



# **Terms of reference for an environmental impact statement**

## **Galilee Coal Project (northern export facility)**

**Under Part 4 of the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971***

**and**

**under Part 8 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)***

**The Coordinator-General  
August 2009**



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# Synopsis

Waratah Coal Pty Ltd (Waratah) proposes to establish a new coal mine in the Galilee Basin, Central Queensland, to supply thermal coal to overseas customers.

The project would involve:

- coal mine near Alpha incorporating open cut and underground techniques
- construction of a new/upgraded railway, approximately 500 km long, to transport processed coal from the mine for export through the Port of Abbot Point
- coal stockyards and associated transfer infrastructure within the Abbot Point State Development Area (APSDA), to link with the port through a proposed APSDA multi-user infrastructure corridor
- major new water and power supply infrastructure.

The Coordinator-General has declared the Galilee Coal Project (northern export facility) to be a significant project requiring an environmental impact statement (EIS) under section 26(1)(a) of the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* (SDPWOA).

The Australian Government has determined that the project constitutes a controlled action under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) because of potential significant impacts to matters of national environmental significance. It has further decided that environmental impacts should be assessed by way of environmental impact statement pursuant to section 87 of the EPBC Act.

The declaration of the project as a significant project does not indicate support for, or approval of, the project by the Coordinator-General or the Queensland Government. Rather it is a requirement for the project to undergo a rigorous environmental impact statement process.

The EIS process is to be administered in parallel by the Department of Infrastructure and Planning for the Coordinator-General under the SDPWOA on behalf of the Queensland Government and by the Commonwealth Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts under the EPBC Act, on behalf of the Australian Government. The term EIS used in these terms of reference (TOR) should be interpreted as satisfying the impact assessment requirements for both jurisdictions.

TOR set out the requirements, both general and specific, that the proponent should address in preparing the EIS. These TOR have been prepared having regard to comments/submissions received on the draft TOR released for public comment over the period 30 May 2009 – 29 June 2009. The TOR are presented in two broad categories:

- Part A—General information and administrative procedures
- Part B—Specific requirements and structure of the EIS.

# Abbreviations

The following abbreviations have been used in this document:

<b>APSDA</b>	Abbot Point State Development Area
<b>ASS</b>	Acid sulphate soil
<b>CHMP</b>	Cultural Heritage Management Plan
<b>DEEDI</b>	Qld Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation
<b>DERM</b>	Qld Department of the Environment and Resource Management
<b>DEWHA</b>	Australian Government Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
<b>DIP</b>	Qld Department of Infrastructure and Planning
<b>DTMR</b>	Qld Department of Transport and Main Roads
<b>EIS</b>	Environmental impact statement
<b>EMP</b>	Environmental management plan
<b>EP Act</b>	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>
<b>EPBC Act</b>	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)</i>
<b>EPP (Air)</b>	Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2008
<b>EPP (Noise)</b>	Environmental Protection (Noise) Policy 2008
<b>EPP (Waste)</b>	Environmental Protection (Waste) Policy 2000
<b>EPP (Water)</b>	Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 1997
<b>IAS</b>	Initial advice statement as defined by Part 4 of the <i>State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971</i>
<b>IPA</b>	<i>Integrated Planning Act 1997</i>
<b>MCF</b>	Multi-purpose cargo facility
<b>Mtpa</b>	Million tonnes per annum
<b>MNES</b>	Matters of national environmental significance, as defined under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)</i>
<b>NC Act</b>	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>



<b>QGEOP</b>	The Queensland Government Environmental Offsets Policy 2008
<b>ROM</b>	Run of mine
<b>SIA</b>	Social impact assessment
<b>SDPWOA</b>	<i>State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971</i>
<b>The project</b>	Galilee Coal Project (northern export facility)
<b>The proponent</b>	Waratah Coal Pty Ltd.
<b>TOR</b>	Terms of reference as defined by Part 4 of the <i>State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971</i>



# Part A—General information and administrative procedures

## 1. Project summary

Waratah intends to establish a new coal mine, railway and coal stockyards and supporting infrastructure to export high volatile, low sulphur, steaming coal to international markets. The coal will be sourced from Waratah's mining tenements near Alpha in the Galilee Basin, Central Queensland and taken by rail to the APSDA where stockyards will be established that tie in with a proposed multi-user infrastructure corridor linking industrial areas within the APSDA with the Port of Abbot Point. The coal would then be exported through a proposed multi-cargo facility (MCF) currently being planned by the Queensland Government, or a new jetty, berth, and conveyor of a design similar to that currently in use at Abbot Point.

The project also includes the possible establishment of a water supply pipeline between the coal mine and the Burdekin Dam and water retention infrastructure within the Belyando River catchment. These infrastructure requirements will be considered as part of the overall project assessment. **Figure 1** illustrates the project's development concept.

### 1.1 Mine

The mine is to be located on Waratah's tenements, EPC1079 and EPC1040 near 'Kiora' approximately 13 km west and 35 km north of the town of Alpha. Waratah has identified an inferred resource of 3.12 billion tonnes of coal on these tenements. In total, the company holds exploration tenements (granted and applications) over an area of 15 250 km of the Galilee Basin.

The mine is expected to be developed to a capacity of 40 million tonnes per annum utilising open cut and underground (longwall) methods. Mine life is expected to be approximately 30 years.

The mine will proceed through a staged development process that currently targets first coal in 2013. As the coal will require washing for the export market an initial 56 Mtpa of run of mine (ROM) coal will be required to provide 40 Mtpa of export coal. Raw coal will be processed at a ROM facility to reduce its size prior to washing in a wash plant. Wash plant fines will be directed to a lined tailings dam for containment.

### 1.2 Railway

It is proposed to use state-of-the-art, heavy haul, standard gauge, rail infrastructure and 20 000 tonne unit trains. The initial transport of 40 Mtpa of washed coal from Waratah's mining operations would result in the use of six train sets (six locomotives and 180 wagons) operating on a 24 hour cycle, over a six day week and a 50 week year.

To enable coal to be exported at minimum logistical costs Waratah has studied rail network options to the APSDA as outlined in **Table 1** and shown in **Figure 1**. Different potential options regarding ownership of the railway line will be considered during the project pre-feasibility studies. Options may include a public/private partnership model.



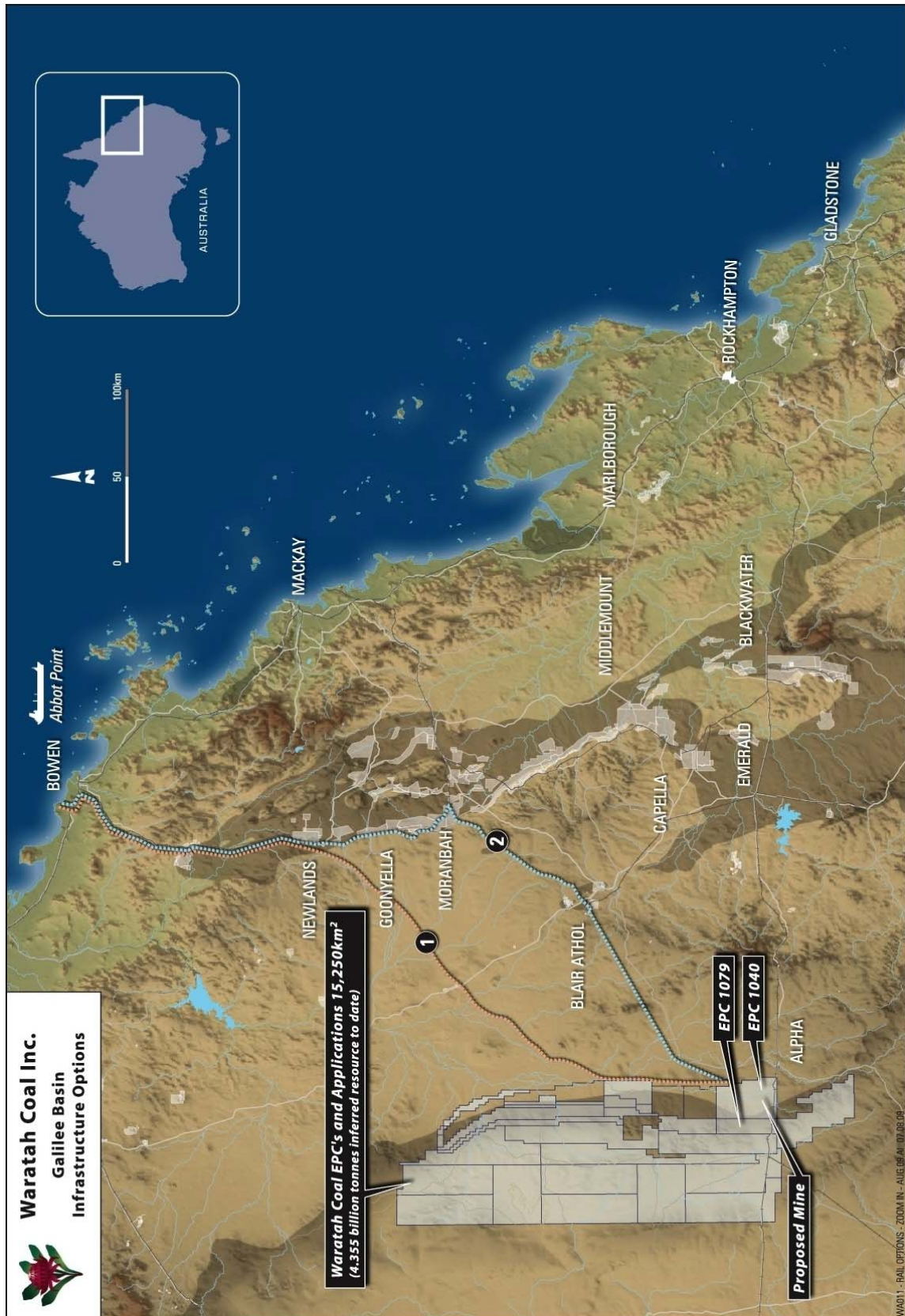
**Table 1: Rail link options from mine to Abbot Point State Development Area**

<b>Option</b>	<b>Port</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	Abbot Point	New standard gauge EPC 1040 to Abbot Point
1	Abbot Point	New narrow gauge EPC 1040 to Abbot Point
1	Abbot Point	New narrow gauge EPC 1040 to Newlands Mine. Use existing narrow gauge from Newlands Mine to Abbot Point
2	Abbot Point	New narrow gauge EPC 1040 to Blair Athol. Use existing narrow gauge from Blair Athol to Wotonga/Goonyella, Newlands to Abbot Point

### **1.3 Coal loading infrastructure**

It is proposed that new coal stockyards and coal transfer infrastructure will be established within the APSDA. The coal transfer infrastructure will tie in with the multi-user infrastructure corridor and either the proposed MCF to be built by the Queensland Government or a separate ship loading infrastructure and jetty/berths within the Port of Abbot Point. The stockyards, transfer infrastructure and ship loading infrastructure will be built with a capacity of 40 Mtpa of coal.

Figure 1 – Project concept



## 2. Project proponent

Waratah Coal Pty Ltd is a coal exploration and development company that holds mining tenements in Queensland, New South Wales and the Northern Territory. It is a public company listed on the Australian Stock Exchange and is a fully-owned subsidiary of the Mineralogy Group of companies.

The company's head office is located in Brisbane and has the following contact details:

Waratah Coal Pty Ltd.  
GPO Box 89  
Brisbane Qld 4001.

## 3. Legislative framework

On the 28 November 2008, the project was declared to be a 'significant project for which an EIS is required' under section 26 of SDPWOA by the Coordinator-General. This declaration initiated the statutory environmental impact assessment procedure of Part 4 of SDPWOA which will be administered by the Department of Infrastructure and Planning (DIP) on behalf of the Coordinator-General.

On 11 February 2009 the proponent referred the project to the Australian Government Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts for a decision as to whether the project constitutes a 'controlled action' under the EPBC Act—referral No. 2009/4737.

On 20 March 2009 the Minister determined that the project constitutes a 'controlled action' as it has potential for significant impact on matters of national environmental significance (MNES). The controlling provisions were determined as:

- sections 12 and 15A (world heritage properties)
- sections 15B and 15C (national heritage places)
- sections 18 and 18A (listed threatened species and communities)
- sections 20 and 20A (listed migratory species)
- sections 23 and 24A (Commonwealth marine areas).

The Minister has further determined that environmental assessment of MNES is to be undertaken in accordance with Part 8 of the EPBC Act to be administered by the Commonwealth Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA).


Following consultation between DIP and DEWHA, it was agreed that the environmental impact assessments under the SDPWOA and EPBC Act be conducted in parallel, based on one TOR and one EIS study and report that would satisfy the requirements of both jurisdictions.

Relevant Commonwealth, state and local government authorities have been invited to participate in the EIS process as advisory agencies.

The first step in the environmental impact assessment process is the development of TOR for the EIS. The process involves the formulation of draft TOR that is made available for public and advisory agency comment. TOR are then prepared having regard to comments and submissions received. These TOR are the result of that process.

When the proponent has prepared the EIS and both the Coordinator-General and Commonwealth are satisfied that it adequately addresses the TOR, the EIS will be made available for public and advisory agency review and comment. A public notice in relevant newspapers will advise where copies of the EIS can be viewed, purchased, the submission period and where submissions should be lodged.

Additionally, the proponent may be required to prepare a supplementary EIS (or supplementaries) to address comments submitted by advisory agencies and members of the public.



At the conclusion of the EIS phase, DEWHA will prepare a decision brief for the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts or his delegate, evaluating MNES addressed in the EIS. This draft of the proposed decision will be provided to Commonwealth and state ministers who were invited to comment at the project referral stage to provide any comment within 10 business days. The final decision of the Commonwealth minister will be publicly notified on the DEWHA website at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/>

Also, after completion of the EIS phase, the Coordinator-General will prepare a report (Coordinator-General's report) evaluating the EIS covering state issues, pursuant to section 35 of SDPWOA. The Coordinator-General's report will include an assessment and conclusion about environmental effects of the project and any associated mitigation measures. Material that will be assessed includes: the EIS, properly made submissions and other submissions accepted by the Coordinator-General and any other material the Coordinator-General thinks relevant to the project such as a supplementary report, comments and advice from advisory agencies and other entities, technical reports and legal advice.

The Coordinator-General's report will be publicly notified by placing it on the DIP website at [www.dip.qld.gov.au/projects](http://www.dip.qld.gov.au/projects). The Coordinator-General's report will also be presented to the proponent, the assessment manager/s (under the *Integrated Planning Act 1997* (IPA)), the Commonwealth Minister for Environment, Heritage and the Arts (under the EPBC Act), the Queensland minister administering the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (EP Act) and the Queensland minister administering the *Mineral Resources Act 1989*.

The Coordinator-General's report may state conditions for:

- proposed mining lease(s) under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989*
- any draft environmental authority under the EP Act for the proposed environmental authority (mining activities)
- a development approval under IPA.

The Coordinator-General will assess and determine all applications for material change of use within the APSDA.

The APSDA is approximately 16 230 hectares and provides for the establishment of industrial development, including infrastructure corridors and essential infrastructure. A development scheme has been prepared by the Coordinator-General to manage land use in the APSDA which was approved by the Governor-in-Council on 19 June 2008.

## 4. EIS objectives

The objective of the EIS is to ensure that all potential environmental, social and economic impacts of the project are identified and assessed and, where possible, how any adverse impacts would be avoided or mitigated. If project impacts cannot be avoided or mitigated, offsets should be proposed in accordance with relevant policies. Direct, indirect and cumulative impacts must be fully examined and addressed. The project should be based on sound environmental protection and management criteria.

The EIS should be a self-contained and comprehensive document that provides sufficient information for an informed decision on the potential impacts of the project and the management measures employed to avoid, mitigate and/or offset adverse impacts. The EIS document should provide information for the following persons and groups, as the project stakeholders:

- *for interested bodies and persons*: a basis for understanding the project, prudent and feasible alternatives, affected environmental values, impacts that may occur, and the measures to be taken to mitigate all adverse impacts
- *for groups or persons with rights or interests in land as defined under section 38 of the EP Act*: an outline of the effects of the proposed project on that land including access arrangements

- *for government agencies and referral bodies:* a framework for decision-makers to assess the environmental aspects of the proposed project with respect to legislative and policy provisions, and based on that information, to make an informed decision on whether the project should proceed or not, and if so, subject to what conditions, if any
- *the proponent:* a mechanism by which the potential environmental impacts of the project are identified and understood, including information to support the development of management measures, such as an environmental management plan, to mitigate the effects of adverse environmental impacts of the development.

The proponent is required to address the TOR to the satisfaction of the Coordinator-General and DEWHA before the EIS is made publicly available. It should be noted that evaluation of the EIS is not undertaken until public notification is completed and all relevant material, including additional information or comment about the EIS and the project is available.

In addition, it is essential that the main text of the EIS should address all relevant matters concerning environmental values, impacts on those values and proposed mitigation measures. No relevant matter should be raised for the first time in an appendix or the draft environmental management plan.

## 5. General EIS guidelines

The EIS is to provide stakeholders with sufficient information to understand the type and nature of the project, the potential environmental, social and economic impacts, and the measures proposed by the proponent to mitigate all adverse impacts on the natural, built and social environment. It should be recognised that state and local governments, special interest groups and the general public will have an interest in the EIS.

