

# Terms of Reference for the Grosvenor West Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Proposed by Carabella Resources Ltd

October 2012



Prepared by: Environmental Impact Assessments Unit, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection

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## Introduction

Carabella Resources Limited is a coal exploration and development company. It currently holds interests in a portfolio of 10 coal exploration tenements covering a total exploration area of approximately 4400 square kilometres (km<sup>2</sup>) in the Bowen, Mulgildie, Clarence–Moreton and Eromanga basins in Queensland.

The proposed Grosvenor West Project (GWP) is located approximately 160 kilometres (km) south-west of Mackay in Central Queensland, 10 km north-west of Moranbah and 60 km south of Glenden.

The GWP includes a resource suitable for extraction by either open-cut or underground mining options. Supporting either mining option, the associated infrastructure would include administration and maintenance buildings, a coal handling and preparation plant (CHPP), transport infrastructure, water storage facilities, CHPP waste storage facilities and waste rock emplacements. The GWP may access existing power and water infrastructure that runs through or adjacent to the proposed mine site area.

The EIS will address the options for rail access from the CHPP to existing rail infrastructure. Potential transport corridors exist to the north and south of the proposed GWP, consisting of a rail loop, access tracks and maintenance roads.

Open-cut and underground coal mining options were assessed as part of the GWP Concept Study and both were shown to be feasible development options. Either option would allow for the development of a mining operation producing approximately five million tonnes per year (Mt/y) run-of-mine (ROM) coal resulting in 3.5 Mt/y of product coal. Annual production for the open-cut scenario would vary over time, with peak production of up to six Mt/y occurring for 10 years after coal production commences, and a significant ramp down period towards the end of mine life. Total mine life is expected to be up to 20 years, with first coal production predicted from late 2015.

The EIS will describe the proposed mining operation as an open-cut or underground mine.

The project was determined to be a controlled action under the Commonwealth's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) on 1 June 2012 (EPBC 2012/6281). The controlling provisions for the project under the EPBC Act are listed threatened species and ecological communities (s. 18 and s. 18A), World Heritage Properties (s. 12 and s. 15A), National Heritage Places (s. 15B and s. 15C), Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (s. 24B and s. 24C), and listed migratory Species (s. 20 and s. 20A). Queensland's EIS process has been accredited for the assessment under the EPBC Act in accordance with the Bilateral Agreement between the Commonwealth of Australia and the State of Queensland (2012).

Information on the assessment of projects under the EPBC Act, including referrals and public notices, can be found on the Australian Government's Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (SEWPaC) website at [www.environment.gov.au](http://www.environment.gov.au).

## Executive summary

The executive summary conveys the project's most important aspects and options to the reader in a concise and readable form. Use plain English and avoid the use of jargon and obscure terms. The structure of the executive summary should follow that of the EIS, and focus strongly on the key issues and conclusions.

## Glossary of terms

Provide a glossary of technical terms, acronyms and abbreviations before the main text of the EIS.

## 1 Introduction

Explain why the EIS has been prepared and what it sets out to achieve—in particular, the level of detail required to satisfy assessment of the approvals being sought. Define the audience of the EIS.

## 1.1 Project proponent

Provide details of the project proponents, including details of any joint venture partners.

## 1.2 Project description

Provide and illustrate a brief description of the key elements of the project. Summarise any major associated infrastructure requirements. Detailed descriptions of the project should follow in section 3.

## 1.3 Project objectives and scope

State the objectives that have led to the development of the project and briefly outline the events leading up to the project's formulation, including alternatives, envisaged time scale for implementation and project life, anticipated establishment costs and actions already undertaken within the project area.

Describe the current status of the project and outline the relationship of the project to other developments or actions that may relate, whether or not they have been approved. The consequences of not proceeding with the project will also be discussed.

## 1.4 The EIS process

The purpose of this section is to clarify methodology and objectives of the EIS under the relevant legislation.

### 1.4.1 Methodology of the EIS

Describe the EIS process steps, timing and decisions to be made for relevant stages of the project. Provide a brief description of studies or surveys that have been undertaken to help develop the project and prepare the EIS. Describe any baseline studies or investigations used in the EIS that were undertaken before the EIS process started. Outline how the consultation process (which will be described in detail in section 1.5) integrated with the other components of the impact assessment, including the stages, timing and mechanisms for public input and participation.

The information in this section is required to ensure:

- relevant legislation is addressed
- readers are informed of the process to be followed
- people are aware of any opportunities for input and participation.

### 1.4.2 Objectives of the EIS

Having described the methodology of the EIS, make a succinct statement of the EIS objectives. The EIS's structure can then be outlined as an explanation of how the EIS will meet its objectives. The reader should be able to distinguish the EIS as the key environmental document providing advice to decision-makers considering approvals for the project.

While the TOR guide the scope of the EIS studies, they should not be seen as exhaustive or limiting. It is important for proponents and their consultants to recognise that there cannot be complete knowledge in advance of undertaking an EIS of what the EIS studies may find.

**If it transpires while preparing the EIS that previously unforeseen matters not addressed in the TOR are found to be relevant to assessing potential impacts of the project, those matters will be included in the EIS.**

**Also, it is essential that the main text of the EIS addresses all relevant matters concerning environmental values, impacts on those values and proposed mitigation measures. No relevant matter will be raised for the first time in an appendix or the draft environmental management plan (EM plan).**

**The EIS assessment's depth and scope will be proportional to the values impacted and the scale of the impacts. When considering whether an impact is or is not significant, the proponent will take account of both the intensity of the impact and the context in which it would occur.**

The EIS is a public document. Its purpose is not only to provide information to regulatory agencies, but also to inform the public about the project's scope, impacts and mitigation measures. As such, the main text will be written in plain English avoiding jargon as much as possible. Additional technical detail may be provided in appendices. The main text will not assume that a reader would have prior knowledge of the project site and it will not be necessary for the reader to have visited the site to understand the issues involved in the project.

In brief, the EIS objectives are to provide public information on the need for and likely effects of the project, to set out acceptable standards and levels of impacts (both beneficial and adverse) on environmental values, and demonstrate how environmental impacts can be managed through protecting and enhancing environmental values. A key aspect of the EIS is discussing options and alternatives and their likely relative environmental management outcomes.

It is necessary for all relevant sections of the EIS to provide details about the quality of the information given in the EIS, in particular:

- the source of the information
- how recent the information is
- how the reliability of the information was tested
- any uncertainties in the information.

The role of the EIS in providing the project's draft EM plan will also be discussed, with particular reference to the EM plan's role in providing management measures that can be carried over into conditions that would attach to any approvals, environmental authorities and permits for the project.

### **1.4.3 Submissions**

The reader will be informed about how and when public submissions on the draft EIS can be made, and how they will be addressed and taken into account in the decision-making process.

## **1.5 Public consultation process**

An appropriate public consultation program is essential to the impact assessment. This section will outline the methodology that will be adopted to identify and mitigate social and economic impacts of the project. Provide information about consultation that has already taken place and its results.

Submitting a list of affected persons and interested persons, as well as a statement of how the proponent proposes to consult with those persons, is a statutory requirement of the EIS process under section 41 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. Similar requirements, though non-statutory, are usually applied to EIS processes under other Queensland legislation.

The public consultation program should provide opportunities to educate and involve the community. It may include interviews with individuals, public meetings, interest group meetings, producing regular summary information and updates, and other means to encourage and facilitate active public consultation.

The public consultation process should identify broad issues of concern to local community and interest groups and should continue from project planning through commissioning, project operations and final decommissioning. Refer to the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) guideline Issue Identification and Community Consultation.

## **1.6 Project approvals**

### **1.6.1 Relevant legislation and policy requirements**

Explain the legislation and policies controlling the approvals process. Make reference to the Queensland *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, *Sustainable Planning Act 2009* and other potentially relevant Queensland

laws. Include any requirements of the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Identify all environmentally relevant activities that would be undertaken at the project site, including those that would otherwise require a development approval if the project was not covered by an environmental authority for a mining or petroleum activity.

If any potentially relevant legislation (such as the *Water Act 2000* and the applicable water resource plans and resource operations plans for that area for taking water, the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* for protected wildlife, or the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* for land clearing) is not applicable, this section of the EIS will explain why.

Include reference to relevant transport legislation such as *Transport Infrastructure Act 1994*, *Transport Planning and Coordination Act 1994* and the *Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995*.

Describe local government planning controls, local laws and policies applying to the development, and provide a list of the approvals required for the project and the expected program for approval of applications. The description should include any requirements for workers' camps or villages.

This information is required to assess how the legislation applies to the proposal, which agencies have jurisdiction, and whether the proposed impact assessment process is appropriate.

## 1.6.2 Planning processes and standards

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

## 1.7 Accredited process for controlled actions under Commonwealth legislation

The proposed project is a 'controlled action' (EPBC 2012/6281) under the EPBC Act. SEWPaC has accredited Queensland's EIS process for the purposes of the Commonwealth assessment under the EPBC Act. The following matters of national environmental significance (MNES) were identified as the 'controlling provisions' when the project was declared a controlled action:

- listed threatened species and ecological communities (s. 18 and s. 18A)
- world heritage properties (s. 12 and s. 15A)
- national heritage places (s. 15B and s. 15C)
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (s. 24B and s. 24C)
- listed migratory species (s. 20 and s. 20A).

The state's EIS process has been accredited under an agreement between the Commonwealth and the State of Queensland under section 45 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* relating to the environmental assessment (the bilateral agreement) for the purposes of the Commonwealth's assessment of the project under the EPBC Act.

The EIS must assess the relevant impacts on matters covered by the controlling provisions and ensure that it gives enough information about the project and its relevant impacts to allow the Commonwealth Minister to make an informed decision whether to approve the project under the EPBC Act. The matters to be addressed in the EIS are set out in Section 6 and Schedule 1 of the Environmental Protection Regulation 2008 which mirrors Schedule 4 of the Commonwealth's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000. Section 5 of this TOR outlines how the EIS will assess the relevant impacts on matters of national environmental significance listed as controlling provisions. The information must be provided as a stand-alone chapter in the EIS that exclusively and fully addresses the matters relevant to the controlling provisions. Cross referencing to other parts of the EIS should only be used where necessary.

Matters to be discussed in this stand-alone chapter must include, but are not limited to, potential impacts of the action, along with proposed mitigation and/or compensation measures where relevant, in relation to the controlling provisions.

The information provided on these matters must be consistent with any relevant publicly available policy guidance provided by SEWPaC.

## 2 Project need and alternatives

### 2.1 Project justification

Describe the justification for the project, with particular reference to the economic and social benefits, including employment and spin-off business development that the project may provide. Discuss the status of the project in a regional, state and national context.

### 2.2 Alternatives to the project

Describe feasible alternatives, including conceptual, technological and locality alternatives to the project, and discuss the consequences of not proceeding with the project. Summarise the comparative environmental, social and economic impacts of each alternative, with particular regard to the principles of ecologically sustainable development (ESD). Discuss alternatives in sufficient detail to enable an understanding of the reasons for preferring certain options and courses of action and rejecting others.

Explain the interdependencies of the project's components, particularly how each of any industrial developments, or various combinations of industrial developments, and any infrastructure requirements relate to the viability of the proposal. Should water supply, power, transport and/or storage infrastructure be included as part of the project, describe and provide a rationale for such infrastructure.

This information is required to assess how the scope of the project was derived, and to ensure that the ESD principles and sustainable development aspects have been considered and incorporated during the scoping and planning of the project.

## 3 Description of the project

Describe the project through its various stages, such as construction, operation and decommissioning. This information is required to allow complete assessment of a project from planning to its end-of-life. It also allows identification of approvals that may be required and how they may be managed through the life of the project. Maps or figures showing the position of features or boundaries will use latitudes and longitudes in decimal degrees referenced on the Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994 (GDA94). These latitudes and longitudes will also be used in the text and tables to describe the locations of any features (such as discharge points) or boundaries that may be relevant to subsequent approvals. All features depicted on any maps or figures, such as watercourses and water storages, will be clearly and consistently labelled throughout the EIS, including all text and tables. If the proponent has geodatabase or shape files, with associated metadata, that are compatible with ArcGIS, and which show project features and proposed changes to the landscape and the environment, the proponent should provide the files on a CD or other suitable memory storage with the EIS.

### 3.1 Location

#### 3.1.1 Regional context

Describe the regional context of the project and illustrate it on maps at suitable scales.

#### 3.1.2 Local context

Describe the local context of the project and include real property descriptions of the project site and adjacent properties. Provide maps at suitable scales that show the precise location of the project area, and in particular:

- the location and boundaries of land tenures, in place or proposed, to which the project area is or will be subject
- the location and boundaries of the project footprint showing all key aspects including excavations, stockpiles, areas of fill, watercourses, plant locations, water storages, existing and proposed infrastructure such as power and water supply lines, buildings, state-controlled and local roads relevant to the site, railways and rail level crossings, bridges, weirs, culverts, hardstands, car parks, etc
- the current use of the land, both on and surrounding the project area
- the location of any proposed buffers surrounding the working areas.

Include a rectified aerial photo enlargement (preferably A3 size) to illustrate components of the project in relation to the land and mining tenures, and natural and built features of the area.

### 3.2 Construction

Describe the extent and nature of the project's construction phase. Describe the type and methods of construction, the construction equipment to be used and the items of plant to be transported onto the construction site. Describe any staging of the project and illustrate site boundaries, development sequencing and timeframes.

### 3.3 Operations

Describe the location and nature of the project's operational phase, and illustrate the description as required with maps, diagrams and artist's impressions. Operational issues to be addressed will include, but not necessarily be limited to:

- a description of plant and equipment to be employed
- the capacity of plant and equipment
- chemical and physical processes
- chemicals to be used.

Provide concept and layout plans highlighting proposed buildings, structures, plant and equipment associated with the processing operation. Describe the nature, sources, location and quantities of all materials to be handled, including the storage and stockpiling of raw materials.

Provide indicative process flow-sheets showing material balances for the processing plant, and the anticipated rates of inputs, along with similar data on products, wastes and recycle streams.

### **3.3.1 Tenements and tenures**

Describe and illustrate any existing mining tenements, petroleum (including coal seam gas), geothermal and greenhouse gas tenures and licences overlying and adjacent to the project site, and any proposed applications required for this project.

Describe in detail any issues related to the overlap of tenements and tenures for different resources or purposes, including the sequential exploitation of the resources or uses to which the tenements and tenures may be put.

### **3.3.2 Resource base and mine life**

Summarise the results of studies and surveys undertaken to identify the mineral and natural resources required to implement the proposal (further detail will be provided in section 4.2.1.2 Geology). Describe the required location, volume, tonnage and quality of natural resources (such as land, water, timber, energy, etc). Provide specific details of:

- the proposed mine life and an outline of the coal/mineral resource base, including the total thickness of seams or extent of the ore body
- the planned recovery of resources
- locations of any resources that would be sterilised by the planned activities
- the quantity of coal/mineral to be mined annually, including any proposed ramping of production or staging of development.

### **3.3.3 Mining methods and equipment**

Provide specific details of:

- 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, including hydraulic fluids used and released in underground operations.

The description will refer to, and be complemented by, the figures previously presented in section 3.3.1 showing the locations of key aspects of the project. Additional figures will be provided if required.

### **3.3.4 Mine sequencing**

Provide specific details of:

- the proposed sequence and timing of mining of each seam/ore body within the mining lease
- the physical extent of excavations, location of stockpiles of overburden and/or coal/mineral reject to be handled during the project's operation or left after mining ceases, including the rate of throughput of stockpiles of product, reject and overburden
- typical cross sections of the mine workings showing voids, surface profiles and geological strata
- the proposed progressive backfilling of excavations
- the area disturbed at each major stage of the project.

