



WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The New Hope Group understands the importance of responsible water management and we are setting industry benchmarks for conserving this vital resource.

Water resources are often used in mining as part of coal extraction and preparation processes. Our Water Resources Management Plan has been developed to minimise off-site water discharge, maximise on-site water treatment and recycling and the continued protection of our surrounding waterways.

This Plan has been updated for the New Acland Stage 3 Project (the Project), and can be found online at aclandproject.com.au.

As part of the Project the New Hope Group will continue to be self-sufficient for water, purchasing 98 percent of our requirements from the Toowoomba Regional Council's Wetalla recycled water treatment plant, via an existing pipeline.

This avoids the use of groundwater as a main water source and reduces potential impacts on nearby landholders.

This purchase of recycled water by New Hope is a great example of a beneficial re-use of domestic waste and also provides the Toowoomba Regional Council with a significant income stream.

This means benefits in reduced rates and improved services to all Toowoomba Regional Council ratepayers.

The \$30 million pipeline and pumping system, from Wetalla to the mine, was funded by the New Hope Group in 2009. Only about 30 percent of Wetalla's water is purchased by New Hope with the majority of the water currently discharged down Gowrie Creek and available to local irrigators.

The New Hope Group does not expect the Project to have any adverse impact on water licences or on stock or domestic users downstream of the Project site.

The New Hope Group also maintains environment and sediment dams on the New Acland Coal Mine site that are used to supplement water requirements for our current operations.



Groundwater

As part of our commitment to responsible environmental management, our existing operation maintains a groundwater monitoring program which allows for any potential impacts on neighbouring groundwater bores to be identified in a timely way and managed in agreement with affected stakeholders.

This monitoring program was approved by the State Government and includes a network of over 60 monitoring bores.

As part of the Stage 3 Project, the New Hope Group has expanded its monitoring program, implementing advanced monitoring equipment to refine our model of potential impacts. Details of this model and New Hope's impact management strategies are outlined in the Project's Groundwater Monitoring and Impact Management Plan (available at aclandproject.com.au).

We are working closely with stakeholders to refine the model, with a commitment to developing make-good agreements where potential Project-related groundwater impacts are identified. Under these agreements, the New Hope Group will ensure that required water volumes and qualities are maintained for affected stakeholders at New Hope's cost.

Groundwater levels will be monitored on a monthly basis and samples will be collected and submitted for the analysis every six months.

Contact Us

If you would like further information regarding the Project's water resource management strategies, please contact us by:

- » Calling the **New Hope Community Information Centre** on **07 4691 3445**, or visiting us at **Shop 90/88 Campbell Street, Oakey**.
- » **Freecall 1800 882 142** – your call will be answered during business hours, or you can leave return call details outside of business hours
- » Emailing community@newhopegroup.com.au