All phases of the project should be described in the EIS including pre-construction, construction, commissioning, operation and decommissioning. Direct, indirect and cumulative impacts should be identified and assessed with respect to the environmental values of the project area.


The main EIS document needs to be supported by appendices containing relevant data, technical reports and other sources of the EIS analysis. In preparing the EIS, the approach to be adopted requires that:

- predictions of environmental impacts are based on scientifically supported studies
- the EIS is to present all technical data, sources or authority and other information used to assess impacts
- the methods used to undertake any specialist studies are outlined, together with any relevant assumptions and professional or scientific judgements
- the scientific reliability of investigations and predictions is indicated, including the estimated degree of certainty or, if possible, statistical confidence wherever appropriate
- proposed measures to mitigate and manage identified issues are described and evaluated
- residual impacts that are not quantifiable are described qualitatively, in as much detail as reasonably practicable.

The assessment of all environmental impacts needs to encompass both potential impacts on, and uncertain risks to the environment. The level of investigation of potential impacts or particular risks needs to be proportionate to both the severity of the potential consequences of possible events and the likelihood of those events occurring.

Specific types of relevant impacts requiring investigation are set out in Part B. However, the EIS will need to address other issues or aspects that may emerge during the investigations and preparation of the EIS. Ultimately, it is the proponent's responsibility to ensure that adequate studies are undertaken and reported.

The EIS should state the criteria adopted in assessing the proposed project and its impacts, such as compliance with relevant legislation, policies, standards, community acceptance and maximisation of environmental benefits and minimisation of risks.



Any prudent and feasible alternatives should be discussed and treated in sufficient detail, and reasons for selection of the preferred option should be clearly identified.

Where possible, information provided in the EIS should be clear, logical, objective and concise, so that non-technical persons may easily understand it. Where appropriate, text should be supported by maps and diagrams. Factual information contained in the document should be referenced wherever possible. Where applicable, aerial photography and/or digital information (e.g. of project site, etc.) should be presented.

The EIS should also contain an indexed guide to the content of the EIS to allow readers to readily identify information of interest.

Should the proponent require any information in the EIS to remain confidential, this should be clearly indicated, and separate information should be prepared on these matters.

## 6. Stakeholder consultation

The proponent should undertake a comprehensive and inclusive program of consultation with the stakeholders identified in [section 4 Part A](#). The consultation program should provide stakeholders with the opportunity to obtain information about the project, to raise issues and express their concerns and to receive feedback on how the proponent intends to address the issues and mitigate all adverse impacts of the project.

Consultation with advisory agencies and local authorities should be the principal forum for identifying legislation, regulations, policies and guidelines relevant to the project and EIS process.

Where appropriate, information bulletins can be used to disseminate information to a wider audience. These bulletins can also be used to inform stakeholders of the proponent's progress in the EIS process and on specific investigations.

The proponent is encouraged to provide opportunities for the general public to obtain information about, and comment on, the project through public information sessions.

As part of this EIS process, consultation should also be undertaken to better understand the social impacts of the proposed project and opportunities for mitigation of those impacts.

Specific requirements for stakeholder consultation are covered in [section 1.8 Part B](#).

## 7. EIS format and copy numbers

The EIS should generally be presented in a format consistent with that outlined in Part B.

Maps, diagrams and other illustrative material should be included in the EIS to assist in the interpretation of the information.

The EIS should be produced on A4 size paper capable of being photocopied, with maps and diagrams on A4 or A3 size. The EIS document should not contain watermarks across the body of the text. The EIS should also be produced on CD-ROM/DVD.

Two separate CD-ROM/DVD copies should be provided:

- 1 CD-ROM/DVD—resolution equivalent to the printed document for distribution to the stakeholders.
- 2 CD-ROM/DVD—for placement on the internet. Copies should be in Adobe® PDF format. All compression must be down-sampled to 72 dpi. PDF documents should be no larger than 1 MB in file size. The executive summary should be supplied in HTML 3.2 format with \*.jpg graphics files. Text size and graphics files included in the PDF document should be of sufficient resolution to facilitate reading and enable legible printing, but should be such as to keep within the 1 MB file size.

The final nature and number of EIS copies required to be submitted and made available, should be discussed and agreed with the Coordinator-General in the early stages of the EIS process.

## 8. Further information

For further inquiries about the EIS process for this project, please contact:

EIS Project Manager—Galilee Coal Project (northern export facility)  
Department of **Infrastructure and Planning**  
PO Box 15009  
Brisbane City East QLD 4002  
**tel** + 61 7 3224 8351  
**fax** + 61 7 3225 8282  
[GCP@dip.qld.gov.au](mailto:GCP@dip.qld.gov.au)

[www.dip.qld.gov.au](http://www.dip.qld.gov.au)

**or**

Assessment Officer – Galilee Coal Project (northern export facility)  
Mining Section  
Department of the **Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts**  
GPO Box 787  
Canberra ACT 2601  
**tel** + 61 2 6274 1111

[www.environment.gov.au](http://www.environment.gov.au)





## Part B—Specific requirements and structure of the EIS

It is preferred that the EIS generally follows the format and content outlined in this part of the TOR. If this is not possible, guidelines describing how the EIS responds to the TOR should be included in the appendices.

### Executive summary

The function of the executive summary is to convey the most important aspects and options relating to the project to the reader in a concise and readable form. It should use plain English and avoid the use of jargon and esoteric terms. The executive summary should be written as a standalone document, able to be reproduced on request and distributed to interested parties who may not wish to read or purchase the EIS as a whole.

The structure of the executive summary should follow that of the EIS, and focus strongly on the key issues to enable the reader to obtain a clear understanding of the project and its potential adverse and beneficial environmental, social and economic impacts and the management measures to be implemented by the proponent to mitigate all residual impacts.

The executive summary should include:

- the title of the project
- name and contact details of the proponent, and a discussion of previous projects undertaken by the proponent and their commitment to effective environmental management
- a concise statement of the aims and objectives of the project
- the legal framework, decision-making authorities and advisory agencies
- an outline of the background and need for the project, including the consequences of not proceeding with the project
- a description of alternative options considered and reasons for the selection of the proposed development option
- a brief description of the project (pre-construction, construction and operational activities) and the existing environment, utilising visual aids where appropriate
- an outline of the principal environmental impacts predicted and the proposed environmental management strategies (including waste minimisation and management, mitigation measures and environmental offsets) and commitments to minimise the significance of these impacts
- detailed maps of the proposed project location.

### Glossary of terms

A glossary of technical terms, acronyms and abbreviations should be provided.

# 1 Introduction

The introduction should clearly explain the function of the EIS, why it has been prepared and what it sets out to achieve. It should also define the audience to whom it is directed and contain an overview of the structure of the document.

## 1.1 Project proponent

This section should describe the experience of the project proponent, including the nature and extent of business activities, experience and qualifications, role and responsibilities and environmental record, including the proponent's environmental policy.

## 1.2 Project description

A brief description of the key elements of the project should be provided. Any major associated infrastructure requirements should also be summarised. The location of the project and its infrastructure requirements should be described and mapped.

The study area should include all areas affected (directly and indirectly) by the proposed development during the construction and operational phases. The study area should include areas potentially affected by runoff and discharges from the development and areas downwind potentially affected by aerial contaminants. Detailed descriptions of the project should follow in [section 2](#).

## 1.3 Project rationale

This section should provide a statement of the objectives of the project and a brief outline of the events leading up to the project's formulation, envisaged time scale for implementation and project life, anticipated establishment costs and actions already undertaken within the project area.

The justification for the project should be described, with particular reference made to the economic and social benefits, including employment and flow-on business development, which the project may generate. The status of the project should be discussed on a regional, state and national context. This discussion should examine, the infrastructure needs of the state and far north Queensland economies and the project's role in supporting state development and environmental policies and strategies.

## 1.4 Relationship to other projects


This section should describe how the project relates to any other projects, of which the proponent should reasonably be aware, that have been, or are being proposed or that have been approved in the area affected by the project.

Consequential impacts as defined under the EPBC Act and projects which will be considered as part of cumulative impact assessment ([section 7](#)) should be identified and their relevance discussed.

## 1.5 Alternatives to the project

This section should describe feasible alternatives, including conceptual, technological and locality alternatives to the project, and discussion of the consequences of not proceeding with the project.

Alternatives should be discussed in sufficient detail to enable an understanding of the reasons for preferring certain options and courses of action and rejecting others. Where relevant, comparative environmental impacts of each alternative should be summarised.



The interdependencies of the various project components should be explained, together with any infrastructure requirements that may affect the viability of the project. Should water supply, power, transport and/or storage infrastructure be included as an element of the project, this section should include a description of and rationale for such additional infrastructure.

The reasons for selecting the preferred options should be outlined and include technical, commercial, social and environmental aspects where relevant. In particular, compliance with government policy and with the principles and objectives of ecologically sustainable development should be included in this discussion.

## 1.6 Co-location opportunities

Opportunities may exist for efficiency gains and the mitigation of environmental and property impacts through the co-location of any proposed linear infrastructure project elements within existing or other proposed linear infrastructure (such as rail corridors, gas pipelines and electricity transmission and distribution easements). There may also be opportunities to co-locate proposed linear infrastructure from third parties in, near or parallel to the proposed linear infrastructure project elements.

The project proponent should identify any third party proposals to develop infrastructure within the vicinity of project investigation corridors. Such proposals would be limited to those projects which are in the public arena during the period of preparation of this EIS and for which a proponent can be readily identified.

It would be the responsibility of any such third parties to provide the required information to the proponent. The DIP can, at the proponent's request, assist with the facilitation of meetings with known proponents of other linear infrastructure and common user infrastructure in the project area.

It would be inappropriate for this EIS to evaluate the environmental impacts of other infrastructure not directly required for this project. However, the EIS should describe the implications of locating other forms of linear infrastructure within or near proposed project corridors. Where co-location may be likely, the EIS should consider opportunities to coordinate or enhance any of the impact mitigation strategies proposed for the project through cooperation with other proponents in the locality. In particular, the potential implications of any infrastructure co-location on corridor widths and alignment should be described.

## 1.7 The environmental impact assessment process

### 1.7.1 Methodology of the EIS

This section should outline the stages of the EIS process under the SDPWOA, and the EPBC Act, including information on relevant stages of the approvals process, statutory and public consultation requirements, any associated licence or permit application processes and any interdependencies that exist between approvals (details of specific approvals should be presented under [section 1.10](#)). The information in this section is required to ensure:

- stakeholders are informed of the EIS process to be followed
- stakeholders understand the relationships between the EIS and other associated approvals
- stakeholders are aware of any opportunities for input and participation
- relevant legislation is addressed.



## 1.7.2 Objectives of the EIS

This section should provide a statement of the objectives of the environmental impact assessment process. The structure of the EIS can then be outlined as an explanation of how the EIS will meet its objectives. The purpose of the EIS is to:

- provide public information on the need for and likely effects of the project on the natural, social and economic environment
- identify relevant environmental values, impacts (both beneficial and adverse) on environmental values and propose mitigation measures, based on acceptable standards
- demonstrate how unavoidable environmental impacts can be managed and/or offset through the protection and enhancement of the environmental values.

The role of the EIS in providing information for the formulation of an environmental management plan (EMP) for the project should be discussed. Discussion of options and alternatives is a key aspect of the EIS.

## 1.7.3 Submissions

The reader should be informed as to how and when public submissions on the EIS will be addressed and taken into account in the environmental assessment and decision-making processes. The EIS should inform the reader on how to make submissions and what form the submissions should take.

# 1.8 Public consultation process

An appropriate public consultation program is an important component of the EIS process. The public consultation program should provide opportunities for community involvement and education. It may include interviews with individuals, public communication activities, interest group meetings, production of regular summary information and updates, and other consultation mechanisms to encourage and facilitate active public consultation.


The public consultation process should identify broad issues of concern to local and regional communities and interest groups and address issues from project planning through commissioning and project operations.

A consultation plan should be prepared during the initial phase of the EIS process. This should identify:

- the types of activities to be undertaken
- timing
- target the stakeholder/community representatives
- integration with other EIS activities and the project development process
- consultation responsibilities
- communication protocols
- reporting and feedback arrangements.

This section should outline the methodology adopted to:

- identify stakeholders and how their involvement was facilitated
- identify the process conducted to date and future consultation strategies and programs, including during the operational phase of the project
- indicate how consultation involvement and outcomes were integrated into the EIS process and future site activities, including opportunities for engagement and provision for feedback and action if necessary.



Detailed results of the consultation process should be provided as a Consultation Report and presented as an Appendix to the EIS. A summary of the key processes and outcomes should be provided in this section.

## 1.9 Project approvals

### 1.9.1 Relevant legislation and policy requirements

This section should identify and explain the legislation and policies controlling the approvals process and should identify all the approvals, permits and licences that will need to be obtained for the development of the proposed project including those on strategic port land.

Key pieces of legislation that will need to be addressed in terms of implications for project approval include:

#### Australian Government

*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

*Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981*

*Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*

*Native Title Act 1993*

*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984*

*Civil Aviation Regulations 1988 and Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1988*

#### Queensland Government

*State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*

*Integrated Planning Act 1997*

*Environmental Protection Act 1994*

*Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995*

*Vegetation Management Act 1999*

*Nature Conservation Act 1992*

*Fisheries Act 1994*

*Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*

*Water Act 2000*

*Marine Parks Act 2004*

*Land Act 1994*

*Mineral Resources Act 1989*

*Queensland Heritage Act 1992*

*Transport Infrastructure Act 1994;*

*Transport Operations (Marine Pollution) Act 1995*

*Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994*

*Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*

*Building Act 1975*

*Forestry Act 1959*



## 1.9.2 Planning processes and standards

This section should discuss the project's consistency with existing land uses or long-term policy framework for the area (e.g. as reflected in local and regional plans) and with legislation, standards, codes or guidelines available to monitor and control operations on site. This section should refer to all relevant Queensland and regional planning policies. This information is required to demonstrate how the proposal conforms to state, regional and local plans for the area.

The proposal should be assessed against the assessment provisions within the Development Scheme for the APSDA and the Port of Abbot Point Land Use Plan. The Development Scheme for the APSDA will be used in the assessment of all applications for material changes of use within the APSDA. The Port of Abbot Point Land Use Plan will be used for the assessment of applications on strategic port land.

## 1.9.3 Controlled actions under Commonwealth legislation

The project is a controlled action under the Commonwealth Government's EPBC Act and the EIS should address potential impacts on MNES that were identified in the controlling provisions. The assessment of the impacts on MNES is to be undertaken by DEWHA in accordance with Part 8 of the EPBC Act.

A stand-alone report should be provided as an appendix to the EIS that exclusively and fully addresses the issues relevant to the controlling provisions. The report should comply with the following outline:

- Introduction
- Description of proposed action (as it would impact on MNES)
- Description of the affected environment relevant to the controlling provisions (i.e. describe the features of the environment that are MNES protected under the EPBC Act)
- Assessment of impacts on MNES and mitigation measures (in accordance with available guidelines and species recovery plans), including consideration of any potential offsets to ameliorate residual impacts
- Conclusions
- References.



## 2 Description of the project

The objective of this section is to describe the project (mine, railway, port, etc.) through its lifetime of construction and operation and decommissioning (including rehabilitation). This information is required to allow assessment of all aspects of the project, including which approvals may be required and how they may be managed through the life of the project.

### 2.1 Overview of project

The EIS should provide an overview of the project to put it into context. This section should include:

- a description of the key components of the project through the use of text and design plans where applicable
- the expected cost and overall duration and timing of the project
- the employment benefits from the construction and operational phases of the project
- a summary of any environmental design features of the project.

### 2.2 Location

This section should describe the regional and local context of each element of the project and associated infrastructure, illustrated on maps based on the GDA94 datum at suitable scales. Real property descriptions of project sites should be provided. Maps should show the precise location of project areas including, but not limited to the following:

- the location of the rail corridor, port and resource to be explored, developed or mined
- the location and boundaries of land tenures, in place or proposed, to which the project is or will be subject
- the location and boundaries of the project footprint showing all key aspects including excavations, subsidence areas, stockpiles, areas of fill, watercourses, plant locations, port facilities, water storages, buildings, site offices, structures, bridges, hardstands, car parks, etc., including easement widths and access requirements
- any part of the resource(s) not intended to be mined and any part of the resource(s) that may be sterilised by the proposed mining operations
- the location of any proposed buffers surrounding working areas
- the location of all proposed project transport (rail) and coal loading infrastructure for both new works and infrastructure, including the various coal transport options considered with an explanation for the rationale for the preferred transport option(s) for the project
- the location(s) of proposed accommodation sites
- the identification of all site access points to, from and within the project on maps, to assist in the assessment of emergency planning.

Consideration should be given to providing a rectified air photo enlargement to illustrate components of the project in relation to the land and mining tenures and natural and built features of the project study area.

## 2.3 Construction

Proposed pre-construction activities should be described for each element of the project (mine, railway, port, etc). This section should set out:

- up-grade, relocation, realignment or deviation of roads and other infrastructure
- extent of vegetation clearing and its disposal
- Disposal/reuse of surplus excavated material and if this material can be coordinated with concurrent construction activities in the vicinity
- any land acquisitions required, be it in full or as easements, leases, etc.
- an assessment of expected physical and chemical properties and quantities of soil/rock to be excavated
- details of any potential disruption to flows of waterways during construction and any diversion works required
- site establishment requirements for construction facilities including provision of site access, power, telecommunications, water supply and other infrastructure.

