

Pauline Gregory

From: BENNINK Kate
Sent: Wednesday, 16 December 2020 6:30 PM
To: LOVEDAY Chris
Cc: MCCOSKER Juliana; VOGES-HAUG Bianca; TURNER Amanda
Subject: Re: re. Isaac River CAC report

Chris,

I support the recommendation that no EIS is required.

Cheers
Kate

Kate Bennink
A/Director (Coal)
Department of Environment and Science
M sch 4 - mobile phone
kate.bennink@des.qld.gov.au

On 16 Dec 2020, at 3:21 pm, TURNER Amanda <Amanda.Turner@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:

Good Afternoon Kate,

Please see updated CAC report for your review. I have updated the below requested information in the bottom of the Land section.

Kind regards,

Mandy

<image003.png>

Amanda Turner
Senior Environmental Officer (Coal)
Business Centre Coal | Coal and Central Queensland Compliance
Department of Environment and Science

P (07) 3330 6260
E Amanda.Turner@des.qld.gov.au
Level 8, 400 George Street, Brisbane QLD 4000
GPO Box 2454, Brisbane QLD 4001

From: BENNINK Kate <Kate.Bennink@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 16 December 2020 2:35 PM
To: MCCOSKER Juliana; LOVEDAY Chris
Cc: VOGES-HAUG Bianca; TURNER Amanda
Subject: RE: re. Isaac River CAC report

Thanks Juliana.

I couldn't find any description of proposed rehabilitation practices or final landforms (esp. final voids). There is a mention about PMLU of grazing in "Impacts on surrounds and transport" but not in the "Land" section where I would expect to find it. Could you please add pertinent info?

Cheers

Kate

<image005.png>

Kate Bennink
A/Director (Coal)
Business Centre Coal I Coal and Central Compliance
Environmental Services and Regulation
Department of Environment and Science

M sch 4 - mobile phone
E kate.bennink@des.qld.gov.au
99 Hospital Road, Emerald QLD 4720
PO Box 3028, Emerald QLD 4720

From: MCCOSKER Juliana <Juliana.Mccosker@des.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 16 December 2020 11:23 AM

To: LOVEDAY Chris; BENNINK Kate

Cc: VOGES-HAUG Bianca; TURNER Amanda

Subject: re. Isaac River CAC report

Hi Chris and Kate,

Please see attached CAC report for the Isaac River project. I know it is late notice, but if you could please let me know of your decision tomorrow, as we want to issue an information request by 18 December 2020.

Ciao for now

Juliana

<image007.png>

Juliana McCosker
Manager
Business Centre Coal - Coal and Central Queensland Compliance
Department of Environment and Science

M sch 4 - mobile phone
99 Hospital Road, Emerald QLD 4720
PO Box 3028, Emerald QLD 4720

<EA Permit 20201215 CAC APP0060905 Coking Coal One Pty Ltd Isaac River.docx>

Report to CAC

Environmental Protection Act 1994

Coordinated assessment committee (CAC) report on the requirement for an environmental impact statement (EIS)

This internal report is for recommendations to the Department of Environment and Science CAC on whether an EIS is required for a project under sections 70, 73A, 143 and 228 of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 (EP Act).

When this report applies

The report format should be used for all resource applications meeting the requirements for a decision by CAC on whether an EIS is required under sections 70, 73C, 143 and 228 of the EP Act.

Specifically, this report should be used for:

- all site-specific resource applications for an environmental authority (EA) (s143 EP Act)
- applications that are major amendments to an EA (s228 EP Act)
- applications for voluntary preparation of an EIS (s70 EP Act)
- applications for: decisions on whether an EIS would be required for EA applications under s73A(1)(a) of the EP Act; and, if relevant, applications to prepare an EIS under s73A(1)(b) of the EP Act, if the chief executive decides an EIS would not be required for an EA application.

Note: this report is **not** for projects that have completed an EIS under the EP Act. It also does **not** apply to 'coordinated projects' under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*.

How to use this report format

This report should be prepared by the nominated assessment officer and should include a recommendation based on an assessment of:

- Part A (department interests)
- Part B (trigger criteria)
- Part C (standard criteria) of this CAC report.

Applications for major EA amendments should attach the assessment level decision (ALD decision) and supporting documentation, such as maps, to this CAC report. The CAC report must be approved and signed by the manager.

The completed CAC report should then be forwarded to Environmental Impact Assessment Team at eis@des.qld.gov.au, carbon copy (cc) to Pauline.Gregory@des.qld.gov.au and Chris.Loveday@des.qld.gov.au.

Applicant and project details

Project name	Isaac River Coking Coal Project
Applicant name ¹	Coking Coal One Pty Ltd (100% owned subsidiary of Bowen Coking Coal Ltd)
Project type	EA Application The Department of Environment and Science (the department) received a site-specific environmental authority (EA) application for the Isaac River Coking Coal Project (the Project) on 7 October 2020. PRCP Application A Progressive Rehabilitation and Closure Plan (PRCP) was submitted with the EA Application.
Tenure details	MLAs 700062 and 700063
Project location	28km to the east of Moranbah, immediately east of the operating Daunia Coal Mine.

Administrative details

Application type	Site-specific application for an EA for a resource project
Environmental authority no. (if relevant)	TBA
eDOCS reference	101/0035120-001(E)
Department business centre	Business Centre Coal
EIS decision due (max 3 bd after CAC report) ²	17 December 2020
Information request due (section 140 EP Act)	13 January 2021

Recommendation³

¹ The 'applicant' is the persons, or registered legal entity (not a business trading name) intending to carry out the activity and in whose name the applicable permits or licences are to be issued.

² The EIS decision is due three business days (3 bd) after the CAC report is provided to CAC.

³ In making this recommendation, the department's guideline *Criteria for environmental impact statements for resource projects under the Environmental Protection Act 1994* (ESR/2016/2167) assists the administering authority to carry out its functions and responsibilities in accordance with the EP Act. This includes empowerment of the right to require an EIS for a resource development project if consideration of the standard criteria (and any other relevant considerations) shows an EIS should be required, irrespective of the triggers in this guideline.

After completing Parts A, B and C of this report, mark which of the following applies:

- (a) EIS is required.....☐
(b) No EIS is required.....☒

Statement of reasons:

The assessing officer recommends that an EIS is not required as per Part B – Trigger Criteria checklist.

The Isaac River Project (the Project) does not trigger the EIS criteria outlined in Part B as required under the EP Act for a greenfield site. The department does not anticipate the Project will cause significant impacts, there is not a high level of uncertainty about the possible impacts and there is not a high level of public interest in the proposal.

The applicant is not proposing to produce more than 2Mtpa of ROM coal. The applicant is applying to produce approximately 500,000tpa of hard coking coal, semi-hard coking coal and pulverised coal injection product with an approximate 5 year life of mine plus two years for rehabilitation and closure activities.

The applicant is also not applying to remove one Mtpa or more of ROM coal from on or under a floodplain or in a coastal hazard area. The applicant has identified that the proposed project area is not located within a floodplain. The Project is not located within a coastal hazard area.

The applicant has identified the project will initially consist of a standard truck and shovel open cut coal mine operation with high wall mining methods commencing later in the 5 year period. These coal mining processes are not deemed as novel or unproven resource extraction process, technology or activity.

Assessing officer: Amanda Turner **Date:** 16/12/2020

Delegate (EP Act): INSERT manager. **Date:** [Click here to enter a date.](#)

PART A – DES INTERESTS

Additional approval processes required (attach details where necessary):

- ☐ None
- ☐ Other applications received by the department for project
- ☐ A process under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*
- ☒ Commonwealth processes under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act)
- ☒ Other Progressive Rehabilitation and Closure Plan (PRCP)

Special considerations (attach details where necessary):

- ☐ Affects an environmentally sensitive area (Category A, B and/or C⁴)
- ☐ Involves a large number of individual decisions
- ☐ Is likely to generate significant community concern
- ☐ Needs policy change for approval

⁴ Refer to guideline ESR/2016/1985: 'Eligibility criteria and standard conditions for exploration and mineral development projects'

- ☐ Applicant suitability⁵
- ☐ Involves significant issues with another Queensland Government/Australian Government authority
- ☐ Involves impacts on an existing legally secured offset area under State and/or Commonwealth legislation
- ☐ Another special circumstance which significantly elevates environmental, social or economic risks beyond those usual for this type of project
- ☐ Other INSERT details.

Pre-lodgement advice

Provide information on date, who and what advice was given during the pre-lodgement meeting.

