

# Terms of Reference for the Newlands Coal Extension Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Proposed by Xstrata Coal Queensland  
Pty Ltd

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## Background

### Project proponent

The Newlands Coal Extension Project is part of the Newlands Collinsville Abbot Point operation, which is an unincorporated joint venture of Xstrata Coal Queensland (55 per cent), Itochu Coal Resources Australia (25 per cent), ICRA NCA (10 per cent) and Sumisho Coal Australia Pty Ltd (10 per cent). The operations of the Newlands Collinsville Abbott Point Joint Venture are managed by Xstrata Coal Queensland on behalf of the joint venture.

### Project overview

The Newlands Collinsville Abbot Point Joint Venture is seeking to extend its open cut mining and underground operations at the existing Newlands coal mine, located approximately 140 km west of Mackay in the northern Bowen Basin. The Newlands Coal Extension Project comprises extensions to the existing Eastern Creek open cut and Northern Underground mines.

The Newlands coal mine currently consists of open cut and underground mining operations at the Eastern Creek mine), Suttor Creek and Wollombi No.1 and Wollombi No.2 areas. The Newlands coal mine has a current production rate of 15 million run-of-mine tonnes per annum of steaming and coking coal. This equates to approximately 10.5 million tonnes per annum of product coal which is exported through the Abbot Point Coal Terminal.

Current open cut operations are focused around Suttor Creek, Wollombi (ML 4761) and Eastern Creek (ML 4755). Coal is hauled to the Newlands main deposit for processing at the existing coal handling and processing plant. Underground operations are focused around the Northern Underground (NUG) (ML 4748, ML 4774, ML 10316, ML 10317 and ML 10322) from which coal is extracted using longwall mining methods. Coal from the Northern Underground is transferred by conveyor to the coal handling and processing plant run-of-mine stockpile area. The principal seam mined at both the Eastern Creek and Northern Underground mines is the Upper Newlands seam (or its equivalent).

Extension of the mining operations into adjacent areas is now necessary to maintain the overall Newlands coal qualities and volumes at Newlands coal mine. The Newlands Coal Extension Project is proposed to extend the life of the existing Newlands coal mine and will continue to target the Upper Newlands seam or equivalent. No overall increase in current production rates is proposed for Newlands coal mine.

Three new mining leases have been applied for:

- MLA 10352 (open cut and underground mining)
- MLA 10361 (underground mining only)
- MLA 10362 (underground mining only).

The extension of open cut mining activities onto MLA 10352 will begin as coal reserves are depleted in the existing lease area (ML 4755). It is anticipated that open cut mining activities will commence in the new lease area in 2016 and will produce up to five million tonnes of run of mine coal per annum. Open cut mining will be carried out using existing draglines and large scale truck and shovel equipment. This will involve clearing of vegetation, topsoil removal and stockpiling, blasting of overburden; overburden removal and placement in waste dumps; coal extraction; and final rehabilitation of disturbed areas.

The extension of underground mining activities onto MLA10361 and 10362 will involve an extension of existing longwall activities at the Northern Underground mine. It is anticipated that underground mining will commence on the mining lease application areas in 2013 and produce up to six million tonnes of run of mine coal per annum. Access to the extended mine will be gained by connecting it to the existing mine entry at the current Northern Underground mine.

All coal mined from the proposed mining leases will be hauled by truck or transferred by conveyor for processing at the existing coal handling and processing plant in the Newlands main deposit area. There will be no coal preparation, tailings or reject storage facilities located on the new leases.

The extended mining operations will be carried out partly on existing mining leases and partly on the new mining lease application areas. For the purposes of the environmental impact assessment, the project site is defined by the new mining lease application area boundaries.

On 25 May 2010, an application was made under section 238 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1999* (EP Act) for an amendment to the existing environmental authority for the Newlands Project. Under section 246 of the EP Act it was determined that assessment of the Newlands Coal Extension Project would be by environmental impact statement (EIS).

On 23 August 2011, the Commonwealth Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities determined the proposed project to be a controlled action under the Commonwealth's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The controlling provisions are sections 18 and 18A (listed threatened species and communities) and 20 and 20A (listed migratory species). The project will be assessed under the bilateral agreement between the Commonwealth and the State of Queensland using the EIS prepared under the EP Act.

# CONTENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS)

## 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
- stakeholders 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 terms of reference 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 terms of reference 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.

In all relevant sections of the EIS provide details of the following about the information given in the EIS:

- 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 DERM 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*, *Mineral Resource Act 1989* and other potentially relevant Queensland laws. Include any requirements of the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. Outline the provisions of the Water Resource (Burdekin Basin) Plan 2007 (WRP) under the *Water Act 2000* that apply to this project.

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* 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.

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 including the *Whitsunday Hinterland and Mackay Regional Plan*), 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 under the Commonwealth's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The controlling provisions for the project, are sections 18 and 18A (listed threatened species and communities) and 20 and 20A (listed migratory species).

The EP Act'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 Environmental Assessment' (the Bilateral Agreement) for the purpose of the Commonwealth's assessment of the project under Part 8 of 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. Specific EPBC matters that must be addressed in this EIS are set out in Schedule 4 of the Commonwealth's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000. Those matters must be addressed in Chapter 7 of the EIS.



## **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 on the GDA94 datum. These latitudes and longitudes 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.

For the purposes of the EIS, the 'project site' is defined by the new mining lease boundaries (MLA 10352, MLA 10361 and MLA 10362) and the 'project' as the extended mining activities proposed within these new lease boundaries. Description and assessment of activities on existing mining leases is to be restricted to those aspects of the operation which are subject to change as a result of the extended mining activities (e.g. the capacity of existing reject and tailings storage facilities to store additional volumes generated as a result of mining on the new leases).

#### **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, power and water supply lines, buildings, roads, railways, bridges, weirs, culverts, hardstands, car parks, etc
- 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.

##### **3.3.1 Tenements and tenures**

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

##### **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 following:

- the proposed mine life and an outline of the coal resource base, including the total thickness of seams
- the planned recovery of resources

- locations of any resources that would be sterilised by the planned activities
- the quantity of coal 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 following:

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

- the proposed sequence and timing of mining of each seam within the mining lease;
- the physical extent of excavations, location of stockpiles of overburden and/or coal reject to be handled during the project's operation or left after mining ceases, 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. Contrast these numbers to the existing mine workforce. 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 new or expanded workers camps or villages. The consequent impacts of constructing new or expanded 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 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, where these arrangements are different to or modified from the existing procedures at Newlands mine. Discuss any environmental design features of these new or modified 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 new or modified infrastructure easements on the plans, including any additional infrastructure requirements such as roads, rail (and the rail corridor), level crossings, conveyors, bridges, jetties, ferries, 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. 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 at the project site.

Estimate the average and maximum rates of supply from each source for each phase of the project's life. 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.

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 management**

Provide a description of the proposed stormwater drainage system and the proposed disposal arrangements at the project site. Any changes to off-site services should also be described. Illustrate the description with figures with contours at suitable intervals (one metre contours in areas of low relief) showing drainage pathways and the locations and discharge points of sediment detention basins, and any other stormwater quality improvement devices.

Describe both strategies and works proposed to prevent significant ingress of storm rains or floodwaters into mine workings during major wet weather events, or to manage the removal, storage or use of such water, including any treatment facilities proposed to assist in the above.

### **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 new or modified 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.

### 3.5.8 Commercial forest products and quarry material vested to the State under the *Forestry Act 1959*

If any commercial forest products will be interfered with (destroyed or cut off from existing access), provide:

- a map and, if available, electronic shapefiles in a format compatible with ArcGIS showing the footprint of the areas to be disturbed by the project, both within and outside the mining lease application, such as associated infrastructure and any rail alignment(s), and where commercially viable quarry material will be produced
- an assessment of commercial forest products (species and products) within the application area which require salvage harvesting, including those areas where future mining activities would impair the ability of a third party to access and operate a timber harvesting operation
- an assessment of the impacts on existing access routes to forest products outside the application area where future mining activities, infrastructure or excavations would impair the ability of a third party to operate a timber harvesting operation
- a map of the area of commercial forest products which will be impacted directly and indirectly by the application
- options for salvage harvesting of the commercial timber products.