The extent and nature of the project's construction phase should be described, including any staging of the project with illustrations showing site boundaries, development sequencing and timeframes. For all the components of the project, the general description should include, but should not be limited to the following:

- the design, construction standards, construction methods and site management, including the containment and/or disposal of construction spoil
- works needed within project sites and off-site (e.g. erosion protection)
- general construction requirements including supply and storage of materials, types, sources, quantity and method of transport of construction materials
- the number and type of vehicles, machinery and equipment used for construction activities
- chemicals and hazardous goods to be utilised (if any)
- timetable for the construction phase
- licensing/permit requirements for the construction works
- general construction standards and site management including public safety and emergency aid/medical facilities to be provided on site and environmental management
- allowance for provision of power back-up in an emergency and potential impact on local supplies in the area
- cleanup and restoration (rehabilitation) of areas used during construction including any accommodation facilities and storage areas
- crossing techniques including restoration works that would be used at waterway crossings, and road, rail, and other service corridor crossings
- security.



## 2.4 Operations

This section should describe the activities involved in operating all aspects of the project, in particular:

### 2.4.1 Mine

#### 2.4.1.1 Mine life and mineral resource base

Specific details should be provided on the following:

- the proposed mine life and an outline of the coal resource base (further detail should be provided in [section 3.2.1](#), Geology)
- the quantity of coal to be mined annually including any proposed ramping up of production or staging of development.

#### 2.4.1.2 Mining methods and equipment

Specific details should be provided on the following:

- the mining type and methods to be used, including the major equipment to be used in the various components of the operation
- the use of different techniques in areas of different topographic or geo-technical character
- chemicals to be used.

The description should refer to, and be complemented by, the figures previously presented in [section 2.2](#) showing the locations of key aspects of the project. Additional figures should be provided if required.

#### 2.4.1.3 Mine sequencing

Specific details should be provided on:

- the proposed sequence and timing of mining of each seam within the mining lease
- the physical extent of excavations, location of stockpiles of overburden and/or coal reject to be handled during the project's operation or left after mining ceases—the description should include the rate of throughput of stockpiles of product, reject and overburden
- the proposed progressive backfilling of excavations
- the area disturbed at each major stage of the project
- the progressive rehabilitation of disturbed areas.

#### 2.4.1.4 Processing and products

This section should describe:

- key plant and equipment, processes and capacities
- indicative material balances for the processing plant, and the anticipated rates of inputs along with similar data on products and tailings streams
- data on any chemicals to be used
- location of proposed tailings disposal areas
- description of the types, quantities and characteristics of the products produced
- coal handling methods and facilities.

#### **2.4.1.5 Ongoing evaluation and exploration activities**

This section should describe the extent and nature of any proposed ongoing exploration or geological/geo-technical evaluation within the project area that may be required over the life of the project.

### **2.4.2 Railway**

#### **2.4.2.1 Railway description**

Information should be provided that illustrates the location and characteristics of the proposed railway corridor. Such information should include details in respect of railway gauges, easement widths, passing loops, train concepts, maximum tonnages and grades, bridges, and signalling. The potential for the future electrification of the line should be discussed.

The location of supporting facilities such as maintenance depots, communication installations, fuel storage, water supply, ballast supply sources, and the like should be identified and their operation described.

#### **2.4.2.2 Analysis of freight demand**

This section should outline an analysis of freight demand and logistics during operations. This should include descriptions of operating characteristics of the line and expected train movements, including initial traffic and growth scenarios and ultimate capacity expectations.

The location and nature of potential third party use of the line should be described. In particular, the connecting rail infrastructure and/or rail load out facilities should be identified.


It should also summarise any operational practices and design features intended to help manage any environmental impacts likely to arise from the railway's operation. A full description of impacts and their management measures should be provided in section 3 of the EIS.

### **2.4.3 Port**

#### **2.4.3.1 Port description**

Concept and layout plans should be provided highlighting proposed structures, plant and equipment associated with coal terminal operations. The description of the port and the layout of key components should include but be not limited to:

- port boundaries
- details of area to be dredged and dredged spoil disposal areas
- details of capital and maintenance dredging equipment and methods
- long-term dredge disposal strategy
- jetty and wharf alignment
- ship loading equipment
- berths for tugs and other non-bulk carrier vessels
- offshore ship mooring locations
- maritime infrastructure for navigation and ship monitoring capabilities
- any other associated facilities
- proximity to world heritage and marine park areas.



The location and nature of the processes and operations associated with the long-term operation of the Waratah terminal should be described including:

- terminal boundaries within the APSDA
- a general description of the operations of the coal terminal
- the capacity of stockpiling, in-loading and out-loading operations for each stage of the project.

#### 2.4.3.2 Product handling

The proposed methods and facilities to be used for coal storage and for transferring product from rail unloading to ship should be described and shown on plans at an appropriate scale. A summary of any environmental design features of the new facilities should be provided. The nature, sources, location and quantities of all materials to be handled, including storage and stockpiling of coal should be described.

## 2.5 Decommissioning and rehabilitation

This section should describe the options, strategies and methods for progressive and final rehabilitation of the environment disturbed by the project. The strategic approach to progressive and final rehabilitation should be described. A preferred rehabilitation strategy should be developed with a view to minimising the amount of land disturbed at any one time. The final topography of any excavations, subsidence areas, waste areas and dam sites should be shown on maps at a suitable scale. Specific attention should be given to ensuring overland flow capture does not facilitate the take of water for further uses post mining.


The strategies and methods presented for progressive and final rehabilitation of disturbed areas should demonstrate compliance with the rehabilitation goals and objectives of the DERM Guideline 18: *Rehabilitation requirements for mining projects* in relation to intergenerational equity, polluter pays principle, protection of biodiversity and maintenance of essential ecological processes. Land suitability assessment should follow the *Technical Guidelines for the Environmental Management of Exploration and Mining in Queensland, 1995*, except where superseded by Guideline 18. In particular, the strategies and methods for progressive and final rehabilitation should, as a minimum, have the following goals:

- safe for humans and wildlife
- non-polluting
- stable
- able to sustain an agreed post-mining land use.

Additional site specific goals should be tailored to address site specific issues.

A strategic level mine closure plan (ANZMEC & MCA 2000) could be used to address life-of-mine planning.

The means of decommissioning the project, in terms of the removal of plant, equipment, structures and buildings should be described, and the methods proposed for the stabilisation of the affected areas should be given. Information should be provided regarding decommissioning and rehabilitation of the plant site, removal of processing plant, rehabilitation of concrete footings and foundations, hardstand areas, storage tanks and wharfage (including any potential for reuse of these facilities). Options and methods for the disposal of wastes from the demolition of plant and buildings should be discussed in sufficient detail for their feasibility and suitability to be established.



Proposals to divert waterways during operations, and, if applicable, for the reinstatement of the waterways after operations have ceased, should be provided. In this case, hydrological processes should be restored as far as possible to resemble those which occurred prior to mining. Where dams or other infrastructure are to be constructed, proposals for the management of these structures after the completion of the project should be given. Also, the final drainage and seepage control systems and long-term monitoring plans should be described.

A description of topsoil management should consider transport, storage and replacement of topsoil to disturbed areas. The minimisation of topsoil storage times (to reduce fertility degradation) should also be addressed.

Detail of the impacts of the preferred rehabilitation strategy should be discussed in the appropriate subsections of [section 3](#)—Environmental values and management of impacts, particularly with regard to such issues as final landform stability, rehabilitation of flora and the long-term quality of water in any final voids. Implications for the long-term use and fate of the site should also be addressed, particularly with regard to the on-site disposal of waste and the site's inclusion on the environmental management register or contaminated land register.

Future land tenure arrangements post decommissioning of the project should be discussed.

Reference should also be made to infrastructure that is not intended to be decommissioned. Where this is the case the likely entity to which the infrastructure is intended to be transferred should be discussed together with the proposed environmental management regimes.

## 2.6 Associated infrastructure

This section should detail requirements for new infrastructure or the upgrading/relocating of existing infrastructure to service the project. Matters to be considered include workforce accommodation, transport, water supply and storage, stormwater drainage, sewerage, energy and telecommunications.

### 2.6.1 Workforce and accommodation

This section should provide a general overview of the number of personnel to be employed, the skills base of the required workforce and likely sources (i.e. local, regional or overseas) for the workforce during the construction and operational phases for each component of the project. Proposed workforce accommodation should also be outlined.

Consideration should be given to the Bowen Abbot Point Accommodation and Community Infrastructure Study currently being undertaken by the Whitsunday Regional Council and DIP.

Further details along with workforce recruitment and accommodation impacts should be addressed in [section 4.1](#).

### 2.6.2 Transport

This sub-section should describe arrangements for the transport of plant, equipment, products, wastes and personnel during both the construction phase and operational phases of the project. The description should address the use of existing local and regional facilities and all requirements for the construction, upgrading or relocation of any transport related infrastructure (e.g. roads, railways, ports, airstrips, barge and ferry facilities etc.).

Full details of transport volumes, modes and routes available in both the wet and dry seasons along with the assessment of transport impacts on existing infrastructure and impact mitigation measures should be provided in accordance with [section 3.9](#).

### 2.6.3 Water supply and storage

The EIS should provide information on water usage by the project, including the quality and quantity of all water supplied to project sites. In particular, the proposed and optional sources of water supply should be described (e.g. artesian and non-artesian bores, any surface storages, municipal water supply pipelines). If infrastructure is required for the purpose of supplying water to the project, for example, pipelines from water supplies to the project, then the impacts of such infrastructure are to be assessed as part of the project and discussed at each of the relevant sub-sections in [section 3](#).

Estimated rates of supply from each source (average and maximum rates) should be given along with estimates of demand from each source and an overall water balance presented. Any proposed water conservation and management measures should be described. Any proposed recycling measures should be fully described, including necessary storage and other infrastructure, and estimated concentrations of potential contaminants in operational storages to enable hazard and risk assessments of those structures.

Determination of potable water demand should be made for the project, including the temporary demands during the construction period. Details should be provided of any existing town water supply to meet such requirements. If water storage and treatment is proposed on site, for use by the site workforce, then this should be described.

### 2.6.4 Stormwater drainage

A description should be provided of any existing and proposed stormwater drainage system and the proposed disposal and/or re-use arrangements, including any off-site services and downstream impacts. Each element of the project needs to be addressed (e.g. mine, beneficiation and product handling). Further details should be provided in [section 3.4](#).

### 2.6.5 Sewerage

This section should describe, in general terms, any existing and proposed sewerage infrastructure required to service each project component. Volume estimates of existing and likely industrial and domestic effluent that will be produced should be provided and the proposed method of disposal identified. This should include the expected physical and chemical characteristics of such effluent. Further details should be provided in [section 3.8](#).

### 2.6.6 Energy

The EIS should describe all energy infrastructure and energy requirements, including electricity, natural gas, and/or solid and liquid fuel requirements for the construction and operation of the project. The locations of any easements should be shown on an appropriate plan.

Energy conservation should be briefly described in the context of any Commonwealth, state and local government policies.

Any proposed power station should be described, including type of equipment, fuel use and expected emissions to air.

### 2.6.7 Telecommunications

The EIS should describe the telecommunications proposed for the project and any impacts on existing telecommunications infrastructure (e.g. optical cables, microwave towers, etc.). Infrastructure owners need to be identified.

### 3 Environmental values and management of impacts

The functions of this section of the EIS are to:

- Describe the existing environmental values of the area that may be affected by the project. Environmental values should be described by reference to background information and studies, which should be included as appendices to the EIS.
- Describe the potential adverse and beneficial impacts of the project on the identified environmental values. Any likely environmental harm to the environmental values should be described.
- Describe any cumulative impacts on environmental values caused by the project, either in isolation or by combination with other known existing or planned sources of impact.
- Present environmental protection objectives and the standards and measurable indicators to be achieved.
- Describe the control strategies, proposed actions and technologies to be implemented for managing impacts to achieve the stated objectives and standards. Where relevant, alternative techniques to control and manage impacts to the nominated objectives should be discussed.
- Describe any likely residual environmental harm on environmental values, why it cannot be avoided and discuss potential offsets in accordance with the *Queensland Government Environmental Offsets Policy (QGEOP) 2008*. Offsets should also be discussed with regard to impacts on EPBC Act matters and reference made to the eight principles set out in the DEWHA's draft policy statement: *Use of Environmental Offsets under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and the accompanying discussion paper of August 2007.

This section should detail the environmental protection measures incorporated in the planning, construction, operation, decommissioning, rehabilitation and associated works for each component of the project. Measures should prevent, or where prevention is not possible, minimise environmental harm and maximise socio-economic and environmental benefits of the project. Preferred measures should be identified and described in more detail than other alternatives.

The EIS should describe any computational model used to make predictions of impacts and/or outcomes of mitigation measures. The description should address the inputs, assumptions, limitations, sensitivities, accuracy and precision of the model.

This section should address all elements of the environment, such as land, freshwater, groundwater, marine waters, coast, air, noise, nature conservation, cultural heritage, social and community, economy, waste, health and safety, hazards and risk, in a way that is comprehensive and clear.

It is recommended that the EIS follow the heading structure shown below separately analysing the components of mine, rail and port. The mitigation measures, monitoring programs, etc., identified in this section of the EIS should be used to develop the EMP for the project (see [section 8](#)).

## 3.1 Climate and climate change adaptation

### 3.1.1 Climate

This section should describe the rainfall patterns (including magnitude and seasonal variability of rainfall), air temperatures, humidity, wind (direction and speed) and any other special factors (e.g. temperature inversions) that may affect management of the project. Historic weather patterns in the project area and seasonal conditions (e.g. cyclones, thunderstorms, floods and storms) that may influence timing and/or construction methods should be discussed, including how this would be managed. Extremes of climate (e.g. droughts, floods, etc.) should be discussed with particular reference to water management at the project site.

The potential impacts due to climatic factors should be addressed in the relevant sections of the EIS. The impacts of rainfall on soil erosion should be addressed in [section 3.2](#). The impacts of storm events on the capacity of waste containment systems (e.g. site bunding / stormwater management and tailings dams) should be addressed in [section 3.4](#) with regard to contamination of waterways and in [section 3.8](#) with regard to the design of the waste containment systems. The impacts of winds, rain, humidity and temperature inversions on air quality should be addressed in [section 3.6](#).

### 3.1.2 Climate change adaptation

The implications of climate change on the project's environmental and commercial feasibility should be assessed in detail.

Impacts of climate change risks and adaptation measures should be considered and include the following:

- analyse risks to the project from climate change impacts (e.g. increased risk and severity of flood; increased vulnerability to more intense bushfires, sea level rise, etc.)
- identify adaptation measures to minimise risk to the project from climate change impacts, particularly where there may be a significant impact to human safety or property.

## 3.2 Land


This section should describe the existing environmental values of the land area that may be affected by the project. It should also define and describe the objectives and practical measures for protecting or enhancing land-based environmental values, describe how nominated quantitative standards and indicators may be achieved, and how the achievement of the objectives will be monitored, audited and managed.

### 3.2.1 Geology

#### 3.2.1.1 Description of environmental values

The EIS should provide a description, map and a series of cross-sections of the geology of the project area, with particular reference to the physical and chemical properties of surface and sub-surface materials and geological structures within the proposed areas of disturbance. The general suitability of the mine site overburden material for road building (or other productive use) should be discussed briefly.

Geological properties of all project sites which may influence stability, occupational health and safety, rehabilitation programs, or the quality of waste water leaving any area disturbed by the project should be described. In locations where the age and type of geology is such that significant fossil specimens (such as dinosaurs or their tracks) may be uncovered during construction/operations, the EIS should address the potential for significant finds.



Investigations into the physical, geo-mechanical and chemical properties of waste rock in both fresh and weathered forms needs to be determined for slope stability, rehabilitation and possible acid generation for waste rock dump design.

This section should also consider the geology underlying the proposed infrastructure corridors for coal transport, electricity easements, pipeline easements and any off-mine infrastructure. Of particular interest are any other mineral resources that may be impacted or sterilised by the infrastructure.

The EIS should provide a summary of the results of studies and surveys undertaken to identify and delineate the coal resources within the project area (including any areas underlying related infrastructure).

The location, tonnage and quality of the coal resources within the project area should be described in detail and include the modifying factors and assumptions made in arriving at the estimates. The resources should be estimated and reported in accordance with the *Australasian Code for Reporting of Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves* (the JORC Code available at [www.jorc.org/main.php](http://www.jorc.org/main.php)) and the principles outlined in the *Australian Guidelines for the Estimating and Reporting of Inventory Coal Reserves* (available at [www.jorc.org/pdf/coalguidelines.pdf](http://www.jorc.org/pdf/coalguidelines.pdf)), as appropriate.

