

Mount Pleasant Operation

Rail Loop Project

Community Information Sheet No. 4

December 2020 / January 2021

Introduction

MACH Energy Australia owns and operates the Mount Pleasant Operation (MPO) which is located approximately 3km north-west of Muswellbrook.

MPO's Modification 4 was approved by the Department of Planning and Environment in November 2018 and sought to relocate rail, water and associated electricity supply infrastructure as shown in **Figure 1** below.

Activities associated with Modification 4 (the Rail Loop Project) commenced in October 2020. The work includes construction of the approved rail infrastructure, relocation of the Hunter River water supply infrastructure and associated electricity supply, and the demolition and removal of redundant, temporary infrastructure within the extent of the Bengalla Mine once the new infrastructure has been commissioned and is fully operational.

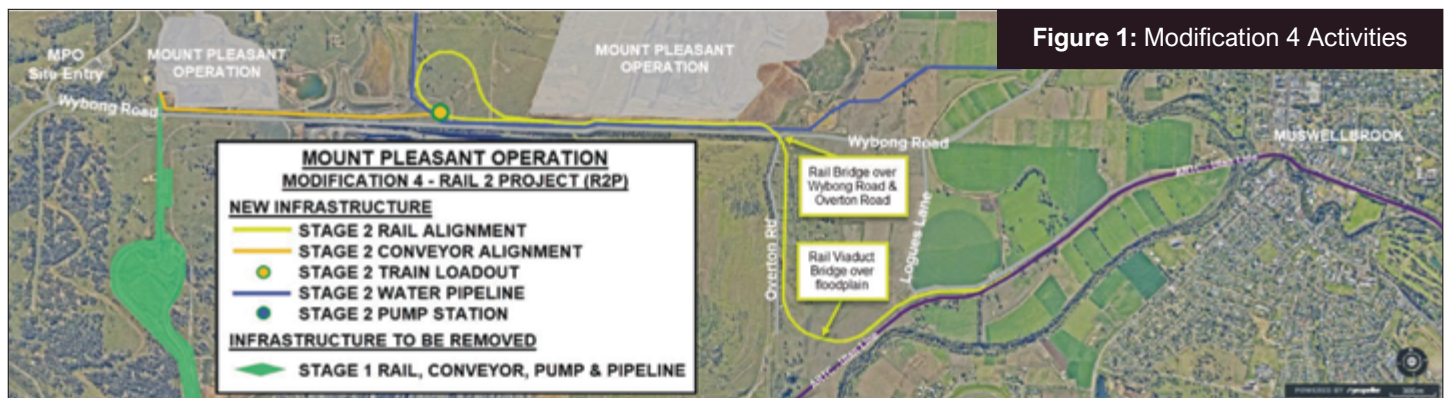


Figure 1: Modification 4 Activities

Construction update

Rail Loop construction progressed through December with the development of platforms in an area west of the rail alignment in preparation for the arrival of piling rigs. These rigs will be used in the preparatory works for the construction of a viaduct across the flood plain to Overton Road.

Earthworks were undertaken to clear a corridor within the MPO lease area, this will enable construction traffic to access work areas without impacting traffic on Wybong Road.

Construction activities ceased over the Christmas and New Year period with work commencing in early January.

How will the rail loop be built?

Responding to questions from the community we have included some images and explanations about how we will construct the Rail Loop Project.

Floodplain Viaduct Bridge, the new rail line departs the ARTC Ulan line and crosses the existing floodplain via a 200 m viaduct rail bridge.



Overdene Homestead, the rail line runs parallel to Overton Road in a deep cutting, continuing uphill.



Wybong Rd Bridge, rail line crosses Overton Rd and Wybong Rd via a new 108 m rail bridge and bifurcates.



Construction update ~ CONTINUED



Pictured above, local business Yore Contractors carrying out pipe joining on the Rail Loop Project with the picture on the right showing the completed welded pipe.



Pictured above, from left, Rail Loop Project Health & Safety Advisor David Sowter, with Muswellbrook's Aboriginal owned and operated Blackrock Industries General Manager Brett Magill, Managing Director Steven Fordham and Supply Solutions General Manager Troy Martin following a meeting on site.

Digging deep for the community

Pictured below, the Rail Loop project team only commenced at MPO in the last few months, despite this, they dug deep when the call went out to donate gifts for the Muswellbrook PCYC Christmas Appeal.

Thanks to everyone for your support and especially to Suzanne, pictured right, for organising the donations and spending some time at the PCYC with other team members to sort and wrap.



Further details

MPO has commenced a community engagement program which will seek to identify issues of concern to our near neighbours and the broader Muswellbrook community. We will implement appropriate strategies to address any areas of concern.

Updates on the Rail Loop Project will be shared on a regular basis and we will maintain contact with neighbours throughout the construction phase.

If you would like to know more about the Rail Loop Project, please contact MPO's External Relations Manager, Ngaire Baker. All contact details are listed below.

Rail Loop Project updates and all monthly copies of our Community Information Sheets are available on the MACH Energy Australia website.

Community Hotline 24/7

☎ 1800 886 889

Blasting Hotline

☎ 1800 931 872

General Enquiries

☎ 1800 931 873

Email: info@machenergy.com.au

Website: www.machenergy.com.au/currentprojects

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Mount Pleasant Operation