Prelodgement meetings:

12 May 2020 – Project introduction meeting (arranged by applicant)

- Meeting participants: The applicant and representatives of the Business Centre Coal.
- The applicant provided an overview via powerpoint of the project and expected submission dates.
- The department strongly advised about ongoing prelodgement meetings prior to submission including review of any draft application documentation.

31 August 2020 – Pre-lodgement meeting

- Meeting participants: The applicant and representatives of the Business Centre Coal and PRCP Team.
- General project overview provided.
- Overview of draft application documentation.
- Pre-lodgement review process.
- PRCP team provided application process advice.

A number of pre-lodgement meetings, phone conversation and email correspondence occurred with extensive pre-lodgement advice provided by the department on the 24 September 2020 following review of their draft application. The majority of information provided was not addressed in the application prior to submission. A summary of the identified information that required additional information to be included was:

- Land EV assessment is not inclusive of all relevant information including acid sulfate sampling, topsoil deficit, landform slopes i.e. water storages. Additional information required to identify any 'edge effects' associated with the activity.
- Surface water EV is lacking detail including: release water trigger limits, limited baseline data i.e. rainfall and flow, cumulative impact assessments of water releases, utilising regional data (Olive Downs water quality data) that does not appear to be reliable, management of mine affected water and sediment water.
- Groundwater EV assessment is deficient in a number of aspects including: providing detail surrounding the exercising underground water rights, drawdown and quality data is lacking due to limited monitoring points and monitoring timeframe (7 groundwater bores drilled in 2019), utilising monitoring information from surrounding activities (i.e. Olive Downs) rather than having site-specific information, not providing enough detail to justify how the activity may impact groundwater quality, levels and aquifers.
- PRCP: Extensive information regarding PRCP legislative and guideline requirements was not included in the application material.

Other issues

Provide information on any other issue not covered in this CAC report.

⁵ Refer to guideline ESR/2015/1771: 'Application to be a registered suitable operator'.

The application was lodged on the 7 October 2020 and deemed as not properly made on 21 October 2020. Following the required 20BD to provide an updated application with all items actioned, the application was deemed properly made on 16 November 2020.

Following new legislative provisions a decision will also be required on the PRCP under section 172 of the EP Act.

DES interests

If an impact is indicated, provide information on the level and significance of the impact on the matter

See below checklists for DES interests including MSES, MNES, coastal issues, resource allocation, tenure issues, water issues, air issues, noise and vibration issues, waste issues, land issues, culture and heritage issues, impacts on surrounds and transport issues, social issues and detailed explanatory notes.

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RTI Act 2009

Matters of state environmental significance (MSES⁶) and related matters

Medium Regulated vegetation:

- endangered and of concern regional ecosystems (REs)
- REs that intersect with a watercourse on Vegetation management (VM) watercourse map
- REs that intersect with a wetland on a VM wetland map
- REs that are also essential habitat for endangered and vulnerable species

Low Connectivity areas

Low Wetlands: wetland protection areas, high ecological significance wetlands, high ecological value wetlands and waterways

Low Strategic environmental area

Medium Protected wildlife habitat:

- endangered and vulnerable protected flora
- Three types of koala habitat: bushland koala habitat, medium value rehabilitation habitat and high value rehabilitation habitat (SEQ)
- habitat for animal that is endangered, vulnerable or special least concern

Low Protected areas

Low Highly protected marine park zones

Low Fish habitat areas

Low Watercourse providing for fish passage

Low Marine plants

Low Legally secured offset areas

Notes:

Significant residual impacts to the MSES may require offsetting under the Environmental Offsets Act 2014. The applicant has provided MSES and related matters within section '10.8 MSES Impact Assessment' of the EA application supporting documentation. The applicant identified that a single sighting of the Ornamental Snake (conservation significant species) was confirmed during field surveys within MLa 700062 and a single sighting of the Greater Glider (conservation significant species) was confirmed during field surveys within MLa 700063. Squatter Pigeon, also a conservation significant species, was identified as 'likely' to occur within mostly MLa 700063 but identified as not likely to be impacted. It has been detailed that there is 41.79 ha of essential habitat for Ornamental Snake mapped within MLa 700062 with 24 hectares of Ornamental Snake habitat predicted to be cleared due to the activity. No habitat will be cleared on MLa 700063. The mapped 2.46 ha of Regulated Vegetation – Category B has been identified as previously being cleared and all disturbance will be external to the ground truthed location.

Matters of national environmental significance (MNES)

Medium Listed threatened species and ecological communities under the EPBC Act

NA. Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

Low Wetlands of International importance

NA. Migratory species (international agreements)

NA. World Heritage Properties

NA. National Heritage places

NA. Commonwealth marine areas

NA. Nuclear actions

NA. A water resource in relation to CSG and large coal mining developments (IESC)

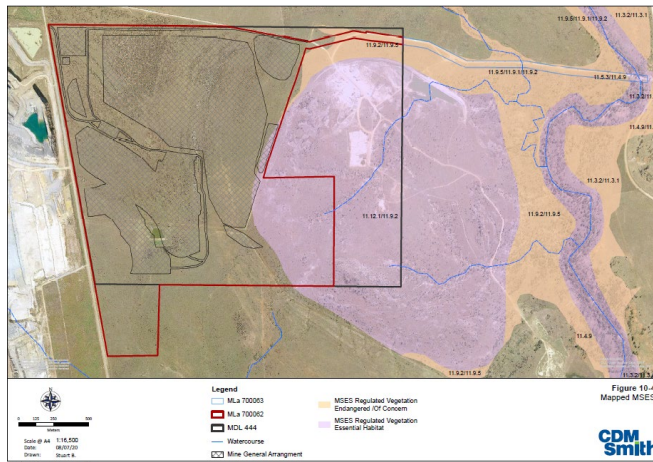
Notes:

Section '10.8 MNES Impact Assessment' of the EA application supporting documentation identified three listed TECs have the potential to occur in the broader area. RE mapping for MLa 700062 indicates a single mixed polygon that comprises of RE 11.9.1 Acacia harpophylla and/or Cassuarina cristata open forest to woodland on fine-grained sedimentary rocks and RE 11.9.5 Acacia harpophylla and/or Gasuarina cristata open forest on fine-grained sedimentary rocks. These REs are associated with the Endangered Brigalow (Acacia harpophylla dominant and co-dominant) TEC. The mapping identifies the REs occur within MLa 700063 which overlays the existing Daunia Quarry access road. Field assessments indicate the RE 11.9.1 / RE 11.9.5 is not current due to extensive clearing as identified within photographic evidence within the supporting documentation (pgs 522 – 524). RE mapping for MLa 700063 identified two mixed polygons dominating the MLa and comprising REs associated with the Endangered Brigalow TEC (RE 11.9.1, 11.4.9 and RE 11.9.5). Field assessments indicate the area has also been extensively cleared with little remnant vegetation present. Two small areas are identified as being present and providing connectivity on the northern and southern sides of the access road associated with North Creek and an un-named tributary. The applicant has identified that no further clearing of the REs associated with the Endangered Brigalow TEC is proposed within MLa 700063 as the existing Daunia Quarry access road will be utilised as access to the mine.

Coastal issues

NA. Coastal hazard (erosion, storm tide inundation)

NA. Structures (jetties, pontoons, seawalls)



- NA. Reclamation
- NA. Port development
- NA. Dredging and spoil disposal
- NA. Quarry material extraction from tidal water
- NA. Artificial waterways (canal estates, lakes)
- NA. Impacts on marine systems
- NA. Coastal resources (natural and physical features such as beaches, dunes, wetlands; processes and landforms; vegetation, wildlife etc.)
- NA. Public access to coastal and marine resources

Notes:

The Isaac River Coking Coal Project is not anticipated to have any coastal issues as it is located within central Queensland approximately 28 km east of Moranbah.

Other

- NA. Endangered, vulnerable and special least concern species (NC Act)⁷
- Low Environmentally sensitive areas A, B and C
- Low Vegetation clearing
- Low Terrestrial ecology
- Low Groundwater-dependent ecosystems

Notes:

Groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDE) were included in section '7.4.10 Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem' of the EA application supporting documentation. The documentation identifies on page 334 that 'it is unlikely that there will be any interaction with any surface watercourses or associated GDEs due to the dewatering of the pit'. It has been identified through pre-lodgement and included in the information request that field investigations need to be conducted on the site to provide presence/absence of GDEs.

Issues identified in 'other' have been further discussed in the MSES and MNES sections.

⁶ For definitions of MSES refer to schedule 2 of the Environmental Offsets Regulation 2014.