If any quarry material will be utilised or produced within the application area or outside of the application area as part of the project, provide:

- a map and, if available, electronic shapefiles in a format compatible with ArcGIS showing the footprint of the areas to be disturbed by the project, both within and outside the mining lease application, such as associated infrastructure and any rail alignment(s)
- the required quantities of quarry material, the nature of the required quarry material and the proposed uses
- the identification of the sources of quarry materials both on and off the application area and along any alignments for each component of the project
- the identification of any existing third party rights to quarry material within the application area (i.e. existing sales permits issued under the *Forestry Act 1959*)
- an assessment of the impacts on existing access routes to quarry materials outside the application area where mining activities, infrastructure or excavations would impact any existing third party rights to quarry material
- advice on any proposed uses of quarry material outside the mining lease application where that material was produced within the application area.

### 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.

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. The characterisation of waste rock and subsoil will be based on any existing geological, geochemical and waste rock management data, supplemented by new information on representative samples of these materials. The characterisation and assessment of waste rock will be in accordance with applicable best practice methodologies and guidelines for assessing the environmental risks associated with excavated waste.

Discuss the potential for acid, neutral or alkaline drainage from waste dumps. Describe 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 nuisance. 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 new or modified pits, dams, bunds or dumps that would be required for the disposal of tailings associated with the project.

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 new or expanded 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 with a focus on potential changed effects caused by the new or expanded facilities.

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. Give particular attention to the capacity of wastes to generate acid, and saline or sodic wastewater. A water balance for the project 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 associated with the project
- water supply treatment plant – disposal of wastes associated with the project.

### 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 predicted subsidence areas, excavations, waste areas and dam sites on suitably scaled maps. Specific attention should be given to ensuring that overland flow capture does not facilitate the take of water for further uses post mining.

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 DERM'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, storage tanks and wharfage. 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 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 (including those used by EPBC listed threatened species, ecological communities and migratory species) 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 the likely impact of the project on the identified environmental values of the area. 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 relevant state planning policies, environmental protection policies, national environmental protection measures, integrated catchment management plans and any relevant controlling provisions of the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.
- 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.

- Impact on environmental values: describe quantitatively the project's impacts 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.
- 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 to achieve the objectives: describe the control principles, proposed actions and technologies to be implemented in order to achieve the environmental protection objectives; include designs, and relevant performance specifications. For each mitigation measure describe and assess its:
  - expected or predicted effectiveness
  - statutory or policy basis
  - any provision for independent environmental auditing.
- Environmental offsets: Information is required to show that measures have been taken to avoid and minimise potential adverse impacts of the project. Environmental offsets will be proposed to counterbalance any remaining unavoidable loss of environmental values, consistent with the specific issue offset policies under the framework of the Queensland's *Environmental Protection and other Acts Amendment Act 2011* (Queensland Biodiversity Offset Policy, 3 October 2011), Queensland Government Environmental Offset Policy 2008 and any offset policy published by the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities in relation to the EPBC Act.
- Monitoring programs: describe the monitoring parameters, monitoring points, frequency, data interpretation and reporting proposals.
- Auditing programs: describe how progress towards achieving the objectives will be measured, reported and whether external auditors will be employed. Include scope, methods and frequency of auditing proposed.
- Management strategies: describe the strategies to be used to ensure the environmental protection objectives are achieved and control strategies 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.
- Information quality: information given under each element will also state the sources of the information, how recent the information is, how any background studies were undertaken (e.g. intensity of field work sampling), how the reliability of the information was tested, and what uncertainties (if any) are in the information.

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.

DERM 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 4.2. 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 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 and coal reserves**

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

Describe in detail the location, tonnage and quality of the mineral resources and coal reserves within the project area. For coal projects, the description it should be presented on a 'seam by seam' basis.

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.

#### **4.2.1.5 Soils**

Conduct a soil survey of the areas that may be impacted by mining activities or infrastructure at a scale of at least 1:50 000; and at least 1:10 000, for areas identified as Good Quality Agricultural Land. Particular reference should be made to those physical properties (topography, land slope, soil depth) and chemical properties (pH, EC, nutrients), which influence erosion potential, quality of runoff water, agricultural productivity of the land, and rehabilitation requirements. Information should also be provided on soil stability and suitability for construction of proposed facilities.

Soil profiles should be mapped and described according to the Australian Soil and Land Survey Field Handbook (National Committee on Soil and Terrain 2009), Guidelines for Survey Soil and Land Resources (McKenzie et al, 2nd Ed., 2008) and Australian Soil Classification (Isbell, 2002).

