

Public Notice

Environmental Protection Act 1994 (EP Act) – Section 42

Draft terms of reference for an environmental impact statement (EIS) – Proposed Lake Vermont Meadowbrook Project

Bowen Basin Coal Pty Ltd (the proponent) on behalf of the Lake Vermont Joint Venture (QCMM (Lake Vermont Holdings) Pty Ltd – 70%; Marubeni Coal Pty Ltd – 10%; CHR Vermont Pty Ltd – 10%; Coranar (Australia) Pty Ltd – 10%) proposes to develop the Lake Vermont Meadowbrook Project (the proposed project). The proposed project comprises approximately 8,235 hectares, covered by the northern portion of mineral development licence (MDL) 303 and southern portion of MDL 429, as well as involving the existing Lake Vermont (LV) Coal Mine on mining lease (ML) 70528, ML 70477 and ML 70331. The proposed project area would be located approximately 30 kilometres (km) northeast of Dysart and approximately 180 km southwest of Mackay within the Isaac Regional Council in Central Queensland.

The proposed project would enable the metallurgical and pulverised coal injection production from the existing LV Coal Mine to be maintained at the currently approved levels of up to 12 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) of run of mine (ROM) coal (equivalent to approximately 9.5 Mtpa of product coal). The proposed project would mine up to 7 Mtpa of ROM coal to produce approximately 5.5 Mtpa of metallurgical product coal over approximately 20-25 years. Product coal would be transported by rail to the ports at Abbot Point and Gladstone for shipping to international and domestic markets. Pending approvals, construction of surface and seam access infrastructure is scheduled to commence by the end of 2022, with first underground development coal to be mined by late 2024. Full underground mine production is scheduled for late 2026 with the commencement of longwall operations.

The proposed project would employ approximately 200 people during construction and approximately 350-400 people during the underground mine operational phase. The proposed project represents a continuation of the existing LV Coal Mine. The key components of the proposed project include: an underground longwall (plus bord and pillar) coal mine; three open-cut coal pits; development of a supporting Mine Infrastructure Area (MIA); a new infrastructure corridor linking the MIA to existing LV Coal Mine; construction of drifts and shafts to provide access to underground operations; and use of the existing LV Coal Mine's Coal Handling and Preparation Plant, tailings storage facility and water/power and rail infrastructure.

On 4 July 2019 Bowen Basin Coal Pty Ltd submitted an application for a voluntary environmental impact statement (EIS) under the EP Act, which was approved by the Department of Environment and Science (the department) on 2 August 2019.

The proposed project was also determined to be a controlled action (EPBC 2019/8485) under the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The controlling provisions are: listed threatened species and communities (section 18 & section 18A); listed migratory species (section 20 & section 20A); and a water resource, in relation to coal seam gas development and large coal mining development (section 24D and 24E). The EIS process under the EP Act will also assess potential impacts of the proposed project on the controlling provisions consistent with the bilateral agreement (section 45 of the EPBC Act) between the Commonwealth and Queensland governments for the purposes of the Commonwealth Government's assessment under part 8 of the EPBC Act.

Bowen Basin Coal Pty Ltd has submitted the draft terms of reference (TOR) for an EIS for the proposal to the department on 4 December 2019.

The draft TOR may be viewed at:

Department of Environment and Science
Floor 3, 400 George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

The public notice, the draft TOR and a description of the proposed project is available on the department's website at: www.des.qld.gov.au and can be viewed electronically at public libraries including Mackay Regional Council libraries, Emerald Library, Moranbah Public Library and Dysart Public Library, or by contacting the proponent on 07 3877 6700, or emailing mrowlands@jellinbah.com.au

Written comments

The department's chief executive invites written comments from any person in relation to the draft TOR, within the comment period from 13 January 2020 to 5pm 24 February 2020. Please address written comments to:

The Chief Executive
Department of Environment and Science
Attention: The EIS Coordinator – Proposed Lake Vermont Meadowbrook Project
GPO Box 2454
BRISBANE QLD 4001

or by email to eis@des.qld.gov.au



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