⁷ NC Act – *Nature Conservation Act 1992*

Resource allocation

- High Mining
- NA. Gas / Petroleum
- NA. Quarry material allocation under the CPM Act (quarry material extraction from below tidal water)
- NA. Water allocation
- NA. Occupancy of fish habitat area (resource allocation under the Fisheries Act)
- NA. Commercial opportunities on national parks and marine parks
- NA. Allocation of public resources (e.g. physical and natural resources environmental capacity)

Notes:

The 'greenfield' project will involve the development of a truck and shovel open cut coal mine and associated infrastructure over MLa 700062 and MLa 700063. The project is proposed to operate for approximately 5 years (plus 2 years for rehabilitation and closure). The project is proposing to extract approximately 500,000tpa of hard coking coal, semi-hard coking coal and pulverised coal injection product. Coal will be transported via truck through Daunia Coal Mine haul roads to the Red Mountain (RM) Coal Handling and Processing Plant (CHPP) then transported to the RM train load out facility. Therefore no CHPP or tailings facility is required on the site. The ML application area covers approximately 340 ha. The project is proposing to target the Vermont and Leichhardt seams and will initially commence as a standard truck and shovel operation before commencing highwall mining methods.

Tenure issues

- NA. Protected areas
- NA. Native title interests
- NA. Offshore jurisdiction
- NA. Commonwealth jurisdiction
- NA. Interstate jurisdiction
- NA. Legally secured offset area
- NA. Occupancy of unallocated state land under tidal waters

Notes:

Isaac River Coking Coal Project is overlain by Mineral Development Licence (MDL) 444 covering an area of approximately 434 ha (overlays previously held Exploration Permit for Coal (EPC) 830). The MLA area will cover part of MDL 44 and part of EPC 830.

The resource authority public report for MDL444 and EPC830 states the applicant is the current holder and that the land is 100% exclusive, so Native Title rights have been extinguished.

The access road will be located within MLa 700063 on the existing access road used for the Daunia Quarry. The applicant is applying for the ML (MLa 700063) over the existing Daunia Quarry Road.

Water issues

Medium Water quality
Medium Discharges
Medium Groundwater
Medium Surface water
Medium Hydrology
NA. Diversions
Medium Cumulative impacts (e.g. groundwater)
Medium Impacts on stream flows (geomorphological)
Medium Impacts on bank stability
Low Waterways management
Low Impacts on freshwater systems
Low Regulated structures (e.g. dams)
NA. Cumulative management areas under the *Water Act 2000*

Notes:

Surface Water

The project lies within the Isaac River Sub-basin Environmental Values and Water Quality Objectives Basin No. 130, including all waters of the Isaac River Sub-basin (including Connors River). The project is located within the North Creek catchment with the ephemeral North Creek located east of the project. It is a small tributary that drains to the middle reaches of the Isaac River catchment. The Isaac River flows in a north-west to south-east direction, located south of project.

Flow gauges are located on the Isaac River in the vicinity of the project but not on North Creek.

The EA application supporting documentation identifies the site as having no actual or potential discharge to waters with contaminants. Baseline data has been provided within the EA application supporting documentation however it was limited due to low rainfall during the 2019 sampling period. The applicant has identified that in the absence of site-specific water quality data, a combination of publicly available data for the Isaac River and data reported in the Olive Downs EIS are used as a reference for local water quality. The applicant has identified the use of model water conditions for coal mines in the Fitzroy basin (v3) and Issac River Sub-basin Environmental Values and Water Quality Objectives Basin No. 130 (part), including all waters of the Isaac River Sub-Basin (including Connors River) 2011. As mentioned above the applicant proposes no release of Mine Affected Water (MAW) but is proposing to enable the discharge of stormwater runoff contaminated only by sediment. The site is proposed to have separation of sediment stormwater and MAW. The site will have a network of

Air issues

Low Air shed management
Low Pollution
Low Health
Low Nuisance
Low Ecological impacts
Low Odour

Notes:

The applicant identified the use of the Environmental Protection Policy (Air) 2019 within the EA application supporting documentation. The surrounding region was identified as predominantly flat or undulating lands, draining via several smaller creeks into the Isaac River. The project lies near one of the main coal mining districts in the Bowen Basin and is directly east of the current Daunia Mine. Grazing is the principal agricultural industry in the area. Sensitive receptors were identified within the locality of the project including homesteads and Coppabella township. With the nearest homestead located approximately 3.8km from the centre of MLA 700062.

The dominant wind direction is from the northeast during spring and east during summer and predominantly from the south easterly direction in autumn and winter.

No monitoring stations are located within close proximity to the project with the DES monitoring station located at Moranbah approximately 30 km away. The applicant estimated the existing air quality utilising the Moranbah monitoring data due to no long term local data available. In addition other projects data was utilised to determine background concentrations.

Dust and particulate matter generated from site activities are predicted to be the main emissions to air. In addition diesel combustion from vehicles may be released to air but determined to not be emitted in sufficient quantities to impact air quality at sensitive receptors.

It has been identified that the project is predicted to be below the relevant criteria due to the distance between the project and the sensitive receptors. Dust control measures are identified to be utilised throughout the project to manage dust emissions.

sediment dams with sediment stormwater directed to these dams that are linked via drainage lines leading to sediment dam 1 (SD1) to be then released off site. All MAW is diverted to Mine Water (MW) 1 dam and directed to in-pit during flooding. Sediment dams will be managed via a number of structures i.e. bunds, sumps, sediment dams to capture and treat the sediment stormwater runoff and with an erosion and sediment management plan. SD1 will have a low flow perforated riser-pipe decant outlet and emergency spillway to discharge treated stormwater to the receiving environment. The discharged water will be conveyed to an existing minor tributary to North Creek via a drain along the northern edge of the access road. It is proposed that monitoring of sediment water discharge will occur as per the EA requirements with upstream and downstream monitoring for water quality to occur and a single streamflow gauging station intended to be installed on North Creek a short distance upstream of the discharge point.

The applicant has identified through hydraulic modelling of the Isaac River that flooding is unlikely to affect the project site.

Groundwater

The applicant has identified that an underground water impact report is likely to be required under S137 of the Water Act. The main hydrostratigraphic units identified within the project area and surrounds include; alluvium, Granitoid Intrusion, Triassic Rewan Group and Permian Coal measures.

Within a 5km radius of the centre of the project 19 bores were identified. The majority are for mining and geological purposes. Only one is used for water supply.

The applicant drilled seven groundwater monitoring bores in early 2019. All bores are screened within the Rangal Coal measures. It was identified groundwater levels were consistent across the bores. The applicant has utilised additional information from Olive Downs located 10km south of MLA 700062.

It was identified that groundwater levels dropped to the west of the project due to dewatering of the neighboring Daunia mine. Groundwater flow is in a south southeast direction regionally towards the Isaac River to the south and southeast. Dewatering of the Daunia mine has led to the development of a cone of depression around that mine. Groundwater quality from the site bores were found to be typically of poor quality and not suitable for human consumption, irrigation or stock watering purposes.

The projects groundwater management is to maintain the baseline groundwater conditions. The potential impacts of mining on groundwater have been identified. Excavation of the mining pit has the potential to disrupt the local groundwater flow in the Rangal Coal Measures strata. Dewatering of the pit may lead to a cone of depression and also lead to impacts to groundwater and surface water interaction being affected. Groundwater quality could also be impacted by the pit excavation and also leaching from the waste rock dump and the use of contaminants on site.

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Noise and vibration issues

Medium Community noise
Low Transportation noise
Low Industrial noise
Low Ground vibration
Low Airblast overpressure
Low Low frequency
NA. Marine noise (underwater)
Low Ecological impacts

Notes:

The applicant identified that within the guideline 'Guideline – Model Mining Conditions 2017' the model mining conditions should be applied to all new mining project applications, and that therefore this project is subject to the noise criteria outlined in the guidelines.

The applicant identified the noise environment in the vicinity of the project as 'very rural' with likely existing sources of noise comprised of adjacent mining activities and rail activities. However environmental noise is expected to be the dominant noise sources at the nearest sensitive receptors.

The applicant proposes the use of previous noise studies conducted at surrounding projects in particular Arrow Bowen Gas Project and Olive Downs Coking Coal Project. These projects are north and south of the project site and the applicant deemed the data representative. It was found from these projects noise assessments that the background noise levels are well below the minimum noise levels referenced in the model mining conditions. Therefore the applicant has deemed it acceptable to utilise the model mining conditions for noise. However, it was identified that noise modelling results do indicate that noise levels from the project are likely to exceed the noise criteria at the closest sensitive receptor during the worst climatic weather conditions in the night time period.

