

## Mid-western regional local government area

This summary is an initiative by the Office of the Land and Water Commissioner in response to community enquiries about the impact of coal mining projects on water entitlements for users in the area, including the local council that supplies town drinking water.

This document displays publically available data held by the NSW Government.

All enquiries about this report should be directed to the NSW Land and Water Commissioner.

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For more information on NSW Government data visit:

- Department of Primary Industry (DPI)  
[www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au)

## Current mine projects

There are three operating coal mines (Ulan, Moolarben, Wilpinjong) and two coal mines in care and maintenance (Charbon, Kandos) within the mid-western regional local government area.

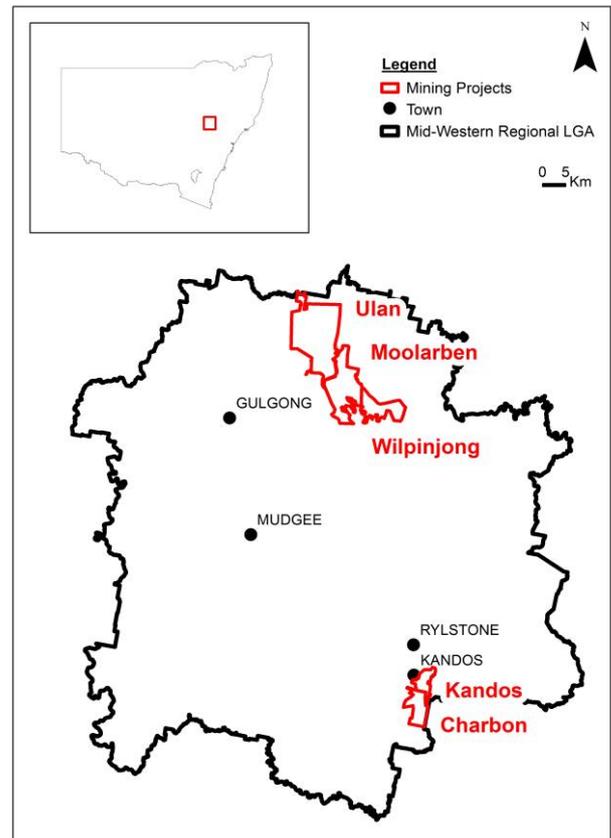
Mining operations take water from the environment. For example, mines remove water from underground mine workings or groundwater seepage into open cut voids. Mines are required to have adequate water entitlements before commencing mining.

## Proposed mine projects

There are two proposed mining projects within the mid-western regional local government area: Bylong Coal Project (open-cut and underground coal mine near Bylong) and Bowdens Silver Project (open-cut silver, zinc and lead mine near Lue). Any project that involves taking water from the environment needs water entitlements. The environmental assessment prepared when seeking project approval provides details on the source from which a project will take water as well as predicted volumes and impacts to surrounding surface and groundwater resources.

## Water entitlement priorities

Different categories of entitlements can exist within a water source, such as local utility water (town water), high-security regulated river water, aquifer water or water for stock and domestic use. When water is limited, such as in times of drought, some entitlements may be restricted or suspended. Local water utility entitlements, generally held by local government for town drinking water, have one of the highest priorities.