Soils should be described and matched to soils identified in: Shields, P.G., Land Suitability Study of the Collinsville-Nebo-Moranbah Region, QDPI Project Report QB84010

Where non-coastal soils and wetlands are likely to be disturbed by the project undertake an investigation and describe the management of acid sulphate soils in accordance with the National Guidance for the Management of Acid Sulfate Soils in Inland Ecosystems (Environment Protection and Heritage Council and Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council) 2011.

Describe the depth and quality of useable surface and subsurface soil to be stripped and stockpiled for rehabilitation.

#### **4.2.1.6 Land suitabilities**

Using the soils mapping of an appropriate scale as identified in section 4.2.1.5, an assessment should be made of the agricultural land suitability for each identified soil type in accordance with the Guidelines for agricultural land evaluation in Queensland (Department of Primary Industries, 1990). Good Quality Agricultural Land should be identified and mapped using the Planning Guideline: the Identification of Good Quality Agricultural Land (DPI/DHLGP, 1993). Discuss the Good Quality Agricultural Land status and explain any variation with the Good Quality Agricultural Land mapping shown in the relevant regional council planning scheme.

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

Describe and map the land use suitabilities, and their classes, of the potentially affected area in accordance with the rain-fed broadacre cropping and beef cattle grazing land suitability classification system in Attachment 2 of Land Suitability Assessment Techniques in the Technical Guidelines for the Environmental Management of Exploration and Mining in Queensland (DME, 1995).

Show the location of any cropping land in the vicinity of the site, highlighting any strategic cropping land, and describe the crops commonly grown on the land, including any rotations.

#### **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 DERM'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.

#### **4.2.1.9 Environmentally sensitive areas and the Newlands Nature Refuge**

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 and to the area provided as an offset for the initial Newlands Coal Mine (Newlands Nature Refuge). 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, state-wide, 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 any 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, and petroleum (including gas and coal seam methane) resources that may be impacted upon or sterilised by the mining activities or related infrastructure.

#### **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. 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 (including the Newlands Nature Refuge). 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 planning guideline *The Identification of Good Quality Agricultural Land (DPI & DHLGP, 1993)*, 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**

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 suitable 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. Include the departmental guideline *Watercourse Subsidence – Central Queensland Mining Industry* as a reference document for proposed subsidence of watercourses due to the activities associated with underground mining.

#### **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 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 associated with the project such as:

- areas cleared of vegetation
- waste dumps
- stockpiles
- dams, banks and creek crossings
- access roads or other transport 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 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. Use sketches, diagrams 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 applicable to the project area.

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

Provide details of the proposed use of existing infrastructure to transport workforce, 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 rail, road, marine and 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.

#### **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, conveyor easements, rail loops and 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 over and above existing usage levels 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 over and above existing usage levels 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.

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 over and above existing usage levels 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 the website: <[www.mainroads.qld.gov.au](http://www.mainroads.qld.gov.au)>. Provide details of any additional 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 additional traffic to be generated by workforce personnel and service providers.

In relation to road impacts, the EIS will include an assessment of any additional impacts associated with the project on:

- the safety, efficiency and condition of road operations and assets, including driver fatigue
- 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 additional to existing usage levels 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
- additional impacts on rail freight and other transport services (e.g. variability on existing train path availability)
- additional impacts on passenger transport and services
- additional 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)
- this will include consultation with the railway manager QR National, with respect to rail level crossing safety.

Assess the impacts of the construction and operation of any conveyors. The direct impacts on any other new 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.

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 any additional 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 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.

## **4.4 Waste**

This section will complement other sections of part 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 sections of part 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:

- operational handling, storage, treatment, disposal and fate of all wastes generated by the project
- 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 generated by the project
- the potential level of impact on environmental values
- proposed discharge/disposal criteria for liquid and solid wastes from the project site
- measures to ensure stability of the dumps and impoundments in the project site
- 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 in the project site perform satisfactorily, including the revised storage sizes of any upgraded storage facilities
- 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 resulting from the increased volume of material originating from processing of material Northern Underground Extended Mining Lease Application areas.