In regards to blasting the applicant has adopted the model mining conditions for blasting and identified blasting would likely occur between 7:00am and 6:00pm Monday to Saturday and not occur on Sundays or public holidays. The nearest receptor to blasting locations is approximately 3.6 km. Predicted blast vibration and airblast overpressure levels are expected to comply with the criteria proposed.

Waste issues

Low Solid waste
Low Liquid waste
Low Gaseous waste
NA. Dredge spoil disposal
NA. Energy
NA. Best practice environmental management
Low Waste water
Medium Rock waste dumps
Medium Non-acid forming and potentially acid forming material

Notes:

The applicant identifies the use of the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011 to prioritise waste management practices.

The applicant is expecting both general and regulated waste streams to be generated by the project. Non mineral waste is expected to be disposed of at an off-site disposal facility (contaminated soil may be remediated on site). Waste tyres and contaminated soil may be disposed of in pit. The applicant has identified mineral waste including excavated waste (overburden and interburden) and coal rejects. The applicant provides details of overburden and coal as reject material being assessed by ALS laboratory. These waste types will be disposed of in out-of-pit waste rock dumps and within mined out voids. Waste characterisation was completed on 12 samples and assessed as low risk for acid forming with all samples classified as NAF. The samples were also tested for sodicity and were found to be generally alkaline with the salinity generally low. However this indicates the potential for problems relating to stability and dispersion.

Land issues

High	Land disturbance
Low	Contaminated land
Low	Acid sulfate soils
Medium	Erosion/stability
NA.	Subsidence
NA.	Landscape
Low	Effects on hydrology (surface and underground)
Low	Sustainable use
Low	Land use history and compatibility
Low	Areas of regional interest ⁸
Low	Compliance with planning schemes
Low	Rehabilitation and subsequent use
Low	Native title rights
NA.	Rehabilitation issues (for existing activities)
Low	Non-acid forming and potentially acid forming material
Medium	Final voids
Medium	Progressive rehabilitation and closure plan

Notes:

The project area is approximately 330.4 ha with a disturbance footprint of approximately 182 ha. The project area includes the mining infrastructure area, MAW dam, Sediment dams x 3, open cut area, waste rock dumps, ROM stockpile, haul roads and water containment infrastructure.

The project is not located within an area of regional interest under the Regional Planning Interests Act 2014. It has been historically cleared for grazing and has highly fragmented vegetation patches within the landscape. The project also has no reported contaminated land. The volume of waste rock generated during the project is estimated to be approximately 23MBCM. Acid sulphate soils are deemed a low risk following laboratory analysed sampling. The results indicate the waste material is generally alkaline to highly alkaline and contain relatively no sulphur. Overburden and Interburden was analysed for saline and sodic material. With the salinity generally being low. Sodicity ranged from medium to very high. Strongly sodic material can result in stability issues and relate to potential dispersion.

Progressive rehabilitation will occur through the life of the mine as areas become available. Topsoil and subsoil will be stripped and stockpiled with amelioration used where necessary. Alongside the EA application the PRCP application was submitted with the PRC schedule. The applicant has identified within the PRCP application that no Non Use Management Areas

Cultural and heritage issues

Low	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural sites
NA.	European cultural heritage significance (historic sites, buildings and locations)
NA.	Queensland heritage place (<i>Queensland Heritage Act 1992</i>)
NA.	Designated landscape area (<i>Cultural Record (Landscapes Queensland and Queensland Estate) Act 1987</i>)
NA.	Native title rights

Notes:

The risk to cultural and heritage issues are identified and deemed as low risk. The resource authority public report for MDL444 and EPC830 states the applicant is the current holder and that the land is 100% exclusive, so Native title rights have been extinguished. The project is currently in the process of negotiating a Cultural Heritage Management Plan with the Barada Barna People to manage the risk of harm to Aboriginal cultural heritage by the project activities.

The Queensland Heritage Register did not identify any Registered (protected) places within the project footprint.

(NUMAs) will remain. The voids will be backfilled above the expected water table level located at the top of the catchment and outside the probably maximum flood extent. The expected Post Mine Land Use (PMLU) is identified as pasture grazing. The PRCP application identifies that the final landform design is to create a gentle sloping landform suitable for pasture grazing which blends into the surrounding landscape. All embankments/slopes will be battered to 15% or less.

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⁸ <https://planning.dsdmip.qld.gov.au/planning/regional-planning-interests-act/areas-of-regional-interest>

Impacts on surrounds and transport

Low	Transportation (air, rail, road, port, shipping)
Low	Visual impacts
Low	Compatibility with surrounding uses, activities and land users
Medium	Adjacent landholders
Low	Amenity
Low	Community & landholder views
Low	Lighting

Notes:

The existing visual environment in the project area is typical of the region, including mining, grazing and bush. The final landform and visual amenity of the site will be compatible with the local area. Visibility of the mine is likely to be partly blocked by the current Daunia quarry and Daunia Mine. The Mavis Downs Homestead is indicated as being impacted however the existing gumtree vegetation will act as a screen. The final rehabilitation outcome of the site is to return it to a pre-mining landscape being grazing.

MLA 700063 is being applied for as a mining lease for transportation over the existing access road corridor used for the Daunia Quarry operations. During the construction phase road transport will be the principle method for transportation of equipment and during the life of mine waste will be removed via road transport options. Peak Downs Highway will be the major access route to and from the project. The project is located approximately 3 km east of the Red Mountain train load out facility where the coal is to be transported (via mining haul roads) to for rail to the port facility. The port facility utilised will be the existing DBCT for export of the product coal with no increases required for the port operation. There will be no requirements to move or alter any public roads. The project may increase the number of road users due to the project but the risk was deemed as low.

There are no easements for public or private utility across the project area.

Artificial lighting will be required for operations however light emissions will be minimised whilst ensuring operational safety and will be directed towards the required areas only.

Social issues

Low	Accommodation
Low	Transport of workers
Low	Fly-in/fly-out (<i>Strong and Sustainable Resource Communities Act 2017</i>)
Low	Drive-in/drive-out (<i>Strong and Sustainable Resource Communities Act 2017</i>)
NA.	Displacement of use
Low	Public safety
Low	Politics/policy
Low	Compatibility with surrounding uses, activities and land users

Notes:

The Mackay Airport is the nearest major regional airport servicing the region with smaller airports located at Moranbah and Dysart. The project is aiming to engage a local workforce, principally within a 125km radius of the project. Therefore it will be a local commute and accommodation for the workforce.

Due to the small scale of the project and the surrounding mining activities in the region the potential social impacts are relatively low.

PART B – TRIGGER CRITERIA

An EIS will be required if any of the following trigger criteria are met. If no criteria are triggered, this does not provide an exemption from having to prepare an EIS if the administering authority for the department considers that there may be a significant environmental impact, or there is a high level of uncertainty about the possible impacts, or there is a high level of public interest in the proposal.

For each question, indicate whether the answer is ‘yes’ or ‘no’:

Criteria	Yes	No
For greenfield (new) mine proposals (sections 70 or 143 of the EP Act)		
1. Would the application involve the removal of two million tonnes per year or more of run-of-mine (ROM) ⁹ ore or coal?	☐	☒
2. Would the application involve the removal of one million tonnes per year or more of run-of-mine (ROM) ore or coal on or under a floodplain ¹⁰ or in a coastal hazard area ¹¹ ?	☐	☒
3. Would the application involve the introduction of a novel or unproven resource extraction process, technology or activity ¹² ?	☐	☒
For proposals to amend/alter an existing mine (sections 143 and 228 of the EP Act)		
4. For mines already removing 2 – 10 million tonnes per year ROM ore or coal, would the application increase the current annual removal rate by more than 100% or 5 million tonnes per year (whichever is the lesser)?	☐	☐
5. For mines already removing over 10 million tonnes per year ROM ore or coal, would the application increase the current annual removal rate by more than 50% or 10 million tonnes per year (whichever is the lesser)?	☐	☐
6. For mines already removing more than 20 million tonnes per year ROM ore or coal, would the application increase the current annual removal rate by more than 25%?	☐	☐
7. Would the application involve an extension into and significant impact on a Category A or B environmentally sensitive area, which is not already authorised by the State?	☐	☐
8. Would the application involve a substantial change in mining operations – such as from underground to open cut, or (for underground mining) a change in operations from one causing little subsidence to one likely to cause substantial subsidence?	☐	☐

⁹ ROM ore or coal means the material excavated but prior to washing or chemical concentration. It does not include overburden.

¹⁰ The *Water Act 2000* defines a floodplain as an area of reasonably flat land adjacent to a watercourse that— (a) is covered from time to time by floodwater overflowing from the watercourse; and (b) does not, other than in an upper valley reach, confine floodwater to generally follow the path of the watercourse; and (c) has finer sediment deposits than the sediment deposits of any bench, bar or in-stream island in the watercourse. See also the Queensland Floodplain Assessment Overlay at the *Wetland Info* section of the department's website at <https://wetlandinfo.des.qld.gov.au/wetlands/>.

