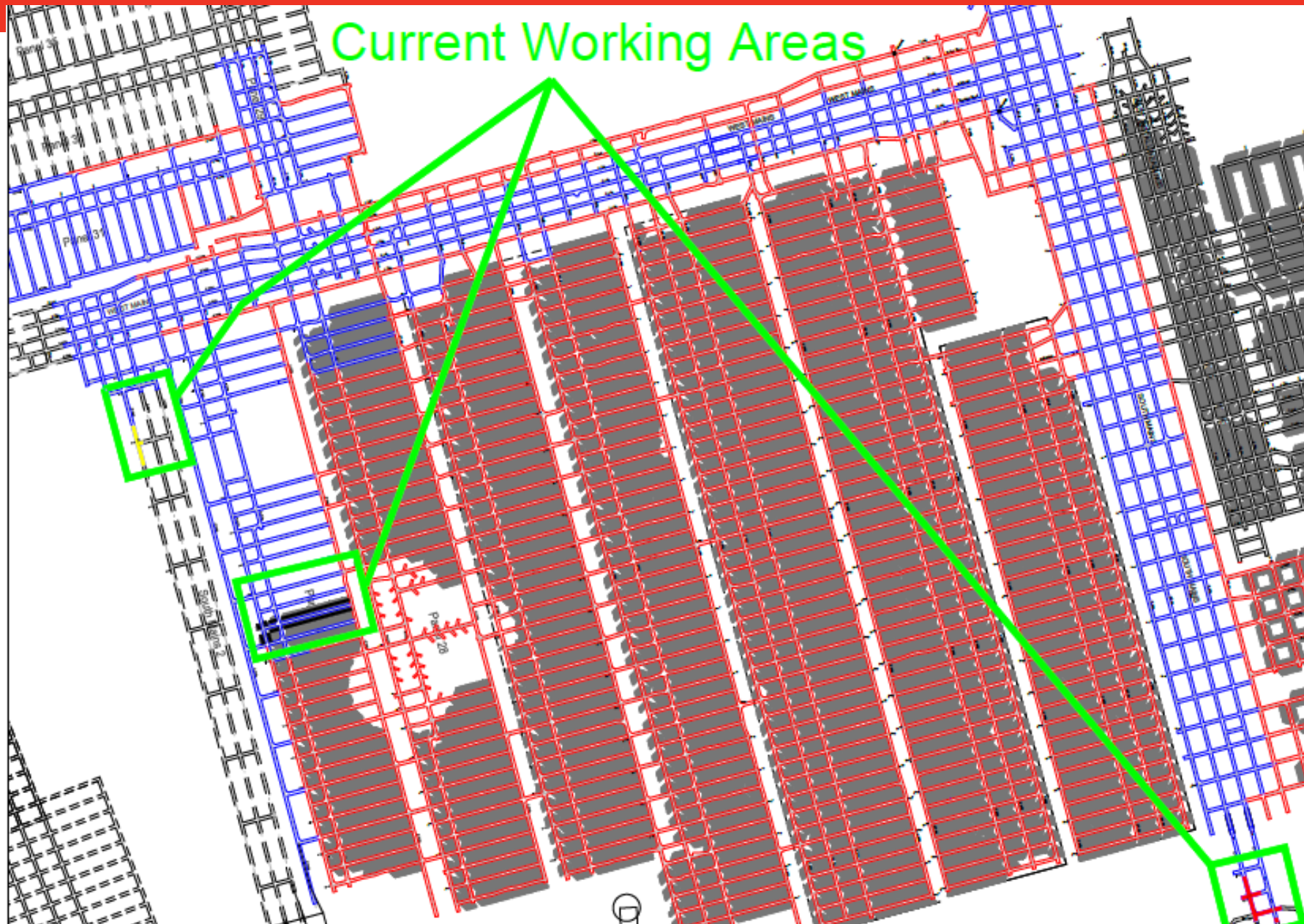# Donaldson Coal Abel Mine CCC Meeting

- 29 February 2016

Current Working Areas

Production ytd 2016

	Actual	Budget	Variance
Development (m)	1,114	561	553
Development (t)	22,270	12,067	10,203
Extraction (t)	106,369	168,962	62,593
Total UG ROM (t)	128,639	181,029	52,390

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Environmental Update

- Community Complaints

- No Environmental Incident reported.