Having regard to the Environmental Protection (Waste Management) Policy 2000 (EPP(Waste)), 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 Establishing Draft Environmental Values and Water Quality Objectives (EPA, 2002). Make reference to Queensland Wetland Mapping and any available Aquatic Conservation Assessments produced by DERM. 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. 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 of water quality should include medians, ranges and percentiles appropriate for comparisons with guidelines, as recommended in the ANZECC and ARMCANZ water quality monitoring and reporting (Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality, 2000). The description will be based on a monitoring program, with sampling stations located upstream at reference sites that would not be impacted and downstream of the project. 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 historical records to help interpretation. Describe seasonal variations in water quality 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 total nitrogen, nitrate, electrical conductivity, dissolved metals, major ions (including sulphate), turbidity, suspended sediments, pH and total alkalinity. 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 (DERM, 2009) or the most current edition.

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

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

- geology and stratigraphy
- 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
- groundwater flow directions (defined from water level contours)
- groundwater yield
- groundwater quality
- interaction with surface water
- interaction with saline water
- possible sources of recharge
- vulnerability to pollution.

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

Plan and describe a network of observation points and a monitoring program that would satisfactorily monitor groundwater resources both before and after commencement of operations. 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.

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.

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 DERM. 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 works under the *Water Act 2000*. Similarly, provide sufficient assessment to consider any approval for waterway barrier works under the *Fisheries Act 1994*.

Detail the potential impacts of any direct or indirect effects of subsidence on downstream sensitive environments or users of receiving waters, including stock and domestic users due to changes in flow regimes. Describe and assess any potential surface water and groundwater interaction as a result of subsidence of a watercourse. Detail measures that would mitigate the impacts of subsidence on watercourses and any ongoing monitoring and management requirements. Outline mitigation strategies required to offset impacts on downstream users.

Describe in detail the proposed water management controls, addressing surface and ground water quality and

quantity, drainage patterns and sediment movements. Describe and illustrate: the locations, catchments, footprints, cross-sections and method of construction of any dams on the project 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, where associated with waste material from the project, and demonstrate that the design has been produced by a suitably qualified and experienced engineer using current best practice. 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 due to any controlled discharges from the site. Describe the proposed quality, quantities and locations of waste water discharges. Use stream flow data in combination with proposed discharge rates to estimate in-stream dilution and water quality. Compare the predicted contaminant levels to the water quality objectives and provide an assessment of the assimilative capacity of the receiving waters. Assess options for controlled discharge under times of natural stream flow that would ensure that adequate flushing of waste water is achieved. Assess the acute and chronic potential impacts of discharges including the cumulative impacts with other 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, where changed from existing arrangements at Newlands Mine, 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 from the project site due to system or catastrophic failure, assess the potential impacts of such emissions on human health and natural ecosystems, and provide detailed measures to avoid or minimise impacts.

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.

Provide information on any watercourse diversions to demonstrate that they can be constructed to meet relevant engineering design and regulatory guidelines. Such information will consider the following:

- requirement for diversion
- feasibility of the diversion to be designed, constructed and monitored in accordance with ACARP reports and departmental guidelines relating to watercourse diversions
- end of mine life strategies for the diversion.

## **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 potential sources of emissions to air and expected composition of the emissions at the project site. The description will include oxides of sulfur or nitrogen, volatile organic compounds, carbon monoxide and dioxide, particulates (including dust, PM10, and PM2.5), trace metals, odours and any toxic, persistent and/or hazardous substances that would be emitted by the project.

Use a recognised atmospheric dispersion model to predict the fate of all significant emissions from the project site. 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.

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.

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. Based on the outcomes of this assessment, 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 Council (Ambient Air Quality) Measure or the Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2008. 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 site and other emissions in the airshed. 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.

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 project site and the features of the project designed to suppress or minimise emissions, including dusts and odours. 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.

### 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 (2011) 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 at the project site.

Assess the potential impacts of operations within the project area 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 area. 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 area, 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 DERM guidelines and Australian Standards, and any relevant requirements of the Environmental Protection Regulation 2008 and the Environmental Protection (Noise) Policy 2008.

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. Should noise-sensitive receptors be present, describe the predictions using suitable indicators, and illustrate the predicted noise contours on suitably-scaled maps in relation to the location 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; that is, 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 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 the locations of sensitive receptors. Discuss the magnitude, duration and frequency of any vibration and assess the potential impacts on sensitive receptors. Reference will be made to the DERM 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 any additional impacts by noise and vibration from the project, 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:

- EPBC listed threatened and migratory species
- 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, including the Newlands Nature Refuge area.