¹¹ A coastal hazard area is an area vulnerable to coastal hazards, referred to as coastal erosion or storm tide inundation (as per the departmental coastal hazard area mapping). Maps of these areas are accessible at http://www.des.qld.gov.au/coastal/management/coastal_plan_maps.php and <http://qldspatial.information.qld.gov.au/catalogue/custom/index.page>.

¹² For example: underground coal gasification; in-seam coal slurring; a new method of ore concentration; but this will be decided on a case-by-case basis and this trigger is not intended to discourage innovation.

9. Would the application introduce a novel or unproven resource removal process, technology or activity?	☐	☐
For petroleum and gas activities (sections 70, 143 and 228 of the EP Act)		
10. Would the application involve a total disturbance area of greater than 2000 hectares at any one time during the life of the proposed project? This includes areas occupied by well pads (single or multi-directional), access tracks and roads, water storages, and process plants?	☐	☐
11. Would the application involve the construction of a high pressure pipeline over a distance of 300 kilometre or greater?	☐	☐
12. Would the application involve the construction of a liquefied natural gas plant?	☐	☐
General considerations		
<p>Where needed, make comments on the rating of the application against the trigger criteria.</p> <p>The assessing officer has reviewed the EIS trigger criteria and determined that an EIS is not required for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The project is estimated to extract approximately 500,000 tpa of ROM coal for the five year life of mine. - The project's disturbance footprint has been identified as not being on a floodplain therefore the project will not be removing 1Mtpa or more of ROM coal under a floodplain as defined under the Water Act. - The project will consist of a traditional truck and shovel open cut mine transitioning into highwall mining in later years. 		

PART C – STANDARD CRITERIA

The standard criteria have to be considered in making the EIS decision. Provide comments on the standard criteria as defined under schedule 4 of the EP Act (where relevant):

Standard criteria, EP Act, schedule 4, definitions (current as at 1 January 2018)¹³:

Standard criteria	Comment
Standard criteria means –	
(a) the following principles of environmental policy as set out in the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the precautionary principle; (ii) intergenerational equity; (iii) conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity; and 	i. The precautionary principle is not expected to be compromised by the new site-specific EA applications proposed activities. The proposed activity is unlikely to cause serious environmental harm or have a detrimental impact on the conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity. The application is not proposing any new, novel or untested activities. The application material provided includes potential impacts to

¹³ Check standard criteria against latest version of the EP Act and amend if required
<https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-1994-062>

	<p>all EVs and an information request will be issued to the applicant to ensure all required information is provided to the department to ensure no impacts to EVs are identified. If a suitable response is not received following the information request the department will condition appropriately or refuse the application. Therefore ensuring a precautionary approach is adopted.</p> <p>ii. The intergenerational equity principle is not expected to be compromised during and following the completion of the proposed activity. The application has included impacts to environmental values and mitigation and management to ensure any potential impacts do not cause environmental harm. The department will during EA conditioning ensure the activity and subsequent rehabilitation ensures protection of the area for future generations. In addition rehabilitation conditions and milestones will be further enhanced and enforceable through the separate PRCP. The PRCP conditioning will ensure the areas impacted by the activity are returned to a landform that is safe, stable and non-polluting.</p> <p>iii. Conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity will be maintained for the proposed activities impacted areas. This will be through the requirement for the department to consider the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment and Environmental objectives and performance outcomes (EP Reg Schedule 8 Part 3) during the assessment process. In addition the Environmental Offsets Act 2014 will be considered when reviewing potential impacts to MSES.</p>
<p>(b) any Commonwealth or State government plans, standards, agreements or requirements about environmental protection or ecologically sustainable development; and</p>	<p>There are a number of Commonwealth or State government plans, standards, agreements or requirements that will be utilised during the assessment process including (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EP Act 1994; - EP Regulation 2019; - Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011

Report
CAC report on the need for an EIS

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 - Queensland Offsets Act and Regulation 2014 - Queensland Environmental Offsets Policy - Water Act 2000 - Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2019 - Environmental Protection (Noise) Policy 2019 - Environmental Protection (Water and Wetland Biodiversity) Policy 2019 - Model Mining Conditions (ESR/2016/1936)
(d) any relevant environmental impact study, assessment or report ; and	The applicant submitted an EA Application Supporting Documentation with appendices and the PRCP application. These supporting documents include the proposed project, environmental values and potential impacts.
(e) the character, resilience and values of the receiving environment; and	The character, resilience and values of the receiving environment are all identified within the application supporting documentation.
(f) all submissions made by the applicant and submitters; and	The applicant has not submitted a voluntary EIS or been required to submit an EIS. The MLAs have not gone to public comment at this time. Therefore there has been no opportunities for submitters to lodge submissions. Ongoing discussions between the applicant and Department of Resources (DoR) have indicated public notification will occur in early 2021. As required under s152(2)(a) of the EP Act public notification must occur simultaneously or together with the application under resource legislation.
(g) the best practice environmental management for activities under any relevant instrument, or proposed instrument, as follows— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) an environmental authority; (ii) a transitional environmental program; (iii) an environmental protection order; (iv) a disposal permit; (v) a development approval; and 	i. The applicant does not have a current EA for this project and is currently applying for an EA alongside mining lease applications (MLA700062 and MLA700063). As part of the EA approval process the department will authorise appropriate EA conditions and PRCP criteria to ensure best practice environmental management for activities under the EA.

Report
CAC report on the need for an EIS

	<p>ii. There are no transitional environmental programs related to this application.</p> <p>iii. There are no environmental protection orders related to this application.</p> <p>iv. There are no disposal permits related to this project.</p> <p>v. There are not development approvals related to this project.</p>
(h) the financial implications of the requirements under an instrument, or proposed instrument, mentioned in paragraph (g) as they would relate to the type of activity or industry carried out, or proposed to be carried out, under the instrument; and	There would be financial implications for the applicant associated with implementing the requirements of an EA once approved. In addition financial costs would include the costs associated with complying with the EA conditions.
(i) the public interest ; and	<p>Public notification pursuant to s149 of the EP Act relates to this application as two mining leases are being applied for. It is in the public's best interest that this application be assessed under the EP Act to ensure the risk to the environment is minimised and promote best practice environmental management.</p> <p>In addition the Human Rights Act 2019 will be considered through the assessment process.</p>
(j) any relevant site management plan ; and	The application has identified a number of site management plans will be implemented and included within the EA conditions. These proposed management plan conditions will be reviewed and assessed by the department and further conditions and management plans will be imposed if the department requires.
(k) any relevant integrated environmental management system or proposed integrated environmental management system; and	The applicant has not submitted or referred to an integrated environmental management system within the application.
(l) any other matter prescribed under a regulation.	There are no other matters prescribed under the EP Reg for consideration when making an EIS decision.
General considerations	
<p>Where needed, make comments on the rating of the application against the standard criteria.</p> <p>The standard criteria has been considered and rated against the application and the assessing officer is recommending that an EIS is not required for this application.</p>	

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CAC decision for 17 December 2020 are as follows:

Isaac River Coking Coal Project – Site-specific application for an EA for a resource project

CAC members – Chris Loveday and Kate Bennink

- The Department of Environment and Science (the department) received a site-specific environmental authority (EA) application for the Isaac River Coking Coal Project (the project) on 7 October 2020.
- The applicant is Coking Coal One Pty Ltd (100% owned subsidiary of Bowen Coal Ltd).
- The 'greenfield' project would involve the development of a truck and shovel open cut coal mine and associated infrastructure over MLa 700062 and MLa 700063. The project is proposed to operate for approximately 5 years (plus 2 years for rehabilitation and closure). The project is proposing to extract approximately 500,000tpa of hard coking coal, semi-hard coking coal and pulverised coal injection product. Coal would be transported via truck through Daunia Coal Mine haul roads to the Red Mountain (RM) Coal Handling and Processing Plant then transported to the RM train load out facility.
- The project area is approximately 330.4ha with a disturbance footprint of approximately 182ha. The project area includes the mining infrastructure area, MAW dam, Sediment dams x 3, open cut area, waste rock dumps, ROM stockpile, haul roads and water containment infrastructure.
- Progressive rehabilitation would occur through the life of the mine as areas become available. Alongside the EA application the PRCP application was submitted with the PRC schedule. The applicant has identified within the PRCP application that no Non Use Management Areas would remain. The voids would be backfilled above the expected water table level located at the top of the catchment and outside the probably maximum flood extent. The expected Post Mine Land Use is identified as pasture grazing.
- Significant residual impacts to MNES may require offsetting under the *Environmental Offsets Act 2014*.
- The project area contains medium Listed threatened species and ecological communities under the EPBC Act. However, no clearing of the REs associated with the Endangered Brigalow TEC is proposed within MLa 700063 as the existing Daunia Quarry access road will be utilised as access to the mine.
- The applicant is applying for an EA alongside mining lease applications (MLA700062 and MLA700063). As part of the EA approval process the department would authorise appropriate EA conditions and PRCP criteria to ensure best practice environmental management for activities under the EA.