### **3.2.1.2 Potential impacts and mitigation measures**

The EIS should analyse the effectiveness of the mining proposal in achieving the optimum utilisation of the coal resources within the project area and consider its impacts on other resources. It should demonstrate that the mining proposal will 'best develop' the coal resources, minimise resource wastage and avoid any unnecessary sterilisation or loss of these or any other of the state's coal, mineral, and petroleum (including gas and coal seam methane) resources that may be impacted upon or sterilised by the mining activities or related infrastructure.

## **3.2.2 Soils**

### **3.2.2.1 Description of environmental values**

A soil survey of the sites affected by the project should be conducted at a suitable scale, with particular reference to the physical and chemical properties of the materials that will influence erosion potential, storm water run-off quality, rehabilitation and agricultural productivity of the land. Information should also be provided on soil stability, suitability for construction of proposed facilities and any approved soil conservation plans.

Soil profiles should be mapped at a suitable scale and described according to the *Australian Soil and Land Survey Field Handbook* (McDonald et al, 1990) and *Australian Soil Classification* (Isbell, 2002). An appraisal of the depth and quality of useable soil should be undertaken. Information should be presented according to the standards required in the *Planning Guidelines: The Identification of Good Quality Agricultural Land* (DPI & DHLGP, 1993), and the State Planning Policy 1/92: Development and the Conservation of Agricultural Land (DME, 1995).

The requirement for soils mapping in terms of area and mapping scale should follow the Queensland Department of Mines and Energy: *Technical Guidelines for Environmental Management of Exploration and Mining in Queensland (1995)*. These guidelines recommend that disturbed areas be mapped more intensively than non-disturbed areas and provide guidance on acceptable mapping scale and site intensity.

Acid sulphate soil (ASS) investigations are required to meet State Planning Policy 2/02, Planning and Managing Development involving ASS where the proposed development would trigger one of the criterion listed in section 2.3 of that policy. All investigations should be conducted in accordance with the SPP2/02 guideline and the guidelines for *Sampling and Analysis of Lowland Acid Sulfate Soils in Queensland 1998*. Where disturbance to ASS is unavoidable, an ASS Management Plan should be prepared in accordance with the *Queensland Acid Sulfate Soil Technical Manual – Soil Management Guidelines*.



### 3.2.2.2 Potential impacts and mitigation measures

Possible erosion rates and management techniques should be described for all permanent and temporary landforms. The erosion potential (wind and water) and erosion management techniques should be outlined for each soil type identified. An erosion-monitoring program, including rehabilitation measures for erosion problems identified during monitoring, should also be outlined. Mitigation strategies should be developed to achieve acceptable soil loss rates, levels of sediment in rainfall runoff and wind-generated dust concentrations.

The EIS should include an assessment of likely erosion effects for all disturbed areas such as:

- areas cleared of vegetation
- waste dumps
- stockpiles
- dams, banks and waterway crossings
- subsidence areas
- the port area and surrounding buildings
- the mine site, including buildings
- access roads or other transport corridors
- areas under rehabilitation.

Methods proposed to prevent or control erosion should be specified and should be developed with regard to preventing soil loss in order to maintain land capability/suitability and preventing significant degradation of local waterways and adjacent marine and coastal habitats by suspended solids.

Consideration should be given to the amendment or revocation of any approved soil conservation plans as a result of project activities.


## 3.2.3 Land use and tenure

### 3.2.3.1 Description of environmental values

The EIS should provide a description of current land tenures, current land uses and identify the areas covered by Native Title claims in all project and relevant adjacent areas, with particular mention of land with special purposes. Additional land tenures required for the project should also be listed.

Maps at suitable scales showing existing land uses, tenures and infrastructure such as roads, railways, stock routes, pipelines, electricity and the like, should be provided at the project component locations, as well as the surrounding land that could be affected by the development. The maps should identify areas of conservation value and marine areas in any locality that may be impacted by the project. The location of existing dwellings and the zoning of all affected lands according to any existing town or strategic plan, or port land use plan or the Development Scheme for the Abbot Point State Development Area should be included.

The land use suitability of the affected area in terms of the physical and economic attributes should be described. The assessment should set out soil and landform subclasses assigned to soil mapping units in order to derive land suitability classes. The limitations and land suitability classification system to use is that in Attachment 2 of Land Suitability Assessment Techniques in the *Technical Guidelines for the Environmental Management of Exploration and Mining in Queensland (1995)*.



A land suitability map of the proposed and adjacent area should be provided, setting out land suitability and current land uses, e.g. for grazing of native and improved pastures and horticulture. Land classified as 'good quality agricultural land' in the Department of Environment and Resources Management (DERM) land classification system should be shown in accordance with the planning guideline, *The Identification of Good Quality Agricultural Land*, which supports State Planning Policy 1/92.

### **3.2.3.2 Potential impacts and mitigation measures**

The potential for the construction and operation of the project to change existing and potential land uses of the project site and adjacent areas, including impacts on other mining proposals, should be detailed. Consideration should be given to impacts arising from property disruption and severance, construction and maintenance. Post operations land use options should be detailed including suitability of the area to be used for agriculture, forestry, industry, or nature conservation. The factors favouring or limiting the establishment of those options should be given in the context of land use suitability prior to the project and minimising potential liabilities for long-term management.

The potential environmental harm caused by the project on the adjacent areas currently used for agriculture, urban development, recreation, tourism or other business and the implications of the project for future developments in the impact area including constraints on surrounding land uses should be described. If the development adjoins or potentially impacts on good quality agricultural land, then an assessment of the potential for land use conflict is required. Investigations should follow the procedures set out in the planning guideline, *The Identification of Good Quality Agricultural Land*, which supports State Planning Policy 1/92.

Incompatible land uses, whether existing or potential, adjacent to all aspects of the project, including essential and proposed ancillary developments or activities and areas directly or indirectly affected by the construction and operation of these activities should be identified and measures to avoid unacceptable impacts defined.

The EIS should describe how the proposal impacts on the strategic value of land within the APSDA with regard to integrity and functionality. Discussion should be provided on the most appropriate location for all components of the project within the APSDA, having regard to the purpose of the land use precincts and the objectives of the development scheme for the APSDA.

## **3.2.4 Topography and landscape character**

### **3.2.4.1 Description of environmental values**

Maps based on latitudes and longitudes using the GDA94 datum should be provided locating the project in both regional and local contexts. Topography of the project site should be detailed with contours at suitable increments at Australian Height Datum. Commentary on the maps should be provided highlighting the significant topographical features.

This section should also describe, in general terms, the existing character of the landscape that will be affected by the project. It should comment on any changes that have already been made to the natural landscape since European settlement. It should describe the general impression of the landscape that would be obtained while travelling through and around it.

This section should also describe existing landscape features, panoramas and views that have, or could be expected to have, value to the community whether of local, regional, state-wide, national or international significance. Information in the form of maps, sections, elevations and photographs should be used, particularly where addressing the following issues:

- identification of elements within the proposal and surrounding area that contribute to their image of the town/city as discussed in any local government strategic plan—city image and townscape objectives and associated maps
- major views, existing viewing outlooks, ridgelines and other features contributing to the amenity of the area

- focal points, landmarks (built form or topography), gateways associated with project site and immediate surrounding areas, waterways, and other features contributing to the visual quality of the area and the project site
- character of the local and surrounding areas including character of built form (scale, form, materials and colours) and vegetation (natural and cultural vegetation) directional signage and land use
- identification of the areas of the proposal that have the capacity to absorb land use changes without detriment to the existing visual quality and landscape character
- the value of existing vegetation as a visual screen.

#### **3.2.4.2 Potential impacts and mitigation measures**

The potential impacts of the project landscape character of the site and the surrounding area should be described. Particular mention should be made of any changes to the broad-scale topography and vegetation character of the area, such as due to spoil dumps, excavated voids, stockpiles, subsidence areas and broad-scale clearing. Details should be provided of measures to be undertaken to mitigate or avoid the identified impacts.

This section should analyse and discuss the visual impact of the project on particular panoramas and outlooks. It should be written in terms of the extent and significance of the changed skyline as viewed from places of residence, work, and recreation, from road, cycle and walkways and other known vantage points day and night, during all stages of the project as it relates to the surrounding landscape. The assessment is to address the visual impacts of the project structures and associated infrastructure, using appropriate simulation. Sketches, diagrams, computer imaging and photos are to be used where possible to portray the near views and far views of the completed structures and their surroundings from visually sensitive locations.

Special consideration is to be given to public roads, public thoroughfares and places of residence or work, which are within the line-of-sight of the project.

Details of the design and colour of any major structures, buildings or fixed plant and all proposed screenings either vegetative or material should be described and discussed where relevant to the minimisation of the visual impacts of the project. Where plantings for screening or landscaping are proposed, details should be provided of the species that will be used, and their likely provenance. Preference should be given to species native to the area.

Detail should be provided of all management plans to be implemented and how these will mitigate or avoid the identified impacts.

Management of the lighting of the project, during all stages, is to be provided, with particular reference to objectives to be achieved and management methods to be implemented to mitigate or avoid:

- the visual impact at night
- night operations/maintenance and effects of lighting on fauna and residents
- the potential impact of increased vehicular traffic
- changed habitat conditions for nocturnal fauna and associated impacts.

## 3.2.5 Land contamination

### 3.2.5.1 Description of environmental values

This section should discuss the potential for land contamination within the project area from existing and past uses, based on known land use history and the nature and concentrations of any contaminants. The review should identify land within the proposed mine, associated infrastructure corridors and any other areas affected by the proposed works, which has been used, or is being used, for a Notifiable Activity as listed in Schedule 2 of the EP Act, or is potentially contaminated, or is on the environmental management register or contaminated land register.

The EIS should include a preliminary site investigation for all properties that have been impacted by existing and past land uses that could have resulted in land contamination.

### 3.2.5.2 Potential impacts and mitigation measures

The EIS should discuss the management of any contaminated land and potential for contamination from construction, commissioning and operation, in accordance with the *Draft Guidelines for the Assessment and Management of Contaminated Land in Queensland (EPA, 1998)* and the *National Environment Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure 1999*.

The EIS should also describe the possible contamination of land from aspects of the project, including waste, saline water from coal seam gas extraction used for dust suppression, reject coal, overburden, coal washing plant and spills at chemical and fuel storage and handling areas.

This section should describe strategies and methods to be used to prevent and manage any land contamination resulting from the project, including the management of any acid generation or saline impacts from the mining activities and the management of chemicals and fuels to prevent spills or leaks.

## 3.2.6 Land disturbance

### 3.2.6.1 Potential impacts and mitigation measures

The EIS should contain strategies aimed at minimising the amount of land disturbed at any one time. The strategic approach to progressive rehabilitation and final decommissioning should be described. The consistency of the approach with relevant guidelines and the results of recent research should be described.


Management of all dams, roads, rail, port, electricity and other infrastructure during construction, operation and decommissioning phases should be described in detail.

The methods to be used for the project, including backfilling, covering, re-contouring, topsoil handling and revegetation, should be described. Consideration should be given to the use of threatened plant species during any landscaping and revegetation.

Where waterways are proposed to be diverted, the impact on land use due to hydrology changes, both upstream and downstream, should be described.

Where dams, roads, levee banks, waterway diversions and other infrastructure are to remain upon project decommissioning, proposals for the post-mining management and maintenance of these structures should be given. Management and maintenance arrangements should be supported by appropriate erosion and stability monitoring to substantiate long-term rehabilitation sustainability.

Proposed decommissioning of project operations should be described in detail, including consolidation, revegetation, fencing, and monitoring. Discussion of any decommissioning works should address rehabilitation of concrete footings and foundations, hard stand areas and storage tanks (including any potential for reuse of these facilities). Reference should also be made to [section 2.5](#).



A description of topsoil management should consider transport, storage and replacement of topsoil to disturbed areas. The topsoil management should also outline how soil from Good Quality Agricultural Land will be best utilised. The minimisation of topsoil storage times (to reduce fertility degradation) should also be addressed. Erosion and sediment control measures should be described, particularly in relation to the management of sodic and saline overburden material.

## 3.3 Nature conservation

This section should describe the existing environmental values for nature conservation that may be affected by the project in terms of:

- integrity of ecological processes, including habitats of rare and threatened species and ecological communities
- conservation of resources
- biological diversity, including habitats of rare and threatened species
- integrity of landscapes and places including wilderness and similar natural places
- aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.

The flora and fauna communities which are rare or threatened, environmentally sensitive localities including waterways, wetlands, riparian zone, wilderness and habitat corridors should be described and mapped. The description should include a fauna and flora species list, a terrestrial and marine vegetation map at appropriate scale and an assessment of the significance of native vegetation. The description should indicate any areas of state or regional significance identified in an approved biodiversity planning assessment produced by the DERM.

The EIS should demonstrate how the project (including all associated infrastructure requirements such as access tracks) would comply with the following:

- avoiding impact on areas of conservation value, rare and threatened species, and coastal wetlands, water quality, biodiversity values, connectivity and supporting ecological processes
- where avoidance is not possible, mechanisms to minimise impacts
- mitigation of impacts through rehabilitation and restoration
- measures to be taken to replace or offset the loss of conservation values where avoidance and mitigation of impacts cannot be achieved
- explanation of why measures above would not apply in areas where loss would occur.

Where relevant, this section should discuss environmental offset requirements in accordance with the QGEOP and taking into account the specific-issue offset policies.

### 3.3.1 Sensitive environmental areas

#### 3.3.1.1 Description of environmental values

The EIS should identify areas that are environmentally sensitive in proximity to the project. Environmentally sensitive areas should also include areas classified as having national, state, regional or local biodiversity significance, or flagged as important for their integrated biodiversity values. Consideration should be given to the following:

- World Conservation Union (IUCN) protected area categories, which include strict nature reserves, wilderness areas, national parks, natural monuments or features, habitat/species management areas, protected landscapes/seascapes and protected areas with sustainable use of natural resources.
- declared wild rivers or rivers subject to a declaration proposal

- aquatic reserves
- declared fish habitat areas
- wetlands listed in the Directory of Important Wetlands
- heritage/historic areas or items relating to biodiversity
- world heritage listings and sites covered by international treaties or agreements (e.g. Ramsar, Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement, China-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement, Republic of Korea-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement)
- national estates
- areas of cultural significance relating to biodiversity and scientific reserves.

The proximity of the project to any environmentally sensitive areas should be shown on a map of suitable scale. Areas that would be regarded as sensitive with regard to flora and fauna have one or more of the following features:

- important habitats of species listed under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NC Act) and/or the EPBC Act as 'presumed extinct', 'critically endangered', 'endangered', 'vulnerable' or 'rare'
- regional ecosystems recognised by the DERM as 'endangered' or 'of concern' or 'not of concern' but where permits are no longer granted due to being at threshold levels under State legislation, and/or ecosystems listed as 'presumed extinct', 'critically endangered', 'endangered' or 'vulnerable' under the EPBC Act
- ecosystems that provide important ecological functions, such as riparian vegetation, important buffer to a protected area, refugia or important habitat corridor between areas and wetlands
- protected areas which have been proclaimed under the NC Act or are under consideration for proclamation.

### 3.3.1.2 Potential impacts and mitigation measures

This section should discuss the following:

- the impact of the project on species, communities and habitats of local, regional, state or national significance
- proposals to mitigate impacts (e.g. timing of works, minimise width of disturbance, proposed rehabilitation of in-stream and floodplain disturbances)
- planned rehabilitation of vegetation communities and any relevant previous experience/experiments rehabilitating these communities
- offsets relating to residual impacts with regard to the Queensland Government specific-issues Environmental Offsets Policies, the Policy for Vegetation Management Offsets (NRW, 2007)—refer to the Regional Vegetation Management Code for Western Bioregions, as well as the draft policy statement on the use of environmental offsets under the EPBC Act.

Potential impacts and associated mitigation measures should be discussed further under [section 3.3.2](#) Terrestrial flora, [section 3.3.3](#) Terrestrial fauna, [section 3.3.4](#) Freshwater aquatic flora and fauna, and [section 3.3.5](#) Marine flora and fauna.

## 3.3.2 Terrestrial flora

### 3.3.2.1 Description of environmental values

The terrestrial vegetation communities within the affected areas should be described at an appropriate scale with mapping produced from aerial photographs and ground truthing, showing the following:

- location and extent of vegetation types including recognised regional ecosystem type descriptions, EPBC Act listed endangered ecological communities and any areas of national, state or regional significance
- location of vegetation types of conservation significance
- vegetation map unit descriptions, including their relationship to regional ecosystems. Sensitive or important vegetation types should be highlighted and their value as habitat for fauna and conservation of specific rare floral and faunal assemblages or community types discussed
- the current extent (bioregional and catchment) of protected vegetation types of conservation significance within the protected areas such as the National Reserve System and other protected areas (e.g. national parks, conservation parks, resource reserves, nature refuges)
- any plant communities of cultural, commercial or recreational significance
- the distribution and abundance of significant exotic and weed species.

The description should contain a review of published information regarding the assessment of the significance of the vegetation to conservation, recreation, scientific, educational and historical interests. The assessment should also include a description of vegetation (including re-growth and restored areas in addition to remnant vegetation) to indicate any areas of national, state, regional or local significance.

