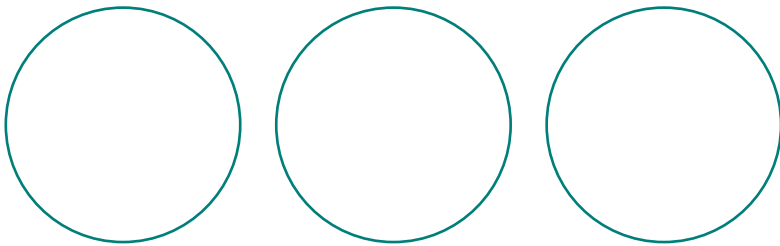


## SCENIC VALUES



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# 18 SCENIC VALUES

*This section updates the visual impact assessment from the Ensham Central Project Environmental Impact Statement for the Revised Central Area Mining Methodology.*

## 18.1 INTRODUCTION

A visual assessment of the project was undertaken to determine the significance of the Ensham Central Project (ECP) over and above the existing Ensham Mine and future, already approved mining operations. Section 3 – The Proposal of this ECP Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) provides a description of existing mining operations.

The visual assessment was undertaken by JVP Visual Planning and Designs and involved field inspections and photographic and map analysis of the Ensham Mine and surrounding areas.

The visual elements of the ECP EIS were as follows:

- Open cut mining operations in areas that will be rehabilitated and reinstated to pre-mining topography (rehabilitated floodplain areas);
- Extensions to the existing elevated overburden emplacements; and
- Infrastructure, including underground mine surface facilities, washplant, coal handling facilities and tailings dams.

The ECP EIS visual assessment concluded that the visual impact of the project will be low due to the moderate visual sensitivity of the receptors and the low visual effect of the visible elements of the mining operations.

The significant changes to the visual elements of the ECP associated with the Revised Central Area Mining Methodology (RCAMM) are limited to the removal of approximately 830 ha of open cut mining from the central floodplain area. The scale and visibility of all other elements of the project including underground mining operations and proposed surface infrastructure remain similar to that described in the ECP EIS. The reduction in open cut mining area will significantly reduce the visibility of the project mining operations and the visual impact of the mine, compared to the ECP EIS visual impact assessment.

The following design features of the RCAMM will further mitigate any visual impact of the project:

- Rehabilitation and revegetation of eastern and western faces of overburden emplacements similar to existing landscape patterns; and
- Retention of as much of the existing vegetation on site as possible.