Consultation

- The assessing officer from Coal and Central Qld Compliance recommends that an EIS is not required as per Part B – Trigger Criteria checklist.
- The project does not trigger the EIS criteria outlined in Part B as required under the EP Act for a greenfield site. The department does not anticipate the project would cause significant impacts, there is not a high level of uncertainty about the possible impacts and there is not a high level of public interest in the proposal.
- The applicant is not proposing to produce more than 2Mtpa of ROM coal. The applicant is applying to produce approximately 500,000tpa of hard coking coal, semi-hard coking coal and pulverised coal injection product with an approximate 5 year life of mine plus two years for rehabilitation and closure activities.
- The applicant is also not applying to remove one Mtpa or more of ROM coal from on or under a floodplain or in a coastal hazard area. The applicant has identified that the proposed project area is not located within a floodplain. The project is not located within a coastal hazard area.
- The applicant has identified the project would initially consist of a standard truck and shovel open cut coal mine operation with high wall mining methods commencing later in the 5 year period. These coal mining processes are not deemed as novel or unproven resource extraction process, technology or activity.

Decision

- An EIS process is not required for the project.

Chris Loveday
Director, Technical and Assessment Services
Date:

Date : 18/12/2020 2:48:11 PM
From : "GREGORY Pauline"
To : "BLUMKE Peter" Peter.Blumke@des.qld.gov.au
Cc : "LOVEDAY Chris" Chris.Loveday@des.qld.gov.au
Subject : 201218 Isaac River CAC report
Attachment : EA Permit 20201215 CAC APP0060905 Coking Coal One Pty Ltd Isaac River.docx;

Hi Peter,

Can you please do a CAC decision for the attached from Central. The decision was NO EIS is required. Send back to me and I will get Chris to sign it.

Thanks
Pauline

From: GREGORY Pauline <Pauline.Gregory@des.qld.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** LOVEDAY Chris
Sent: Thursday, 17 December 2020 3:35 PM
To: GREGORY Pauline
Subject: FW: re. Isaac River CAC report

From: LOVEDAY Chris <Chris.Loveday@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 17 December 2020 3:24 PM
To: LOVEDAY Chris
Subject: Re: re. Isaac River CAC report

Yes please

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From: GREGORY Pauline <Pauline.Gregory@des.qld.gov.au> on behalf of LOVEDAY Chris <Chris.Loveday@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2020 11:01:57 AM
To: LOVEDAY Chris <Chris.Loveday@des.qld.gov.au>
Subject: FW: re. Isaac River CAC report

Chris

Did you want me to ask Peter to do a CAC decision on this so we have a record in our CAC folder in case we get an RTI request etc?

Pauline

From: BENNINK Kate <Kate.Bennink@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 16 December 2020 6:30 PM
To: LOVEDAY Chris
Cc: MCCOSKER Juliana; VOGES-HAUG Bianca; TURNER Amanda
Subject: Re: re. Isaac River CAC report

Chris,

I support the recommendation that no EIS is required.

Cheers
Kate

Kate Bennink
A/Director (Coal)
Department of Environment and Science
Msch 4 - mobile phone
kate.bennink@des.qld.gov.au

On 16 Dec 2020, at 3:21 pm, TURNER Amanda <Amanda.Turner@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:

Good Afternoon Kate,

Please see updated CAC report for your review. I have updated the below requested information in the bottom of the Land section.

Kind regards,

Mandy

<image003.png>

Amanda Turner

Senior Environmental Officer (Coal)

Business Centre Coal I Coal and Central Queensland Compliance

Department of Environment and Science

P (07) 3330 6260

E Amanda.Turner@des.qld.gov.au

Level 8, 400 George Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

GPO Box 2454, Brisbane QLD 4001

From: BENNINK Kate <Kate.Bennink@des.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 16 December 2020 2:35 PM

To: MCCOSKER Juliana; LOVEDAY Chris

Cc: VOGES-HAUG Bianca; TURNER Amanda

Subject: RE: re. Isaac River CAC report

Thanks Juliana.

I couldn't find any description of proposed rehabilitation practices or final landforms (esp. final voids). There is a mention about PMLU of grazing in "Impacts on surrounds and transport" but not in the "Land" section where I would expect to find it. Could you please add pertinent info?

Cheers

Kate

<image005.png>

Kate Bennink

A/Director (Coal)

Business Centre Coal I Coal and Central Compliance

Environmental Services and Regulation

Department of Environment and Science

M sch 4 - mobile phone

E kate.bennink@des.qld.gov.au

99 Hospital Road, Emerald QLD 4720

PO Box 3028, Emerald QLD 4720

From: MCCOSKER Juliana <Juliana.Mccosker@des.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 16 December 2020 11:23 AM

To: LOVEDAY Chris; BENNINK Kate

Cc: VOGES-HAUG Bianca; TURNER Amanda

Subject: re. Isaac River CAC report

Hi Chris and Kate,

Please see attached CAC report for the Isaac River project. I know it is late notice, but if you could please let me know of your decision tomorrow, as we want to issue an information request by 18 December 2020.

Ciao for now

Juliana

<image007.png>

Juliana McCosker

Manager

Business Centre Coal - Coal and Central Queensland Compliance

Department of Environment and Science

M sch 4 - mobile phone

99 Hospital Road, Emerald QLD 4720

PO Box 3028, Emerald QLD 4720

<EA Permit 20201215 CAC APP0060905 Coking Coal One Pty Ltd Isaac River.docx>

Report to CAC

Environmental Protection Act 1994

Coordinated assessment committee (CAC) report on the requirement for an environmental impact statement (EIS)

This internal report is for recommendations to the Department of Environment and Science CAC on whether an EIS is required for a project under sections 70, 73A, 143 and 228 of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 (EP Act).

When this report applies

The report format should be used for all resource applications meeting the requirements for a decision by CAC on whether an EIS is required under sections 70, 73C, 143 and 228 of the EP Act.

Specifically, this report should be used for:

- all site-specific resource applications for an environmental authority (EA) (s143 EP Act)
- applications that are major amendments to an EA (s228 EP Act)
- applications for voluntary preparation of an EIS (s70 EP Act)
- applications for: decisions on whether an EIS would be required for EA applications under s73A(1)(a) of the EP Act; and, if relevant, applications to prepare an EIS under s73A(1)(b) of the EP Act, if the chief executive decides an EIS would not be required for an EA application.

Note: this report is **not** for projects that have completed an EIS under the EP Act. It also does **not** apply to 'coordinated projects' under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*.

How to use this report format

This report should be prepared by the nominated assessment officer and should include a recommendation based on an assessment of:

- Part A (department interests)
- Part B (trigger criteria)
- Part C (standard criteria) of this CAC report.

Applications for major EA amendments should attach the assessment level decision (ALD decision) and supporting documentation, such as maps, to this CAC report. The CAC report must be approved and signed by the manager.

The completed CAC report should then be forwarded to Environmental Impact Assessment Team at eis@des.qld.gov.au, carbon copy (cc) to Pauline.Gregory@des.qld.gov.au and Chris.Loveday@des.qld.gov.au.

Applicant and project details

Project name	Isaac River Coking Coal Project
Applicant name ¹	Coking Coal One Pty Ltd (100% owned subsidiary of Bowen Coking Coal Ltd)
Project type	EA Application The Department of Environment and Science (the department) received a site-specific environmental authority (EA) application for the Isaac River Coking Coal Project (the Project) on 7 October 2020. PRCP Application A Progressive Rehabilitation and Closure Plan (PRCP) was submitted with the EA Application.
Tenure details	MLAs 700062 and 700063
Project location	28km to the east of Moranbah, immediately east of the operating Daunia Coal Mine.

Administrative details

Application type	Site-specific application for an EA for a resource project
Environmental authority no. (if relevant)	TBA
eDOCS reference	101/0035120-001(E)
Department business centre	Business Centre Coal
EIS decision due (max 3 bd after CAC report) ²	17 December 2020
Information request due (section 140 EP Act)	13 January 2021

Recommendation³

¹ The 'applicant' is the persons, or registered legal entity (not a business trading name) intending to carry out the activity and in whose name the applicable permits or licences are to be issued.