**Figure 1. Mining projects within the mid-western regional LGA**

### Groundwater

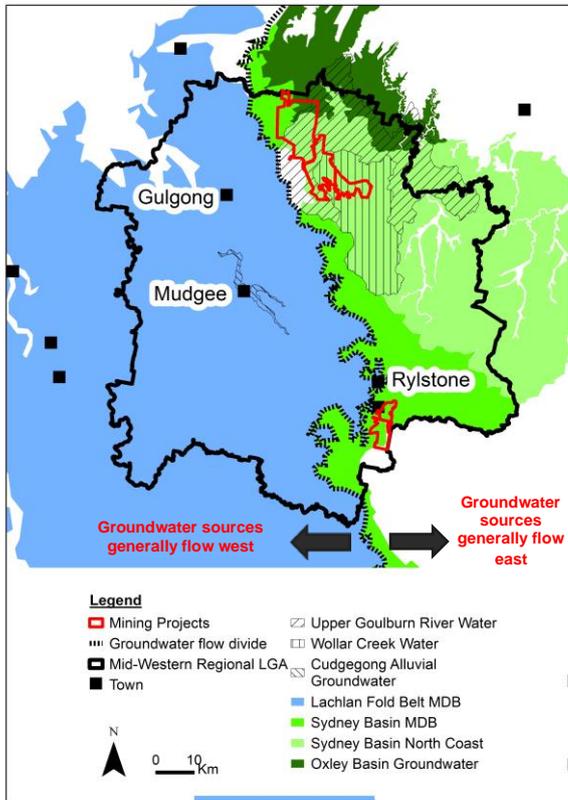


Figure 2. Groundwater water sources

Water source	Mid-Western Regional Council entitlement (ML)	Mine entitlement (ML)	Total water source entitlements (ML)	% held by Mid-Western Regional Council	% held by mines
Cudgong Alluvial	3,029	-	13,809	22%	-
Upper Goulburn Alluvial	-	609	1,880	-	32%
Wollar Creek Alluvial	-	692	880	-	79%
Sydney Basin Murray Darling	-	1,489	3,228	-	46%
Lachlan Fold Belt Murray Darling Basin	300	-	70,067	0.4%	-
Oxley Basin Coast	-	7,060	7,949	-	89%
Sydney Basin—North Coast	-	4,971	71,233	-	7%

Table 1. Groundwater entitlements held

### Surface water

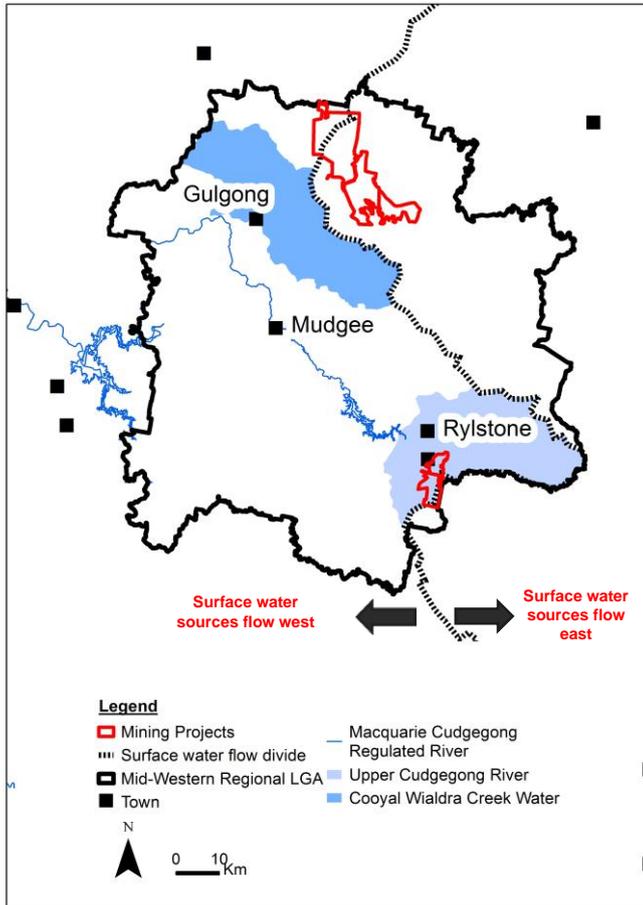


Figure 3. Surface water sources

Water source	Mid-Western Regional Council entitlement (ML)	Mine entitlement (ML)	Total water source entitlements (ML)	% held by Mid-Western Regional Council	% Mine
Upper Cudgong River	2,550	-	6,452	40%	-
Cooyal Wialdra Creek	111	-	741	15%	-
Macquarie and Cudgong regulated river	2,742	-	725,419	0.4%	-

Table 2. Surface water entitlements held

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