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. Review available mapping of 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 compatible 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 (where remnant size allows for adequate separation), each at least 50 m by 10 m, within each defined (standard system) vegetation community.

Survey methodologies for studies and surveys must follow relevant state and Commonwealth survey guidelines.

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 DERM'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
- location and extent of habitat for EPBC listed threatened species and location and extent of EPBC listed threatened ecological communities
- any areas of state, regional or local significance identified in the approved Biodiversity Planning Assessment for the Brigalow Belt (Version 1.3)
- 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
- in-land 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 containing least concern 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 least concern 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 in the period immediately following the wet season 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.

Identify remnant vegetation outside of the mining lease that must be cleared and the clearing of which is assessable development under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* and provide details of how any proposed clearing will meet the relevant regional vegetation management code.

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.

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 and lacustrine 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 environment
- aquatic plants
- aquatic and benthic substrate
- habitat downstream of the project, or potentially impacted due to currents in associated lacustrine environments.

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 relevant aspects of construction, operation and decommissioning of the project including for example, clearing, salvaging or removal of vegetation, diversion of water courses and the effects of subsidence from underground mining. Cover terrestrial and aquatic environments, including any potentially impacted benthic communities. 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, including impacts from subsidence on a category A or B environmentally sensitive area, the Newlands Nature Refuge, and habitat for any EPBC listed threatened species and communities or migratory species 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. Consideration of indirect impacts (at least in relation to controlling provisions for the purposes of the EPBC Act) must have regard to definitions of indirect impacts provided in Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1: Matters of National Environmental Significance (2009).

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 from wastes at the site. 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* and/or *Fisheries Act 1994*. The assessment and supporting information should be sufficient for the administering authority to decide whether an approval should be granted and, where relevant, to develop recommended conditions for the approval.

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 potential subsidence impacts and propose ways to manage and minimise those impacts on EPBC listed waters.

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 any offsets policy published by the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities in relation to the EPBC Act. Specific-issue offset policies that will be considered include, but are not limited to:

- Policy for Vegetation Management Offsets, DERM, 2009
- Queensland Biodiversity Offset Policy (version 1)
- draft EPBC Act Offset Policy Statement.

Consideration should also be given to the 'Recovery plan for the Brigalow *Acacia harpophylla* dominant and co-dominant (Draft of 1 May 2007) endangered ecological community', DEWR and QPWS 2007.

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. 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**

Unless an exemption applies under s86 of the Queensland *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*, an indigenous cultural heritage plan must be prepared in accordance with the requirements of Part 7 of the Act.

For non-indigenous historical heritage, a study will be undertaken of the known and potential cultural heritage values of the affected area. The study will, as a minimum, include a desktop analysis and archaeological investigation (such as a physical investigation) of the area potentially affected by the project.

The desktop component of the study will, as a minimum, review the following sources for information on non-indigenous historical cultural heritage values within the region of the project site:

- the Queensland Heritage Register, for places already protected under the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*
- local government heritage registers, lists or inventories
- local heritage groups
- results of previous cultural heritage studies conducted in the region.

The scope of the archaeological investigation will be based upon the results of the desktop analysis for non-indigenous cultural heritage. The archaeological investigation is to be conducted by an appropriately qualified person, and will address 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 historical cultural heritage study must comply with Part 9 of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*. The significance of any cultural heritage items or places in the study area or that might be affected by the proposal should be assessed at a local, state and national level.

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

### **4.9.2.1 Indigenous cultural heritage**

Unless an exemption applies under s86 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*, development of a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) must be prepared in accordance with the requirements of Part 7 of the Act. The gazetted Cultural Heritage Management Plan Guidelines may assist in the development of the CHMP. DERM'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 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 DERM and any 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
- 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 heritage awareness training or programs for project staff.

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

## **4.10 Social values**

The description of social and cultural values potentially impacted by the project, and the assessment of the impacts on those values, will be conducted in consultation, through the EIS coordinator, with the Social Impact Assessment Unit of the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI). The proponent will engage at the earliest practical stage with stakeholders and potentially affected parties to discuss and explain the project, and to identify and respond to issues and concerns regarding social impacts. The stakeholder engagement processes will continue throughout the EIS and contribute to the identification of social and cultural values and to the assessment of impacts.