For each defined vegetation community likely to be impacted by the project, vegetation surveys should be undertaken at an appropriate number of sites, allowing for seasonal factors, as follows:

- all data requirements of the Queensland Herbarium CORVEG database should be collected
- appropriate minimum site sizes should be selected, observing recognised sampling approaches and to provide an adequate sample of surveyed communities
- a list of species present at each site should be recorded
- the relative abundance and community structure of plant species present should be recorded
- any plant species of conservation, cultural, commercial or recreational significance should be identified
- vegetation mapping and data should be submitted to the Queensland Herbarium to assist the updating of the CORVEG database
- specimens of species listed as 'protected plants' under the Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 1994, other than common species, are to be submitted to the Queensland Herbarium for identification and entry into the HERBRECS database.

The existence of rare or threatened species should be specifically addressed under sensitive areas. Any special landscape values of natural vegetation communities should be described.

Existing information on plant species may be used instead of new survey work provided that the data are derived from surveys consistent with the above methodology and describe existing conditions. Methodology used for flora surveys should be specified in the appendices to the report. Any existing information should be revised and comments provided on whether the areas are degraded, cleared or affected in ways that would affect their environmental value.

The occurrence of pest plants (weeds), particularly declared plants under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002* and weeds of national significance should be shown on a map at an appropriate scale. A weed management strategy should be provided.

The location of any horticultural crops in the vicinity of the project area should be shown.

### 3.3.2.2 Potential impacts and mitigation measures

This section should discuss all foreseen direct and indirect effects on terrestrial flora and vegetation and the potential level of environmental impact identified. Consideration of impacts, including the quantity of vegetation to be removed (in terms of the total area), whether the proposal will bisect remnants and the magnitude of edge effects. Action plans for protecting rare or threatened species and vegetation types identified as having high conservation value should be described and any obligations imposed by state or federal government biodiversity protection legislation or policy should be discussed.

Construction and operation of the project involving clearing, or translocation of vegetation should be described, and indirect impacts on vegetation not cleared (such as edge effects of mining activities and/or infrastructure in close proximity to riparian vegetation and fauna movement corridors) should be discussed. Where translocation is considered strict hygiene protocols must be described to ensure that no disease or pests are introduced into extant vegetation. For each component of the project, an assessment should be undertaken of the areas of state-owned land where commercial native forest log timber will be affected and where salvaged harvesting may be required.

Impacts during construction and operation of the project should be assessed. The number of hectares of remnant vegetation proposed to be cleared (by conservation status and regional ecosystem type) for the mine and each proposed infrastructure component should be identified. These figures should be discussed in terms of the long-term sustainability of these ecosystems to remain in the landscape at a regional level. Short- and long-term durations should be considered.

The description needs to include the potential for: impacts on protected areas (e.g. nature reserves, national parks, conservation parks, resource reserves, nature refuges); identifying the amount of vegetation to be removed from these protected areas; and impacts on other environmental values of these protected areas.

Measures to mitigate the impacts of the project on vegetation types identified as having high conservation values, listed species and sensitive habitat or the inhibition of propagation should be described. This should also include the identification of potential offset areas, in an 'offset strategy', consistent with QGEOP specific-issues offsets policies, to compensate for any loss of vegetation. Offsets must be discussed with regard to impacts on EPBC matters, reference should be made to the eight principles set out in the DEWHA's Draft *Policy Statement: Use of Environmental Offsets under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and its accompanying Discussion Paper of August 2007.

With regard to the project area, this section should include:

- the significance of impacts at a local, catchment, bioregional, state or national levels
- impact on any plants of potential or recognised environmental or economic significance
- a discussion of the ability of identified stands of vegetation to withstand any increased pressure resulting from the project and measures proposed to mitigate impacts
- a description of the methods to ensure progressive rehabilitation of disturbed areas following construction, including the species chosen for revegetation which should be consistent with the surrounding associations. Details should be provided of the proposed completion criteria and indicators to measure the success of the rehabilitation objectives. Monitoring programs must also be outlined which can validate and/or demonstrate the long-term sustainability of the rehabilitation. Consideration should be given to the establishment of reference sites within the same sub-catchment if possible (at least two for each ecosystem type being rehabilitated) that could be monitored to provide benchmarking against rehabilitation completion criteria and indicators.
- a plan to systematically check areas to be cleared over the projected forty years of the mine life. A commitment to undertake ongoing flora surveys should be a component of the EMP



- a draft weed management plan in an EMP, to be developed and finalised in consultation with land protection officers from the Department of Employment, Economic Development & Innovation (DEEDI) and local government environmental officers, to cover construction, rehabilitation and operation periods
- a description of the potential for the introduction and/or spread of weeds or plant disease, including:
  - identification of the origin of construction materials, machinery and equipment
  - vehicle inspection regime, which addresses the need for vehicle and machinery wash-down and any other hygiene protocols, including the requirement that all vehicles and equipment must be cleaned before starting the job and that these wash down areas contain water/soil away from creeks and gullies
  - staff/operator education programs
  - determination of the potential for the introduction of, or facilitation of, exotic, non-Indigenous and noxious plants.

The above assessment should also include, where relevant, MNES identified within the EPBC Act.

### 3.3.3 Terrestrial fauna

#### 3.3.3.1 Description of environmental values

The terrestrial and riparian fauna occurring in the areas affected by the project should be described, noting the broad distribution patterns in relation to vegetation, topography and substrate. Wildlife corridors and refugia should be identified and mapped. Targeted surveys should be undertaken for EPBC Act listed fauna and flora likely to be impacted upon by the proposal and include opportunistic surveys for any other potentially occurring fauna and flora.

The description of the fauna present or likely to be present in the area should include:

- species diversity (i.e. a species list) and indicative abundance of animals, including amphibians, birds, reptiles, mammals (including bats)
- any species that are poorly known but suspected of being rare or potentially threatened
- habitat requirements and sensitivity to changes; including movement corridors and barriers to movement
- the existence of feral or exotic animals, including maps of major pest infestations
- existence of any rare, threatened or otherwise noteworthy species/communities in the study area, including discussion of range, habitat, breeding, recruitment, feeding and movement requirements, and current level of protection (e.g. any requirements of protected area management plans)
- use of the area by migratory and nomadic birds in particular areas for breeding or significant congregations.

The EIS should contain results from surveys for these species. Surveys should be conducted at the appropriate time of the year when the species is known to be present on the areas to be affected by the project, so that identification and location of these species is optimal.

Methodology used for fauna surveys should be discussed with the DERM's regional office prior to carrying out the survey and be specified in the appendices to the report. The EIS should also indicate how well any affected significant communities and species are represented and protected elsewhere in the region where the site of the project occurs. Relevant site data should be provided to the DERM in a format compatible with the Wildlife Online Database for listed threatened species.

### 3.3.3.2 Potential impacts and mitigation measures

This section should discuss all foreseen direct and indirect effects on EPBC Act and state listed terrestrial fauna identified as affected through the additional surveys. Strategies for protecting rare or threatened species should be described, and any obligations imposed by state or federal government threatened species legislation or policy should be discussed.

Any EPBC Act or state recovery plans for potentially affected threatened species should be outlined, and strategies for complying with the objectives and management practices of relevant recovery plans should be described. Measures to mitigate the impact on habitat or the inhibition of normal movement, breeding or feeding patterns, and change to food chains should be described. Any provision for buffer zones and movement corridors, or special provisions for migratory or nomadic animals should be discussed.

With regard to terrestrial and riparian fauna, the assessment of potential impact should consider:

- impacts the project may have on terrestrial fauna, relevant wildlife habitat and other fauna conservation values, including:
  - direct and indirect impacts due to loss of range/habitat, food supply, nest sites, breeding/recruiting potential or movement corridors
  - cumulative effects of direct and indirect impacts
  - impacts on rare and threatened or otherwise noteworthy animal species
  - identification of the conservation importance of identified populations at the regional, state and national levels
  - whether the proposal will bisect habitat areas
  - risks associated with edge effects
- measures to minimise wildlife capture and mortality during construction and operation
- details of the methodologies that would be used to avoid injuries to livestock and native fauna as a result of the project's construction and operational works, and if accidental injuries should occur the methodologies to assess and handle injuries
- methods for minimising the introduction of feral animals, and other exotic fauna.

## 3.3.4 Freshwater aquatic flora and fauna

### 3.3.4.1 Description of environmental values

The aquatic flora and fauna occurring in the areas affected by the project should be described, noting the patterns and distribution in the waterways, with reference to EPBC Act and state listed fauna and flora. A description of the habitat requirements and the sensitivity of aquatic flora and fauna species to changes in flow regime, water levels and water quality in the project areas should be provided. The discussion of the fauna and flora present or likely to be present in the area should include:

- fish species, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and aquatic invertebrates occurring in the waterways within the project area, including any feral and exotic fauna species
- aquatic (waterway) macrophytes including native and exotic/weed species
- wetlands listed by the Commonwealth or State agencies as areas of national, state or regional significance, and their values and importance
- reference should be made to Ramsar wetlands of international importance in terms of proximity to proposal and likelihood of impacts
- a description of terrestrial species that are ecologically associated with wetlands or waterways and are likely to be affected by the project
- aquatic substrate and stream type

- Order or Family taxonomic rank of the presence and nature of stygofauna occurring in groundwater likely to be affected by the project. Sampling and survey methods should follow the best practice guideline which is currently published by the Western Australian Environmental Protection Authority – *Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors No. 54 (December 2003) and No. 54a (August 2007)*. For project areas outside of the mine site, the assessment should be limited to areas where an appropriate risk assessment has determined that the project will have a material impact upon the groundwater resource.

Wetlands should be mapped, described and analysed in a similar manner to that of regional ecosystems.

### **3.3.4.2 Potential impacts and mitigation measures**

This section should discuss all foreseen direct and indirect effects on aquatic flora and fauna, including strategies for protecting rare or threatened species and any obligations, legislation or policies imposed by the state and federal governments. The discussion should include:

- measures to minimise wildlife injury and mortality during construction, operation and decommissioning
- details of the methodologies that would be used to avoid injuries to native fauna as a result of the project's construction and operational works, and if accidental injuries should occur the methodologies to assess and handle injuries
- details of measures to be used to maintain fish passage in waterways and wetlands that will be affected
- methods for minimising the introduction of feral species, and other exotic fauna
- review of control measures to prevent increases in local populations and spread of biting insect species of pest and health significance associated with construction activities and disposal of construction wastes
- identification of necessary permits/authorities required by the project
- description of the potential for and mitigation measures to prevent the introduction, transfer or facilitation of exotic, non-Indigenous and noxious plants and water borne insect pests
- in any groundwater aquifers found to contain stygofauna, describe the potential impacts on stygofauna of any changes in the quality and quantity of the groundwater, and describe any mitigation measures that may be applied.

## **3.3.5 Marine flora and fauna**

### **3.3.5.1 Description of environmental values**

Marine flora and fauna occurring in the areas affected by the proposal should be described noting the patterns and distribution in coastal waters and estuaries. The description of the fauna and flora present in the areas should include all EPBC Act and state listed species:

- fish species, mammals, reptiles and crustaceans occurring in marine and estuarine waters, including pest species
- marine plants, including seagrass, saltmarsh and mangroves
- benthic, rocky shore and reefal habitats
- habitat for commercial and recreational fisheries
- particular reference habitat of any rare or threatened species
- proximity to declared Fish Habitat Areas
- presence of marine mammals and marine turtle foraging areas and nesting areas in vicinity of the proposed port area

- sea floor habitat and benthic macroinvertebrate communities in the vicinity of the spoil ground.

### 3.3.5.2 Potential impacts and mitigation measures

The potential impacts of the project on benthic habitat and marine fauna and flora, including sea grass beds, marine plants, saltpan, saltmarsh and mangrove communities, other fish habitats and other rare or threatened species should be assessed. The EIS should also discuss the potential for damage or disturbance to these ecosystems (including dependent faunal species). Mitigation methods to reduce impacts on identified environmental values should be outlined. Restoration of the disturbed area (especially where marine plants have been removed) should also be outlined.

The proponent should also identify and describe potential offsets, if required, for marine fish habitats and ecosystems in accordance with the QGEOP and its specific issue policy, Fish Habitat Management Operational Policy (FHMOP005). Offsets must be discussed with regard to impacts on EPBC Act matters, reference should be made to the eight principals set out in the Department's Draft *Policy Statement: Use of Environmental Offsets under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and its accompanying Discussion Paper of August 2007.

Vectors for an introduction of a marine pest, possible impacts of a marine pest incursion and proposed mitigation measures should be discussed together with on-going monitoring for marine pests in the port and proposed response arrangements if a marine pest incursion occurs.

Assessments should include, where relevant, MNES identified within the EPBC Act.

## 3.4 Water resources


This section should describe the existing environment for water resources that may be affected by the project in the context of environmental values as defined in the Queensland water quality guidelines for region-specific parameter values, and such documents as the EP Act, Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 1997 (EPP (Water)) and the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council, *State of the Environment Reporting Taskforce 2000* (ANZECC, 2000). The definition of waters in the EPP (Water) includes the bed and banks of waters, so this section should address impacts on benthic sediments as well as the water column.

Where a licence or permit will be required under *the Water Act 2000* to take or interfere with the flow of water, this section of the EIS should describe the amount of water to be taken and the details of the works to be constructed, and impacts of the works. Works that may require a dam failure impact assessment under the *Water Act 2000* should be described. Similarly, waterway barrier works may need approval under the *Fisheries Act 1994*, and if so should be addressed in the EIS.

### 3.4.1 Surface water and watercourses

#### 3.4.1.1 Description of environmental values

A description should be given of the surface watercourses and their quality and quantity in the area affected by the project with an outline of the significance of these waters to the river catchment system in which they occur. Details provided should include a description of existing surface drainage patterns and existing and historical flow regimes in major streams and wetlands. Details should also be provided of the likelihood of flooding, history of flooding including extent, levels and frequency, and a description of present and potential water uses downstream of the areas affected by the project.



Flood studies should include a range of annual exceedance probabilities for affected waterways, based on observed data if available or use appropriate modelling techniques and conservative assumptions if there are no suitable observations. The flood modelling should include local flooding due to short duration events from contributing catchments on site, as well as larger scale regional flooding including waterways downstream.

The EIS should provide a description, with photographic evidence of the geomorphic condition of any watercourses likely to be affected by disturbance or stream diversion. The results of this description should form the basis for the planning and subsequent monitoring of rehabilitation of the watercourses during or after the operation of the proposal.

An assessment is required of existing water quality in surface waters and wetlands likely to be affected by the proposal. The basis for this assessment should be a monitoring program, with sampling stations located upstream and downstream of the proposal. Complementary stream-flow data should also be obtained from historical records (if available) to aid in interpretation. Where no background receiving water quality data is available for this purpose, the proponent should collect samples as soon as possible in accordance with the appropriate guidelines and manuals.

The water quality should be described, including seasonal variations or variations with flow where applicable. A relevant range of physical, chemical and biological parameters should be measured to benchmark the extent of any potential future environmental harm on any affected waterway or wetland system. All sampling should be performed in accordance with the *Water Quality Sampling Manual (EPA, 1999)* or the most current edition.

The EIS should describe the environmental values of the surface waterways of the affected area in terms of:


- values identified in the EPP (Water)
- sustainability, including both quality and quantity
- physical integrity, fluvial processes and morphology of watercourses, including riparian zone vegetation and form
- downstream water uses, including their significance to the local community and/or environment
- any water resource plans, land and water management plans, declared or nominated wild river areas relevant to the affected catchment, particularly the *Water Resource (Burdekin Basin) Plan 2007* and the *Water Resource (Great Artesian Basin) Plan 2006* listed under the *Water Act 2000*
- *Australian and New Zealand Water Quality Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Waters (ANZECC, 2000)*.

#### **3.4.1.2 Potential impacts and mitigation measures**

The water management systems for all project elements should be described, addressing surface water quality, quantity, drainage patterns and sediment movements. The beneficial (environmental, production and recreational) use of nearby surface water should be discussed, along with any proposal for the diversion or crossing of affected waterways during mining, and the stabilisation, restoration and integration of drainage of those works with surrounding and downstream drainage features.

Where it is proposed to divert waterways during construction or operations, provision should be made for either the reinstatement of the waterways or decommissioning and rehabilitation such that the long term risk of environmental harm due to regional and local flooding is no greater than that prior to mining. Fish passage and access to fish habitats need to be addressed where waterways are to be diverted.

Analysis of potential impacts of the diversion of affected waterways on existing and proposed relocated roads should also be carried out. This analysis should identify any likely inundation and duration, as this may affect emergency vehicle access.



Monitoring programs should be described which will assess the effectiveness of management strategies for protecting water quality during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the project. Monitoring programs should also be designed to evaluate changes in the physical integrity and geomorphic processes associated with waterway diversions.

If on-site storage of water sourced from waste water treatment plants is proposed, the EIS should detail how this water would be managed to ensure environmental harm is avoided. The EIS should also describe the design features of any such storages to effectively contain saline water and other harmful constituents.

Key water management strategy objectives include:

- maintenance of sufficient quantity and quality of surface waters to protect existing beneficial downstream uses and environmental values of those waters (including maintenance of aquatic ecosystems) in accordance with EPP (Water)
- protection of the integrity of the marine environment
- maintenance or replication of the existing geomorphic conditions of local watercourses
- minimisation of impacts on flooding levels and frequencies both upstream and downstream of the project.

The EIS should include a risk assessment for uncontrolled emissions to water due to system or catastrophic failure, implications of such emissions for human health and natural ecosystems, and strategies to prevent, minimise and contain impacts.