### **3.3.5 Workforce**

Outline the workforce numbers to be employed by the project during its various phases, such as construction, commissioning, operation and decommissioning. Make comment on the anticipated basis of employment, such as permanent, contract, etc. A detailed profile of the workforce will be provided in the social values section of the EIS.

### **3.3.6 Workforce accommodation**

Describe where personnel will be accommodated. In particular, describe and illustrate the number, size, locations and management of any workers camps or villages. The consequent impacts of constructing new accommodation will be addressed in the appropriate sections of the EIS even if the accommodation will be operated by a contractor.

### **3.3.7 Processing and products**

Describe the quantities and characteristics of the products that would be produced on an annual basis. Provide indicative process flow-sheets showing material balances for the processing plant, and the anticipated rates of inputs, along with similar data on products, wastes and recycle streams.

### **3.3.8 Ongoing evaluation and exploration activities**

Describe the extent and nature of any proposed ongoing exploration or geological or geo technical evaluation within the project area that may be required over the life of the project.

## **3.4 Product handling**

Describe and show on plans at an appropriate scale the proposed methods and facilities to be used for product storage and for transferring product from the processing plant to the storage facilities and from the storage facilities to the transport facilities. Discuss any environmental design features of these facilities including bunding of storage facilities.

## **3.5 Infrastructure requirements**

Describe with concept and layout plans, requirements for constructing, upgrading or relocating all infrastructure associated with the project. Show the locations of any necessary infrastructure easements on the plans, including infrastructure such as state-controlled and local roads, rail (and the rail corridor), rail level crossings, conveyors, bridges, tracks and pathways, dams and weirs, bore fields, power lines and other cables, wireless technology (such as microwave telecommunications), and pipelines for any services, whether underground or above.

### **3.5.1 Transport—road/rail/air/ship**

Provide an overview of the arrangements for the transportation, importation or exportation of plant, equipment, materials, products, wastes and personnel during both the construction and operational phases of the project. Describe the use of existing facilities, including common user transport infrastructure, and all requirements for the construction, upgrading or relocation of any transport-related infrastructure.

### **3.5.2 Energy**

Describe all energy requirements, including electricity, natural gas, and/or solid and liquid fuel requirements for the construction and operation of the project. Show the locations of any easements on the infrastructure plan. Energy conservation will be briefly described in the context of any Commonwealth, Queensland and local government policies.

### **3.5.3 Water supply and storage**

Provide information on proposed water usage and storage by the project, including the quality and quantity of all water supplied to, or captured at, the site. Describe and illustrate: the locations, catchments, footprints, cross-sections and method of construction of any dams on the site, their flood immunity, the quality of water or waste water they would contain, and indicate their hazard category. Provide the design storage allowances for sediment dams and process or waste water dams, and demonstrate that the design has been produced by a suitably qualified and experienced engineer using current best practice. Clearly distinguish between mine affected and unaffected water storages or sediment control dams and illustrate these on a map. In particular, describe the proposed and optional sources of water supply such as mine dewatering, capture of overland flow, taking from a watercourse, bores, coal seam gas water and associated pipelines, and any surface storage such as dams and weirs, municipal water supply pipelines.

Estimate the average and maximum rates of supply from each source for each phase of the project's life. Discuss likely temporal changes in specific water quality parameters in mine affected water storages under different scenarios (extended dry periods, holding times, re-use, water source) at different project stages. Any proposed water conservation and management measures should be described.

Describe any approvals and water allocations the project may need under the *Water Act 2000* for water supply and storage. Describe whether or not overland flow will be captured by any on-site storage and address the associated regulation of the proposed overland flow capture.

Estimate potable water demand for the project, including the temporary demands during the construction period. Provide details of any existing water supply, including town water, which would meet the requirements. If water storage and treatment is proposed on site for use by the site workforce, describe the method of treatment and storage. Describe any waste streams from water treatment, and assess the potential impacts of disposal in the appropriate sections of the EIS.

### **3.5.4 Stormwater drainage**

Provide a description of the proposed stormwater drainage system and the proposed disposal arrangements, including any off-site services. Illustrate the description using figures with contours at suitable intervals (one metre contours in areas of low relief) showing drainage pathways including the separate pathways for mine-affected and unaffected surface run-off respectively, any diversions of ephemeral drainage lines, and the locations and discharge points of sediment detention basins, and any other stormwater quality improvement devices.

### **3.5.5 Sewerage**

Describe, in general terms, the sewerage infrastructure required by the project. If it is intended that industrial effluent or relatively large amounts of domestic effluent are to be discharged into an existing sewerage system, provide in section 4.4 Waste an assessment of the capacity of the existing system to accept the effluent. For industrial effluent, this should detail the physical and chemical characteristics of the effluent.

### **3.5.6 Telecommunications**

Describe any impacts on existing telecommunications infrastructure, such as optical cables and microwave towers, and identify the owners of that infrastructure.

### **3.5.7 Accommodation and other infrastructure**

Describe any other developments directly related to the project not described in other sections, such as:

- camps, townships or residential developments
- fuel storage areas
- equipment hardstand and maintenance areas
- technical workshops and laboratories.

## 3.6 Waste management

Provide an inventory of all wastes to be generated by the project during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the project. In addition to the expected total volumes of each waste produced, include an inventory of the following per-unit volume of product produced:

- the tonnage of raw materials processed
- the amount of resulting process wastes
- the volume and tonnage of any re-usable by-products.

Provide schematic diagrams, which for the operational phase may be simplified versions of those provided in section 3.3, for each distinct stage of the project. These should indicate the processes to be used and highlight their associated waste streams. This applies to all waste outputs—solid, liquid and gaseous—including recycling efforts such as stockpiling and reusing topsoil. The schematic diagrams, or an associated table, will cross-reference the relevant sections of the EIS where the potential impacts and mitigation measures associated with each waste stream are described. Describe the physical and chemical characteristics, and the variability of composition and generation rates of each waste material, including changes over time and under different climatic conditions of the water quality parameters in dams containing mine affected water.

Each subsection on waste management will assess how the proposed methods for waste management at each stage of the project achieve the highest possible level on the waste management hierarchy with regard to the principles in the Environmental Protection (Waste Management) Policy 2000.

Describe how the project would achieve natural resource use efficiency (such as minimum use of energy and water, and minimum footprint on used land), integrated processing design, co-generation of power and by-product reuse as shown in a material/energy flow analysis. This information is required to enable the resource management agencies and other stakeholders to assess the efficiency of resource use, and allocation issues.

### 3.6.1 Air emissions

Describe in detail the quantity and quality of all air emissions (including particulates, fumes and odours) from the project during construction and operation. Particulate emissions include those that would be produced by any industrial process or disturbance by wind action on stockpiles and conveyors, or by transportation equipment such as trucks or trains, either by entrainment from the load or by travel on unsealed roads.

### 3.6.2 Excavated waste

Describe the materials to be excavated as waste. Also, describe and illustrate the location, design and methods for constructing dumps for waste rock and any subsoil that will not be replaced in rehabilitation.

Estimate the tonnage and volume of waste rock and subsoil to be excavated during the various stages of operation. Estimates will be made for each separate rock and soil type. Describe the expected proportion and source of waste rock that is mineralised but currently uneconomical for processing.

Describe the chemical and physical properties of the waste rock and subsoil, and assess the properties that affect their erosion and leaching potential. Samples should be taken from the actual rock that would form the waste in sufficient number to provide a statistically valid representation of each geological unit.

Undertake the characterisation of the waste in accordance with the Assessment and Management of Acid Drainage guideline of the Technical Guidelines for the Environmental Management of Exploration and Mining in Queensland series (DME, 1995), and any other applicable best practice guidelines. The characterisation of waste rock and subsoil will include, but not necessarily be limited to sulfides; metals; pH, conductivity and chloride of slurry samples; the Net Acid Producing Potential (NAPP), and Net Acid Generation (NAG) potential of the mined waste; cation exchange capacity (CEC) and exchangeable sodium percentage (ESP) in material that would be placed near the surface; and metal and salt solubility.

Discuss the potential for acid, neutral or alkaline drainage from waste dumps. Characterise the potential quality of leachate from the mined waste under field conditions, including contaminants such as sulfate, pH, chloride, iron, major cations and anions, and any chemical species in sufficient quantity that is likely to cause environmental harm (including those with the potential to bio-accumulate) including nuisance. Predict and discuss the likely temporal variation in the quality and quantity of the leachate, including the influence of weathering and different management options across the life of the project. Provide cross-references in this section to those sections of the EIS that assess in detail the potential impacts of any direct or indirect discharge of leachate on downstream sensitive environments or users of receiving waters.

Use the estimated amounts and characteristics of excavated waste to develop appropriate measures for dealing with that waste, including designs for waste dumps, and alternatives for excavated waste disposal such as in-filling of voids, off-site options and treatment of contaminated soil. Assess the likely performance of the proposed waste disposal options with particular regard to:

- segregating and encapsulating sub-economic but mineralised rock and/or potentially acid-forming rock
- managing surface drainage and sub-surface leachate both during operations at the mine and after mining ceases (note: avoid placing dumps across drainage lines that would pond water behind the dump and cause infiltration)
- slope profiles and the stability and erosion potential of waste dumps
- the intended land use after mining ceases, and the land management and maintenance requirements for the subsequent landholder.

Illustrate the location and cross-sections of the proposed dumps on maps, drawings and diagrams relative to topography and other natural features of the area.

### **3.6.3 Tailings or fine rejects**

Describe the methods and materials that would be used to produce tailings waste (tailings should be understood to include any fine reject material). State whether the methods to be used to produce and treat tailings would be novel or established. For novel methods, describe the testing undertaken to determine if the method would be suitable for the proposed use. For established methods, provide examples of where the method has been, or is being, used and assess the equivalence of those examples to the proposed use.

Estimate the annual production of tailings waste at the various stages of the project.

Describe how the methods used to produce and treat tailings would be in accordance with the waste management hierarchy and the tailings management principles in the Tailings Management Guideline of the Technical Guidelines for the Environmental Management of Exploration and Mining in Queensland series, (DME, 1995).

Describe in detail the likely physical and chemical characteristics of the tailings waste and the likely chemical characteristics of waste water from the pressing plant, the decant water from any tailings storage facility (TSF), and the pore water and leachate from any dump containing tailings.

Describe and illustrate the proposed locations of any pits, dams, bunds or dumps that would be used for the disposal of tailings.

Assess the hazard category of any regulated dam, such as a TSF, giving consideration to the Manual for Assessing Hazard Categories and Hydraulic Performance of Dams (DERM, February 2012) and the guideline Structures which are Dams or Levees Constructed as part of Environmentally Relevant Activities (DERM, February 2012).

Describe and illustrate the proposed design of any regulated dam, including any cells for non-flowable tailings within waste rock dumps (note: a shear strength of greater than 1000 pascals would generally be required of pastes suitable for dry tailings stacking, while pastes with lower shear strength must be contained in a regulated dam. However, the slumping and plastic properties of any tailings considered for disposal by dry stacking will be derived from tests on representative samples and reported in the EIS). Demonstrate that the design of any regulated dam has been produced by a suitably qualified and experienced engineer. Describe the source, and assess the suitability, of the materials to be used to construct containment systems. Describe any proposed staging of the construction for any TSF or disposal cells and demonstrate that the design has been produced by a suitably qualified and experienced engineer.

Conduct, and report on, a risk assessment and describe how it has been used to derive the design storage allowance for any regulated dams. Assess whether the proposed design and methods of disposal would minimise the potential hazards and risks, particularly in relation to the potential impacts of failure caused by mass release from structural failure or contaminant release from overflow. Also, assess whether the proposed design maximises site efficiency, such as by minimising the footprint.

If some form of co-disposal of fine and coarse rejects is proposed, describe the range of proportions, size fractions and mixing method that would produce a stable deposit.

Describe the proposed discharge locations and conditions for any TSF. Describe the flow path any discharge would take, illustrated on contour maps, and provide an overview of the potentially affected receiving environment with particular regard to downstream sensitive ecosystems or users of receiving waters. Discharge should be taken to mean any planned or unplanned overflow or release, any leachate, or any potentially contaminated runoff leaving a TSF. Assess in detail the potential impacts of any discharge on downstream sensitive environments or users of receiving waters in the appropriate sections of the EIS and cross-reference to them in this section.

Describe the proposed monitoring network and regime that would be used to detect any leak from the TSF.

Describe the proposed measures to be used to decommission any TSF or dump used for the disposal of tailings. Assess any legacy issues for the subsequent landholder.

### **3.6.4 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. Describe the proposed location, capacity and suitability of any landfill that would receive solid waste from the project. Describe and illustrate any proposed on-site landfill, including its dimensions, volume and method of construction.

### **3.6.5 Liquid waste**

Describe the origin, quality and quantity of wastewater and any immiscible liquid waste that would be produced by the project other than that addressed in previous sections. Describe the storage, treatment and disposal of mine-affected water, and the criteria that would be used to assess the suitability of disposal options. Address how time and climatic conditions would affect the quantity and management of mine-affected water. Give particular attention to the capacity of wastes to generate acid, and saline or sodic wastewater. A water balance for the project and processing plant is required to account for the estimated usage of water.

The EIS will consider the following effects:

- groundwater from excavations
- rainfall directly onto disturbed surface areas
- run-off from roads, plant and industrial areas, chemical storage areas
- drainage (run-off plus any seepage or leakage)
- seepage from other waste storages
- water usage for:
  - process use
  - dust suppression
  - irrigation
  - domestic purposes
- evaporation
- domestic sewage treatment—disposal of liquid effluent and sludge
- water supply treatment plant—disposal of wastes.

### 3.7 Rehabilitation and decommissioning

Describe the options, strategic approaches and methods for progressive and final rehabilitation of the environment disturbed by the project. Develop a preferred rehabilitation strategy that would minimise the amount of land disturbed at any one time, and minimise the residual loss of land with ecological or productive value. Show the final topography of any excavations, waste areas and dam sites on suitably scaled maps. Specific attention should be given to ensuring overland flow capture does not facilitate the take of water for further uses post mining, except in accordance with the Water Resource (Fitzroy Basin) Plan 2011.

Evaluate the compliance of the strategies and methods for progressive and final rehabilitation of disturbed areas with the objectives of the Technical Guidelines for the Environmental Management of Exploration and Mining in Queensland (DME, 1995) and EHP's guideline Rehabilitation Requirements for Mining Projects. In particular, the strategies and methods will have the following objectives:

- Mining and rehabilitation should aim to create a landform with the same or similar land use capabilities and/or suitability it had prior to the disturbance, unless other beneficial land uses are pre-determined and agreed.
- Mine wastes and disturbed land should be rehabilitated so that it is self-sustaining or to a condition where the maintenance requirements are consistent with an agreed post-mining land use.
- Surface and ground waters that leave the lease should not be degraded compared to their condition prior to the commencement of mining operations. Current and future water quality should be maintained at levels that are acceptable for users downstream of the site.

Describe the means of decommissioning the project by removing or reusing plant, equipment, structures, buildings, concrete footings and foundations, hardstand areas and storage tanks. Describe the proposed methods for stabilising the affected sites. Discuss options and methods for the disposal of wastes from the demolition of plant and buildings in sufficient detail for their feasibility and suitability to be assessed.