### **4.10.1 Description of existing social values**

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 following, particularly as they relate to the town of Glenden:

- potential for additional social and cultural impacts to occur as a result of the project
- 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, over and above the existing conditions, 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.

Undertake a targeted baseline study of the people in the project's social and cultural area to identify social values that may be impacted by the project. The social baseline study will be based on qualitative, quantitative, and participatory methods supported by stakeholder engagement processes. It will reference relevant data contained in local and state government publications, reports, plans, guidelines and documentation, including regional plans and any available community plans.

The social baseline should include description and analysis of a range of demographic and social statistics relevant to the project's social and cultural area including:

- total enumerated population and the full time equivalent transient population
- existing or anticipated major population trends and changes irrespective of the project
- 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
- personal and household income
- labour force by occupation and industry
- housing tenure type and landlord type for rental properties
- housing availability:
  - private ownership: number and percentage of houses for sale
  - rental market: size, vacancy rate and seasonal variations
  - availability of social housing
- housing costs:
  - private ownership: typical costs of houses for sale in project area and monthly housing repayments with percent of dwellings in each category published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)
  - rental: weekly rent with percent dwellings in each category published by the ABS
- housing affordability separately for private ownership and rent
- household and family type
- 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:

- existing mine operations and impacts on social values as a result of proposed changes
- the social infrastructure including community and civic facilities, services and networks (for definition see South East Queensland Plan 2005–2026 Implementation Guideline No.5)
- 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
  - properties used for other primary, secondary or tertiary industries
  - residential acreage properties
  - townships or other relatively small block residential areas
- the number of families potentially directly or indirectly affected by the project including Indigenous traditional owners and their families, property owners, and families of workers either living on the property or workers where the property is their primary employment
- use of the social and cultural area for forestry, fishing, recreation or tourism
- Indigenous cultural use of plants and animals.

#### **4.10.2 Potential impacts and mitigation measures**

Describe the stakeholder engagement processes and summarise their outcomes, including the response of Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities to the project.

Assess and describe the type, level and significance of additional impacts caused by the project on social and cultural values identified in the social baseline study and address issues raised in the stakeholder engagement processes. Assess the additional cumulative potential beneficial and adverse impacts of the project in relation to other major projects or known proposals in the social and cultural area. Discuss whether impacts would be felt at a local, regional or national level.

Assess any additional impacts in sufficient detail for local and state authorities to make informed decisions about the project's potential effect on their business and social infrastructure. If the project is likely to result in a significant increase in the population of the area, then the proponent should consult the relevant state authorities and summarise the results of the consultations in the EIS.

Provide separate profiles of the expected workforce for the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the project that describe the:

- numbers and variations of personnel to be employed
- skills base of the required workforce
- likely sources of personnel, such as local, regional, national or overseas.

Provide an outline of the proponent's and contractors' recruitment schedules and their policies for recruitment of workers; describe initiatives for local employment business opportunities; and address the recruitment of Indigenous workers, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and people with a disability. Outline training that would be provided to increase the skills levels of workers.

Assess the social and cultural impacts of recruiting and training the construction or operational workforces from within the host community and of bringing in workers from outside.

Estimate the population growth due to the proposal, directly, indirectly (such as due to service industry growth) and cumulatively with other projects, providing detail on gender, age and any other relevant cohorts. Assess the potential impacts caused by this growth on:

- demographic patterns
- local, regional and state labour markets for separate occupational groupings of the workforce, particularly highlighting any potential skill shortages
- disruptions to existing lifestyles
- health and social wellbeing of families and communities
- social dysfunction, including use of alcohol and drugs
- crime and violence.

Assess the potential additional impacts of the project on vulnerable groups including women, children and young people, the aged and people with a disability.

Describe the social impacts of changes in land use, the alienation of property and loss of connection with the land, including the impacts and stresses associated with relocations.

Assess the impacts of any additional construction and operational workforces, their families, and associated contractors on land, housing and accommodation availability and affordability. Assess the capability of existing housing and rental accommodation, including public housing, to meet any additional demands created by the project including direct impacts on disadvantaged groups and Indigenous people.

Estimate how much service revenue and wages from the project would be likely to flow to the project's social and cultural area, and assess the beneficial and adverse impacts of that financial inflow.