² The EIS decision is due three business days (3 bd) after the CAC report is provided to CAC.

³ In making this recommendation, the department's guideline *Criteria for environmental impact statements for resource projects under the Environmental Protection Act 1994* (ESR/2016/2167) assists the administering authority to carry out its functions and responsibilities in accordance with the EP Act. This includes empowerment of the right to require an EIS for a resource development project if consideration of the standard criteria (and any other relevant considerations) shows an EIS should be required, irrespective of the triggers in this guideline.

After completing Parts A, B and C of this report, mark which of the following applies:

(a) EIS is required.....☐

(b) No EIS is required.....☒

Statement of reasons:

The assessing officer recommends that an EIS is not required as per Part B – Trigger Criteria checklist.

The Isaac River Project (the Project) does not trigger the EIS criteria outlined in Part B as required under the EP Act for a greenfield site. The department does not anticipate the Project will cause significant impacts, there is not a high level of uncertainty about the possible impacts and there is not a high level of public interest in the proposal.

The applicant is not proposing to produce more than 2Mtpa of ROM coal. The applicant is applying to produce approximately 500,000tpa of hard coking coal, semi-hard coking coal and pulverised coal injection product with an approximate 5 year life of mine plus two years for rehabilitation and closure activities.

The applicant is also not applying to remove one Mtpa or more of ROM coal from on or under a floodplain or in a coastal hazard area. The applicant has identified that the proposed project area is not located within a floodplain. The Project is not located within a coastal hazard area.

The applicant has identified the project will initially consist of a standard truck and shovel open cut coal mine operation with high wall mining methods commencing later in the 5 year period. These coal mining processes are not deemed as novel or unproven resource extraction process, technology or activity.

Assessing officer: Amanda Turner **Date:** 16/12/2020

Delegate (EP Act): INSERT manager. **Date:** Click here to enter a date.

PART A – DES INTERESTS

Additional approval processes required (attach details where necessary):

- ☐ None
- ☐ Other applications received by the department for project
- ☐ A process under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*
- ☒ Commonwealth processes under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act)
- ☒ Other Progressive Rehabilitation and Closure Plan (PRCP)

Special considerations (attach details where necessary):

- ☐ Affects an environmentally sensitive area (Category A, B and/or C⁴)
- ☐ Involves a large number of individual decisions
- ☐ Is likely to generate significant community concern
- ☐ Needs policy change for approval

⁴ Refer to guideline ESR/2016/1985: 'Eligibility criteria and standard conditions for exploration and mineral development projects'

- ☐ Applicant suitability⁵
- ☐ Involves significant issues with another Queensland Government/Australian Government authority
- ☐ Involves impacts on an existing legally secured offset area under State and/or Commonwealth legislation
- ☐ Another special circumstance which significantly elevates environmental, social or economic risks beyond those usual for this type of project
- ☐ Other INSERT details.

Pre-lodgement advice

Provide information on date, who and what advice was given during the pre-lodgement meeting.

Prelodgement meetings:

12 May 2020 – Project introduction meeting (arranged by applicant)

- Meeting participants: The applicant and representatives of the Business Centre Coal.
- The applicant provided an overview via powerpoint of the project and expected submission dates.
- The department strongly advised about ongoing prelodgement meetings prior to submission including review of any draft application documentation.

31 August 2020 – Pre-lodgement meeting

- Meeting participants: The applicant and representatives of the Business Centre Coal and PRCP Team.
- General project overview provided.
- Overview of draft application documentation.
- Pre-lodgement review process.
- PRCP team provided application process advice.

A number of pre-lodgement meetings, phone conversation and email correspondence occurred with extensive pre-lodgement advice provided by the department on the 24 September 2020 following review of their draft application. The majority of information provided was not addressed in the application prior to submission. A summary of the identified information that required additional information to be included was:

- Land EV assessment is not inclusive of all relevant information including acid sulfate sampling, topsoil deficit, landform slopes i.e. water storages. Additional information required to identify any 'edge effects' associated with the activity.
- Surface water EV is lacking detail including: release water trigger limits, limited baseline data i.e. rainfall and flow, cumulative impact assessments of water releases, utilising regional data (Olive Downs water quality data) that does not appear to be reliable, management of mine affected water and sediment water.
- Groundwater EV assessment is deficient in a number of aspects including: providing detail surrounding the exercising underground water rights, drawdown and quality data is lacking due to limited monitoring points and monitoring timeframe (7 groundwater bores drilled in 2019), utilising monitoring information from surrounding activities (i.e. Olive Downs) rather than having site-specific information, not providing enough detail to justify how the activity may impact groundwater quality, levels and aquifers.
- PRCP: Extensive information regarding PRCP legislative and guideline requirements was not included in the application material.

Other issues

Provide information on any other issue not covered in this CAC report.

⁵ Refer to guideline ESR/2015/1771: 'Application to be a registered suitable operator'.

The application was lodged on the 7 October 2020 and deemed as not properly made on 21 October 2020. Following the required 20BD to provide an updated application with all items actioned, the application was deemed properly made on 16 November 2020.

Following new legislative provisions a decision will also be required on the PRCP under section 172 of the EP Act.

DES interests

If an impact is indicated, provide information on the level and significance of the impact on the matter

See below checklists for DES interests including MSES, MNES, coastal issues, resource allocation, tenure issues, water issues, air issues, noise and vibration issues, waste issues, land issues, culture and heritage issues, impacts on surrounds and transport issues, social issues and detailed explanatory notes.

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RTI Act 2009

Matters of state environmental significance (MSES⁶) and related matters

Medium Regulated vegetation:

- endangered and of concern regional ecosystems (REs)
- REs that intersect with a watercourse on Vegetation management (VM) watercourse map
- REs that intersect with a wetland on a VM wetland map
- REs that are also essential habitat for endangered and vulnerable species

Low Connectivity areas

Low Wetlands: wetland protection areas, high ecological significance wetlands, high ecological value wetlands and waterways

Low Strategic environmental area

Medium Protected wildlife habitat:

- endangered and vulnerable protected flora
- Three types of koala habitat: bushland koala habitat, medium value rehabilitation habitat and high value rehabilitation habitat (SEQ)
- habitat for animal that is endangered, vulnerable or special least concern

Low Protected areas

Low Highly protected marine park zones

Low Fish habitat areas

Low Watercourse providing for fish passage

Low Marine plants

Low Legally secured offset areas

Notes:

Significant residual impacts to the MSES may require offsetting under the Environmental Offsets Act 2014. The applicant has provided MSES and related matters within section '10.8 MSES Impact Assessment' of the EA application supporting documentation. The applicant identified that a single sighting of the Ornamental Snake (conservation significant species) was confirmed during field surveys within MLa 700062 and a single sighting of the Greater Glider (conservation significant species) was confirmed during field surveys within MLa 700063. Squatter Pigeon, also a conservation significant species, was identified as 'likely' to occur within mostly MLa 700063 but identified as not likely to be impacted. It has been detailed that there is 41.79 ha of essential habitat for Ornamental Snake mapped within MLa 700062 with 24 hectares of Ornamental Snake habitat predicted to be cleared due to the activity. No habitat will be cleared on MLa 700063. The mapped 2.46 ha of Regulated Vegetation – Category B has been identified as previously being

Matters of national environmental significance (MNES)

Medium Listed threatened species and ecological communities under the EPBC Act

NA. Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

Low Wetlands of International importance

NA. Migratory species (international agreements)

NA. World Heritage Properties

NA. National Heritage places

NA. Commonwealth marine areas

NA. Nuclear actions

NA. A water resource in relation to CSG and large coal mining developments (IESC)

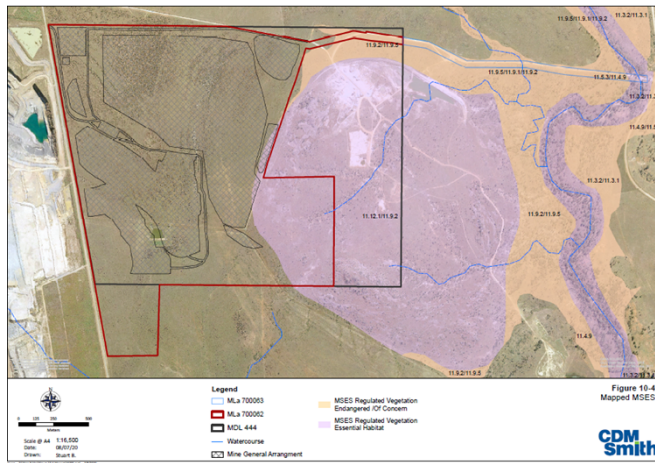
Notes:

