



## Mining and cattle farming in the Hunter Valley – Edderton and Mt Arthur Coal



*Mining companies often own land that is not used for mining, but instead continues to support other local industries in the area. In the case of Edderton, a property owned by Mt Arthur Coal in the NSW Hunter Valley, the land is currently used to produce Angus and Wagyu beef.*

### The history of Edderton

Edderton, a large 3,000 acre property located just south of Muswellbrook, has been owned by BHP Billiton Mt Arthur Coal since 1992.

Constructed in 1908, the Edderton homestead features a unique design inspired by a range of different architectural styles. The homestead, which boasts regional heritage significance related to its historical association with the expansion of the wool industry in the Upper Hunter, is now a NSW heritage listed property.

Edderton was purchased by Hector Cameron McDonald in 1914. Over a five year period, the McDonald family purchased and consolidated land in the Saddlers Creek area, creating a single, 12,000 acre pastoral holding.

The McDonalds ran up to 16,000 sheep on the property, later replacing most of them with cattle. As larger estates became less viable in the late 1950s, Edderton was subdivided into smaller holdings, many becoming dairy farms.

### Edderton today

The current lessees, Trevor and Narelle Petith, have operated the property as an Angus and Wagyu beef enterprise since October 2005 as part of their business HV Wagyu.

The property's 1,450 hectares of mostly native grasses provide an ideal pastoral environment for the Petith's herd of 400 Angus cattle and 30 full-blood Wagyu cows that are used to breed Wagyu bulls.

The Petiths run Edderton in conjunction with their operations at Whites Creek – a property located approximately 12 kilometres away – which is also owned by Mt Arthur Coal.

Edderton is utilised for the first and second stages of beef production, from birth and weaning to approximately eight months old. The cattle are then sent to Whites Creek for approximately 100 days for fattening prior to being sold direct to feedlot buyers in NSW and Queensland. Some cattle are also sold through the local sale yards.

## Relationship with Mt Arthur Coal

Edderton is located just 2 kilometres from the Mt Arthur Coal mine. Despite the mine's close proximity, Trevor Petith does not believe it is impacting the family's business, and highlights the opportunities provided by leasing the property from Mt Arthur Coal.

"We used to run a farm in the Hastings Valley in Northern NSW, but didn't have as much land as we do now at Edderton," Mr Petith said.

"Mining is an important industry in this region and we knew that we would be operating our farm and business side by side with a mine.

"We wouldn't be farming here if it weren't for Mt Arthur Coal and the work they have done to maintain and restore this property.

"Mt Arthur Coal also has requirements for how we manage the land, including ensuring that we do not over graze to prevent soil erosion," he said.

The Petiths occupy the property's homestead as part of Mt Arthur Coal's strategy to preserve its condition, ensure its security and maintain its value as a heritage structure. They are responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the property, including weed and pest control, and undertake their own improvement projects as necessary.

Each year, the lessees also submit a works' program to Mt Arthur Coal for further improvements at Edderton which are funded by Mt Arthur Coal.

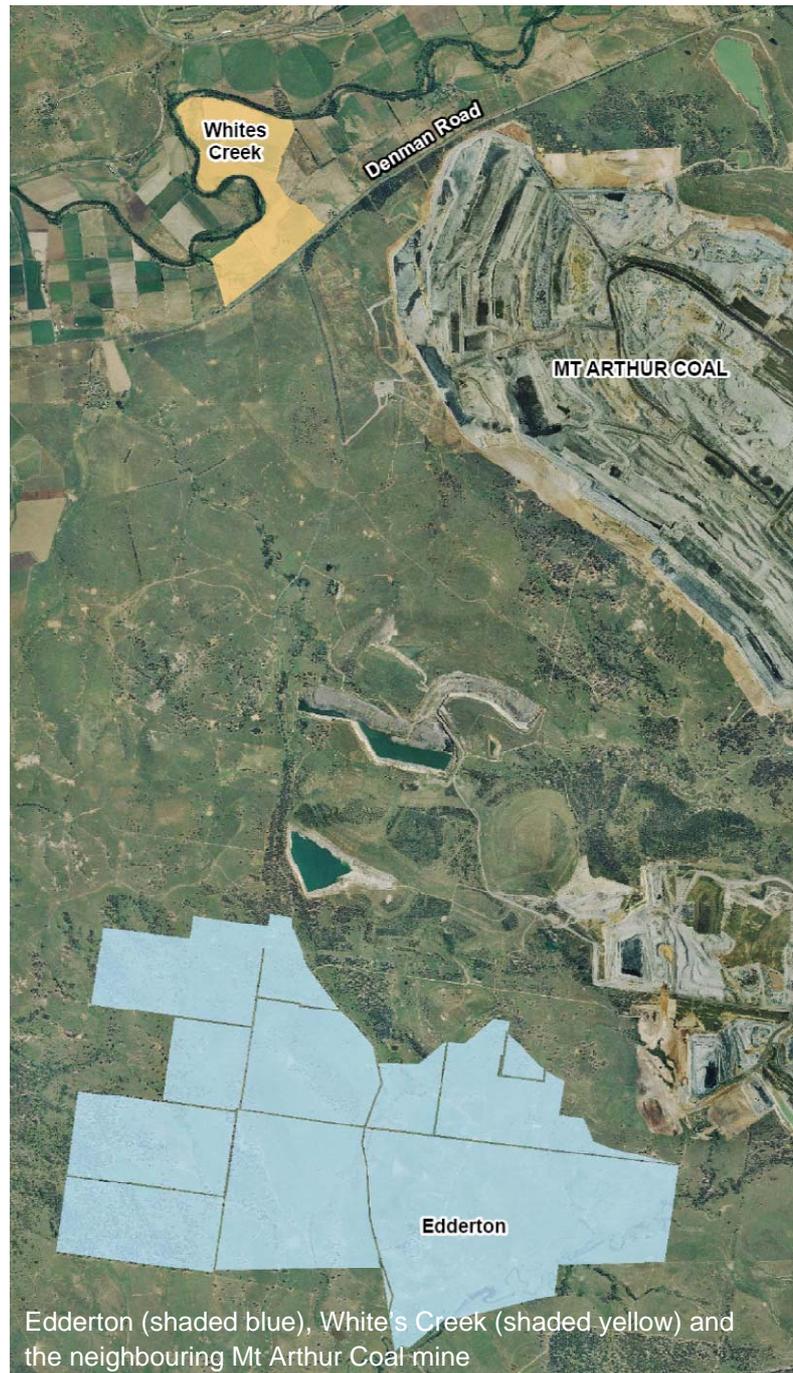


Edderton, located 2 kilometres from Mt Arthur Coal, is operated as an Angus and Wagyu Beef business

A number of significant improvements have been made to the property by Mt Arthur Coal, including building a new dam and repairing two existing dams on the property, the main source of water for Edderton farm apart from Saddlers Creek.

Mt Arthur Coal has also rebuilt the property's heritage meat house, repainted the homestead and established 3.5 kilometres of perimeter fencing for additional security.

Monitoring equipment has been installed at Edderton by Mt Arthur Coal to measure any impact of dust, vibration and overpressure from mining activities on this important cultural heritage site.



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