

Environmental Protection Act 1994 (EP Act) – Section 42

Draft terms of reference for an environmental impact statement (EIS)

Proposed Saraji East Mining Lease Project

The proponents, BHP Coal Pty Ltd, QCT Mining Pty Ltd, Mitsubishi Development Pty Ltd, QCT Investment Pty Ltd, BHP Queensland Coal Investments Pty Ltd, QCT Resources Pty Ltd and Umal Consolidated Pty Ltd, also known as the BM Alliance Coal Operations Pty Ltd (BMA), on behalf of the Central Queensland Coal Associates (CQCA) Joint Venture, propose to develop a greenfield single-seam underground coal mine development and associated project infrastructure which would involve the extraction of up to seven million tonnes per year of metallurgical product coal for the export market over a life of 25 to 30 years. The relevant mining tenures are exploration permit for coal (EPC) 837 and EPC 2103, mining lease applications (MLAs) 70459, 70383 and granted mining leases (MLs) 1775, 1782, 1784 and 70142. The proposed project would be located approximately 30 kilometres north of Dysart in Central Queensland.

On 24 May 2013, BMA applied for a new site specific environmental authority (EA) for coal mining with the former Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM), now the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP). On 25 June 2013, DERM issued a Notice of Information Request for the EA application, requiring an assessment by environmental impact statement (EIS).

The proposed project was referred on 5 October 2016 to the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Energy (EPBC 2016/7791). On 18 November 2016, the Department of the Environment and Energy determined the proposed project to be a controlled action under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The controlling provisions are sections 18 and 18A (listed threatened species and communities) and 24D and 24E (A water resource, in relation to coal seam gas development and large coal mining development). The project will be assessed under the bilateral agreement between the Commonwealth and the State of Queensland (section 45 of the EPBC Act) using the EIS prepared under the EP Act.

BMA has prepared and submitted the draft terms of reference (TOR) for an EIS for the proposal to EHP.

A copy of the draft TOR may be viewed at:

- Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
Floor 3, 400 George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000
- Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
22-30 Wood Street
MACKAY QLD 4740
- Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
99 Hospital Road
EMERALD QLD 4720
- Moranbah Library
Grosvenor Complex
Batchelor Parade, Town Square
MORANBAH QLD 4744

This public notice, the draft TOR and a description of the project is available on the EHP website at <https://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/>, by contacting the proponent on 1800 078 797, emailing metcoalinfo@bhpbilliton.com, or on web page <http://www.bhpbilliton.com/environment/regulatory-information>.

Written submissions

EHP’s chief executive invites written comments from any person in relation to the draft TOR, within the comment period **from 20 February 2017 to 5pm 31 March 2017**. Please address written comments to:

The Chief Executive
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
Attention: The EIS Coordinator (Saraji East Mining Lease Project)
GPO Box 2454
BRISBANE QLD 4001
or by email to eis@ehp.qld.gov.au

Please note that it is a statutory requirement for all submitted comments to be forwarded to the proponent for consideration and their provision of a response to EHP.

When the EIS is released, public submissions will be invited. For further information about the EIS process for this proposal, contact the EIS Coordinator on 13QGOV (13 74 68) or email eis@ehp.qld.gov.au.