The potential environmental harm to the flow and the quality of surface waters from all phases of the proposal should be discussed, with particular reference to their suitability for the current and potential downstream uses, including the requirements of any affected riparian area, wetland, estuary, littoral zone, and any marine and in-stream biological uses. The impacts of surface water flow on existing infrastructure should be considered with reference to the EPP (Water) and *Water Act 2000*

The EIS should describe the proposed mine stormwater drainage system and the proposed disposal arrangements, including any off-site services and downstream impacts. Options for storage and/or disposal of surplus groundwater (if applicable) should be discussed, including the beneficial and adverse impacts of each option. Licensing requirements for each option should be identified.


Where dams, weirs, voids or ponds are proposed, the EIS should investigate the effects of predictable climatic extremes (droughts, floods) upon the structural integrity of the containing walls, and the quality of water contained, and flows and quality of water discharged.

A dam failure impact assessment should be carried out for any proposed dams that, due to their size, trigger the need for such an assessment under the *Water Act 2000*. Any dams that are likely to be referable under the *Water Act 2000* should be noted and emergency response procedures incorporated into the project's EMP.

The need, or otherwise, for licensing of any dams (including referable dams) or waterway diversions, under the *Water Act 2000* and the *Fisheries Act 1994*, should be discussed. The process for water allocation and water discharge should be established in consultation with the DERM. Consideration should also be given to any water allocation and management plans.

Hydrologic/hydraulic studies should be undertaken to estimate the impacts on operational water storages, drainage and containment systems from local and regional storm events of relevant annual exceedance probability in accordance with DERM guidelines, commensurate with hazards associated with failure scenarios.

Consideration should be given to the potential impacts of the project on floodplain hydrology (including changes to flooding characteristics), existing land use and infrastructure and the integrity of any watercourses. Minimising risk to life and property and the protection of water (flood harvesting) entitlements are also issues that should be addressed. Potential impacts to the natural environment from stream diversions should also be discussed.



The environmental values of the surface waters potentially affected by the project should be identified in accordance with the EPP (Water). Surface water quality objectives should be determined after consideration of the *Queensland Water Quality Guidelines* (EPA, 2007) and the *Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality* (ANZECC & ARMCANZ, 2000).

Risks to farmland from potentially contaminated surface water flow, particularly during flood events and/or failure of levee banks, should be assessed.

Options for flood mitigation and the effectiveness of mitigation measures should be discussed with particular reference to sediment, salinity and other emissions of a hazardous or toxic nature to human health, flora or fauna. Proposals for maintenance of flood levees post-mining should be discussed.

### 3.4.2 Groundwater

#### 3.4.2.1 Description of environmental values

The EIS should review the quality, quantity and the local and regional significance of artesian and non-artesian groundwater resources within the project area. The review should include a survey of existing groundwater supply facilities (bores, wells, or excavations). The information to be gathered for analysis should include:

- location and type of facilities
- pumping parameters
- draw down and recharge at normal pumping rates
- seasonal variations (if records exist) of groundwater levels.

A network of observation points which would satisfactorily monitor groundwater resources both before and after commencement of operations should be developed.

This section should include reference to:

- Nature of the aquifer(s):
  - geology/stratigraphy—such as alluvium, volcanic, metamorphic
  - aquifer type—such as confined, unconfined
  - depth to and thickness of the aquifers
- Hydrology of the aquifer(s):
  - depth to water level and seasonal changes in levels
  - groundwater flow directions (defined from water level contours)
  - interaction with surface water
  - interaction with sea/salt water
  - possible sources of recharge
  - vulnerability to pollution.

The data obtained from the groundwater survey should be sufficient to enable specification of the major ionic species present in the groundwater, pH, electrical conductivity and total dissolved solids.

The environmental values of the underground waters of the affected area should be described in terms of:

- values identified in the EPP (Water)
- sustainability, including both quality and quantity
- physical integrity, fluvial processes and morphology of groundwater resources.

### 3.4.2.2 Potential impacts and mitigation measures

The EIS should include an assessment of the potential environmental impact caused by the project (and its associated project components) to local groundwater resources, including the potential for groundwater induced salinity.

The impact assessment should define the extent of the area within which groundwater resources are likely to be affected by the proposed operations and the significance of the project to groundwater depletion or recharge, and propose management options available to monitor and mitigate these effects. The response of the groundwater resource to the progression and finally cessation of the proposal should be described.

An assessment should be undertaken of the impact of the project on the local ground water regime caused by the altered porosity and permeability of any land disturbance.

Any potential for the project to impact on groundwater dependent ecosystems should be assessed and described. Avoidance and mitigation measures should be described.

The proponent should address potential impacts of surface water storage volumes on groundwater pressure and levels in relation to the sea/freshwater interface and associated ecology of wetlands.

An assessment of the potential to contaminate groundwater resources and measures to prevent, mitigate and remediate such contamination should be discussed.

## 3.5 Coastal environment

This section should describe the existing coastal environment, which may be affected by the project in the context of coastal values identified in State of the Coastal Zone Reports and environmental values as defined by the EP Act and environmental protection policies.

This section should also identify actions associated with the project that are assessable development within the coastal zone and will require assessment under the provisions of the *Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995*.

### 3.5.1 Marine water and sediment

#### 3.5.1.1 Description of environmental values

Information should be provided on water quality in the sea and in estuaries below the limit of tidal influence, including salinity, heavy metals, acidity, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, nutrients and oil in water. Interaction of freshwater flows with marine waters, its significance in relation to marine flora and fauna in and adjacent to the port area, should be discussed.


Environmental values of the coastal seas of the affected area should be described, as relevant, in terms of:

- Declared Fish Habitat Areas and marine plant communities protected under the *Fisheries Act 1994*
- values identified in the EPP (Water)
- the *State Coastal Management Plan* and any regional coastal plan
- the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
- the Great Barrier Reef Coastal Marine Park
- *the Great Barrier Reef Zoning Plan (2003)*
- the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

An assessment of physical and chemical characteristics of sediments should be provided for:

- the area to be dredged
- if offshore disposal is proposed, the disposal location for dredged material.





Any contaminants and implications for management of the dredged material should be described. The description of sediment characteristics should be based on the results of sediment sampling and analysis conducted as per a sampling and analysis plan approved under the *Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981* (Cwlth).

The chemical and physical characteristics of the material to be dredged, the spoil ground and control sites should be summarised. If the material is to be disposed in an offshore area, a statement as to the suitability of the sediment for unconfined ocean disposal should be made using the framework within the *National Assessment Guidelines for Dredging* (DEWHA, 2009).

Regard should be had to the possibility of historic shipwrecks and the application of the *Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976* (Cwlth)

### 3.5.1.2 Potential impacts and mitigation measures

This section defines and describes the water quality objectives and practical measures for protecting or enhancing coastal environmental values, to describe how nominated quantitative standards and indicators may be achieved, and how the achievement of the water quality objectives will be monitored, audited and managed.

Describe the water quality objectives used (including how they were developed), and how predicted activities will meet these objectives (refer to DERM's *Queensland Water Quality Guidelines* and the *Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality*, ANZECC, 2000).

The potential environmental harm caused by the project on coastal resources and processes should be described in the context of controlling such effects. The *State Planning Policy 2/02 – Planning and Managing Development involving Acid Sulfate Soils*, should be addressed as should the *State Coastal Management Plan 2001* and *Fish Habitat Guideline FHG 002 – Restoration of Fish Habitats* (DPIF, 1998).

The role of buffer zones in sustaining fisheries resources through maintaining connectivity between coastal and riparian vegetation and estuarine and freshwater reaches of catchments should be discussed.

Impacts on water quality due to increased water turbidity and other contaminants from the sediment due to dredging and sea disposal of material, if required, should be addressed and strategies developed to address potential impacts.

In addition to the above considerations, the following guidelines and standards should be considered:


- the EPP (Water), and any recent or proposed amendments that incorporate recommendations of the National Environment Protection Measures
- *Australian and New Zealand Water Quality Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Waters* (ANZECC, 2000)
- amelioration or mitigation measures to address each activity identified to impact on local and regional water quality
- any monitoring of water quality recommended during the dredging activities to ensure environmental values are protected.

The potential impacts of sediment quality on the marine environment should be discussed. This assessment should be guided by the suitability of the sediment for ocean disposal as determined by the framework outlined in the *National Assessment Guidelines for Dredging* (DEWHA, 2009).

## 3.5.2 Coastal processes

### 3.5.2.1 Description of environmental values

Describe the physical processes of the adjacent marine environment, including but not limited to currents, tides, storm surges, freshwater flows and their interaction in relation to the assimilation and transport of potential pollutants entering marine waters from the project area.



Describe the environmental values of the coastal resources of the affected area in terms of the physical integrity and morphology of landforms created or modified by coastal processes. Assessment should be based on hydrodynamic investigations and include a description of:

- the physical properties of the sediments likely to be dredged
- sediment dynamics at any proposed off-shore disposal ground based on the influence of tides, waves, currents and turbidity
- modelling should be presented of sediment plumes extending from dredging and any proposed spoil dumping activities, including estimated off-target deposition of suspended solids.

The relationship of these processes to marine flora and fauna and biological processes within the study area should also be discussed. The relationship between currents, wave actions and extreme events (such as cyclones) and how they influence coastal processes should be discussed.

### **3.5.2.2 Potential impacts and mitigation measures**

The impacts of development of the berth area on hydrodynamic processes within the port study area should be described. In particular, impacts on siltation and any implications for marine flora and fauna and/or biological processes should be discussed, including generation and migration of turbid plumes. Information on currents in the region should be used to predict impacts and these impacts on marine environmental values should be assessed.

## **3.6 Air quality**

### **3.6.1 Description of environmental values**

This section of the EIS should describe the existing air quality that may be affected by the project in the context of environmental values as defined by the EP Act and Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2008 [EPP Air].

Ambient air quality conditions in terms of particulate matter and any other major constituent of the air environment that may be affected by the proposal should be described for any sensitive localities such as residences. These descriptions should include any baseline monitoring results.

### **3.6.2 Potential impacts and mitigation measures**

The following air quality issues and their mitigation should be considered:

- quality and quantity of air emissions within the project area expected during construction and operational activities
- impacts of dust generation from construction activities (including blasting, excavation and extraction), especially in areas where construction activities are adjacent existing road networks or are in close proximity to sensitive receptors
- the features of the project designed to suppress or minimise emissions, including dust (PM10 fraction of particulates) and odours
- identification of climatic patterns that could affect dust generation and movement
- predicted changes to existing air quality from operational activities including mining, processing, stockpiling and loading of coal, transport of coal, vehicle emissions and shipping
- impacts on air quality from gaseous emissions including greenhouse gas emissions and ozone depleting substances

- the human health risk associated with emissions from the project of all hazardous or toxic pollutants whether they are or are not covered by the *National Environmental Protection Council (Ambient Air Quality) Measure* or the EPP (Air) that may reasonably be expected to impact human health
- air shed management and the contribution of the project to air shed capacity in view of existing and future users of the air shed for assimilation and dispersion of emissions
- impacts on terrestrial, aquatic and marine flora and fauna.

### 3.6.3 Greenhouse gas emissions and abatement

This section of the EIS should provide an inventory of projected annual emissions for each relevant greenhouse gas, with total emissions expressed in 'CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent' terms for the following categories:

- Scope 1 emissions, where 'Scope 1 emissions' means direct emissions of greenhouse gases from sources within the boundary of the facility and as a result of the facility's activities
- Scope 2 emissions, where 'Scope 2 emissions' means emissions of greenhouse gases from the production of electricity, heat or steam that the facility will consume, but that are physically produced by another facility
- briefly describe method(s) by which estimates were made.


The Department of Climate Change *National Greenhouse Accounts Factors* can be used as a reference source for emission estimates and supplemented by other sources where practicable and appropriate. As a requirement of the *National Greenhouse Accounts Factors*, estimates should include the loss of carbon sink capacity of vegetation due to clearing and impoundment.

Greenhouse gas abatement measures should be proposed, assessed and include:

- a description of the proposed measures (alternatives and preferred) to avoid and/or minimise greenhouse gas emissions directly resulting from activities of the project, including such activities as transportation of products and consumables, and energy use by the project
- an assessment of how the preferred measures minimise emissions and achieve energy efficiency
- a comparison between preferred measures for emission controls and energy consumption with best practice environmental management in the relevant sector of industry
- a description of any opportunities for further offsetting greenhouse gas emissions through indirect means.

The environmental management plan in the EIS should include a specific module to address greenhouse abatement. That module should include consideration of the following:

- commitments to the abatement of greenhouse gas emissions from the project with details of the intended objectives, measures and performance standards to avoid, minimise and control emissions
- commitments to energy management, including undertaking periodic energy audits with a view to progressively improving energy efficiency
- a process for regular review of new technologies to identify opportunities to reduce emissions and use energy efficiently, consistent with best practice environmental management

- 
- any voluntary initiatives such as projects undertaken as a component of the national Greenhouse Challenge Plus program, or research into reducing the lifecycle and embodied energy carbon intensity of the project's processes or products
  - opportunities for offsetting greenhouse emissions, including, if appropriate, carbon sequestration and renewable energy uses
  - commitments to monitor, audit and report on greenhouse emissions from all relevant activities and the success of offset measures.

## 3.7 Noise and vibration

### 3.7.1 Description of environmental values

This section should describe the existing environmental values that may be affected by noise and vibration from project activities.

If the proposed activity could adversely impact on the noise environment, baseline monitoring should be undertaken at sensitive receptors for the acoustic environment affected by the proposal. Environmental values and the respective sensitive receptors for the acoustic environment are defined in the *Environmental Protection (Noise) Policy 2008* [EPP (Noise)]. Long-term measured background noise levels should take into account seasonal variations. The locations of sensitive sites should be identified on a map at a suitable scale. The results of any baseline monitoring of noise and vibration in the proposed vicinity of the proposal should be described.

Sufficient data should be gathered to provide a baseline for later studies. The daily variation of background noise levels at nearby sensitive receptors should be monitored and reported in the EIS, with particular regard given to detailing variations at different periods of the night. Monitoring methods should adhere to accepted best practice methodologies, relevant DERM guidelines and Australian standards, and any relevant requirements of the EPP (Noise).

Comment should be provided on any current activities near the project area that may cause a background level of ground vibration (e.g. major roads, quarrying activities, etc.).

### 3.7.2 Potential impacts and mitigation measures

The need or otherwise for noise modelling should take into account the distance of relevant project sources of noise from neighbouring sensitive receptors such as residential and commercial developments believed to be sensitive to the effects of noise. Noise from mining, beneficiation and power generation components of the project should be modelled, where appropriate, using a suitable acoustic model covering the construction and operational phases.

The assessment of noise impacts at neighbouring sensitive receptors, should include matters raised in the document: *The health effects of environmental noise – other than hearing loss* (enHealth Council, 2004) or later editions, ISBN 0 642 82304 9. Regard should also be had to *Interest in Planning Schemes No. 3 (Queensland Transport)* and *Queensland Rail Code of Practice for Railway Noise Management (November 2007)*.

The potential environmental harm of noise and vibration at all potentially sensitive places, in particular, any place of work or residence should be quantified in terms of objectives, standards and indicators to be achieved and measurable indicators. Particular consideration should be given to emissions of low-frequency noise that is, noise with components below 200 Hz.

The assessment should also include environmental impacts on terrestrial animals and avifauna, particularly migratory species. Proposed measures for the minimisation or elimination of impacts should be provided, including details and illustrations of any screening, lining, enclosing or bunding. A discussion should be provided of timing schedules for construction and operations with respect to minimising environmental nuisance and harm from noise. This description should also include temporary sensitive places, if applicable. Reference should also be made to the DERM Guideline: *Planning for Noise Control*.

Information should be supplied on blasting which might cause ground vibration or fly rock on, or adjacent to, the site with particular attention given to places of work, residence, recreation, worship and general amenity. The magnitude, duration and frequency of any vibration should be discussed. A discussion should be provided of measures to prevent or minimise environmental nuisance and harm. Blasting noise and vibration limits are provided in the EP Act, section 440ZB Blasting. Reference should also be made to the DERM Guideline: *Noise and vibration from blasting*.

The assessment should also address off-site noise and vibration impacts that could arise due to increased road, rail or other transportation directly resulting from the project.

Any potential for ground vibration effects on underground pipelines and telecommunication lines should be examined.

## 3.8 Waste

### 3.8.1 Waste generation

This section should provide technical details of waste generation, treatment, minimisation and management. All sources of waste to be generated during the construction, operational and decommissioning stages of the project should be identified and described in this section. Refer to each of the waste streams previously described and provide references to more detailed descriptions of the relevant environmental values in other sections of the EIS.

### 3.8.2 Waste management

The EIS should provide details of waste management strategies (including reduction, reuse, recycling, storage, transport and disposal of waste) which demonstrate that waste minimisation and cleaner production techniques and designs have been implemented through the selection of processes, equipment and facilities to prevent or minimise environmental impacts.