Describe in detail a conceptual mine closure plan at the pre-approval stage to achieve best practice mine decommissioning. Outline what provisions will be made during operations to achieve the standards and completion criteria for mine decommissioning as per the Strategic Framework for Mine Closure (ANZMEC/MCA 2000). These include assessing project viability so that adequate provisions can be made to ensure that closure is environmentally, economically and socially feasible. As the project develops, more detailed plans will be prepared through progressive rehabilitation.

Describe any proposals to divert creeks during operations and, if applicable, the reinstatement of the creeks after operations have ceased. Rehabilitation will involve the re-establishment of vegetation communities along watercourses similar to the pre-cleared regional ecosystems in those areas. Where dams are to be constructed, describe proposals for the management of these structures after the completion of the project. Also, describe the final drainage and seepage control systems and long-term monitoring plans. Describe and illustrate where final voids and uncompacted overburden and workings at the end of mining would lie in relation to flood levels up to and including the 'probable maximum flood level' based on the Bureau of Meteorology's 'probable maximum precipitation' forecast for the locality.

The description of topsoil management will address minimising topsoil storage times (to reduce fertility degradation) and the transportation, storage and replacement of topsoil to disturbed areas.

Detail of the impacts of the preferred rehabilitation strategy will be discussed in the appropriate subsections of section 4 (Environmental values and management of impacts) particularly with regard to issues such as final landform stability (section 4.2.2), rehabilitation of plants (section 4.9.2) and the long-term quality of water in any final voids (section 4.5.2). Implications for the long-term use and fate of the site will also be addressed, particularly with regard to the on-site disposal of waste and the site's inclusion on the Environmental Management Register or the Contaminated Land Register.

## 4 Environmental values and management of impacts

The functions of this section are to:

- Describe the existing environmental values of the area that may be affected by the project. Environmental values are defined in section 9 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, environmental protection policies and other documents such as the Australian Water Quality Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Waters (ANZECC & ARMCANZ, 2000). Environmental values may also be derived following recognised procedures, such as described in the ANZECC & ARMCANZ 2000 guidelines. Environmental values will be described referring to background information and studies, which will be included as appendices to the EIS.
- Describe the potential adverse and beneficial impacts of the project on the identified environmental values.
- Describe any cumulative impacts on environmental values caused by the project, either in isolation or by combination with other known existing or planned development or sources of contamination.
- Propose environmental protection objectives and commitments. All environmental protection commitments must be measurable and auditable.
- Examine viable alternative strategies for managing impacts. These alternatives will be presented and compared in view of the stated objectives and standards to be achieved. Discuss available techniques, including best practice, to control and manage impacts to the nominated objectives. This section will detail the environmental protection measures to be used in the planning, construction, operations, rehabilitation and decommissioning stages of the project and any associated works. Measures will prevent, or where prevention is not possible, minimise environmental harm and maximise social, economic and environmental benefits of the project. Preferred measures will be identified and described in more detail than other alternatives.
- Describe any computational model used to make predictions of impacts and/or outcomes of mitigation measures. The description will address the inputs, assumptions, limitations, sensitivities, accuracy and precision of the model.

Any maps or figures showing the position of features or boundaries will use latitudes and longitudes on the GDA94 datum. Latitudes and longitudes on the GDA94 datum will also be used in the text to describe the locations of any features (such as discharge points) or boundaries that may be relevant to subsequent approvals.

Environmental protection objectives may be derived from legislative and planning requirements that apply to the proposal including Commonwealth strategies, state planning policies, local authority strategic plans, environmental protection policies under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, and any catchment management plans prepared by local water boards or land care groups. Special attention will be given to those mitigation strategies designed to protect the values of any sensitive areas and any identified ecosystems of high conservation value within the area of possible proposal impact.

This section will address all elements of the environment, (such as land, water, coast, air, waste, noise, nature conservation, cultural heritage, social and community, health and safety, economy, hazards and risk) in a way that is comprehensive and clear. To achieve this, the following issues will be considered for each environmental value relevant to the project:

- Environmental values affected: describe the existing environmental values of the area to be affected including values and areas that may be affected by any cumulative impacts (refer to background studies in appendices – note: such studies may be required over several seasons). Explain how the environmental values were derived, such as by citing published documents or by following a recognised procedure to derive the values.
- Impact on environmental values: describe quantitatively the likely impacts of the project on the identified environmental values of the area, including:
  - a detailed assessment of the nature and extent of the likely short term and long term impacts
  - a statement about whether any impacts are likely to be unknown, unpredictable or irreversible
  - an analysis of the significance of the impacts
  - any technical data and other information used or needed to make a detailed assessment of the impacts.

- The cumulative impacts of the project must be considered over time or in combination with other (all) impacts in the dimensions of scale, intensity, duration or frequency of the impacts. In particular, address any requirements and recommendations of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, relevant state planning policies, environmental protection policies, national environmental protection measures and integrated catchment management plans.
- Cumulative impacts on the environmental values of land, air and water and cumulative impacts on public health and the health of terrestrial, aquatic and marine ecosystems must be discussed in the relevant sections. This assessment may include air and watersheds affected by the project and other proposals competing for use of the local air and water sheds.
- Where impacts from the project will not be felt in isolation to other sources of impact, it is recommended that the proponent develop consultative arrangements with other industries in the project's area to undertake cooperative monitoring and/or management of environmental parameters. Describe such arrangements in the EIS.
- Environmental protection objectives: describe qualitatively and quantitatively the proposed objectives for enhancing or protecting each environmental value. Include proposed indicators to be monitored to demonstrate the extent of achievement of the objective as well as the numerical standard that defines the achievement of the objective (this standard must be auditable). The measurable indicators and standards can be determined from legislation, support policies and government policies as well as the expected performance of control strategies. Include objectives for progressive and final rehabilitation and managing contaminated land.
- Control strategies and mitigation measures to be used to achieve the objectives: describe the control principles, proposed actions and technologies to be implemented that are likely to achieve the environmental protection objectives; include designs, and relevant performance specifications of plant. Details are required to show that the expected performance is achievable and realistic.
- With regard to the project's proposed safeguards and mitigation measures, the EIS should include:
  - a description, and an assessment of the expected or predicted effectiveness, of the mitigation measures for dealing with the project's relevant impacts
  - any statutory or policy basis for the mitigation measures
  - the cost of the mitigation measures.
- Environmental offsets: Information is required to show that measures have been taken to avoid and minimise potential adverse impacts of the project. Environmental offsets may be proposed to counterbalance any remaining loss of environmental values, consistent with the specific-issue offset policies under the framework of the Queensland Government Environmental Offset Policy 2008, such as the Queensland Biodiversity Offset Policy (2011), and the draft *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) offsets policy.
- Monitoring programs: describe the monitoring parameters, monitoring points, frequency, data interpretation and reporting proposals.
- Management actions: describe the actions to be used to ensure the control strategies are implemented, such as by a continuous improvement framework, including details of corrective action options, reporting (including any public reporting), monitoring, staff training, management responsibility pathway, and any environmental management systems and how they are relevant to each element of the environment.
- The environmental protection commitments developed in the main body of the EIS should all be included in a draft environmental management plan (EM plan) that provides:
  - the framework for continuing management, mitigation and monitoring programs for the project's relevant impacts, including any provision for independent environmental auditing
  - the name of the entity responsible for endorsing or approving each mitigation measure or monitoring program

- a consolidated list of mitigation measures proposed to be undertaken to prevent, minimise or compensate for the project's relevant impacts, including mitigation measures proposed to be taken by the state, a local government or the proponent

It is recommended that the final TOR and the EIS follow the heading structure shown below. The mitigation measures, monitoring programs, etc. identified in this section of the EIS will be used to develop the environmental monitoring program for the project (see section 5).

## 4.1 Climate

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 including air quality within the region of the project. Discuss extremes of climate (droughts, floods, cyclones, etc) with particular reference to water management at the project site. Address the vulnerability of the area to natural or induced hazards, such as floods and bushfires. Consider the relative frequency and magnitude of these events together with the risk they pose to management of the project.

The potential impacts due to climatic factors will be addressed in the relevant sections of the EIS. The impacts of rainfall on soil erosion will be addressed in section 4.2. The impacts of storm events on the capacity of waste containment systems, such as site bunding, stormwater management and tailings dams, will be addressed in section 4.5 with regard to contamination of waterways and in section 4.4 with regard to the design of the waste containment systems. The impacts of winds, rain, humidity, and temperature inversions on air quality will be addressed in section 4.7.

### 4.1.1 Climate change adaptation

Climate change, through alterations to weather patterns and rising sea level, has the potential for long-term impacts on developments. Most developments involve the transfer to, or use by, a proponent of a community resource in one form or another, such as granting a non-renewable resource or the approval to discharge contaminants to air, water or land. Therefore, it is important that the project design be adaptive to climate change so that community resources are not depreciated by projects that would be abandoned or require costly modification before their potential to provide a full return to the community is realised. Consequently, the EIS will assess the project's vulnerabilities to climate change and describe possible adaptation strategies for the activity including:

- a risk assessment of how changing patterns of rainfall and hydrology, temperature, extreme weather and sea level (where appropriate) may affect the viability and environmental management of the project
- the preferred and alternative adaptation strategies to be implemented
- a commitment to undertake, where practicable, a cooperative approach with government, other industry and sectors to address adaptation to climate change.

EHP recognises that predictions of climate change and its effects have inherent uncertainties, and that a balance must be found between the costs of preparing for climate change and the uncertainty of outcomes. Nevertheless, proponents will use their best efforts to incorporate adaptation to climate change in their EIS and project design.

## 4.2 Land

### 4.2.1 Description of environmental values

Describe the existing environment values of the land area that may be affected by the project. 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 achieving the objectives will be monitored, audited and managed.

#### **4.2.1.1 Topography**

Describe and illustrate the topography of the project site and the surrounding area, and highlight any significant features shown on the maps. Such features would include any locations subsequently referred to in the EIS (such as noise sensitive locations) that are not included on other maps in section 5.2. Maps will have contours at suitable increments (at least every metre in areas of low relief), shown with respect to Australian Height Datum (AHD) and drafted to the GDA 94 datum.

#### **4.2.1.2 Land use**

Describe and illustrate land uses in and around the project area in relation to current land tenures, show the location of existing dwellings, and make particular mention of any land with special attributes. Include any surrounding land or marine areas that could be affected by the project. Show the location of any native title applications or determinations. Describe and illustrate the zoning of land in and around the project area according to any existing town or strategic plan.

#### **4.2.1.3 Geology and geomorphology**

Provide a description, map and a series of cross-sections of the geology of the project area. Describe the geomorphology of the project site and the surrounding area. Make particular reference to the physical and chemical properties of surface and sub-surface materials and geological structures that could have an influence on, or be influenced by, the project's activities. Describe geological properties that may influence ground stability (including seismic activity, if relevant), occupational health and safety, rehabilitation programs, or the quality of wastewater leaving any area disturbed by the project. Describe known sites of palaeontologic significance and address the potential for significant fossil finds in locations where the age and type of geology is such that significant specimens may be uncovered during construction or operations. Describe any sites of geomorphological significance, such as lava tubes or karst.

#### **4.2.1.4 Mineral resources, ore reserves, petroleum and energy resources, and GHG storage resources**

Provide a summary of the results of studies and surveys undertaken to identify and delineate the mineral resources, and ore reserves within the project area (including any areas underlying related infrastructure).

Report the mineral resources (measured, indicated or inferred) and ore reserves (proved or probable) in accordance with the Australasian Code for Reporting of Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves (the JORC Code, available at [www.jorc.org](http://www.jorc.org) and the principles outlined in the Australian Guidelines for the Estimating and Reporting of Inventory Coal, Coal Resources and Coal Reserves (available at [www.jorc.org/pdf/coalguidelines.pdf](http://www.jorc.org/pdf/coalguidelines.pdf)) and include the modifying factors and assumptions made in arriving at the estimates. Describe in detail the location, tonnage and quality of the mineral resources and ore reserves within the project area. For coal projects, the description it should be presented on a 'seam by seam' basis.

In addition, provide appropriately-scaled maps showing the general location of the project area, and in particular:

- the location and areal extent of the mineral resources to be developed or mined
- the location and boundaries of mining tenures, granted or proposed, to which the project area is, or will be subject
- the location of the proposed mine excavation(s)
- the location and boundaries of any project sites
- the location and boundaries of any other features that will result from the proposed mining, including waste/spoil dumps, water storage facilities and other infrastructure
- the location of any proposed buffers, surrounding the working areas
- any part of the resource not intended to be mined and any part of the resource that may be sterilised by the proposed mining operations or infrastructure.

Similarly report, to the extent practicable, on other resources related to the geology of the locality, including petroleum and energy resources (including geothermal), and any greenhouse gas (GHG) exploration permits or GHG leases. The description should include publicly available or searchable studies and surveys undertaken by other entities than the proponent.

#### **4.2.1.5 Soils**

Conduct a soil survey of the area that would be affected by the project in accordance with section 6.1, Compilation of Land Resources Inventory (LRI) – Pre Mining Studies, of the Land Suitability Assessment Techniques in the Technical Guidelines for the Environmental Management of Exploration and Mining in Queensland (DME, 1995). Undertake soil tests and laboratory analyses of representative samples down the soil profile, 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. For pipeline routes, undertake the analysis and classification at least to the depth of excavation. Provide geotechnical information on the soils' stability and suitability for construction of project facilities.

Describe, map and illustrate soil types and profiles according to the Australian Soil and Land Survey Field Handbook (National Committee on Soil and Terrain, 2009), Guidelines for Surveying Soil and Land Resources (McKenzie et al, 2nd Ed., 2008) and Australian Soil Classification (Isbell, 2002).

For inland soils where conditions may have been conducive to the formation of ASS, undertake an investigation in accordance with the relevant, best-practice guidelines and methods, such as the Guidelines for Sampling and Analysis of Lowland Acid Sulfate Soils (ASS) in Queensland (DNR, 1998, or any later version), and the Acid Sulfate Soils Field Guide (Murray-Darling Basin Authority, 2010).

#### **4.2.1.6 Land suitabilities**

Provide an Agricultural Land Class map of the project site and the surrounding area according to Guideline 1 for SPP1/92: The Identification of Good Quality Agricultural Land (DPI/DHLGP, 1992).

Describe and map the land use suitabilities, and their classes, of the potentially affected area in accordance with the Land Suitability Assessment Techniques in the Technical Guidelines for the Environmental Management of Exploration and Mining in Queensland (DME, 1995).

Describe and illustrate the usual agricultural use of the land of the project site and the surrounding area, including any crop rotations.

The project site falls within a strategic cropping land (SCL) management area. The EIS should include an assessment of SCL in accordance with the *Strategic Cropping Land Act 2011* and its regulations.

#### **4.2.1.7 Contaminated land**

Describe and illustrate the nature and extent of any areas listed on the Environmental Management Register (EMR) or the Contaminated Land Register (CLR) under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, and any existing potentially contaminated sites that are not on the registers but the history of the site suggests may be present.

Conduct a preliminary site investigation consistent with EHP's Draft Guidelines for the Assessment and Management of Contaminated Land in Queensland. If the results of the preliminary site investigation indicate potential or actual contamination, conduct a detailed site investigation progressively managed in accordance with the stages outlined in Appendix 5 of the Draft Guidelines for the Assessment and Management of Contaminated Land in Queensland. The results of the site investigations should be summarised in the EIS and provided in detail in an appendix.

