

WATER USE AT NEW ACLAND COAL MINE

The New Acland Coal Mine is self-sufficient in water, purchasing 98 per cent of our requirements from the Toowoomba Regional Council's Wetalla recycled water treatment plant.

New Hope takes, and pays, for approximately 40 per cent (3000 megalitres per year) of water from the Wetalla recycled water treatment plant.

The wastewater used for all operations is continually recycled. Any water volume lost in the recycling process during mining operations (through evaporation or coal soak) is topped up with recycled wastewater from Wetalla or captured water from the onsite dams.

The only aquifer water taken is from basalt bores for ablution purposes.

A Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) will be developed for the revised Project to ensure the protection of surrounding waterways.

New Hope's current water quality monitoring program will be expanded to incorporate the operational and decommissioning phases of the revised Project.

The New Acland Mine's water management system is based on the following key principles:

- » Stormwater runoff from undisturbed areas will be diverted away from disturbed areas and released directly into adjacent waterways.
- » Disturbed area runoff will be captured in sediment dams and used preferentially for dust suppression or as process water.
- » Mine-affected water will be treated through settling in sedimentation basins to allow discharges off-site that comply with the revised Project's EA.
- » Recycled water from the Toowoomba Regional Council's Wetalla Wastewater Treatment Plant is pumped to the site as the main operational water supply.
- » Shallow groundwater bores will be treated to supply potable water for human use.
- » Infrastructure and mining areas will be protected from flooding using flood levees.