Describe the transport operations additional to existing arrangements that would be used to move staff between their residences, dormitory camps and work sites. Modes of transport should be described in section 4.3, but this description should address the mix of privately-owned, public or chartered transport operators. Assess the potential social impacts of transport operations on the local and regional communities, including any road safety issues.

Propose measures, developed in consultation with relevant local authorities, state government agencies and stakeholders that would avoid, mitigate or offset any additional short, medium or long-term adverse impacts, particularly those on:

- housing affordability and availability, including the rental market, in the social and cultural area
- demographic changes in the profile of the region
- the capacity of social infrastructure to meet community needs, particularly in the areas of health, welfare, early childhood education and care, other education and training, policing and emergency services
- provision of education, training and employment opportunities for women, people with a disability, and Indigenous peoples.

Describe consultation with local and state authorities and stakeholders about their acceptance of proposed mitigation strategies and how practical management and monitoring regimes are proposed to be implemented.

Provide 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. If required, the draft plan should be prepared following the guideline for preparing a SIMP (Department of Infrastructure and Planning, September 2010) and 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
- stakeholder engagement processes including periodic review mechanisms.

## **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.

### **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.

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 a review of 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 additional direct and indirect economic benefits and impacts of the project, over and above existing levels. 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 project is subject to the Local Industry Policy and should develop strategies to engage local industry in accordance with the Local Industry Policy guidelines. Under the policy, the proponent is required to prepare a Local Industry Participation Plan (LIPP) to identify ways the project will provide full, fair and reasonable opportunity to local industries. The Office of Advanced Manufacturing within DEEDI is available to assist proponents in developing a LIPP and identifying locally supplied goods and services.

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 additional 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. Details should be provided of:

- safeguards proposed on the transport, storage, use, handling and on-site movement of the materials to be stored on the project site, or any changed storage arrangements at Newlands resulting from this project
- the capacity and standard of bunds to be provided around any storage tanks at the project site 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, 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 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.

#### **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. Environmental management plan

Provide an environmental management plan (EM plan) setting out the framework for continuing management, mitigation and monitoring programs as detailed in section 4 of the EIS and including any provision for independent environmental auditing. The purpose of the EM plan is to 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 must 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 EP 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.

## 6. 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.

## 7. Assessment of EPBC matters

### 7.1 Assessment report (EPBC Act)

This project was determined to be a controlled action under the EPBC Act on 23 August 2011. The controlling provisions are set out in Chapter 1.7 of this TOR. The Commonwealth's assessment of the project under Part 8 of the EPBC Act will occur through the State's EP Act EIS process under the Bilateral Agreement.

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 in the EIS, for example Chapter 4.8 Ecology.

Other requirements set out in Schedule 4 of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations that have not otherwise been addressed in other sections of the EIS must be specifically addressed here. This must include for example, the proponent's environmental record; that is details of:

- 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 following:
  - the proponent
  - 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

### 7.2 Management plans (EPBC Act)

Prepare specific management plans to ensure the continued appropriate management and monitoring of affected ecological values covered by the controlling provisions. Such plans must include the collection of relevant baseline environmental data to ensure impacts on matters of national environmental significance can be adequately assessed, include ongoing monitoring, management and mitigation for the duration of the action and subsequent rehabilitation.

The plans must outline how any management strategy or monitoring program would influence environmental practices of the project and include measures for recording and reconciliation of actual versus predicted impacts, identify trigger values and include response measures where appropriate.

Describe the control principles, proposed actions and technologies to be implemented in order to achieve the environmental protection objectives; include designs, and relevant performance specifications. For each mitigation measure describe and assess its:

- expected or predicted effectiveness
- statutory or policy basis
- cost
- any provision for independent environmental auditing.

### **7.3 Environmental offsets (EPBC Act)**

If residual environmental impacts are of sufficient magnitude, propose offsets that could apply in accordance with the Commonwealth environment department's current policy on offsets.

## **8. References**

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

## **9. Recommended appendices**

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

Provide a copy of the final TOR bound with the main body of the EIS. Other appendices 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 appendices.

### **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.

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 DERM should satisfy themselves independently and by consulting their own professional advisors before embarking on any proposed course of action.

Approved By

Lindsay Delzoppo

Signature

23 January 2012

Date

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