#### **4.2.1.8 Infrastructure**

Describe and show on suitably-scaled maps the location and owners or custodians of all infrastructure and easements on the potentially affected land, including roads and road reserves, railways and rail reserves, stock routes, and power lines. Indicate the locations of any buried gas or water pipelines, power lines, or telecommunication cables. Describe the environmental values affected by the existing infrastructure.

Sufficient detail should be included to show how social, environmental and economic factors were considered in the choice and location of infrastructure. Detail any proposed infrastructure that would require a separate approval from the environmental authority for mining activities.

#### **4.2.1.9 Environmentally sensitive areas**

Describe and show on suitably-scaled maps the proximity of the project to any category A or B environmentally sensitive areas under the Environmental Protection Regulation 2008. In particular, indicate if the land affected by the project is, or is likely to become, part of the protected area estate, or is subject to any treaty.

#### **4.2.1.10 Landscape character**

Describe in general terms the existing character of the landscape that will be affected by the project. Comment on any changes that have already been made to the natural landscape since European settlement. This section should 'set the scene' for the description of particular scenic values in the following section on visual amenity, the difference being that this section describes the general impression of the landscape that would be obtained while travelling through and around it, while the visual amenity section addresses particular panoramas and views (e.g. from constructed lookouts, designated scenic routes, etc) that have amenity value.

#### **4.2.1.11 Visual amenity**

Describe existing landscape features, panoramas and views that have, or could be expected to have, value to the community whether of local, regional, statewide, national or international significance. Information in the form of maps, sections, elevations and photographs is to be used, particularly where addressing the following issues:

- identifying elements within the proposal and surrounding area that contribute to their image of the town/city as discussed in the local government strategic plan—city image and townscape objectives and associated maps
- major views, view sheds, existing viewing outlooks, ridgelines and other features contributing to the amenity of the area, including assessment from private residences in the affected area along the route
- 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 project 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.

### **4.2.2 Potential impacts and mitigation measures**

Define and describe the objectives and practical measures for protecting or enhancing the land-based environmental values identified through the studies outlined in the previous section. Describe how nominated quantitative standards and indicators may be achieved, and how the achievement of the objectives will be monitored, audited and managed.

#### **4.2.2.1 Resource utilisation**

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

Describe how the company plans to manage low grade or currently uneconomic deposits or excavated material to ensure that this potential future resource is not sterilised. Also describe measures to ensure the minimal dilution of mineralised but currently sub-economic waste rock by non-mineralised waste rock. Provide details and maps of expected residual or remnant resources within the project area including any low grade stockpiles, tailings and currently uneconomic material.

#### **4.2.2.2 Land use and suitability**

Assess the potential for the project's construction and operation to change existing and potential land uses of the project site and adjacent areas, including existing and proposed infrastructure. Detail the proposed land use options after mining ceases, including the suitability of the area to be used for primary production, industry, or nature conservation. Assess the factors favouring or limiting the establishment of those options compared to land use and suitability prior to construction of the project and assess the potential liabilities for long-term management.

Assess the potential environmental harm caused by the project on the adjacent areas currently used for agriculture, urban development, recreation, tourism, other business. Assess the implications of the project for future developments in the impact area, including constraints on surrounding land uses. Propose mitigation measures for any potentially adverse impacts on stock route operations during the construction and operational phases of the development. If the development adjoins or potentially impacts on good quality agricultural land, assess the potential for land use conflict. Investigations will follow the procedures set out in the guideline the Identification of Good Quality Agricultural Land (DPI & DHLGP, 1992), which supports State Planning Policy 1/92: Development and the Conservation of Agricultural Land.

Assess 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. Propose measures to avoid or mitigate adverse impacts.

#### **4.2.2.3 Subsidence [underground mining only]**

If underground mining is proposed, provide comprehensive surface subsidence predictions taking into account factors such as topographic variations and geological complexities, with a full description of the methodology and including an assessment of the accuracy and precision of the predictions. Show the results of the predictions on maps with one metre contour increments and a scale appropriate for assessment of surface subsidence impacts. Propose detailed mitigation measures for any significant impacts that would result from subsidence.

#### **4.2.2.4 Land disturbance**

Develop and detail a strategy that will minimise the amount of land disturbed at any one time. The strategy will address progressive rehabilitation and final decommissioning with particular regard to the impacts in the short, medium and long-term timeframes. Describe the methods to be used for managing disturbed land, including backfilling, covering, re-contouring, topsoil handling and revegetation. However, a description of erosion and sediment control could be deferred to section 4.2.2.6. Any proposals to disturb land that would impede or divert overland flow or waterways, and any subsequent reinstatement, during construction or operations will be first described in this section. However, the potential impacts of interfering with flow on the quantity and quality of water resources, the final drainage and seepage control systems, and any long-term monitoring plans will be assessed and described in section 4.5.

In addition to assessing the operational phase of land disturbance, address the ultimate changes following implementation of the decommissioning and rehabilitation plan described in section 3.7. Detail the proposed long-term changes that will occur to the land after mining ceases compared to the situation before mining commences. Those changes will be illustrated on suitably scaled maps with contours at intervals sufficient to assess the likely drainage pattern for ground and surface waters (however, the assessment of the impacts on drainage and water quality will be provided in the water resources section of the EIS). Assess the proposed mitigation measures for land disturbance to be used on decommissioning the site in sufficient detail to decide their feasibility. In particular, address the long-term stability of final voids and spoil dumps, safety of access to the site after surrender of the lease, and the residual risks that will be transferred to the subsequent landholder.

Rehabilitation success criteria for land disturbance will be proposed in this section while rehabilitation success criteria for revegetation will be proposed in the section on ecology.

If geological conditions are conducive, the proponent should consider the possibility that significant fossil specimens may be uncovered during construction or operations and propose strategies to protect the specimens and alert the Queensland Museum to the find.

#### **4.2.2.5 Land degradation or contamination**

Assess the possible degradation or contamination of land that could result from any aspects of the project. The assessment should not be limited to activities that would result in the land being entered on the EMR or the CLR. Rather, it should include any activity that could have a detrimental impact on land. Matters to be considered include:

- the long-term use for dust-suppression of water with sufficient dissolved salts to affect soil condition
- disposal to land of any waste water
- waste rock disposal
- tailings disposal
- disturbance of acid sulfate soils
- spills at chemical and fuel storage areas.

Propose measures that would prevent or remediate any degradation or contamination of land due to the proposed activities. Also, propose any measures required for the management and possible remediation of any existing contamination on the site.

For activities that may disturb inland acid sulfate soils, also propose management measures that would prevent the contamination of groundwater or surface water. The proposed management measures will be in accordance with the State Planning Policy 2/02: Planning and Managing Development Involving Acid Sulfate Soils and the any relevant guidelines, such as the Soil Management Guidelines in the Queensland Acid Sulfate Soil Technical Manual (Dear et al., DNRM, 2002) and National Guidance for the Management of Acid Sulfate Soils in Inland Aquatic Ecosystems (Environment Protection and Heritage Council and the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council, 2011).

Assess any activities or proposed contamination that would result in the land being newly entered on the EMR or the CLR. Also assess the consequences, particularly for the subsequent landholder, of any intention to leave the site on either register when mining ceases. Prepare a site management plan for any land remaining on the EMR or the CLR, and describe when, how and by whom it will be implemented.

#### **4.2.2.6 Erosion and stability**

For all permanent and temporary landforms, possible erosion rates and management techniques should be described. For each waste rock and soil type identified, erosion potential (wind and water) and erosion management techniques will be outlined. An erosion-monitoring program, including rehabilitation measures for erosion problems identified during monitoring, will also be outlined. Develop and describe mitigation strategies that would achieve acceptable soil loss rates, levels of sediment in rainfall runoff and wind-generated dust concentrations.

The report will include an assessment of likely erosion and stability effects for all disturbed areas such as:

- areas cleared of vegetation
- waste dumps
- stockpiles
- dams, banks and creek crossings
- the plant site, including buildings
- access roads or other transport corridors
- water supply pipeline and electricity transmission corridors.

Methods proposed to prevent or control erosion will be specified and will be developed with regard to (a) the long-term stability of waste dumps and voids, (b) preventing soil loss in order to maintain land capability/suitability, and (c) preventing significant degradation of local waterways by suspended solids. The mitigation measures will address the selective handling of waste rock and capping material to maximise long-term stability of final landforms in regard to slumping and erosion both on and below the surface. Erosion control measures will be developed into an erosion and sediment control plan for inclusion in the EM plan.

#### **4.2.2.7 Landscape character**

Describe the potential impacts of the project on the landscape character of the site and the surrounding area. Make particular mention of any changes to the broad-scale topography and vegetation character of the area, such as due to spoil dumps, excavated voids and broad-scale clearing.

Provide details of measures to be undertaken to mitigate or avoid the identified impacts.

#### **4.2.2.8 Visual amenity**

Assess and discuss the visual impact of the project on particular panoramas and outlooks. Assess the extent and significance of the changed skyline including views from places of residence, work, and recreation, from road, cycle and walkways, from the air and other known vantage points day and night, and during all stages of the project. Illustrate the visual impacts of the project structures and associated infrastructure using appropriate simulation. Use sketches, diagrams, computer imaging and photos to portray the near views and far views of the completed structures and their surroundings from visually sensitive locations.

Provide detail of how impacts on visual amenity would be mitigated or avoided.

#### **4.2.2.9 Lighting**

Assess the potential impacts of lighting during all stages of the project particularly regarding:

- the effects of night operations, maintenance or increased vehicular traffic on residents
- changed habitat conditions for nocturnal animals
- the attraction of animals to lights at night.

Propose measures to mitigate or avoid all potential impacts due to lighting.

## **4.3 Transport**

The transport section of the EIS will have separate subsections describing infrastructure associated with the various modes of transport, such as road, rail, pipeline, conveyor, air and sea and will include a clear and concise summary of all transport tasks associated with all phases of the project.

### **4.3.1 Description of existing infrastructure and values**

Provide details of the proposed use of existing infrastructure to transport materials, products or wastes to and from the project site. Provide details of any assets within the jurisdiction of any transport authority that could be impacted by the project. Also provide details, either in the transport section of the EIS or by cross-reference to other sections, of the environmental values that would be affected by the altered use of existing transport infrastructure or the construction of new or altered infrastructure.

For road, rail or conveyor transport, separately describe in detail and illustrate the existing networks that would be used by the project. Describe and illustrate any stock routes potentially affected by the project.

In relation to air transport, describe the existing air fields and associated infrastructure that would be used by the project.

In relation to importing or exporting materials and products, identify any port that would be used by the project. Provide details of those ports, including: the berths to be used, the size and types of vessels that the berths can accommodate, the typical turnaround time for vessels and the associated infrastructure that moves and stores material between the ships and the rail and/or road networks.

### 4.3.2 Potential impacts and mitigation measures

For each mode of transport and each phase of the project, the EIS will describe the:

- proposed construction, realignment, structural alteration, or changed use of any access and haul roads, including state controlled roads, conveyor easements, rail loops, load-out facilities, and rail crossings (over or under the track) used by any transport associated with the project
- expected volumes and weights of materials, products, hazardous goods or wastes
- types of vehicles, rolling stock, vessels and craft to be used
- likely number and timing of trips.

Provide sufficient information to make an independent assessment of how transport infrastructure will be affected by each phase of the project at a local and regional level. Similarly, provide sufficient information to make an independent assessment of how transport used by the project will impact on environmental values. In both cases, the impacts along the whole length of each affected route will be discussed and measures proposed to avoid or mitigate the impacts.

Details will be provided of the:

- results of any modelling of transport impacts
- assessment methodology used, including a summary of consultation undertaken with transport authorities regarding the scope of the impact assessment and methodology to be used
- base data assumptions, including an assessment of the current condition of the affected network and its performance
- possible interruptions to transport operations
- risks of spills of products or hazardous materials during transport, prevention measures to be used, and the requirements for dealing with any spills
- impacts of employee transport to and from the mine site, and shops and services in surrounding towns
- impacts of project transport on tourism
- impacts on road safety and community amenity.

Assess any impacts on stock routes due to the project's activities. Propose mitigation measures for any disruptions to movement of travelling stock on stock routes. Outline, and cross-reference to more detailed descriptions with the EIS, the impacts of transport associated with the project on amenity, human health and ecological values as a result of dust, noise, vibration, and any other environmental effects.

The assessment of road impacts will be in accordance with the latest version of the Department of Transport and Main Road's Guidelines for Assessment of Road Impacts of Development, available from [www.mainroads.qld.gov.au](http://www.mainroads.qld.gov.au). Provide details of any heavy or oversized loads, including the number and type of vehicles, with a description of the likely timing and routes of those loads highlighting any vulnerable bridges or other structures along the proposed routes. Also provide details of the likely traffic to be generated by workforce personnel and service providers.

In relation to road impacts, the EIS will include an assessment of impacts on:

- the safety, efficiency and condition of road operations and assets, including driver fatigue
- any existing or proposed pedestrian cycle networks
- any existing public transport networks (assets and services)
- watercourses and overland flows, and their interaction with the current and future road network (note: impacts on water values due to transport infrastructure will be outlined in the transport section of the EIS and cross-referenced to a detailed assessment in the water resources section).

The assessment of impacts on the rail network itself, or on environmental values affected by changes in rail traffic, such as due to dust, noise or vibration, will also consider the following matters:

- the likely size of trains and the number of train paths needed to move materials, products or wastes to or from the project site

- new or altered rail transport infrastructure to meet demand from the project
- impacts on rail freight and other transport services (e.g. variability on existing train path availability)
- impacts on passenger transport and services
- impacts at interface points with other private and public transport pathways such as roadway level crossings or occupational crossings (i.e. those crossings which form part of private access pathways to and from residential or business sites)
- the requirements for any approvals needed for rail crossings by roads or other infrastructure, including assessment using the Australian Level Crossing Assessment Model (ALCAM) if project traffic is likely to affect existing or proposed level crossings.

Assess the impacts of the construction and operation of any conveyors. The direct impacts on any other transport infrastructure, such as those due to road or rail crossings, will be addressed in the transport section of the EIS, while the impacts on other matters (such as ecology, noise, etc) will be addressed in the appropriate sections of the EIS, but cross-referenced in the transport section.

In relation to the importation or export of materials and products, identify any aspects of the project that will increase the shipment of materials through any port. Provide details of the likely size and number of additional vessels that would use the port.

In relation to air transport, describe the new, and/or altered air fields and associated infrastructure that would be needed for the project. Describe the likely additional number of flights, frequency, timing (particularly any increase in night arrivals or take-offs), and size of aircraft. Describe any features of the project that could impact on air transport, such as the placement of waste dumps, stacks or flares beneath flight paths.

Assess any impacts on environmental values due to the need to redevelop or construct new airfields and any impacts on amenity due to increased air traffic. The proposal and assessment should have regard to State Planning Policy 1/02: Development in the Vicinity of Certain Airports and Aviation Facilities. Assess any potential impacts on air safety, including the raising of landforms or the construction of stacks, flares or lighting within flight paths.

If the works that could result in impacts, or the associated mitigation works for identified impacts, are the responsibility of the proponent then the EIS will fully assess those impacts, detail the mitigation works and carry the environmental protection commitments forward into the project's EM plan.

If the proponent will not be responsible for the works associated with the impacts (for example, dredging at a port), the EIS will clearly identify the entity that will be responsible and what approvals would be needed. Nevertheless, in this case, the EIS will provide enough assessment of the likely impacts of all associated activities for the regulatory authorities to have confidence that approval of the project, subject to this EIS process, would not have unacceptable flow-on impacts due to necessary works farther down the transport chain.

