

Student 5 – Low Achieved

The context relates to coal mining in the Grey Valley.

*Site photographs were included*

Coal mining takes place at Giles Creek because there is good quality coal there. It is easy to mine because it is not too deep in the ground [1]. A road built in 1930 makes it easy for heavy machinery and people to access the mining area. This area was only bush so mining was able to happen... *photographs of the mine site were included.*

Before mining started they drilled to check where most of the coal was. The type of mine at Giles Creek is open cast which is a large pit created by clearing the bush and removing the topsoil and rock [2]. They use dynamite to get the coal out and it is then taken to be washed. Another process in mining is the sorting of the coal in to grades like grits, chips... large clumps have to be crushed [3].

The mining company takes steps to solve the environmental problems while mining is happening. They monitor the creek water to make sure chemicals and waste are not polluting it and they use filtering ponds before putting used water back into the creek... [4] After mining the pit has to be filled in and covered with topsoil, then they can replant it and bush can grow back when mining is finished. This is called rehabilitation... In future years this area should show no signs of mining. I think that the environment will be better after lots of native trees are planted and it could become a nature reserve. It is a sustainable use of the Giles Creek environment [5].