This section should assess the potential impact of all wastes to be generated during the construction, operational and decommissioning stages of the project, and provide details of each waste in terms of:

- operational handling and fate of all wastes including storage
- on-site treatment methods proposed for the wastes
- methods of disposal (including the need to transport wastes off-site for disposal) proposed to be used for any trade wastes, liquid wastes and solid wastes, including waste generated by the workforce and the extent of use of local government facilities
- the potential level of impact on environmental values
- proposed discharge/disposal criteria for liquid and solid wastes
- measures to ensure stability of any dumps and impoundments should be described
- methods to prevent, seepage and contamination of groundwater from stockpiles and/or dumps should be given
- market demand for recyclable waste (where appropriate) should be addressed
- waste minimisation techniques processes proposed
- decommissioning of the site.

Having regard for best practice waste management strategies and the *Environmental Protection (Waste) Policy 2000*, the proposals for waste avoidance, reuse, recycling, treatment and disposal should be described in the appropriate sub-section below. Information should also be provided on the variability, composition and generation rates of all waste produced at the site and processing plant.

Cleaner production waste management planning should be detailed especially as to how these concepts have been applied to preventing or minimising environmental impacts at each stage of the proposal. Measures to improve natural resource use efficiency (e.g. energy and water), integrated processing design, any co-generation of power and by-product reuse as shown in a material/energy flow analysis should be presented.

The following information is required to enable the resource management agencies and other stakeholders to assess the efficiency of resource use, and allocation issues.

- **Air emissions**—this section should provide information on air emissions, including particulates, fumes and odours, during the construction and operation stages of the project. Particulate emissions include those that would be produced by any industrial process, or disturbed by wind action on stockpiles and conveyors, or by transportation equipment (e.g. trucks, either by entrainment from the load or by passage on unsealed roads). The methods to be employed in the mitigation of impacts from air emissions should be described in the [section 3.6](#) Air Quality.
- **Excavated waste**—this section should describe and show the location, design and methods for constructing dumps for waste rock and subsoil. The location of the dumps should be shown on a map relative to topography and other natural features of the area.
- **Tailings**—this section should describe the tailings waste produced by preparation and/or processing plants and the proposed methods for its disposal. Describe alternative options for tailings disposal including the proposed location, site suitability and volume of any tailings storage and/or disposal site(s), including the method of construction.

Describe the approximate quantity of tailings to be produced by the project and its processing plant annually for the life of the mine. Tailings characterisation information should also be presented in this section.

The construction of the tailings storage facility should be described with regards to construction material and design. The EIS should address how the tailings storage facility complies with relevant codes for the construction of such containment systems.

Describe the strategies to monitor and manage seepage into ground and surface waters. The location of the storage and/or disposal site with regard to adjacent waterways should be described.

- **Solid waste disposal**—describe the quantity and quality of solid wastes (other than waste rock, subsoil and tailings addressed in other sections) and the proposed methods of their disposal. The proposed location, site suitability, dimensions and volume of any landfill, including its method of construction, should be shown.
- **Liquid waste**—a description should be presented of the origin, quality and quantity of wastewater, sewerage, contaminated runoff and any immiscible liquid waste originating from the project other than that addressed in other sections. Particular attention should be given to the capacity of wastes to generate acid, and saline or sodic wastewater and the potential for this water to contain metals and metalloids.
- **Ship Waste**—details should be provided on the management of ship waste, including:
  - handling, treatment and disposal of solid quarantine waste
  - ship's sewage
  - ship's washings and slops.

Details of expected volumes of ballast water to be discharged in port, the source of the ballast, location of ship discharges, risk of introducing marine pests and proposed controls, including ballast water inspections, should be specified. The management of ballast water and risk of introduced marine pests should be discussed in the context of the MARPOL Convention and Commonwealth requirements and systems.

## 3.9 Transport

### 3.9.1 Transport methods and routes

The assessment of impacts on transport infrastructure should be presented as separate sub-sections of the EIS, for each project-affected mode, as relevant (road, rail, air and sea). The assessment should provide sufficient information to allow an independent assessment to be made of how existing transport infrastructure will be affected by the project at the local and regional level.

The EIS should detail:

- any proposed new or alterations to transport-related infrastructure required by the project (as distinct from impact mitigation works). This includes modifications to roads for access works and realignments, rail lines (including level crossings and services) and air and sea port facilities. The EIS should also include the construction of any project-related plant and utilities, within or impacting on the jurisdiction of any transport authority.
- hazardous material transport, including fuel or other combustible material. This should be considered in relation to the Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) *Transport Operations (Road Use Management – Dangerous Goods) Regulation 2008* and *Transport Infrastructure (Dangerous Goods by Rail) Regulation 2008*.
- expected volumes/tonnage of project inputs and outputs of transported raw materials, wastes, hazardous goods, finished products and so on for all phases of the project
- how identified project inputs and outputs will be moved through the transport network (volume/tonnage, composition, trip timing and routes)
- traffic generated by workforce personnel including visitors (mode, volume, composition, timing and routes)
- likely heavy and oversize/indivisible loads (volume, tonnage, composition, timing and routes) highlighting any vulnerable structures or deficient road width or geometry along proposed routes
- the approvals process to acquire and manage the rail corridor.

### 3.9.2 Potential impacts and mitigation measures

The impact assessment should include:

- details of assessment methodology adopted with a summary of consultation undertaken with transport authorities (for example, DTMR and local government) regarding the scope of the impact assessment and methodology to be used
- details of all base data assumptions, including current condition of the affected network and its performance
- details on possible interruptions to transport operations, including any delays to road traffic at any rail crossings
- details of any impacts on the natural environment within the jurisdiction of an affected transport authority (for example road and rail corridors)
- details on the nature and likelihood of product-spill during transport if relevant
- **road impacts**—in assessing road impacts, reporting should be in general accordance with DTMR, *Guidelines for Assessment of Road Impacts of Development (2006)*, available on the DTMR website: [www.mainroads.qld.gov.au](http://www.mainroads.qld.gov.au) and include:
  - an assessment of project impacts (from either transport or project operations) on the safety, efficiency and condition of road operations and assets
  - an assessment of project impacts on the safety and efficiency of project access points, key intersections, pipeline and railway crossing points
  - an assessment of project impacts on overland water-flows and their interaction with the road network
  - an assessment of project impacts on any existing or proposed pedestrian/cycle networks
  - an assessment of project impacts on any existing public transport networks (assets and services).
- **rail impacts**—in assessing rail impacts, the proponent should consider:
  - project impacts on the amenity and health of adjacent land users as a result of dust, noise and vibration
  - impacts on passenger transport and services, should the project generate large public transport trip movements.
- **air and sea ports**—in assessing air and sea impacts, the proponent should consider project impacts on the ongoing operation of existing air and sea port facilities, including capacity of throughput and any land-use impacts as a result of the project's operations.
- Mitigation strategies to address project impacts should be included for each project-affected transport mode. The proponent should discuss and recommend how identified impacts will be mitigated so as to maintain safety, efficiency and condition of each mode. These mitigation strategies should be prepared by the proponent in close consultation with relevant transport authorities and include:
  - consideration of any transport authority's works program and forward planning
  - proposed construction plans of all required transport infrastructure works in accordance with relevant and accepted authority standards and practices
  - timing and responsibilities of these works (when and by whom)
  - a summary of relevant approvals and legislative requirements needed to implement mitigation strategies including transport infrastructure works required by the project.



## 3.10 Indigenous cultural heritage

### 3.10.1 Description of Indigenous cultural heritage values

The EIS should describe the known Indigenous cultural heritage values that may be affected by the project. An Indigenous cultural heritage survey (as part of the Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) process or otherwise) should be undertaken for significant Indigenous objects and significant Indigenous areas. The Indigenous cultural heritage survey should:


- refer to the DERM Indigenous Site Database and any existing literature relating to the affected areas
- refer to:
  - the consultation and negotiation with traditional owners and the outcomes about:
    - significant Indigenous objects and significant Indigenous areas
    - confidentiality of culturally sensitive information
  - the involvement of traditional owners in field surveys.
- include locations of significant Indigenous objects and significant Indigenous areas identified during the survey and which are likely to be impacted by the project
- provide a report of work done which includes background research, relevant environmental data and methodology, as well as results of field surveys, significance assessment and conclusions and management recommendations (having due regard for any confidentiality requirements specified by community representatives).

### 3.10.2 Potential impacts and mitigation measures

The management of Indigenous cultural heritage impacts should be detailed in either a native title agreement with traditional owners or in a CHMP, with the native title agreement or plan to be developed in a form that complies with the provisions of Part 7 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*, thereby meeting the cultural heritage duty of care. The agreement or plan must provide a process for the conduct of comprehensive cultural heritage investigations and the identification of significant Indigenous objects and significant Indigenous areas in the proposed project area. It is also to provide a process for the management of those objects, areas and values identified in the proposed project area.

The agreement or plan should include the following:

- a process for including Indigenous communities or Indigenous parties in the identification, management and protection of Indigenous cultural heritage in the project area
- a process for undertaking a comprehensive and systematic cultural heritage assessment
- processes for the mitigation, management and protection of identified cultural heritage objects and areas in the project area, and in any areas to be affected by development of any associated infrastructure, both during construction and operational phases of the project
- provision for the management of the accidental discovery of cultural material, including burials, in the project area
- processes for determining any requirements for monitoring of the project during construction and measures by which any monitoring program is to be implemented
- Indigenous cultural heritage induction and awareness programs for project staff, subcontractors and staff, consultants and agents of the project
- a conflict resolution process.



The development of the agreement or plan should be negotiated with all relevant stakeholder representatives, subject to any confidentiality specified by the Indigenous community, registered native title applicants, and/or Indigenous parties as appropriate.

As a minimum, impact assessment, management and protection strategies should satisfy statutory responsibilities and duties of care under the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* and the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984* (Cwlth).

If a CHMP has not been approved by the time of submission of the EIS to the Coordinator-General then the following should be provided:

- a outline of the draft CHMP, subject to any confidentiality provisions, with the position of the endorsed cultural heritage parties
- details of the proposed steps and timeframes for seeking the ratification of the CHMP.

## 3.11 Non-Indigenous cultural heritage

### 3.11.1 Description of non-Indigenous cultural heritage values

The EIS should describe the existing environmental values for non-Indigenous cultural heritage that may be affected by the project activities. The non-Indigenous cultural heritage survey should:

- refer to:
  - the *Australian Heritage Places Inventory*
  - the *Queensland Heritage Register* and other information regarding places of potential non-Indigenous cultural heritage significance
  - local government heritage register
  - any existing literature relating to the affected areas
- refer to consultations and negotiations with the local community and historical societies about:
  - places of non-Indigenous cultural heritage significance
  - the significance of any non-Indigenous cultural heritage places located or identified
- include locations of culturally significant sites likely to be impacted by the project
- provide a constraints' analysis of the proposed development area to identify and record non-Indigenous cultural heritage places
- show on maps, the location of mining areas with historical significance
- provide a report of work done which includes background research, relevant environmental data and methodology, as well as results of field surveys, significance assessment and conclusions and management recommendations (having due regard for any confidentiality requirements specified by community representatives).

As a minimum, investigations and consultation should be undertaken in such manner and detail to satisfy statutory responsibilities and duties of care, under the EPBC Act and *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*.



### 3.11.2 Potential impacts and mitigation measures

The proponent should provide an assessment of any likely effects on sites of non-Indigenous cultural heritage values, including but not limited to the following:

- description of the significance of artefacts, items or places of conservation or non-Indigenous cultural heritage value likely to be affected by the project and their values at a local, regional and national level
- recommended means of mitigating any negative impacts on non-Indigenous cultural heritage values and enhancing any positive impacts
- where relevant, negotiations with Queensland Heritage Council and the DERM regarding management of places of historic heritage significance, taking account also of community interests and concerns
- documented management strategies in accordance with the outcomes of negotiations with Queensland Heritage Council, DERM and the community.

As a minimum, impact assessment, management and protection strategies should satisfy statutory responsibilities and duties of care, including those under the EPBC Act and *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*.

# 4 Social values and management of impacts

## 4.1 Social

The social impact assessment (SIA) should be conducted in consultation with the DIP Social Impact Unit. Matters to be considered include the social and cultural area, community engagement, a social baseline study, a workforce profile, potential impacts and mitigation measures and management strategies.

It is recognised that the nature of the assessment may need to take into account the relative profiles of the mine, the rail corridor, and the port facilities, and their respective workforces for construction and operation.

### 4.1.1 Social and cultural area

The SIA should define the project's social and cultural area of influence taking into account:

- the potential for social and cultural impacts to occur at the local, district, regional and state level
- the location of other relevant proposals or projects within the local area, district, or region
- the location and types of physical and social infrastructure, settlement and land use patterns
- the social values of the local area, district, and region that might be affected by the project (e.g. including integrity of social conditions, visual amenity and liveability, social harmony and wellbeing, and sense of community)
- Indigenous social and cultural characteristics such as native title rights and interests and cultural heritage.

### 4.1.2 Community engagement

Consistent with national and international good practice and industry commitment to the concept of a 'social licence to operate', the proponent should engage at the earliest practical stage with likely affected parties to discuss and explain the project, and to identify and respond to issues and concerns regarding social impacts. Consequently, this section of the SIA should detail the community engagement processes through which the proponent conducted open and transparent dialogue with stakeholders with an interest in the project's planning and design stages and future operations including affected local authorities and relevant state authorities. Engagement processes will involve consideration of social and cultural factors, customs and values, including relevant consideration of linkages between environmental, economic, and social impact issues is required.

### 4.1.3 Social baseline study

In concert with a community engagement process, a targeted baseline study of the people residing in the project's social and cultural area is required to identify the project's critical social issues, the potential adverse and positive social impacts, and assist in the development of mitigation and benefit strategies and measures to address these issues. The social baseline study should be based on qualitative, quantitative, and participatory methods, be supplemented by community engagement processes, and reference relevant data contained in local and state government publications, reports, plans, guidelines and documentation, including regional plans and, where available, community plans.

The social baseline study should describe and analyse a range of demographic and social statistics as determined relevant to the project's social and cultural area including:

- major population trends/changes that may be occurring irrespective of the project
- total population (the total enumerated population for the social and cultural area and the full time equivalent transient population), 18 years and older
- estimates of population growth and population forecasts resulting from the proposal
- family structures
- age and gender distributions
- education, including schooling levels
- health and wellbeing measures
- cultural and ethnic characteristics
- the Indigenous population including age and gender
- income including personal and household
- labour force by occupation and industry
- housing costs (monthly housing repayments (percentage of dwellings in each category), and weekly rent (percentage of dwellings in each category), housing tenure type and landlord type, household and family type
- housing availability and affordability: the rental market (size, vacancy rate, seasonal variations, weekly rent by percentage dwellings in each category); the availability and typical costs of housing for purchase, monthly housing repayments by percentage dwellings in each category; and the availability of social housing
- disability prevalence
- the social and economic index for areas, index of disadvantage—score and relative ranking
- crime, including domestic violence
- any other indicators determined through the community engagement process as relevant.

The social baseline study should take account of current social issues such as details of:

- the social infrastructure including community and civic facilities, services and networks that help individuals, families, groups and communities meet their social needs, maximise their potential for development, and enhance community wellbeing (for definition see *South East Queensland Plan 2005-2026 Implementation Guidelines No. 5*: [www.dip.qld.gov.au/resources/guideline/Implementationguideline5.pdf](http://www.dip.qld.gov.au/resources/guideline/Implementationguideline5.pdf))
- settlement patterns including the names, locations, size, history and cultural aspects of settlement in the social and cultural area
- the identity, values, lifestyles, vitality, characteristics and aspirations of communities in the social and cultural area, including Indigenous communities
- land use and land ownership patterns including rural properties, farms, croplands and grazing areas including on-farm activities near the proposed activities, the number of properties directly affected by the project, and the number of families directly and indirectly affected by the project including Indigenous traditional owners and their families, property owners, and families of workers either living on the property or workers where the property is their primary employment
- use of the social and cultural area for forestry, fishing, recreation, business and industry, tourism, aquaculture, and Indigenous cultural use of flora and fauna (e.g. bush tucker and medicinal plants).

#### 4.1.4 Workforce profile

The SIA should include a profile of the workforce which describes:

- the number of personnel to be employed, the skills base of the required workforce and the likely sources (i.e. local, regional or overseas) for the workforce during the construction and operational phases for each component of the project
- the estimated number of people to be employed during construction and operation, and arrangements for their transport to and from the project areas, including proposed use of regional or charter air services
- estimates should be provided according to occupational groupings and variations in the workforce numbers for the duration of the project and show anticipated peaks in worker numbers during the construction period.

The SIA should provide an outline of recruitment schedules and policies for recruitment of workers, addressing recruitment of local and non-local workers including Indigenous workers and people with a disability

If re-locatable camp sites are to be used to accommodate the workforce, details on the number, size, location (shown on a map), management, proximity to the construction site, and typical facilities for these sites should be provided. Information should outline any local government or other regulatory approvals required for establishment and operation of such camps, such as for building, health and safety and waste disposal purposes.

The section should provide information in relation to the location of other major projects or proposals under study within the social and cultural area together with workforce numbers.