Describe detailed measures to avoid or mitigate impacts on each transport mode. The mitigation measures will ensure the safety, efficiency and condition of each mode is maintained. These mitigation measures are to be prepared by the proponent in close consultation with the relevant transport authorities. Any residual impacts that cannot be avoided will be identified and quantified.

Mitigation strategies must include:

- consideration of any transport authority's works program and forward planning
- proposed construction plans of all required transport infrastructure works, including rail level crossings, in accordance with relevant and accepted authority standards and practices
- the responsible parties for any works
- estimates of costs
- details on the timing of the works
- a summary of relevant approvals and legislative requirements needed to implement mitigation strategies and transport infrastructure works required by the project.

Also consider public transport requirements and links to, or development of pedestrian and cycle networks.

## 4.4 Waste

This section will complement other sections of section 4 of the EIS by providing technical details of waste treatment and minimisation, with proposed emission, discharge and disposal criteria, while other sections describe how those emissions, discharges and disposals would impact on the relevant environmental values. The purpose of this format is to concentrate the technical information on waste management into one section in order to facilitate its transfer into the EM plan.

### 4.4.1 Description of environmental values

Briefly describe the existing environment values that may be affected by the project's wastes. Refer to each of the waste streams described in section 3.6 and provide references to more detailed descriptions of the relevant environmental values in other sections of part 4 of the EIS.

### 4.4.2 Potential impacts and mitigation measures

The purpose of this section is to bring together a description of the preferred methods (and discuss any alternatives) to be used to deal with waste streams and outline their impacts. The full description of the magnitude and nature of impacts on particular environmental values due to managing waste will be provided in the relevant subsections of section 4 of the EIS.

Define and describe the objectives and practical measures for protecting or enhancing environmental values from impacts by wastes. Assess the management measures against the waste hierarchy, describe how nominated quantitative standards and indicators may be achieved for waste management, and how the achievement of the objectives will be monitored, audited and managed.

As part of the description, and except where issues related to waste have been addressed in section 3.6 (in which case reference will be made to the appropriate subsection), provide details of each waste with regard to:

- waste volumes
- operational handling, storage, treatment, disposal and fate of all wastes
- any methods and locations to be used to transport and dispose of wastes off the project site
- hazards associated with the handling and storage of wastes
- the potential level of impact on environmental values
- proposed discharge/disposal criteria for liquid and solid wastes
- measures to ensure stability of the dumps and impoundments
- methods to prevent seepage and contamination of surface water or groundwater from stockpiles and/or dumps
- design criteria to be used to ensure that waste containment and/or storage facilities perform satisfactorily
- market demand for recyclable waste
- waste minimisation processes
- measures to ensure wastes does not attract or propagate pests, disease vectors or vermin, and do not impact on public health
- decommissioning of the site.

Consider the physical, geo-mechanical and chemical properties of waste rock in both fresh and weathered forms when determining their suitability for constructing stable slopes and developing measures to avoid acid generation from waste rock dumps and backfilling operations. Provide a detailed description of tailings disposal facilities stability, capping and rehabilitation, including hydraulic performance of the tailings disposal facilities during operation and post-decommissioning.

Indicate the results of investigating the feasibility of using waste minimisation and cleaner technology options during all phases of the project. Apply waste minimisation and treatment, and cleaner production techniques, to gaseous wastes, particularly methane, nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides, particulates and carbon dioxide. Pay particular attention to measures that will maximise energy efficiency and minimise internal energy consumption in the project.

Detail cleaner production waste management planning especially how these concepts have been applied to prevent or minimise environmental impacts at each stage of the project. Provide details on natural resource use efficiency (such as energy and water), integrated processing design, and any co-generation of power and by-product reuse as shown in a material/energy flow analysis.

## 4.5 Water

### 4.5.1 Description of environmental values

Describe the existing resources and environmental values of water that may be affected by the project. Environmental values will be defined according to the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 2009 (EPP (Water)), the Australian Water Quality Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Waters (ANZECC & ARMCANZ, 2000), the Queensland Water Quality Guidelines 2009 (DERM, 2009) and the guideline for Establishing Draft Environmental Values and Water Quality Objectives (EPA, 2002). Make reference to the Isaac River Sub-basin Environmental Values and Water Quality Objectives (September 2011) under Schedule 1 of EPP (Water) and the associated plans, Queensland Wetland Mapping and any available Aquatic Conservation Assessments produced by EHP. Include estuarine and marine waters if they could be impacted by the project. The definition of waters in the EPP (Water) includes the bed and banks of waters, so this section will address benthic sediments as well as the water column.

Develop and describe suitable water quality and resource indicators for measuring environmental values, and objectives that would protect the identified values.

Describe and illustrate the surface watercourses, overland flow, palustrine and lacustrine wetlands, estuaries and marine waters. The description will include suitably scaled maps of catchments, watercourses, drainage pathways, wetlands, or sources of water supply (such as farm dams) potentially affected by the project, whether on or off the project site. Describe, with supporting photographs, the geomorphic condition of any watercourses likely to be affected by disturbance or stream diversion. The results of this description will form the basis for the planning and subsequent monitoring of rehabilitation of the watercourses during or after the operation of the project.

Describe the hydrology of watercourses and overland flow in the project area and any downstream locations potentially affected by the project.

Provide details of the likelihood and history of flooding, including the extent, levels and frequency of floods in and around the project site. Flood studies will include a range of annual exceedence probabilities for potentially 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 assessment will include local flooding due to short duration events from contributing catchments on site, as well as larger scale regional flooding including waterways downstream.

Describe present and potential users and uses of water in areas potentially affected by the project, including municipal, agricultural, industrial and recreational uses of water.

Describe the quality of surface waters in the area potentially affected by the project with an outline of the significance of these waters to the river catchment system in which they occur. The description will be based on a monitoring program, with sampling stations located at background reference sites either upstream or in representative local waterways that would not be impacted and downstream of the project. Clearly identify and reference existing data obtained from other monitoring programs. Monitoring will include sites closest to the proposed discharge points and at downstream locations that would be below any mixing zone. Sites will include permanent and semi-permanent water holes, known aquatic habitat, weirs or reservoirs.

Available complementary stream-flow data will also be obtained from current or historical gauging stations to help interpretation. The suitability of these gauging stations for this assessment and future licensing conditions should be assessed in accordance with the explanatory notes for Table 4 in the Model Water Conditions for Coal Mines in the Fitzroy Basin (DERM 2011) and alternative sites for gauging stations identified where necessary. Describe the flow regime for the receiving environment using plots of low (cumecs) versus flow duration (percentage) to identify the duration of high-flow, base-flow and no-flow periods to characterise the receiving environment. Describe seasonal variations in water quality parameters and variations with flow. Monitoring of ephemeral streams will primarily focus on all times of natural flow. Measure a range of physical, chemical and biological parameters relevant to the

potential environmental harm on any affected creek or wetland system. This will include but not necessarily be limited to water quality indicators likely to be affected by the project such as electrical conductivity, total and dissolved metals, turbidity, suspended sediments and pH with reference to relevant parameters identified in the Model Water Conditions for Coal Mines in the Fitzroy Basin (DERM 2011). Biological indicators will include macroinvertebrate surveys undertaken at appropriate locations according to best practice methods. All sampling will be performed in accordance with the Monitoring and Sampling Manual 2009 Version 2 (DERM, 2010) or the most current edition.

All water quality data will be presented in a suitable format for assessment against relevant water quality objectives or guideline trigger values as described in the Queensland Water Quality Guidelines 2009 and the Australian Water Quality Guidelines (ANZECC and ARMCANZ 2000). Physico-chemical parameters should at least be presented as 50<sup>th</sup> percentiles and toxicants such as metals presented as 95<sup>th</sup> percentiles, together with data ranges and the limit of reporting. All relevant metadata that would facilitate an assessment of the quality of this data set should be provided including number of samples, timing and frequency of sampling and any quality assurance and quality control undertaken (such as replicates, blanks and calibration).

Describe the quality, quantity and significance of groundwater in the project area and any surrounding area potentially affected by the project's activities.

Detailed mapping should be provided to illustrate the locations of each sampling site in the monitoring program with respect to all proposed release points and gauging stations for the mine. The EIS will contain tables with the latitude and longitude (decimal degrees, GDA 94) for all release points, sampling sites and gauging stations.

Describe the nature and hydrology of the aquifers of the potentially affected area, including:

- geology and stratigraphy and any geological structures (e.g. faults)
- aquifer type—such as confined, unconfined, karst or perched
- depth to, and thickness of, the aquifers
- the significance of the resource at a local and regional scale
- depth to water level and seasonal changes in levels
- current status in terms of stress from existing use or mining activities
- groundwater flow directions (defined from water level contours)
- groundwater yield
- groundwater quality
- interaction with surface water, including discharge and recharge
- interaction with saline water
- vulnerability to pollution.

Identify the locations of any springs in and around the project area and define which geological formations the springs are connected to.

The description will include a survey of existing groundwater supply facilities (bores, wells, or excavations) to the extent of any potential impacts. Include and analyse the following information:

- location of potentially affected bores or wells
- likely aquifers being accessed
- purpose of use
- pumping parameters draw down and recharge at normal pumping rates
- current standing water level
- seasonal variations (if records exist) of groundwater levels.

Present the methodology used to determine the number and location of monitoring bores and the outcomes intended to be achieved.

Develop and describe a network of observation points and a monitoring program that would satisfactorily monitor groundwater resources both before and after commencement of operations. For reference data, where access can be obtained, the monitoring network should include nearby bores, cased to potentially relevant aquifers, that are outside the likely zone of impact. The data obtained from the groundwater survey will be sufficient to enable specification of the major ionic species, pH, electrical conductivity, total dissolved solids and any potentially toxic or harmful substances.

#### **4.5.2 Potential impacts and mitigation measures**

For all phases of the project, this section of the EIS will:

- assess potential impacts on the water resource environmental values identified in the previous section
- define and describe the objectives and practical measures for protecting or enhancing water resource environmental values
- describe how the achievement of the objectives will be monitored, audited and managed.

Describe and illustrate with maps, plans and cross-sections any proposal to divert creeks or undertake other in-stream works. Assess the potential impacts of in-stream works on hydrology and water quality, and propose measures for avoiding or mitigating the impacts and stabilising and rehabilitating any works. The design of any diversions will be based on the geomorphic condition of the original watercourses and demonstrate consideration of, and be in accordance with, best practice guidelines and reports, such as those produced by the Queensland Government or the Australian Coal Association Research Program (ACARP) for mines in the Bowen Basin.

Assess the hydrological impacts of the project, particularly with regard to the various components of flow that may be impacted by the project. The EIS will address: changes to catchment size or characteristics, changes to the direction or quantity of runoff in the local catchment and to accumulated downstream flows, scouring and erosion, and the consequent impacts of any subsidence. Any consequential impacts of changes to water flow or groundwater recharge on ecosystems and wildlife will be addressed in the ecology section of the EIS. When flooding levels will be affected, model the afflux and illustrate the predictions with maps. Describe and illustrate how an operating pit would be protected from flooding, and address the flood protection level of any final void without the need to maintain levees.

If underground mining is proposed under any watercourse, provide a subsidence management plan. Include in the outline, a timeline for predicted subsidence, location, potential subsidence impacts and any mitigation measures including triggers for managing surface cracking, and rehabilitation methods to a nominated post-mining land use. Also, assess the potential impacts of subsidence on the sediment load within watercourses. Identify any existing Quarry Material Allocation Notice (QMAN) holders in or downstream of subsidence areas; and if there are any QMAN holders, assess whether there would be potential impacts on their resource or entitlement. Provide mitigation measures for any impacts on any QMAN holders.

Describe the options for supplying water to the project, and assess the consequential impacts in relation to any water resource plan, resource operations plan and wild river declaration that may apply. Water allocation and water sources will be established in consultation with the relevant department. Where a licence or permit will be required under the *Water Act 2000* to take water or interfere with the flow of water, provide sufficient information and assessment for the administering authority to consider the suitability of approving any necessary take under the *Water Act 2000*. The EIS will outline any implications of the Water Resource (Fitzroy Basin) Plan 2011 that apply to the project. Similarly, provide sufficient assessment to consider any approval for waterway barrier works under the *Fisheries Act 1994*.

Calculate and detail estimated capacities of proposed storages and indicate whether they are to capture mine affected water to comply with an environmental authority or whether they would capture clean water.

Describe in detail the proposed water management controls, addressing surface and ground water quality and quantity, drainage patterns and sediment movements. Propose measures to manage sediment dams and process or waste water dams and their discharge, and to decommission and rehabilitate the dams when their use ends.

Assess the potential impacts on local and downstream water quality and environmental values due to any controlled release of mine affected water from the site. Describe the proposed quality, quantities and locations of waste water discharges. The EIS must contain tables with the latitude and longitude (GDA94) for all release points, sampling sites and gauging stations relevant to monitoring programs. Use stream flow data and receiving environment monitoring data (background water quality condition assessment) to estimate the event flow trigger for electrical conductivity in each receiving waterway based on the observed variation (plot flow versus electrical conductivity (EC)). The event flow trigger will be identified as the flow at which EC increases and begins to exceed the high flow water quality objective for EC in the receiving environment. The event flow trigger can also be any flow above this point. This data will be used to propose conditions for the release of mine affected water into the receiving environment, including release limits and rates to estimate in-stream dilution and water quality at different points downstream of the proposed release. If sensitive receptors such as drinking water storages are located downstream, these should be identified and the assessment should extend at least to that point downstream. Consider periods of low-flow, medium-flow and high-flow in this assessment. Compare the predicted contaminant levels to the water quality objectives and provide an assessment of the assimilative capacity of the receiving waters. Assess the acute and chronic potential impacts of the release of mine affected waters (or other discharges) including the cumulative impacts to water quality and environmental values of the receiving environment due to discharges from other projects or industry.

Describe any proposed no-release water systems, assess the management and fate of contaminants, and propose mitigation measures for any potential impacts. Describe and assess proposed measures to manage any leachate or seepage from tailings storages, either during operations or following decommissioning of the mine and its rehabilitation. Describe monitoring programs that will assess the effectiveness of management strategies for protecting water quality during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the project.

Conduct a risk assessment, based on conservative water quality estimates and hydrology, for uncontrolled emissions to water due to exceedence of design storage allowance or catastrophic failure of mine infrastructure, assess the potential impacts of such emissions on human health and natural ecosystems, and provide detailed measures to avoid or minimise impacts.

Develop an appropriate groundwater model to simulate the behaviour of groundwater in the project area including the effects of the proposed mining operations. Propose a program for review and update of the model as more data and information becomes available.

Assess the potential impacts on local groundwater resources and quality, and define the extent of the area where groundwater resources are likely to be affected by the proposed operations. Assess the potential impacts of the operations on groundwater draw-down, depletion or recharge, and propose management options to monitor and mitigate these effects. Assess the likely response of the groundwater resource after operation of the project, including the impacts of groundwater inflow to any residual void. Assess the potential impacts on the local ground water regime due to altered porosity and permeability from any land disturbance, such as subsidence. Assess the potential for project operations or residual effects to contaminate groundwater resources. Propose measures to avoid, mitigate and remediate any impacts on groundwater resources or quality.

## 4.6 Air

### 4.6.1 Description of environmental values

Describe the existing air environment and airshed that may be affected by the project. Discuss the background levels and sources of contaminants including suspended particulates, oxides of sulfur or nitrogen, greenhouse gases, odorous compounds and any other relevant constituent, whether major or minor, of the air environment that may be affected by the project.

