32
Illawarra Metallurgical Coal

Fact Sheet

Air Quality

About Us

South32 Illawarra Metallurgical Coal operates in the Illawarra and Wollondilly regions of NSW, producing metallurgical coal for steelmaking.

In the Wollondilly region we operate the Appin Mine, which is currently in the Douglas Park and Menangle area. We are a proud local company, directly employing more than 1,800 people and have been operating in the region for 85 years.

Our metallurgical coal is used by the Port Kembla steelworks right here in NSW and is part of countless products – from seat belt buckles that provide safer car journeys to the Colourbond® roofs that keep us warm and dry.

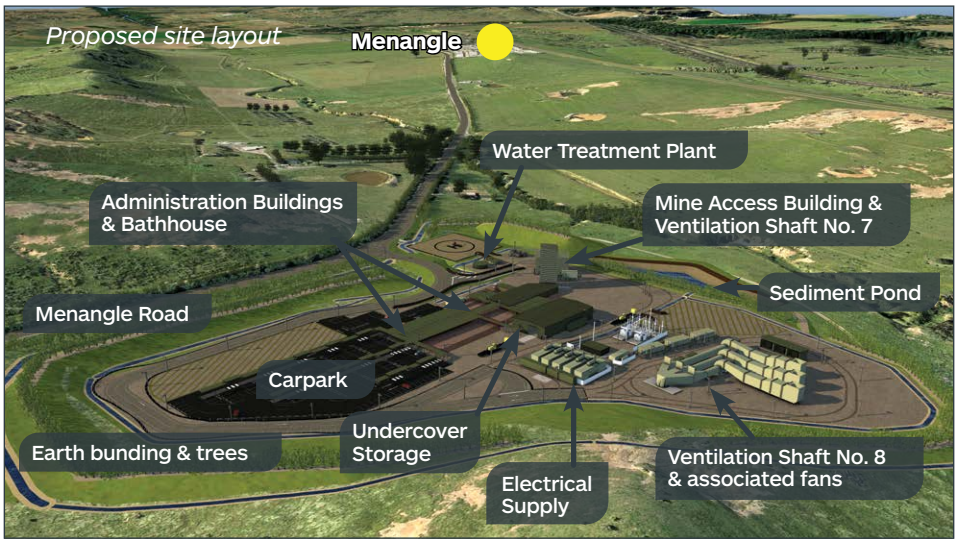
Contact Us

Information about the Appin Mine Ventilation and Access Project is available at: https://www.south32.net/our-business/australia/illawarra-metallurgical-coal/appin-ineventilation-and-access-project.

If you would like to speak with us about our activities, call our free Community Call Line 1800 102 210 or email illawarracommunity@south32.net.

An integral requirement of underground mining is adequate ventilation and mine access, to ensure a safe and efficient working environment for our people.

We are proposing to construct mine ventilation and access facilities at 345 Menangle Road, Menangle. The proposed ventilation shafts are known as Ventilation Shaft No. 7 (a downcast shaft that draws air into the mine) and Ventilation No. 8 (an upcast shaft that draws air out of the mine).



Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Illawarra Metallurgical Coal continues to identify and implement measures to minimise the release of greenhouse gas and to support the South32 Climate Change Strategy.

At Appin Mine, our gas drainage and capture network enables the reuse of waste coal mine gas to generate power. The gas captured is used to generate equivalent electricity for around 52,000 homes annually – or roughly 45 per cent of all homes in Wollongong.

We are investigating industry leading research partnerships to change how we capture future fugitive emissions and further reduce our impact.

Government regulations

In New South Wales, outdoor air quality is governed by both State and Commonwealth regulations. The National Environmental Protection Measure (Air NEPM) provides air quality standards that are applied in cities and large towns across Australia. NEPM standards apply to average concentrations across a region.

The NSW Environment Protection Authority (NSW EPA) also has regulatory criteria for assessing ambient air quality. Although consistent with the Air NEPM, these criteria are more comprehensive. The Project Air Quality Assessment is being prepared in accordance with the NSW EPA approved statutory methods for assessing air pollutants in New South Wales.

The NSW Government has some great information on air quality.

