fact sheet

BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance

CAVAL RIDGE MINE

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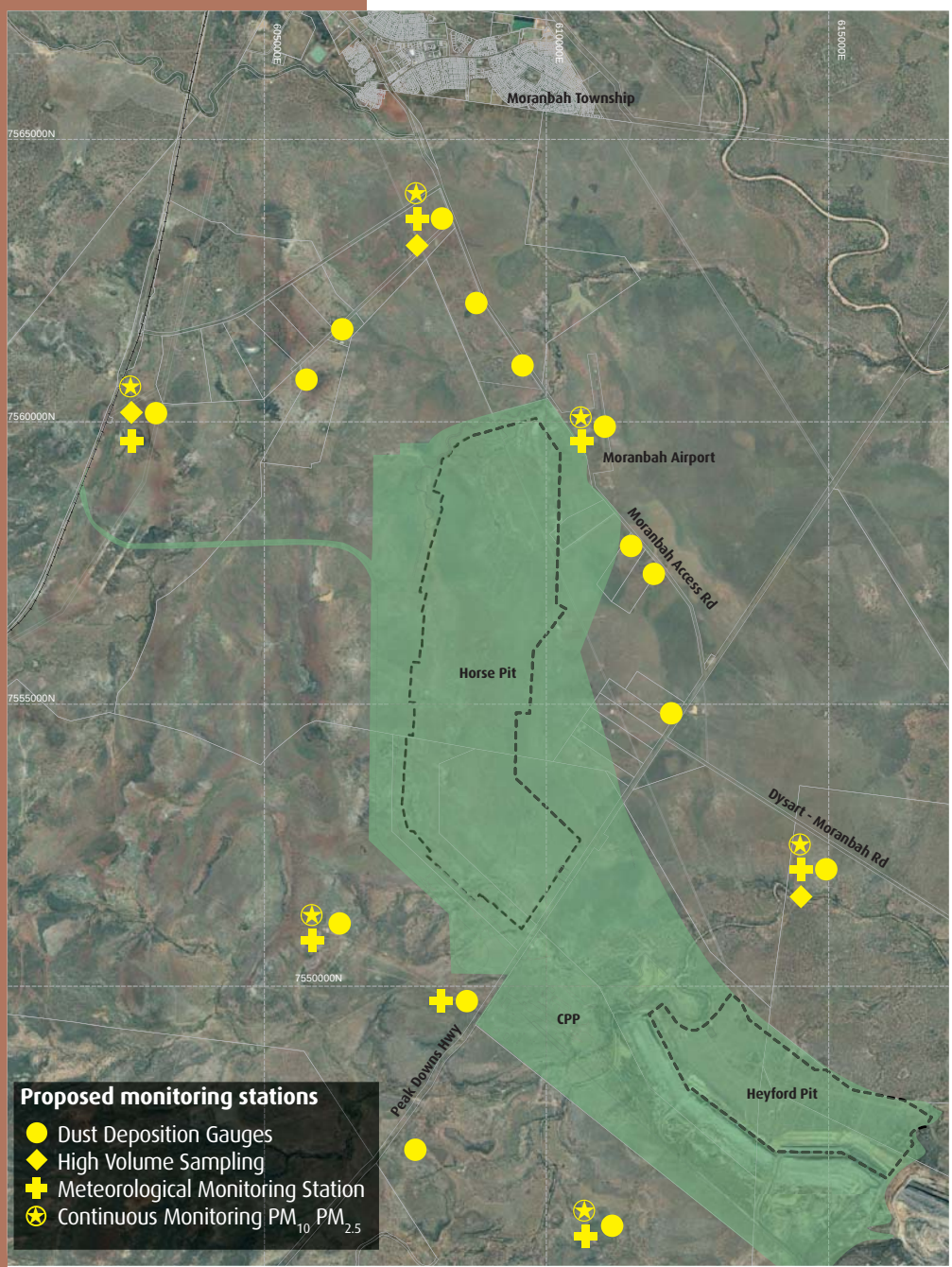
Proposed dust monitoring locations

Dust and the community

Caval Ridge Mine has been identified as a quality coal resource opportunity. It will support BMA's growth options and position us for a timely response to future market demands. As part of our approval process we asked for your feedback on the proposed Caval Ridge mine.



You told us you are concerned about the impact of dust on the township of Moranbah and surrounding areas. BMA recognises that the community views dust as an environmental issue as well as a social issue and we are committed to implementing ongoing mitigation measures to reduce the generation and impact of dust throughout the life of the mine.

What are we doing about dust?

BMA has made a number of changes to the Caval Ridge Mine Project design and has improved the air quality monitoring program in response to community concerns. We are committed to continuous monitoring around the Caval Ridge mine site 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

Caval Ridge Mine Air Quality Monitoring Program

BMA has extended the Caval Ridge Mine Project's air quality monitoring program to include:

- Six dust monitoring sites to provide continuous data on air quality 24 hours per day, seven days per week, measuring dust particle sizes and categories
- Three high volume samplers to analyse particle size, distribution and composition of coal dust and metals
- 15 dust deposition gauges to measure dust particle size over PM_{10}
- Seven meteorological stations to analyse the weather conditions.

Where will the Caval Ridge Mine Project air quality monitors be located?

The locations for dust monitors have been selected based on air modelling results (see diagram):

- Moranbah airport
- The eastern and western end of Railway Station Road and Moranbah Access Road
- The end of Railway Station Road
- Two on the southwestern side of the mine and
- One on the south eastern side of the mine.

These monitors will be located up and down wind of the mine. The air quality monitors will assist BMA with planning for dust control and mitigation measures. The program is expected to begin in the first half of this year and will continue to roll out progressively prior to construction of the Caval Ridge Project.

Additional dust control measures

Much of the dust generated from open cut operations is due to vehicle movements on dirt roads. To manage this, BMA has made a number of changes to the project and its design since the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) including:

- Reducing the fleet of mine vehicles and dozers
- Minimising the number of trucks running empty by back hauling
- Building additional coal ramps in Horse Pit to keep trucks below ground level for longer, reducing the amount of dust released above ground, and
- Changing the locations of de-watered tailings and other reject materials across Horse and Heyford Pits. This reduces the distances travelled hauling de-watered tailings and rejects.

Caval Ridge EIS air quality assessment

The air quality modelling highlights potential issues and helps us to determine where to best position our dust monitors.

The modelling developed for the Caval Ridge Mine Project EIS in 2008 was originally based on EPP (Air) Standards 1997. In 2008 these standards were revised and became much stricter. Potential impacts from dust associated with the Caval Ridge Mine Project were re-assessed based on the above changes to the operation and refinement of the modelling methodology. These are presented in the Supplementary EIS.

What actions will be taken when dust levels rise at a sensitive location?

If a sensitive receptor monitor records elevated dust levels which exceed Environmental Authority standards, BMA will investigate the situation, and where appropriate implement dust control measures outlined in our Environmental Management System (EMS). The EMS (which will be certified to ISO14001) will include a process for registering and addressing complaints. The aim of BMA's dust monitoring and meteorological stations is to identify trends and assist with developing measures to manage dust levels.

How is dust classified?

Scientists and regulators use the term PM_{10} to define the size of particular matter which makes up dust. Some dust particles can be as small as a few microns and as large as 100.

TSP – total Suspended Particulate Matter (TSP) includes all dust (particles suspended) in the air.

PM_{10} – Particles with a diameter less than 10 microns.

$PM_{2.5}$ – Particles with a diameter less than 2.5 microns (mainly produced from combustion processes such as vehicle exhaust).

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