Provide sufficient data on local meteorology and ambient levels of contaminants to establish a baseline for later studies and for the modelling of air quality environmental impacts within the airshed. Parameters will include air temperature, wind speed and direction, atmospheric stability, mixing depth and other parameters necessary for input to the models.

Describe and illustrate the locations of existing residences, places of work, schools, etc, agricultural or ecologically significant areas that could be impacted by emissions from the project.

Describe the environmental values, appropriate indicators and air quality objectives for the potentially affected air environment according to the Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2008 (EPP (Air)). Assess whether any air quality objectives are needed in addition to those in the EPP (Air).

#### **4.6.2 Potential impacts and mitigation measures**

Describe all the project's potential sources of emissions to air and expected composition of the emissions. The description will include oxides of sulfur or nitrogen, volatile organic compounds, carbon monoxide and dioxide, particulates (including dust, PM<sub>10</sub>, and PM<sub>2.5</sub>), trace metals, odours and any toxic, persistent and/or hazardous substances that would be emitted by the project. Also, specify the oxygen content of the flue gases. Present the concentrations of all components of emissions at standard temperature and pressure, and provide the mass emission rate, exit velocity, volume flow rate and temperature at exit.

Provide a separate air emission inventory of any offsite activities directly associated with the project, including fugitive emissions such as from rail or road transport of product or waste.

Use a recognised atmospheric dispersion model to predict the fate of all significant emissions. Use estimates of emission rates based on actual measurements from samples taken from similar facilities, preferably full-scale facilities operating elsewhere or otherwise from experimental or demonstration-scale facilities. Where this is not possible, use published emission factors and/or data supplied by manufacturers of process and control equipment. State all input parameters, data sets and assumptions used in the modelling in the main text of the EIS or an appendix. The model inputs will be as detailed as possible, reflecting any variation of emissions with time and including at least a full year of representative hourly meteorological data. Provide stack parameters such as stack height, diameter, temperature, exit velocity and volume flow rate.

If there is no single atmospheric dispersion model that is able to handle the different atmospheric dispersion characteristics exhibited in the project area (such as sea breezes, strong convection, terrain features, temperature inversions and contaminant re-circulation), apply a combination of acceptable models.

Provide contour maps of predicted ground level concentrations and frequency contour plots for typical and maximum emissions under the expected range of meteorological conditions including the worst case. The averaging period for ground-level concentrations of contaminants modelled will be consistent with the relevant averaging periods for air quality indicators and goals in the Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2008 and the National Environmental Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure. For example, the modelling of sulfur dioxide must be conducted for one-hour, 24-hour and annual averaging periods.

Compare the predicted ground level concentrations to the air quality objectives, and best practice national and international source emission standards. Describe any situations where people, ecosystems or an agricultural use would experience concentrations above an objective. Assess the human health risk associated with emissions from the project for all contaminants whether or not they are covered by the National Environmental Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure or the EPP (Air). Assess potential impacts of emissions on ecosystems or agricultural uses of the environment.

Assess the potential cumulative impacts or interaction between the emissions from the project and other emissions in the airshed. For example, it may be necessary to evaluate whether nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds emissions from the project and other sources within the region would contribute to the generation of photochemical smog, or whether sulfur dioxide emissions would acidify rain or dew.

Describe airshed management and the contribution of the project to airshed capacity in view of existing and future users of the airshed for assimilation and dispersion of emissions.

If odour could be an issue, conduct odour impact assessment according to the EHP guideline Odour Impact Assessment from Developments.

Identify worst case emissions that may occur at start-up, shut-down or during 'upset' operating conditions. If these emissions are significantly higher than those for normal operations, it will be necessary to evaluate the worst-case impact, as a separate exercise to determine whether any planned buffer between the project and neighbouring sensitive receptors will be adequate

Describe the pollution control equipment and pollution control processes to be employed on the premises and the features of the project designed to suppress or minimise emissions, including dusts and odours. Describe the backup measures to be incorporated that will act in the event of failure of primary measures to minimise the likelihood of plant upsets and adverse air impacts.

Assess how the proposed emission control processes accord with the management hierarchy for air emissions in the EPP (Air).

Describe how the air quality objectives would be achieved, monitored and audited, and how corrective action would be taken when needed.

To ensure that all relevant coal rail-transport related dust mitigation measures are implemented to support the Grosvenor West Project, the proponent should consult with QR National's subsidiary QR Network Pty Ltd to determine the requirements for new coal loading facilities, load controls and spray-on dust suppressant systems as a result of the implementation of the coal dust management plan.

#### **4.6.2.1 Greenhouse gases**

Provide an inventory of projected annual emissions for each relevant greenhouse gas, with total emissions expressed in 'CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent' terms. Estimate emissions from upstream activities associated with the proposed project, including the fossil fuel based electricity to be used. Briefly describe the methods used to make the estimates. The Australian Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency's National Greenhouse Accounts (NGA) Factors can be used as a reference source for emission estimates and supplemented by other sources where practicable and appropriate. Coal mining projects will include estimates of coal seam methane to be released as well as emissions resulting from such activities as transportation of products and consumables, and energy use by the project.

Assess the potential impacts of the project on the state and national greenhouse gas inventories and propose greenhouse gas abatement measures, including:

- 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 of the 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.

Means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions could include such measures as:

- minimising clearing at the site (which also has imperatives besides reducing greenhouse gas emissions)
- using less carbon-emitting transport modes or fuels
- integrating transport for the project with other local industries such that greenhouse gas emissions from the construction and running of transport infrastructure are minimised
- maximising the use of renewable energy sources
- co-locating coal seam methane use for energy production with coal extraction
- carbon sequestration at nearby or remote locations.

Include a specific module to address greenhouse abatement in the draft environmental management plan. That module will include:

- 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
- periodic energy audits with a view to progressively improving energy efficiency
- a process for regularly reviewing 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 by renewable energy uses
- commitments to monitor, audit and report on greenhouse emissions from all relevant activities and the success of offset measures.

## 4.7 Noise and vibration

### 4.7.1 Description of environmental values

Describe the existing environmental values that may be affected by noise and vibration from the project. Environmental values and acoustic objectives for noise-sensitive receptors are defined in the Environmental Protection (Noise) Policy 2008 (EPP (Noise)).

If the proposed activity could adversely impact on the noise environment, undertake baseline monitoring at a selection of sensitive receptors potentially affected by the project. Sensitive receptors are defined in the EPP (Noise). Illustrate the locations of sensitive receptors on a suitably-scaled map. Describe the results of any baseline monitoring of noise and vibration in the proposed vicinity of the project, including long-term measured background noise levels that take into account seasonal variations.

Report the daily variation of background noise levels at nearby sensitive receptors, with particular regard to detailing variations at different periods of the night. Monitoring methods will adhere to accepted best practice methodologies, relevant EHP guidelines and Australian standards, and any relevant requirements of the Environmental Protection Regulation 2008 and the EPP (Noise).

Describe any current activities near the project area that may cause a background level of ground vibration (for example major roads, quarrying activities, etc).

Develop and describe suitable indicators for measuring noise, and objectives that would protect the environmental values from significant noise and vibration impacts.

### 4.7.2 Potential impacts and mitigation measures

Using a suitable acoustic model, predict the likely generation of noise for different times of day under a range of climatic conditions, including the expected worst case. Describe the predictions using suitable indicators, and illustrate the predicted noise contours on suitably-scaled maps showing the locations of noise sensitive receptors. Assess the potential impacts of noise and vibration at all potentially sensitive receptors in comparison to the objectives and standards to be achieved. Give particular consideration to emissions of low-frequency noise, for example, noise with components below 200Hz. The assessment of noise impacts will include matters raised in the document *The Health Effects of Environmental Noise – Other Than Hearing Loss* published by the enHealth Council, 2004 (or later editions), ISBN 0 642 82304 9. Assess the potential environmental impacts of noise and vibration on terrestrial and marine animals and birds, including migratory species. Assess potential noise impacts on any nearby protected areas addressing amenity as well as impacts on animals. Provide information on blasting that 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. Discuss the magnitude, duration and frequency of any vibration and assess the potential impacts on sensitive receptors. Reference will be made to the EHP guideline *Noise and Vibration from Blasting*.

Assess potential off-site noise and vibration impacts that could arise due to increased road or rail transportation directly resulting from the project.

Define and describe practical measures for protecting or enhancing environmental values from impacts by noise and vibration, including details and illustrations of any screening, lining, enclosing or bunding. Provide a discussion of timing schedules for construction and operations with respect to minimising environmental nuisance and harm from noise and vibration. Also, describe how the achievement of the objectives will be monitored, audited and corrective action taken when needed. Describe how any complaints about noise or vibration would be managed and reported.

## 4.8 Ecology

### 4.8.1 Description of environmental values

Describe the existing ecological values that may be affected by the project. Address those ecological values in terms of:

- terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, and their interaction
- biological diversity
- the existing integrity of ecological processes, including habitats of threatened or near threatened species
- the integrity of landscapes and places, including wilderness and similar natural places.

The description of the ecological values of the areas likely to be affected by the project will be illustrated by maps, diagrams and photographs. The description will start by addressing the ecology of the regional area and progress to a detailed description of the project site and any localities that could be affected by project related activities, including downstream and down-wind areas that could be significantly impacted by emissions. The description of ecological values will account for seasonal changes.

For all locations that may be affected by any aspect of the project, provide suitably-scaled maps of terrestrial vegetation based primarily on field surveys with descriptions of the mapped ecosystems and any items of special interest. Map adjacent areas to illustrate interconnectivity, including any larger scale interconnections between areas of remnant or regrowth vegetation where the project site includes vegetation that facilitates animal movement between those other areas. Field surveys will use the Queensland Herbarium methodology and proformas in the latest version of the publication *Methodology for Survey and Mapping of Regional Ecosystems and Vegetation Communities in Queensland* (EPA, 2005), and survey a minimum of three sites, each at least 50 metres by 10 metres, within each defined (standard system) vegetation community.

The vegetation description and mapping, produced from aerial photographs and field surveys, and having a minimum scale of 1:10 000, will cover at least the following matters:

- location and extent of vegetation types using EHP's regional ecosystem type descriptions in accordance with the Regional Ecosystem Description Database
- category A or B environmentally sensitive areas under the Environmental Protection Regulation 2008
- any areas of state, regional or local significance identified in an approved biodiversity planning assessment produced by EHP
- critical habitat within the meaning of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*
- vegetation mapped as essential habitat
- remnant or regrowth vegetation, particularly essential regrowth habitat, high value regrowth, or a regrowth watercourse
- sensitive or important vegetation types, including riparian vegetation and any marine littoral and subtidal zone
- in-land or coastal wetlands
- wildlife breeding or roosting areas
- sites in, or adjacent to, areas containing important resting, feeding or breeding sites, or flight paths for migratory species listed under the Convention of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, and/or bilateral agreements between Australia and Japan (JAMBA), Australia and China (CAMBA), or Australia and the Republic of Korea (ROKAMBA)
- sites adjacent to nesting beaches, feeding, resting or calving areas of species of special interest, such as marine turtles and cetaceans
- sites containing common species that represent a distributional limit and are of scientific value or contain feeding, breeding, resting areas for populations of echidna, koala, platypus and other species of special cultural significance

- sites containing high biodiversity that may be dependent for their long-term survival or function on connectivity with other nearby areas of habitat
- a site containing other special ecological values, for example, high habitat diversity and areas of high endemism
- bat roosting and breeding caves, including existing structures such as adits and shafts
- habitat of threatened or near threatened animals
- the condition of vegetation and its habitat value, particularly in relation to the conservation of any threatened and near threatened plant and animal species, assemblages or community types
- a complete list of species present at each site
- the relative abundance of plant species
- species of protected plants highlighting those listed as threatened or near threatened under the Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 2006
- any other plant communities or species of conservation, cultural, commercial or recreational significance
- areas that may have low resilience to environmental change
- location and abundance of any pest, weed or exotic species
- any areas that would be subject to the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

Plants that could not be identified during the survey will be submitted to the Queensland Herbarium for identification. Specimens of plant species of conservation significance, including those listed as protected plants under the Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 2006, other than common species, will be submitted to the Queensland Herbarium with sufficient information to enable their lodgement as voucher specimens.

The plant and animal surveys will address species structure, assemblage, diversity and abundance. Surveys will be sufficient to identify, or adequately extrapolate, the plant and animal values over the range of seasons, particularly during and following a wet season. In tropical areas, a major part of the survey effort will be undertaken between 1 February and 31 March, assuming the wet season follows a typical pattern. The survey will account for the ephemeral nature of watercourses traversing the project area, and seasonal variation in animal populations. Existing information on plants and animals may be used to supplement new survey work provided that the existing data are still current and have been derived from previous surveys at the site that were consistent with current best practice methodologies. Methodologies used for plant and animal surveys will be specified in the appendices to the EIS.

Undertake a comprehensive vertebrate animal survey of the project area at a sampling intensity that supports the scale of vegetation mapping (i.e. 1:10 000 or better). Surveys of terrestrial wildlife will be conducted in a manner that is sensitive to effects of seasonality and the different activity patterns and habitat use by species under different seasonal conditions.

Describe the terrestrial and riparian animals occurring in the areas affected by the project, noting the broad distribution patterns in relation to vegetation, topography and substrate. The description of the animals present or likely to be present in the area will address:

- a list of animal species, their diversity and abundance
- the existence of any threatened, near threatened or otherwise noteworthy species or communities in the study area, including discussion of range, habitat, breeding, recruitment, feeding and movement requirements, and current level of protection (such as any requirements of protected area management plans)
- any species that are poorly known but suspected of being threatened or near threatened
- habitat requirements and their sensitivity to changes
- movement corridors and barriers to movement
- the use of the area by migratory birds, nomadic birds, bats, and arboreal and ground-dwelling animals
- feral, pest or exotic animals.

In addition to the species found in the field survey, provide an indicative list of all other known or likely species within a 100 km area around the project site and the local bioregion, highlighting any threatened or near threatened species. Correlate the occurrence of animals of conservation significance to mapped vegetation units or habitats to facilitate the development of measures for their protection. Indicate how well any affected communities are represented and protected elsewhere in the province where the site of the project occurs.

Provide a complete list of flora and fauna species recorded at each survey site in a format which allows incorporation into the EHP Wildnet database.

Describe the aquatic plants and animals occurring in the areas affected by the project, noting the patterns and distribution in the waterways and any associated wetlands, lacustrine and marine environments. The description of the plants and animals present or likely to be present in the area will at least include:

- fish species, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, crustaceans and aquatic invertebrates occurring in the waterways within the affected area, and/or those in any associated lacustrine and marine environment
- any threatened or near threatened marine species and their habitat
- aquatic plants
- aquatic and benthic substrate
- habitat downstream of the project, or potentially impacted due to currents in associated lacustrine and marine environments.

Conduct a desktop assessment of the potential for stygofauna to occur within the zone of influence of the project proposal, and a pilot study in accordance with the Western Australian Environmental Protection Authority – Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors No. 54a (August 2007), or any more recent publication that supersedes that guideline. If the desktop assessment and pilot study identify potentially significant stygofauna values, provide a description to order or family taxonomic rank of the presence and nature of any stygofauna occurring in groundwater likely to be affected by the project. Sampling and survey methods should follow best practice, such as that published by the Western Australian Environmental Protection Authority – Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors no.54 (December 2003) and No. 54a (August 2007), or any more recent publication that supersedes that guideline.