#### 4.1.5 Potential impacts

This section of the SIA should assess and describe the type, level, and significance of the project's social impacts (both beneficial and adverse) on the local and cultural area, based on outcomes of community engagement processes and the social baseline study. Furthermore, it should:

- describe and summarise outcomes of community engagement processes including the likely response of the affected communities, including Indigenous people
- include sufficient data to enable affected local and state authorities to make informed decisions about how the project may affect their business and plan for the continuing provision of social infrastructure in the project's social and cultural area. If the project is likely to result in a significant increase in the population of the area, then the proponent should consult the relevant management units of the state authorities, and summarise the results of the consultations.
- Address and describe the impacts including direct, indirect and secondary impacts resulting from any existing projects and the proposed project including the important cause and effect relationships between human activities and resources, ecosystems, traditional Indigenous lands, and human communities. An assessment of the size, significance, and likelihood of these impacts should be considered at the local and regional level taking into account the following possible issues:
  - key population/ demographic shifts; disruptions to existing lifestyles, the health and social wellbeing of families and communities; social dysfunction including alcohol and drugs, crime, violence, and social or cultural disruption due to population influx
  - the needs of vulnerable groups including women, children and young people, the aged and people with a disability
  - Indigenous peoples including cultural property issues

- local, regional and state labour markets, with regard to the source of the workforce. This information is to be presented according to occupational groupings of the workforce. In relation to the source of the workforce, information is required as to whether the proponent, and/or contractors, are likely to employ locally or through other means and whether there are initiatives for local employment business opportunities.
- proposed new skills and training related to the project including the occupational skill groups required and potential skill shortages anticipated
- comment on how much service revenue and work from the project (e.g. provisioning, catering and site maintenance) would be likely to flow to the project's social and cultural area, particularly if a fly-in, fly-out workforce is proposed
- impacts of both construction and operational workforces, their families, and associated contractors on housing and accommodation availability and affordability, and land use and land availability. The capability of the existing housing stock, including rental accommodation, to meet any additional demands created by the project is to be discussed at a local, regional and state scale including direct impacts on Indigenous people.

The SIA should include an evaluation of the potential cumulative social impacts resulting from the project including an estimation of the overall size, significance and likelihood of those impacts. Cumulative impacts in this context are defined as the additional impacts on population, workforce, accommodation, housing, and use of community infrastructure and services, from the project, and other proposals for resource development projects in the area which are publicly known or communicated by DIP, if they overlap the proposed project in the same time frame as its construction period.

#### **4.1.6 Mitigation measures and management strategies**

For identified social impacts, social impact mitigation strategies and measures should be presented to address:

- the recruitment and training of the construction and operational workforces and the social and cultural implications this may have for the host community, including if any part of the workforce is sourced from outside the social and cultural area
- housing and accommodation issues, in consultation with relevant local authorities and state government agencies, with proposals for accommodating the project workforce and their families that avoid, mitigate or offset any short and medium term adverse effects on housing affordability and availability, including the rental market, in the social and cultural area
- the demographic changes in the profile of the region and the associated sufficiency of current social infrastructure, particularly health and welfare, education, policing and emergency services
- the adequate provision of education, training and employment for women, people with a disability, and Indigenous peoples.

The proponent should describe any consultation about acceptance of proposed mitigation strategies and how practical management and monitoring regimes are proposed to be implemented.

A draft social impact management plan should be presented that promotes an active and ongoing role for impacted communities and local authorities through the project life cycle from planning through to approvals, construction, operations and decommissioning. The draft plan should cover:

- assignment of accountability and resources
- updates on activities and commitments
- mechanisms to respond to public enquiries and complaints

- mechanisms to resolve disputes with stakeholders
- periodic evaluation of the effectiveness of community engagement processes
- practical mechanisms to monitor and adjust mitigation strategies and action plans
- action plans to implement mitigation strategies and measures.

## 4.2 Health and safety

### 4.2.1 Description of public health and safety community values

This section should describe existing community values for public health and safety that may be affected by the project. Populations likely to be affected by air emissions, including odours, should be identified and described. Particular attention should be paid to those sections of the population, such as children and the elderly that are especially sensitive to environmental health factors.

### 4.2.2 Potential impacts and mitigation measures

This section should define and describe the objectives and practical measures for protecting or enhancing health and safety community values, describe how nominated quantitative standards and indicators may be achieved for social impacts management, and how the achievement of the objectives will be monitored, audited and managed.

The EIS should assess the effects on the project workforce of occupational health and safety risks and the impacts on the community in terms of health, safety, and quality of life from project operations and emissions. Any impacts on the health and safety of the community, workforce, suppliers and other stakeholders should be detailed in terms of health, safety and quality of life from factors such as air emissions, odour, dust and noise.

An assessment of driver fatigue for workers travelling to and from regional centres and key destinations should be discussed.

Map(s) should be provided showing the locations of sensitive receptors, such as, but not necessarily limited to, kindergartens, schools, hospitals, aged care facilities, residential areas, and centres of work (e.g. office buildings, factories and workshops). The EIS, illustrated by the maps, should discuss how planned discharges from the project could impact on public health in the short and long term, and should include an assessment of the cumulative impacts on public health values caused by the project, either in isolation or by combination with other known existing or planned sources of contamination.

The EIS should include a review of control measures to prevent increases in local populations and spread of biting insect species of pest and health significance associated with construction activities and disposal of construction wastes.

The EIS should address the project's potential for providing disease vectors. Measures to control and prevent mosquito and biting midge breeding sites during construction and operation should be described with reference to Queensland Health's *Guidelines to minimise mosquito and biting midge problems in new development areas*.

Any use of recycled water should be assessed for its potential to cause infection by the transmission of bacteria and/or viruses by contact, dispersion of aerosols, and ingestion (e.g. via use on food crops). Similarly, the use of recycled water should be assessed for its potential to cause harm to health via the food chain due to contaminants such as heavy metals and persistent organic chemicals. Practical monitoring regimes should also be recommended in this section.



# 5 Impacts on the state and local economies and management of impacts

## 5.1 Economy

### 5.1.1 Description of affected local and regional economies

This section should describe the existing economy in which the project is located and the economies materially impacted by the project. In particular, the following should be addressed:

- define the economy in which the project is to be located
- describe the economy including:
  - gross regional product or other appropriate measure of annual economic production
  - population
  - labour force statistics
  - infrastructure
- describe the regional economy's key industries and their contribution to regional economic income
- discuss regional resource endowment, competitive advantage and expected future growth
- describe the key regional markets relevant to the project:
  - labour market
  - housing and land markets
  - construction services and building inputs market
- with regard to the region's key industries:
  - provide information on current input costs (e.g. wage rates, building costs, housing rent, etc.)
  - provide information on land values in the region by type of use.

### 5.1.2 Potential Impacts and mitigation measures

The potential impacts should consider regional, state and national perspective as appropriate to the scale of the project. Impacts on small regional communities and their economic viability should also be addressed.

The analysis should include the direct economic impacts on industry and the community including:

- property values
- industry output
- employment
- factor incomes.

The analysis should also:

- assess any forgone industry output from the project
- assess any forgone opportunities and impacts to households (e.g. recreation, increased travel times, etc.)
- assess the indirect impacts likely to flow to other industries and economies from the development of the project. This should also consider the implications of the project for future development.

#### **5.1.2.1 Strategies for local participation**

The assessment of economic impacts should outline:

- strategies for assessing the cost effectiveness of sourcing local inputs from the regional economy during the construction, operation and rehabilitation of the project
- employment strategies for local residents including members of Indigenous communities and people with a disability, including a skills assessment and recruitment and training programs to be offered
- strategies to meet obligations under any existing Indigenous Land Use Agreement
- strategies responding to government policy, where relevant, relating to:
  - the level of training provided for construction contracts on Queensland Government building and construction contracts, with regard to the *Queensland Government Building and Construction Contracts Structured Training Policy* (the 10 percent policy)
  - Indigenous employment opportunities, with regard to the *Indigenous Employment Policy for Queensland Government Building and Civil Construction Projects* (the 20 percent policy)
  - the use of locally sourced goods and services, with regard to the *Local Industry Policy* (Department of State Development, 1999).

#### **5.1.2.2 Strategies to mitigate disruption to the local economy during construction and operation**

The economic assessment should:

- identify all potential changes to industry practices likely to occur during construction and operation of the project
- identify all potential impacts on households (e.g. travel time, noise, etc.) likely to occur during construction and operation of the project
- estimate the cost of these changes if material
- describe the measures to be taken to minimise disruption or alleviate cost impacts of the project
- potential for existing government policies and support programmes in mitigating impacts.

#### **5.1.2.3 Impact upon property management**

This section should address the current and future management processes for adjacent properties which are likely to be impacted by the project during construction and/or operation. Mention should be made of:

- the impact of the project on existing agricultural land uses and management practices (e.g. disruption to stockyards, fences, water points, sowing or harvesting of crops, movement of livestock, agricultural machinery and any loss of agricultural land, etc.)
- the range of measures required to mitigate real and potential disruptions to rural practices and management of properties.



## 5.2 Sustainable development

The EIS should provide a comparative analysis of how the project conforms to the objectives for 'sustainable development' (see the *National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development (1992)*, available from the Commonwealth Government Publishing Service).

This analysis should consider the cumulative impacts (both beneficial and adverse) of the project from a life-of-project perspective, taking into consideration the scale, intensity, duration and frequency of the impacts to demonstrate a balance between environmental integrity, social development and economic development.

This information is required to demonstrate that sustainable development aspects have been considered and incorporated during the scoping and planning of the project.

## 6 Hazard and risk

### 6.1 Hazard and risk assessment

A preliminary hazard identification exercise should be conducted in order to identify the nature and scale of hazards that might occur during the construction and operation of the project.

This would be expected to include hazards such as:

- construction accidents
- accidental release of hazardous goods or other materials
- fires associated with incidents arising from the project activities
- vulnerability of the project area to bushfire, flooding, cyclones and other natural disasters.

A set of representative incident scenarios should be selected. This set should include worst case scenarios.

A risk assessment consistent with Australian/New Zealand Standard for Risk Management AS4360, should be conducted. The study should assess risks during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the project and should be assessed in quantitative terms where possible. The analysis should be expressed in terms of safety, human health, injury and fatality.

In regard to the on-site handling and storage of explosive raw material, consultation is encouraged with the Chemical Hazards and Emergency Management Unit within the Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

Details should be provided on the safeguards that would be employed or installed to reduce the likelihood and severity of hazards, consequences and risks to persons, fauna and environmentally sensitive sites within and adjacent to the project area.

### 6.2 Emergency management plan

An outline of proposed emergency management procedures should be provided for the range of situations identified in the above risk assessment where there are measurable risks. This should include an overview of the objectives and management principles to be adopted for the preparation of a detailed emergency plan (including emergency response and recovery/cleanup procedures) in consultation with the relevant emergency services. Planning should include reference to State Planning Policy 1/03, *Mitigating the Adverse Impacts of Flood, Bushfire and Landslide*.

In particular, the following should be presented:

- contingency plans to deal with hydrocarbon (e.g. diesel, lubricating oils, etc.) oil spills during construction, operation and maintenance of the project
- contingency plans to account for natural disasters such as storms, flooding and fires during the construction, operation and maintenance phases
- emergency planning and response procedures that have been determined in consultation with state and regional emergency service providers
- plans for involvement of the relevant state agencies (such as the Queensland Police Service and Department of Community Safety, including regional representatives from the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service, Emergency Management Queensland and the Queensland Ambulance Service ) in relation to emergency medical response and transport and first aid matters.



## 7 Cumulative impacts

The purpose of this section is to provide clear and concise information on the overall impacts of the project, and to discuss the interrelationship of these impacts. This is in addition to the discussion of cumulative impacts which feature in the relevant sections. The cumulative impacts as they relate to particular issues (e.g. water management, cultural heritage, social and economic costs and benefits, community disruption and accommodation, etc.) may also be discussed in this section. These impacts should be considered over time or in combination with other impacts because of the scale, intensity, duration or frequency of the impacts.

The cumulative impacts of the project, in combination with other proposed mining projects, on the biodiversity and ecological function of the area should be assessed within the EIS.

The requirements of any relevant state planning policies, environmental protection policies, national environmental protection measures, water resource planning and any other relevant plans should also be addressed.

The methodology to be used to determine the cumulative impacts of the project should be discussed. The methodology should detail the range of variables to be considered including, where applicable, relevant baseline or other criteria upon which the incremental aspects of the project should be assessed.



## 8 Environmental management plan

This section of the EIS should detail the EMP developed for the project. The EMP should be developed from, and be consistent with, the preceding information in the EIS and be consistent with the DERM guideline *Preparing an Environmental Management Overview Strategy* for non-standard mining projects.

The EMP should comprise separate environmental management plans to address the discrete project elements involved and should meet the content requirements of section 203 of the EP Act.

An EMP should provide control actions in accordance with agreed performance criteria for specified acceptable levels of environmental harm.

In addition, the EMP should identify:

- potential impacts on environmental values
- mitigation strategies
- relevant monitoring parameters, site replication, monitoring frequency, equipment, methods, analysis, quality assurance procedures undertaken and qualifications of the personnel involved
- appropriate indicators and performance criteria
- reporting requirements
- appropriate corrective actions, should an undesirable impact or unforeseen level of impact occur
- the recording of and response to complaints.

The aim of the EMP is to provide:

- commitments by the proponent to practical and achievable strategies and design standards (performance specifications) for the management of the project to ensure that environmental requirements are specified and complied with an integrated plan for comprehensive monitoring and control of impacts
- local, state and federal government authorities, stakeholders and the proponent with a common focus for approvals conditions and compliance with policies and conditions
- the community with evidence that the environmental management of the project is acceptable.

The recommended structure of the EMP is:

<b>Element/issue</b>	Aspect of construction or operation to be managed (as it affects environmental values)
<b>Operational policy</b>	The operational policy or management objective that applies to the element
<b>Performance criteria</b>	Measurable performance criteria (outcomes) for each element of the operation



<b>Implementation strategy</b>	The strategies, tasks or action program (to nominated operational design standards) that would be implemented to achieve the performance criteria
<b>Monitoring</b>	The monitoring requirements to measure actual performance (i.e. specified limits to pre-selected indicators of change)
<b>Auditing</b>	The auditing requirements to demonstrate implementation of agreed construction and operation environmental management strategies and compliance with agreed performance criteria
<b>Reporting</b>	Format, timing and responsibility for reporting and auditing of monitoring results
<b>Corrective action</b>	The action (options) to be implemented in case a performance requirement is not reached and the person(s) responsible for action (including staff authority and responsibility management structure)

An EMP should commit to manage, enhance or protect identified environmental values. The commitments should contain the following components for performance criteria and implementation strategies:

- environmental protection objectives for enhancing or protecting each relevant value
- indicators to be measured to demonstrate the extent to which the environmental protection objective is achieved
- environmental protection standards (a numerical target or value for the indicator), which defines the achievement of the objective
- an action program to ensure the environmental protection commitments are achieved and implemented. This will include strategies in relation to:
  - communication
  - long-term management of environmental offsets
  - continuous improvement
  - environmental auditing
  - monitoring
  - reporting
  - staff training
  - a decommissioning program for land proposed to be disturbed under each relevant aspect of the project.



## 9 Conclusions and recommendations

The EIS should make conclusions and recommendations with respect to the project based on the studies presented, the EMP and conformity of the project with legislative and policy requirements.

## 10 References

All references consulted should be presented in the EIS in a recognised format.

## 11 Recommended appendices

### 11.1 Final TOR for this EIS

A copy of the final TOR should be included in the EIS.

### 11.2 TOR cross-reference table

A cross reference table should be provided which links the requirements of each section/subsection of the TOR with the corresponding section/subsection of the EIS where those requirements have been addressed.

### 11.3 Development approvals

A list of the development approvals required by the project should be presented.

### 11.4 EPBC report

A report addressing MNES and potential impacts of the project should be provided.

### 11.5 Consultation report

A list of advisory agencies should be provided in a summary consultation report, which should also list the federal, state and local government agencies consulted, and the individuals and groups of stakeholders consulted. A summary of the issues raised by these groups, and the means by which the issues have been addressed, should be provided in the text of the EIS.

The EIS should summarise the results of the community consultation program, providing a summary of the groups and individuals consulted, the issues raised, and the means by which the issues were addressed. The discussion should include the methodology used in the community consultation program including criteria for identifying stakeholders and the communication methods used.

Information about identifying affected parties (as defined by the EPBC Act) and interested and/or affected persons (as defined by the EP Act) should be included.

### 11.6 Study team

The qualifications and experience of the study team and specialist sub-consultants should be provided.



## 11.7 Glossary of terms

A glossary of technical terms and acronyms should be provided.

## 11.8 Specialist studies

All reports generated on specialist studies undertaken as part of the EIS are to be included as appendices. These may include:

- flora and fauna studies including the subregional analysis of representativeness and adequacy of protection for the terrestrial/riparian vegetation communities and their component flora and fauna taxa within the affected areas
- an integrated assessment of relative biodiversity/conservation values, based on the methodology outlined in the EP Act
- air pollution, noise and vibration
- waterway hydrology
- groundwater
- geology
- economic studies and/or cost-benefit analyses
- hazard and risk studies
- land use and land capability studies.

## 11.9 Corporate environmental policy

The proponent should attach a copy of its corporate environmental policy and planning framework document.

## 11.10 List of proponent commitments

A list of all commitments made by the proponent in the EIS should be provided together with a reference to the relevant section in the report.