- Monitoring undertaken/reports received:
    - Abel Rainforest
    - Abel Dam Monitoring Program
    - Noise Monitoring

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Figure 1 - Location of Abel Underground Mine Area

Fauna

Fauna

In total, (i.e. at both forest types) 37 fauna species were recorded, comprising six arboreal mammal species, three terrestrial mammal species, ten bat species and 19 bird species. Three of these species, the Little Bentwing-bat (Miniopterus australis), the Powerful Owl (Ninox strenua) and the Koala (Pascolarctos cinerea) are listed as vulnerable under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 (NSW) (TSC Act) and/or the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conervation Act 1999 (EPBC Act). No amphibians or reptiles were recorded. No feral speices were recorded.

In 2015 a total of 28 and 21 fauna species were recorded in the dry forest and rainforest habitats respectively. This monitoring event recorded the highest number of bat and arboreal mammal species since monitoring began in 2008. The Little Forest Bat (Vespadelus vulturnus) and the Koala were recorded in 2015 for the first time since monitoring began in 2008. There was, however, a notable decline in bird numbers which lowered the bird species richness to 19, which is 13 below the average of 32.

- Interesting comment about the Powerful Owl vs loss of possums.

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Dam Monitoring Program

No frog species listed as threatened under State or Commonwealth legislation were recorded during field surveys. A total of eight species of frog were detected across all dams during 2015 surveys. There has still been a general pattern of decline in total species recorded since 2011.

The Blue-billed Duck was not detected during 2015 surveys. A total of 61 bird species, including 23 waterbirds and 38 woodland/forest birds have been recorded between 2008 and 2015 across all of the dams surveyed. The 2015 surveys detected 37 species (9 waterbirds and 28 woodland/forest birds) across the two dams. Waterbird diversity and abundance at both dams has been relatively constant over the survey years. The number of woodland/forest bird species was the highest recorded in 2015. These results suggest that activity at the Abel underground mine has not had a negative impact on bird diversity at either of these dams.

Abel portal operations were not observed to be audible at any other locations during the monitoring period. Contributed noise levels from Abel Mine did not exceed noise emission goals (including night-time sleep arousal criteria) and were in compliance with the Abel Mine *Project Approval* at all locations.

A comparison of ambient L_{A10} and L_{A90} noise levels recorded during the current monitoring period (December 2015), the baseline monitoring period, the last monitoring period (September 2015), and the coinciding monitoring period from last year (December 2014) has been conducted.

An assessment of the rail noise impact was also undertaken, determining compliance with the criteria stated in **Section 2.2**.

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Community Support Program

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CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS BY
31 March 2016