Develop and describe suitable indicators for measuring ecological values, and objectives that would protect the environmental values from significant adverse impacts.

## **4.8.2 Potential impacts and mitigation measures**

Assess the potential impacts on the ecological values of the area arising from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the project including clearing, salvaging or removal of vegetation. Cover terrestrial and aquatic (marine and freshwater) environments, including any potentially impacted benthic and inter-tidal communities, seagrass beds and mangroves. Assess the potentially significant environmental impacts on any plants and animals, whether on or off the project site, due to any alterations to the local surface and ground water environment.

Specifically assess any potential impacts on a category A or B environmentally sensitive area and propose measures to avoid impacts.

If available, provide electronic shapefiles in a format compatible with ArcGIS indicating the boundary of the project area and detailing the extent of proposed vegetation clearing in relation to surrounding vegetation both within the project area and in any off-site area to be used for project related infrastructure.

Assess the indirect impacts on remaining vegetation, such as those due to edge effects, reducing vegetation area below a viable size, or reductions in connectivity. Similarly, indirect impacts on animals should be assessed, such as the reduction of a habitat area below a viable size or increased predation due to reduced cover. Short-term and long-term effects should be considered with comment on whether the impacts are reversible or irreversible.

Describe the potential impacts on stygofauna of any changes in the quality, level or quantity of groundwater, and describe any mitigation measures that may be applied.

Assess the capacity of the environment to assimilate discharges or emissions. Assess the potential impacts due to chronic, low-level exposure to contaminants or the bio-accumulation of contaminants.

Assess the potential impacts on animals of wastes at the site, particularly those related to any form of cyanide or other toxicants in supernatant water of a tailings storage facility. Propose measures to prevent harm to wildlife.

Describe and assess the potential impacts of any actions of the project that require an authority under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, and/or would be assessable development for the purposes of the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*. The assessment and supporting information should be sufficient for the administering authority to decide whether an approval should be granted and developing recommended conditions.

Propose practical measures for protecting or enhancing ecological values, and assess how nominated quantitative standards and indicators may be achieved for nature conservation management. In particular, address measures to protect or preserve any threatened or near threatened species.

Describe measures that would adequately mitigate potential impacts on habitats that would inhibit animal movement, propagation or feeding patterns, or change food chains. Specifically address any obligations imposed by Queensland or Commonwealth legislation or policy or international treaty obligations, such as JAMBA, CAMBA or ROKAMBA. Assess the need for buffer zones and the retention, rehabilitation or planting of movement corridors, and propose measures that would avoid waterway barriers or mitigate their construction and operation. Assess works in a waterway considering Waterway Barrier Works Development Approvals, Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries Fish Habitat Management Operational Policy FHMOP 008, 2009.

Identify and quantify any potential net loss of environmental values. Propose environmental offsets that would counterbalance the remaining loss of environmental values. Proposed environmental offsets will be consistent with the requirements set out in any applicable specific-issue offset policies under the framework of the Queensland Government's Environmental Offset Policy (2008) and the requirements set out in the draft *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* offsets policy. Specific-issue offset policies that will be considered are:

- Queensland Biodiversity Offset Policy (DERM, 2011)
- Policy for Vegetation Management Offsets (DERM, 2009)
- Mitigation and Compensation for Works or Activities Causing Marine Fish Habitat Loss: Departmental Procedures, Fish Habitat Management Operational Policy, Queensland Department of Primary Industries, FHMOP 005, 2002
- Offsets for Net Benefit to Koalas and Koala Habitat in the Nature Conservation (Koala) Conservation Plan 2006 and Management Program 2006 - 2016 (EPA, 2006).

Propose detailed measures to remove and control the introduction or spread of weeds and feral or pest animals. This should include a risk assessment of high biosecurity risk species and their sites, and the development of threat mitigation plans for them, such as clean down and inspections at high risk sites. Management measures should include the actions to be taken to monitor for, and control, pest animals in and around residential quarters, temporary camps and waste tips. The biosecurity management strategies will include mitigation measures relevant to protecting any potentially affected primary production areas. When determining control strategies, reference will be made to the latest Biosecurity Queensland's Annual Pest Distribution Survey data, published biosecurity management strategies, local government pest management plans and any applicable model local laws dealing with locally declared pest plants and animals. Include all management measures for pest plants and animals in a biosecurity management plan, which will form part of the project's draft EM plan.

Propose measures for the progressive rehabilitation of disturbed areas, including rehabilitation success criteria that would be used to measure the progress. Describe how the achievement of the objectives would be monitored and audited, and how corrective actions would be managed. Proposals for the rehabilitation of disturbed areas will incorporate, where appropriate, provision of nest hollows and ground litter.

## 4.9 Cultural heritage

### 4.9.1 Description of environmental values

For non-indigenous historical heritage, a study will be undertaken of the known and potential historical cultural and landscape heritage values of the area potentially affected by the project. The study will be undertaken by a suitably qualified or experienced person, and as a minimum, include the following elements:

- A desktop assessment reviewing all sources of information on non-indigenous historical cultural and landscape heritage values within the region of the project site, including:
  - the Queensland Heritage Register, for places already protected under the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*
  - local government heritage registers, lists or inventories
  - results of previous cultural and landscape heritage studies conducted in the region
  - appropriate national and international guidelines for the descriptions of sites, places and regions.
- A physical archaeological investigation of the area potentially affected by the project (based on the results of the desktop assessment) that addresses:
  - all types of historical heritage places located within the project area including built, archaeological and non-indigenous cultural landscape values
  - the discovery and protection of any previously unidentified archaeological artefacts or archaeological places during the course of the archaeological investigation in accordance with Part 9 of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*.
- An investigation of whether the area potentially affected by the project includes places and locales of possible state or local heritage significance, including:
  - An assessment of places of potential heritage significance against the criteria contained in Division 1 of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*
  - Documented consultation with appropriate academic historians and with local history organisations about the survey methodology and scope
  - Notification to the Cultural Heritage Branch of EHP of any places or locales that are of potential state or local heritage significance not currently on the state or local heritage register.

## **4.9.2 Potential impacts and mitigation measures**

### **4.9.2.1 Indigenous cultural heritage**

Unless an exemption applies under s. 86 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*, a cultural heritage management plan (CHMP) must be prepared in accordance with the requirements of Part 7 of that Act. The gazetted Cultural Heritage Management Plan guidelines may assist in the development of the CHMP. EHP's EIS Coordinator must be made aware of the progress of the CHMP approval process and of any related issues that should be addressed in the EIS assessment report.

### **4.9.2.2 Non-Indigenous historical cultural heritage**

The potential impacts on non-Indigenous historical cultural and landscape heritage values and their avoidance or mitigation will be addressed in a management plan. The historical heritage management plan will specifically address identified values and provide a process for managing yet undiscovered values should they become apparent during development of the project.

The development of a historical heritage management plan will be negotiated with the Cultural Heritage Branch of EHP, local history organisations and other relevant stakeholders.

The historical heritage management plan will as a minimum address the following issues:

- processes for mitigating, managing and protecting identified historical cultural heritage values during excavations of the construction, operational, rehabilitation and decommissioning phases of the project
- recognition and protection of:
  - view lines to and from heritage places including natural features
  - cultural landscapes
- proactive ways of conserving the heritage places
- processes for reporting, as required by section 89 of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*, the discovery of any archaeological artefact not previously identified in the historical cultural heritage study

- procedures for collecting any artefact material, including appropriate storage and conservation
- historical cultural and landscape heritage awareness training or programs for project staff.

The training will be provided during the site induction, and will address the legislative requirements and practical measures for the recognition, reporting and preservation of cultural heritage material. A plain English manual summarising the training will be given to all site workers for their future reference.

The historical heritage management plan will be incorporated into the project's draft EM plan.

## 4.10 Social values

Conduct a social impact assessment (SIA) in consultation with staff of Significant Projects Coordination Branch, Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (DSDIP). Matters to be considered are detailed in the following subsections.

### 4.10.1 Description of existing social values

#### 4.10.1.1 Social and cultural area

Define the social and cultural values within the project's area of influence, including the local, district, regional and state level as appropriate, taking into account the:

- potential for social and cultural impacts to occur
- location of other relevant proposals or projects
- location and types of physical and social infrastructure, settlement and land use patterns
- social values that might be affected by the project, including integrity of social conditions, liveability, social harmony and wellbeing, and sense of community
- Indigenous social and cultural characteristics, such as areas under native title rights or application.

#### Community engagement

Consistent with national and international good practice, and with regard to local and regional strategies for community engagement, the proponent should engage at the earliest practicable stage with likely affected parties to discuss and explain the project, and to identify and respond to issues and concerns regarding social impacts.

Detail the community engagement processes used to conduct open and transparent dialogue with people. Such processes should include, but not be limited to, community reference group forums. Include the project's planning and design stages and future operations including affected local and state authorities. Engagement processes should consider social and cultural factors, customs and values, and linkages between environmental, economic, and social impact issues.

Discuss engagement strategies and processes, including how complaint resolution should be addressed, for all stages of the project.

#### 4.10.1.2 Social baseline study

Undertake a targeted baseline study of the people residing in the project's social and cultural area, to identify the project's social issues, potential adverse and positive social impacts, and strategies and measures developed to address the impacts. The social baseline study will be based on qualitative, quantitative, and participatory methods. It should 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.

Describe and analyse a range of demographic and social statistics determined relevant to the project's social and cultural area including:

- major population trends/changes irrespective of the project
- total population (the total enumerated population for the social and cultural area and full-time equivalent transient population), 18 years and older

- estimates of population growth and population forecasts for the proposals
- family structures
- age and gender distributions
- education, including schooling levels
- measures of community safety, health and wellbeing
- cultural and ethnic characteristics
- Indigenous population including age and gender
- income including personal and household
- personal and household income
- labour force by occupation and industry
- housing costs (monthly housing repayments (per cent of dwellings in each category), and weekly rent (per cent 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
- types and prevalence of crime, including domestic violence
- any other indicators determined through the community engagement process as relevant.

The social baseline study should also take account of and address issues such as:

- the social infrastructure including community and civic facilities, services and networks (for definition see South East Queensland Plan 2009–2031 (Department of Infrastructure and Planning 2009))
- settlement patterns including the names, locations, size, history and cultural aspects of settlement in the social and cultural area
- 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:
  - the number of properties potentially directly or indirectly affected by the project
  - rural properties, farms, croplands and grazing areas including on-farm activities near the proposed activities
  - the number of families directly and indirectly affected by the project including Indigenous traditional owners and their families, property owners, and families workers either living on the property or workers where the property is their primary employment
  - use of social and cultural area for forestry, fishing, recreation, business and industry, tourism, aquaculture and indigenous cultural use of flora and fauna

Cross reference this section with 4.12 (Economy).

#### **4.10.1.3 Workforce profile**

The SIA should include a profile of the workforce that describes the following:

##### **Workforce demand**

The estimated composition of workforce by occupation, project stage and duration (including any planned construction prior to final investment decision) using the template provided at [www.skills.qld.gov.au/significantprojects.aspx](http://www.skills.qld.gov.au/significantprojects.aspx)

## Supply issues and strategies

An analysis of relevant local, state and national workforce profiles and labour supply; and strategies and proposed programs for:

- recruitment and attraction
- population groups (including Indigenous people, secondary school students and unemployed and underemployed)
- unskilled and semi-skilled labour requirements
- structured training (apprenticeships, traineeships, graduates)
- analysis of the impact on local community workforce

### 4.10.2 Potential impacts and mitigation measures

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 the outcomes of the community engagement processes and the social baseline study. Furthermore:

- 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 the project's effect on their business and plan for the 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 direct, indirect and secondary impacts from any existing projects and the proposed project including an assessment of the size, significance, and likelihood of these impacts at the local and regional level.

Consider the following:

- 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 during the construction and operational phases, with regard to the source of the workforce. Present this information according to occupational workforce groupings. Detail 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 and how these workforce strategies relate and align to state and Commonwealth resource workforce planning, skill development and training strategies and policies
- proposed new skills and training related to the project including the occupational skill groups required and potential skill shortages anticipated
- how much service revenue and work from the project would be likely to flow to the project's social and cultural area
- impacts of construction and operational workforces, their families, and associated contractors on housing and accommodation availability and affordability, land use and land availability. Discuss the capability of existing housing and rental accommodation to meet any additional demands created by the project, including direct impacts on Indigenous people.

Evaluate and discuss 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, is defined as the additional impacts on population, workforce, accommodation, housing, and use of community infrastructure and services, from the project, and other proposals for development projects in the area, which are publicly known and for which appropriate information is publically available or communicated by DSDIP, if they overlap the proposed project in the same timeframe as its construction period and the life of the proposed project's operational mine.

Discuss the concept of longitudinal cumulative impacts, or 'project fatigue', where the community in the study area has been subject to a number of large-scale construction projects in recent years.

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—the following core principles guide the identification and assessment of accommodation and housing impacts and development of mitigation and management strategies:
  - requirements for project workforce accommodation, considering housing market impacts
  - strategies to mitigate or manage negative impacts of project workforce accommodation and housing market impacts
  - clear and detailed strategy for accommodating project workforces
  - commitment to the liveability of resource communities
  - commitment to better linkages between land use, infrastructure delivery, economic development, environmental protection and affordable housing
  - development of mitigation and management strategies completed in close consultation and collaboration with key stakeholders including state government agencies and local governments.
- 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
- adequate provision of education, training and employment for women, people with a disability, and Indigenous peoples.

The strategy for accommodating resource project workforces must describe:

- projected size, nature and location of the workforce for the resource project (for preconstruction, construction and operational phases) including the projected proportion of workers who will fly, drive or ferry in and out
- towns and cities in which fly-in, fly-out or drive-in, drive-out employees are likely to be permanently residing
- plans for accommodating the proportion of the workforce who will not readily access local accommodation during pre-construction, construction and operational phases.

Describe any consultation about acceptance of proposed mitigation strategies, and how practical management and monitoring regimes would be implemented.

Discuss special strategies that might be deployed by the proponent during all stages of the project to mitigate 'project fatigue' impacts.

#### **4.10.2.1 Social impact management plan**

Present a draft social impact management plan (SIMP) that promotes an active and ongoing role for impacted communities and local authorities through the project life cycle. The draft SIMP should cover:

- an overview of the project
- all proposed mitigation measures and benefit strategies
- action plans to implement mitigation measures and benefit strategies
- assignment of accountability and resources for mitigation measures and project benefits
- practical mechanisms to monitor and adjust mitigation measures and action plans

- ongoing updates to stakeholders on activities and commitments
- mechanisms to respond to public enquiries and complaints
- mechanisms to resolve disputes with stakeholders
- community engagement processes including periodic review mechanisms.

For further information on preparing the SIMP, refer to Social impact assessment: Guideline to preparing a social impact management plan at [www.dlqp.qld.gov.au](http://www.dlqp.qld.gov.au) (Department of Infrastructure and Planning 2010).

The draft SIMP should incorporate a draft workforce management plan (WMP). The WMP should:

- consider skills needs for the project and identified shortages
- detail strategies to address the skills needs of the project
- detail strategies to address skill gaps and shortages
- describe how these strategies will support increased local and regional workforce participation.

More information, contact and relevant program details to assist development of the draft WMP can, at the time of writing, be obtained from a fact sheet on Skills Queensland's website [www.skills.qld.gov.au](http://www.skills.qld.gov.au) (select the 'functions' tab then click on 'significant projects').

