

Case study

Rhondda Colliery helps safeguard fauna and flora

Land clearing for urban development south west of Newcastle has been encroaching on the habitats of several types of small and colourful flowering plants, along with some threatened animal species.

These species have been discovered at Coal & Allied's Northern Rhondda Colliery site, a 287 hectare former mine site 20 kilometres south-west of Newcastle, along with a wetland and swamp forest habitat that contains endangered ecological communities.

While past agricultural and mining activities have resulted in disturbance, a flora and fauna study in December 2008 revealed considerable natural regrowth and revegetation from Coal & Allied's intensive rehabilitation programme which it now plans to protect.

The Northern Rhondda Colliery site also has two plant species currently considered threatened as a result of land clearing for urban development and habitat degeneration in the region, the small-flower grevillea (*Grevillea parviflora subspecies parviflora*) – a low spreading, white or light pink flowering shrub, and Black-eyed Susan (*Tetraloche juncea*) – a shrub that produces white, pink or dark purple flowers.

Two threatened animal species have also been recorded on the site, including the Powerful Owl and the Squirrel Glider.

Coal & Allied, in recognition of the site's biodiversity, included the management of the site's two endangered ecological communities and threatened plant species in its Hunter Valley Biodiversity Action Plan.

The action plan sets out a framework for how the company will direct, monitor and review the effective management of key biodiversity features at its operations and non-operational landholdings in the region.

By identifying and managing these valuable flora and fauna resources, Coal & Allied hopes to make a positive contribution to preserving the future of these species and communities for future generations.