Community Support Program

The application period is now open for Donaldson Coal's Community Support Program. The Program is designed to assist a wide range of community groups and projects in the Lower Hunter near the Donaldson, Abel and Tasman mines.
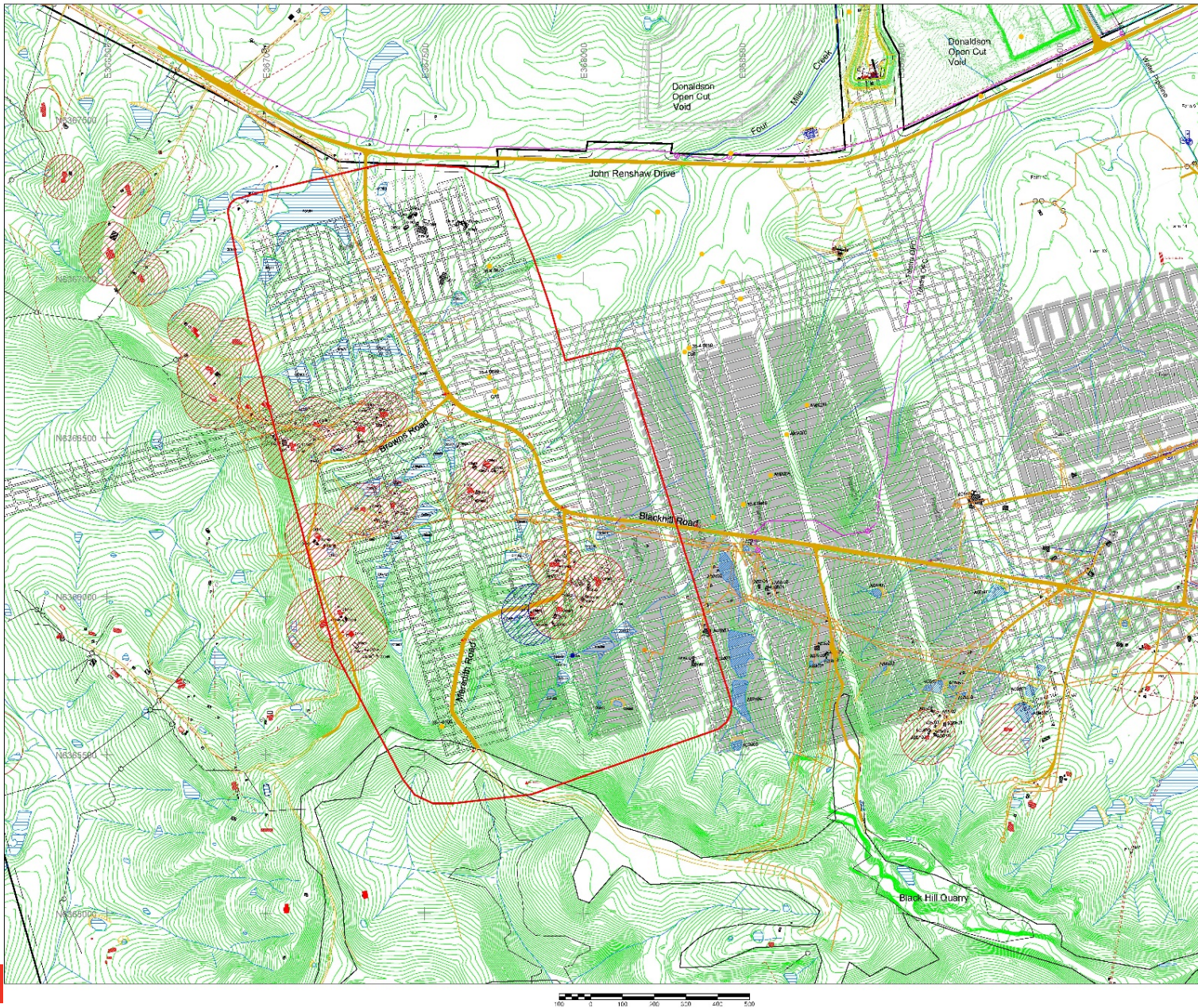
Applications for the current allocation close **31 March 2016.**

To download the guidelines and an application form, please visit **www.doncoal.com.au** and click on top "Community" tab, then Community Support Program.

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Abel SMP/EP Area 4

- Meeting held with 1 x Property owner on the development of PSMP and DMMS

- Subsidence remediation carried out on 1 x property due to cracking

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Mining Under Blackhill & Meredith Road

- Monitoring of Blackhill Road for Panel 28 was complete on the 30 Jan 2016

- Meredith Road still currently active from Panel 30

- Remediation works to be undertaken by the MSB

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