## 4.11 Health and safety

### 4.11.1 Description of values

Describe the existing community values for public health and safety that may be affected by the project. Provide maps showing the proximity of the project to any potentially affected places of human residence, work or recreation including, but not necessarily limited to, kindergartens, schools, hospitals, aged care facilities, office buildings, factories and workshops. Projects that could discharge contaminants, even accidentally, into water bodies should identify and describe any downstream extraction for potable use. For projects proposing air emissions, and/or those with the potential to emit odours, identify and describe nearby and other potentially affected populations. Pay particular attention to those sections of the population, such as children and the elderly who are especially sensitive to environmental health factors.

For any proposal to reuse stormwater, describe potential implications for human health and the procedures employed to prevent adverse health risks.

### 4.11.2 Potential impacts and mitigation measures

Assess the potential impacts on the community in terms of health, safety, and quality of life from project operations and emissions, including odour, dust and noise. Assess potential impacts on public health in the short and long term, and the cumulative impacts on public health either in isolation or by combination with other known existing or planned sources of contamination. The assessment should address the potential contamination not only of public water supplies but also of private water sources such as rainwater tanks with roof collection.

Assess the potential extent of contamination and public health risk should an extreme meteorological event, flood or catastrophic failure cause the release of toxic material from such infrastructure as tailings dams or chemical store. Describe strategies to notify relevant stakeholders during such an event.

Assess the project's potential for providing disease vectors. Propose measures to control mosquito and biting midge breeding, including measures to be used for any residual ponding after mining ceases, such as due to subsidence. Assess any proposed use of recycled water for its potential to cause infection by transmitting bacteria and/or viruses by contact, dispersion of aerosols, and ingestion (including via use on food crops). Similarly, the use of recycled water should be assessed for its potential to cause harm to human health via water supply or the food chain due to contaminants such as heavy metals and persistent organic chemicals.

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, and how the achievement of the objectives will be monitored, audited and managed.

## 4.12 Economy

### 4.12.1 Description of potentially affected economies

Describe the existing local, regional or national economies that may be affected by the project, including:

- appropriate statistics of economic activity, such as gross regional product and aggregate regional income
- trends in relevant economic indicators
- industries and businesses that could be beneficially or adversely affected by the project, their current and historical contribution to local, regional or national economies, and their current input costs
- the economic value of existing resources that could be impacted or sterilised by the project
- local, regional and national governments' aspirations, objectives, strategies and policies for the economic and industrial sectors that may be affected
- economic viability
- historical descriptions of large-scale resource developments and their effects in the region.

The economic impact statement should include estimates of the opportunity cost of the project and the value of ecosystem services provided by natural or modified ecosystems that would be disturbed or removed during development.

### 4.12.2 Potential impacts and mitigation measures

Provide an assessment from national, state, regional and local perspectives of the direct and indirect economic benefits and impacts of the project. Describe the methods used, assumptions and sensitivity of the assessment.

At a level of detail appropriate to the scale of the project, the assessment will consider:

- the separate phases of the project, such as construction, operation and after ceasing operations
- the effects of this project on the local and regional economies, including goods and services supplied to, or received from, local or regional markets
- the long and short-term beneficial (such as job creation) and adverse impacts (such as increased labour costs, or competition with local small business) that are likely to result from the development
- impacts on the economic value of existing resources
- stimulus, catalytic or second-order effects
- cumulative effects of the project in relation to other economic development opportunities
- a benefit-impact table that disaggregates the benefits and impacts or costs
- the potential, if any, for direct equity investment in the project by local businesses or communities
- the cost to all levels of government of any additional regulatory function or infrastructure provision
- implications for future economic development in the locality (including constraints on surrounding land uses and existing industry)
- the potential economic impact of any major hazard identified in section 4.14
- the distributional effects of the project including proposals to mitigate any negative impact on disadvantaged groups
- the value of lost opportunities or gained opportunities for other economic activities anticipated in the future
- economic impacts on local property values.

The assessment of economic impacts should outline strategies for local participation, including:

- strategies for assessing the cost effectiveness of sourcing local inputs from the regional economy during the construction, operation and rehabilitation phases 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

- developing a local industry participation plan (LIPP) under the Local Industry Policy (Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation 2010) in conjunction with DSDIP's Office of Advanced Manufacturing—see the Local Industry Policy Guidelines (Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation 2011a).

Present a draft LIPP to demonstrate that capable and competitive local industry will be given full, fair and reasonable opportunity to tender for the supply of goods and services to the project.

Consider the impacts of the project in relation to energy self-sufficiency, security of supply and balance of payments benefits.

Define and describe the objectives and practical measures for avoiding or mitigating impacts or enhancing economic benefits. Describe how nominated quantitative standards and indicators may be achieved for economic management, and how the achievement of the objectives will be monitored, audited and managed.

## 4.13 Hazard and risk

Describe the potential hazards and risk to people and property that may be associated with the project as distinct from hazards and risk to the natural environment, which should be addressed in other sections of the TOR. When addressing natural hazards, particularly in regard to places where people work and live (such as a mine's accommodation camp), the EIS should consider the principles of natural hazard management in State Planning Policy 1/03 (SPP1/03), *Mitigating the Adverse Impacts of Flood, Bushfire and Landslide*, even if the development is exempt development under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*. SPP1/03 may not be applicable as a statutory instrument for exempt development, but it contains information that guides best practice for all development.

### 4.13.1 Description of values

Detail the values related to people and property that could be affected by any hazardous materials and actions associated with the project.

### 4.13.2 Potential impacts and mitigation measures

Describe the potential hazards and risk that may be associated with the project, including consideration of both natural and man-made hazards. The assessment of risk should be in accordance with relevant standards.

Provide an inventory for each class of substances listed in the Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail to be held on-site. This information should be presented by classes and should contain:

- chemical name
- concentration in raw material chemicals
- concentration in operation storage tank
- U.N. number
- packaging group
- correct shipping name
- maximum inventory of each substance.

Details should be provided of:

- safeguards proposed on the transport, storage, use, handling and on-site movement of the materials to be stored on-site
- the capacity and standard of bunds to be provided around the storage tanks for classified dangerous goods and other goods likely to adversely impact upon the environment in the event of an accident
- the procedures to prevent spillages and the emergency plans to manage hazardous situations.

Assess the potential impacts and risks of both natural and induced emergency situations and counter disaster and rescue procedures as a result of the project on resources such as forests, water reserves, state and local government-controlled roads, rail level crossings, places of residence and work, and recreational areas. The assessment should outline the implications for and the impact on the surrounding land uses, and should involve consultation with Department of Community Safety, Queensland Police Service, Queensland Fire and Rescue Service, and Queensland Ambulance Service. Undertake a preliminary hazard analysis, conducted in accordance with appropriate guidelines for hazard analysis, and addressing:

- all relevant major hazards both technological and natural
- the possible frequency of potential hazards, accidents, spillages and abnormal events occurring
- indication of cumulative risk levels to surrounding land uses
- life of any identified hazards
- a list of all hazardous substances to be used, stored, processed, produced or transported
- the rate of usage
- description of processes, type of the machinery and equipment used
- potential wildlife hazards such as crocodiles, snakes and disease vectors
- public liability of the state for private infrastructure and visitors on public land.

Develop an integrated risk management plan for the whole of the life of the project including construction, operation and decommissioning phases. The integrated risk management plan should include the following components:

- operational hazard analysis
- regular hazard audits
- fire safety, emergency
- response plans
- qualitative risk assessment
- construction safety.

#### 4.14 Cross-reference with the terms of reference

Provide a cross-reference of the findings of the relevant sections of the EIS, where the potential impacts and mitigation measures associated with the project are described, with the corresponding sections of the TOR.

## 5 Matters of national environmental significance

This chapter of the EIS will provide a stand-alone assessment of the relevant impacts of the project on the controlling provisions and provide enough information about the project and its relevant impacts to allow the Commonwealth Minister to make an informed decision whether to approve the project under the EPBC Act. The information provided on these matters must be consistent with the relevant aspects of other sections of the EIS, for example that section dealing with ecology, and the proposed mitigation measures for matters of national environmental significance must be consistent with those proposed to cover matters regulated by the state.

The matters to be addressed in the EIS are set out in Schedule 4 of the Commonwealth's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000.

State the controlling provisions for the project under the EPBC Act, and describe the individual matters of national environmental significance for this project. For example, describe and illustrate the location and extent of habitat for threatened species and/or ecological communities listed under the EPBC Act that could be directly or indirectly impacted by the project.

The body of the draft EIS is to be written in a clear and concise style that is easily understood by the general reader. Technical jargon should be avoided wherever possible.

The draft EIS must enable interested stakeholders and the Commonwealth Minister to understand the consequences of the proposed action on relevant matters of national environmental significance. When assessing impacts on matters of national environmental significance the following information must be provided for each relevant species, community, value, or component of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park:

- discuss the relevant species, community, value, or component of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park in respect of known threats and those threats posed by the proposed action
- quantify and discuss likely direct, indirect<sup>1</sup>, downstream<sup>2</sup> and cumulative impacts<sup>3</sup> from the proposed action
- describe and assess effectiveness of avoidance and mitigation measures to deal with relevant impacts and provide supporting information
- quantify and discuss residual impacts
- make an assessment on the level of impact and its acceptability, and provide a rationale for this assessment
- discuss any proposed offsets where there is a residual impact, or provide a rationale why residual impacts will not be compensated for.

The draft EIS must take into consideration relevant Commonwealth departmental guidelines, statements or policies (e.g. survey guidelines, species recovery plans and the EPBC Act Significant Impact Guidelines, available at [www.environment.gov.au/epbc/guidelines-policies.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/guidelines-policies.html)). Surveys conducted for the project must demonstrate that they comply with relevant Commonwealth survey guidelines, unless adequate justification for alternative survey methodology can be provided.

A significant impact is an impact which is important, notable, or of consequence, having regard to its context or intensity. Whether or not an action is likely to have a significant impact depends upon the sensitivity, value, and quality of the environment which is impacted, and upon the intensity, duration, magnitude and geographic extent of the impacts. You should consider all of these factors when determining whether an action is likely to have a significant impact on the environment.

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<sup>1</sup> Consideration of indirect impacts for the purposes of the EPBC Act must have regard to definitions of indirect impacts provided in the Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1: Matters of National Environmental Significance (2009).

<sup>2</sup> Consideration of downstream impacts for the purposes of the EPBC Act must have regard to definitions of downstream impacts provided in the Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1: Matters of National Environmental Significance (2009).

<sup>3</sup> Cumulative impacts means incremental impacts of the proposed action when combined with other past, present and reasonably foreseeable actions (both related and unrelated), such as cumulative impact of destruction of habitat from increased mining in an area.

Mitigation measures that are specifically related to matters of national environmental significance should be included in a separate section of the project's EM plan. It is a statutory requirement that that section should set out the framework for continuing management, mitigation and monitoring programs for the project's relevant impacts, including any provision for independent environmental auditing. It is also a statutory requirement that the plan should provide:

- The name of the entity responsible for endorsing or approving each mitigation measure or monitoring program.
- A consolidated list of mitigation measures proposed to be undertaken to prevent, minimise or compensate for the project's relevant impacts, including mitigation measures proposed to be taken by the state, a local government or the proponent.
- Any proposed environmental management plans for matters of national environmental significance must include estimates of relevant impacts from the proposed action (e.g. habitat clearance, including estimates for individual listed species and ecological communities, where relevant) and include appropriate measures to avoid or minimise impacts on the matters protected by the controlling provisions for the project. Methodology of estimates must be explained and justified.
- For any residual impacts that are of sufficient magnitude, the proponent must propose an offsets strategy to compensate for these impacts that are in accordance with the Commonwealth's most recent policy on offsets.
- The proposed offsets strategy for EPBC protected matters must reflect the scale and intensity of the unavoidable impacts on each individual matter of national environmental significance. The proposed offsets strategy must provide steps for long-term conservation outcomes and demonstrate how these outcomes can be achieved. Consideration must be given to the offset policy available on the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities website at [www.environment.gov.au](http://www.environment.gov.au).
- Any areas used as offsets must be permanently protected and managed and appropriate surveying and assessment must be provided which verifies the suitability of the offset.
- This part of the EIS should also provide information on other requirements set out in Schedule 4 of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000 that have not been addressed in other sections of the EIS, such as details of the proponent's environmental record, including:
  - any proceedings under a law of the Commonwealth or a state for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources (an environmental law) against the proponent or the applicant for any permit under an environmental law for the project
  - if the proponent is a corporation, details of the corporation's environmental policy and planning framework
  - any accreditations (for example ISO 14001), environmental awards, and other recognition for environmental performance.

## 6 Environmental management plan

Provide an EM plan that includes all the mitigation measures detailed in the various sections of the EIS, and provides a framework for continuing management, monitoring programs, and addresses any provision for independent environmental auditing. It should state the proponent's environmental protection commitments in a way that allows them to be measured and audited.

The EM plan is an integral part of the EIS, but will be capable of being read as a stand-alone document without reference to other parts of the EIS. For a mining project the EM plan must meet the content requirements of section 203 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, whereas the EM plan for a petroleum project must meet the content requirements of section 310D of that Act.

The EM plan will be used by the administering authority to develop conditions to apply to project approvals. Therefore, the EM plan is a relevant document for project approvals, environmental authorities and permits, and may be referenced by them. The EM plan may suggest conditions that will form the basis for developing the draft environmental authority.

## 7 Commitments not included in the EM plan

Summarise any commitments made by the proponent that are not included in the EM plan (such as a commitments to assist a local community group). It should be clear how and when the commitments will be fulfilled.

## 8 References

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

## 9 Recommended appendixes

### **A1. Final terms of reference for this EIS**

Provide a copy of the final TOR bound with the main body of the EIS. Other appendixes can be provided in separate volumes.

### **A2. Regulatory approvals**

List the regulatory approvals required by the project.

### **A3. The standard criteria**

Provide a brief summary of the project's compatibility with the standard criteria as defined by the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, which include the principles of ESD and other relevant policy instruments. With regard to the principles of ESD, as listed in the National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development, published by the Australian Government in December 1992 (available from the Australian Government Publishing Service), discuss how the project conforms with each principle from inception to decommissioning.

### **A4. Specialist studies**

Include all specialist study reports undertaken for the EIS as appendixes.

### **A5. Research**

Outline in an appendix any proposals for researching alternative environmental management strategies or for obtaining any further necessary information.

## **A6. Study team**

In a separate appendix that will not be included in the public version of the EIS, describe the qualifications and experience of the study team, specialist sub-consultants and expert reviewers.

## **A7. Consultation report**

The Summary Consultation Report Appendix for an EIS under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* should commence by including the details of affected and interested persons, and the statement of planned consultation with those persons, originally provided with the draft TOR. It should describe how 'interested' and 'affected' persons, and any 'affected parties' as defined in the EPBC Act, were identified.

A further list should be provided that includes the Commonwealth, Queensland and local government agencies consulted, and the individuals and groups of stakeholders consulted.

The consultation report appendix 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.

## **A8. Schedule 4 of the EPBC Regulations**

All matters prescribed by Schedule 4 of the EPBC Regulations must be addressed in the EIS.

**Disclaimer**

While this document has been prepared with care it contains general information and does not profess to offer legal, professional or commercial advice. The Queensland Government accepts no liability for any external decisions or actions taken on the basis of this document. Persons external to the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection should satisfy themselves independently and by consulting their own professional advisors before embarking on any proposed course of action.

**Approved by:**

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