To learn more, go to https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/air/Pages/air-factsheets.aspx

Air quality assessment

As part of our commitment to be environmentally responsible, a complete assessment of air quality, odour and greenhouse gas emissions has been undertaken by expert consultants.

The Appin Mine Ventilation and Access Project would operate in accordance with the existing Appin Mine Air Quality Management Plan. This includes the continuation of mitigation methods implemented underground to reduce air quality impacts from the Appin Mine.

The final Air Quality Assessment Report is included with the Modification Application submitted to the Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment (DPIE), which will be placed on public exhibition for feedback.

What is particulate matter?

Commonly called 'dust', scientists and regulators refer to the term particulate matter (or PM) to describe the range of particles that exist in the air we breathe. PM exists naturally in the atmosphere, for example in sea-salt spray and pollens. PM can be increased due to human activities such as vehicle exhaust, industrial processes, power stations, mining, farming and wood heaters, or smoke from bushfires.

PM can vary in size, and is therefore measured in micrometres, or microns, to measure the diameter of particles. For reference, a micrometre is one-millionth of a metre.

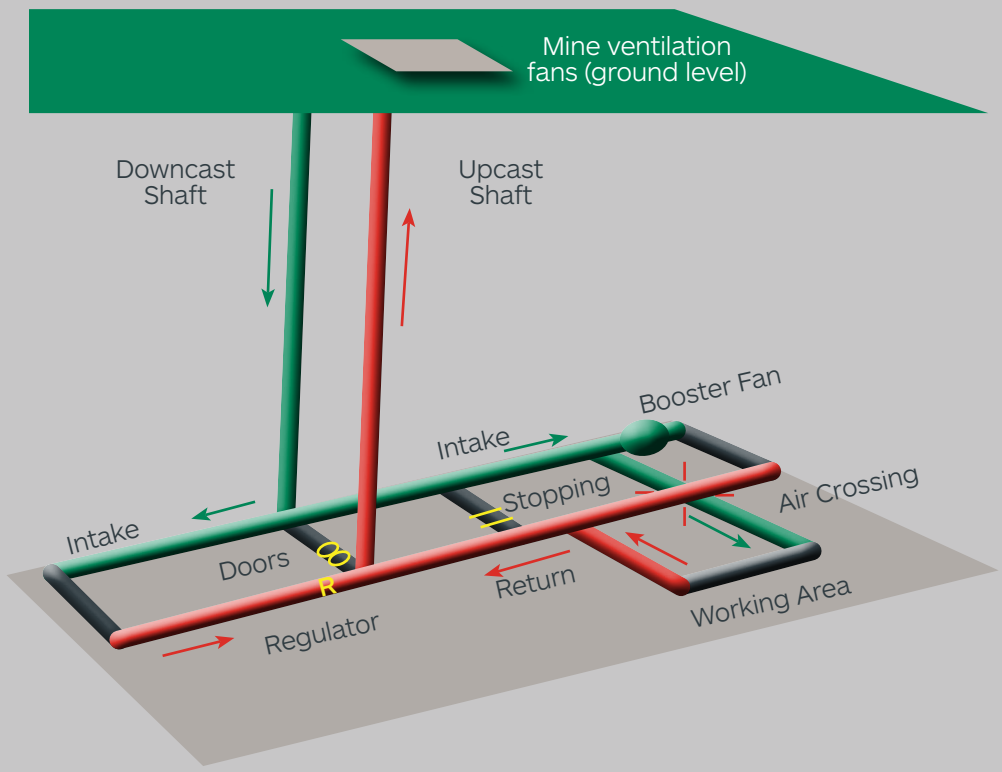
During the construction phase of the proposed Project, potential air quality impacts will be relatively short-lived and are expected to be easily controlled through commonly applied dust management measures. These include the use of dust suppression sprays, stabilising and revegetating exposed areas as soon as practicable, ensuring vehicle loads are covered and conducting regular inspections and monitoring.

Mine ventilation air

A continuous supply of fresh air in an underground mine is of critical importance to the occupational health and safety of underground employees.

Fresh air enters the mine via downcast shafts and mine access points and is distributed though the mine by fans and regulators.

The surface mounted fans then draw the air back out of the mine through upcast shafts.



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More information about the Project is available on our website.