

Bowen Basin Coal Growth project –
Caval Ridge Mine

**Addendum to
Coordinator-General's evaluation
report for an environmental
impact statement**

November 2011

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Contents

Synopsis	iv
1 Introduction.....	1
1.1 The proponent.....	1
1.2 The project	1
1.3 Legislative provision to amend Coordinator-General’s report.....	2
2 The proposed amendment	3
2.1 Proponent’s reasons for amendment.....	3
3 Evaluation of the request.....	4
4 Conclusion.....	5
4.1 Distribution of report.....	5

Synopsis

The Bowen Basin Coal Growth (BBCG) Project: Caval Ridge Mine Coordinator-General's Evaluation Report for an environmental impact statement (EIS) (Coordinator-General report) was released on 9 August 2010, pursuant to section 35 of the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971 (Qld) (SDPWO Act).

The proponent for the Caval Ridge Mine (CRM) is BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance Coal Operations Pty Ltd (BMA).

The EIS for the BBCG project is being prepared in stages in accordance with section 32(1)(b) of the SDPWO Act. The CRM was the second stage of the project and the Goonyella Riverside Mine Expansion will be the third stage of the project.

In accordance with section 32(3) of the SDPWO Act, the Coordinator-General's report on the CRM stated that the Goonyella Riverside Mine Expansion EIS be submitted by 30 November 2011. BMA has requested that, due to delays in progressing the Caval Ridge stage of the BBCG project, it is granted a 12-month extension of time to submit the EIS.

I have assessed the proponent's request and approve that submission of the Goonyella Riverside Mine Expansion EIS is to be received by the Coordinator-General by 30 November 2012 or a later date notified in writing by the Coordinator-General to the proponent.



Keith Davies
Coordinator-General
30 November 2011

1 Introduction

1.1 The proponent

The proponent for the Bowen Basin Coal Growth (BBCG) project is BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance Coal Operations Pty Ltd (BMA).

1.2 The project

In July 2008, the BBCG project was declared by the Coordinator-General to be a significant project for which an EIS is required, under the SDPWO Act.

In accordance with section 32(1)(b) of the SDPWO Act, the BBCG project EIS is being presented in the following stages:

- Daunia Mine
- Caval Ridge Mine
- Goonyella Riverside Mine Expansion
- Moranbah Airport (to replace the existing Moranbah airport).

The EIS for the Daunia mine was subject to public consultation from 29 November 2008 to 2 February 2009. A supplementary EIS was submitted on 3 April 2009, which was then followed by the Coordinator-General's report on the EIS on 26 October 2009.

The EIS for the Caval Ridge mine was subject to public consultation from 7 February 2009 to 9 March 2009. A supplementary EIS was submitted and made available for public consultation from 13 November 2009 to 14 December 2009. These processes were then followed by the release of the Coordinator-General's report on the EIS on 9 August 2010.

Between 29 September 2010 and 15 June 2011, four requests for project change to the Caval Ridge Mine component of the BBCG project have resulted in four Coordinator-General's change reports, issued under section 35I of the SDPWO Act. A fifth request for project change was received from BMA on 20 October 2011 and is currently being considered. Details of these changes are provided on the Coordinator-General's webpage for this component of the project at:

www.deedi.qld.gov.au/cg/caval-ridge-mine-part-of-the-bma-bowen-basin-coal-growth-project.html

1.3 Legislative provision to amend Coordinator-General's report

On 28 November 2011, the proponent requested that the Coordinator-General amend the date for provision of the Goonyella Riverside Mine Expansion EIS in accordance with the requirements of the SDPWO Act.

I have decided to exercise the power under section 24AA of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1954* to amend the Coordinator-General's report on the EIS dated 9 August 2010.

2 The proposed amendment

Section 3.1 of the Coordinator-General's report of August 2010 contained the following discussion of the BBCG project:

The draft terms of reference (**TOR**) for the EIS for the BBCG project were advertised for public comment on 9 August 2008. Comments were accepted until close of business on 5 September 2008. A final TOR for the BBCG project was issued to the proponent in November 2008.

In accordance with section 32(4) of the SDPWOA, the EIS for the BBCG project is due in November 2010. As the impact assessment for the four components of the BBCG project is being conducted as a staged process under section 32(1)(b) of the SDPWOA, and the EIS for the CRM component was prepared under section 32(2) of the Act, **I may state** in accordance with section 32(3) of the Act a new date by which the proponent must give the Coordinator-General the EIS for the next stage of the project. I consider that, given the large scale and complexity of the BBCG project and the good progress made to date by BMA, a 12 month extension to the normal two-year period to deliver the EIS for the Goonyella-Riverside component of the project is warranted. Therefore, **I state** in accordance with section 32(3) of the SDPWOA that the EIS for Goonyella-Riverside component of the project should be given to the Coordinator-General by 30 November 2011.

BMA seeks, by way of this request, a 12-month extension of time to submit the EIS for the Goonyella Riverside Mine Expansion, from 30 November 2011 to 30 November 2012. This is to give proper consideration to the EIS for the Goonyella Riverside Mine Expansion, to take account of the staged approach of the BBCG project, and to allow issues that have arisen in respect of the CRM component of the BBCG project, to be considered.

2.1 Proponent's reasons for amendment

BMA's request states:

The proposed change to the submission date of the EIS for the Goonyella Riverside Mine Expansion arises as a result of delays in progressing stages of the BBCG project, in particular, the Caval Ridge Mine.

Given the number of change requests made since the Coordinator-General's initial report on Caval Ridge Mine in August 2010, BMA has been reluctant to initiate the final required work elements within the EIS development process for the next phase of the BBCG project until consideration of the Caval Ridge Mine was progressed.

BMA requests a 12 month extension to the time for delivery and submission of the Goonyella Riverside Mine Expansion EIS to 30 November 2012.

3 Evaluation of the request

In evaluating this request for amendment, I have considered the following:

- the proponent's application for project amendment, dated 28 November 2011 and earlier draft request on 17 October 2011
- the time and resources applied by BMA to the five change requests to the Caval Ridge Mine component of the BBCG project
- the implications of the amendment for third parties.

I consider that there are no anticipated environmental effects associated with the proposed amendment. Furthermore, although a 12-month extension could affect planning processes associated with the BBCG project, the effects would be minimal and likely to only affect BMA. Within the scope of matters required to be considered in the EIS process for this project, it would appear that no third parties are likely to be negatively impacted by the later lodgment of the EIS.

I also consider that any potential negative impact of the requested extension would be outweighed by the benefits of allowing sufficient time for the proper completion of EIS studies and reports for the Goonyella Riverside Mine Expansion as part of the BBCG project.

4 Conclusion

The proposed amendment will enable BMA to properly develop the next stage of the BBCG project, namely, the Goonyella Riverside Mine Expansion.

I have evaluated BMA's request for project amendment, dated 28 November 2011, and I approve an extension of time for submission of the Goonyella Riverside Mine Expansion EIS from the 30 November 2011 to 30 November 2012, or a later date notified in writing by the Coordinator-General to the proponent.

4.1 Distribution of report

Pursuant to section 35(5) of the SDPWO Act, a copy of this report will be given to the proponent, and a copy will be made available at:

www.deedi.qld.gov.au/cg/caval-ridge-mine-part-of-the-bma-bowen-basin-coal-growth-project.html

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