Section '10.8 MNES Impact Assessment' of the EA application supporting documentation identified three listed TECs have the potential to occur in the broader area. RE mapping for MLa 700062 indicates a single mixed polygon that comprises of RE 11.9.1 Acacia harpophylla and/or Cassuarina cristata open forest to woodland on fine-grained sedimentary rocks and RE 11.9.5 Acacia harpophylla and/or Gasuarina cristata open forest on fine-grained sedimentary rocks. These REs are associated with the Endangered Brigalow (Acacia harpophylla dominant and co-dominant) TEC. The mapping identifies the REs occur within MLa 700063 which overlays the existing Daunia Quarry access road. Field assessments indicate the RE 11.9.1 / RE 11.9.5 is not current due to extensive clearing as identified within photographic evidence within the supporting documentation (pgs 522 – 524). RE mapping for MLa 700063 identified two mixed polygons dominating the MLa and comprising REs associated with the Endangered Brigalow TEC (RE 11.9.1, 11.4.9 and RE 11.9.5). Field assessments indicate the area has also been extensively cleared with little remnant vegetation present. Two small areas are identified as being present and providing connectivity on the northern and southern sides of the access road associated with North Creek and an un-named tributary. The applicant has identified that no further clearing of the REs associated with the Endangered Brigalow TEC is proposed within MLa 700063 as the existing Daunia Quarry access road will be utilised as access to the mine.

Coastal issues

⁶ For definitions of MSES refer to schedule 2 of the Environmental Offsets Regulation 2014.

cleared and all disturbance will be external to the ground truthed location.



- NA. Coastal hazard (erosion, storm tide inundation)
- NA. Structures (jetties, pontoons, seawalls)
- NA. Reclamation
- NA. Port development
- NA. Dredging and spoil disposal
- NA. Quarry material extraction from tidal water
- NA. Artificial waterways (canal estates, lakes)
- NA. Impacts on marine systems
- NA. Coastal resources (natural and physical features such as beaches, dunes, wetlands; processes and landforms; vegetation, wildlife etc.)
- NA. Public access to coastal and marine resources

Notes:

The Isaac River Coking Coal Project is not anticipated to have any coastal issues as it is located within central Queensland approximately 28 km east of Moranbah.

Other

- NA. Endangered, vulnerable and special least concern species (NC Act)⁷
- Low Environmentally sensitive areas A, B and C
- Low Vegetation clearing
- Low Terrestrial ecology
- Low Groundwater-dependent ecosystems

Notes:

Groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDE) were included in section '7.4.10 Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem' of the EA application supporting documentation. The documentation identifies on page 334 that 'it is unlikely that there will be any interaction with any surface watercourses or associated GDEs due to the dewatering of the pit'. It has been identified through pre-lodgement and included in the information request that field investigations need to be conducted on the site to provide presence/absence of GDEs.

Issues identified in 'other' have been further discussed in the MSES and MNES sections.

⁷ NC Act – Nature Conservation Act 1992

Resource allocation

- High Mining
- NA. Gas / Petroleum
- NA. Quarry material allocation under the CPM Act (quarry material extraction from below tidal water)
- NA. Water allocation
- NA. Occupancy of fish habitat area (resource allocation under the Fisheries Act)
- NA. Commercial opportunities on national parks and marine parks
- NA. Allocation of public resources (e.g. physical and natural resources environmental capacity)

Notes:

The 'greenfield' project will involve the development of a truck and shovel open cut coal mine and associated infrastructure over MLa 700062 and MLa 700063. The project is proposed to operate for approximately 5 years (plus 2 years for rehabilitation and closure). The project is proposing to extract approximately 500,000tpa of hard coking coal, semi-hard coking coal and pulverised coal injection product. Coal will be transported via truck through Daunia Coal Mine haul roads to the Red Mountain (RM) Coal Handling and Processing Plant (CHPP) then transported to the RM train load out facility. Therefore no CHPP or tailings facility is required on the site. The ML application area covers approximately 340 ha. The project is proposing to target the Vermont and Leichhardt seams and will initially commence as a standard truck and shovel operation before commencing highwall mining methods.

Tenure issues

- NA. Protected areas
- NA. Native title interests
- NA. Offshore jurisdiction
- NA. Commonwealth jurisdiction
- NA. Interstate jurisdiction
- NA. Legally secured offset area
- NA. Occupancy of unallocated state land under tidal waters

Notes:

Isaac River Coking Coal Project is overlain by Mineral Development Licence (MDL) 444 covering an area of approximately 434 ha (overlays previously held Exploration Permit for Coal (EPC) 830). The MLA area will cover part of MDL 44 and part of EPC 830.

The resource authority public report for MDL444 and EPC830 states the applicant is the current holder and that the land is 100% exclusive, so Native Title rights have been extinguished.

The access road will be located within MLa 700063 on the existing access road used for the Daunia Quarry. The applicant is applying for the ML (MLa 700063) over the existing Daunia Quarry Road.

Water issues

Medium Water quality
Medium Discharges
Medium Groundwater
Medium Surface water
Medium Hydrology
NA. Diversions
Medium Cumulative impacts (e.g. groundwater)
Medium Impacts on stream flows (geomorphological)
Medium Impacts on bank stability
Low Waterways management
Low Impacts on freshwater systems
Low Regulated structures (e.g. dams)
NA. Cumulative management areas under the *Water Act 2000*

Notes:

Surface Water

The project lies within the Isaac River Sub-basin Environmental Values and Water Quality Objectives Basin No. 130, including all waters of the Isaac River Sub-basin (including Connors River). The project is located within the North Creek catchment with the ephemeral North Creek located east of the project. It is a small tributary that drains to the middle reaches of the Isaac River catchment. The Isaac River flows in a north-west to south-east direction, located south of project.

Flow gauges are located on the Isaac River in the vicinity of the project but not on North Creek.

The EA application supporting documentation identifies the site as having no actual or potential discharge to waters with contaminants. Baseline data has been provided within the EA application supporting documentation however it was limited due to low rainfall during the 2019 sampling period. The applicant has identified that in the absence of site-specific water quality data, a combination of publicly available data for the Isaac River and data reported in the Olive Downs EIS are used as a reference for local water quality. The applicant has identified the use of model water conditions for coal mines in the Fitzroy basin (v3) and Isaac River Sub-basin Environmental Values and Water Quality Objectives Basin No. 130 (part), including all waters of the Isaac River Sub-Basin (including Connors River) 2011. As mentioned above the applicant proposes no release of Mine Affected Water (MAW) but is proposing to enable the discharge of stormwater runoff contaminated only by sediment. The site is proposed to have separation of sediment stormwater and MAW. The site will have a network of

Air issues

Low Air shed management
Low Pollution
Low Health
Low Nuisance
Low Ecological impacts
Low Odour

Notes:

The applicant identified the use of the Environmental Protection Policy (Air) 2019 within the EA application supporting documentation. The surrounding region was identified as predominantly flat or undulating lands, draining via several smaller creeks into the Isaac River. The project lies near one of the main coal mining districts in the Bowen Basin and is directly east of the current Daunia Mine. Grazing is the principal agricultural industry in the area. Sensitive receptors were identified within the locality of the project including homesteads and Coppabella township. With the nearest homestead located approximately 3.8km from the centre of MLA 700062.

The dominant wind direction is from the northeast during spring and east during summer and predominantly from the south easterly direction in autumn and winter.

No monitoring stations are located within close proximity to the project with the DES monitoring station located at Moranbah approximately 30 km away. The applicant estimated the existing air quality utilising the Moranbah monitoring data due to no long term local data available. In addition other projects data was utilised to determine background concentrations.

Dust and particulate matter generated from site activities are predicted to be the main emissions to air. In addition diesel combustion from vehicles may be released to air but determined to not be emitted in sufficient quantities to impact air quality at sensitive receptors.

It has been identified that the project is predicted to be below the relevant criteria due to the distance between the project and the sensitive receptors. Dust control measures are identified to be utilised throughout the project to manage dust emissions.

sediment dams with sediment stormwater directed to these dams that are linked via drainage lines leading to sediment dam 1 (SD1) to be then released off site. All MAW is diverted to Mine Water (MW) 1 dam and directed to in-pit during flooding. Sediment dams will be managed via a number of structures i.e. bunds, sumps, sediment dams to capture and treat the sediment stormwater runoff and with an erosion and sediment management plan. SD1 will have a low flow perforated riser-pipe decant outlet and emergency spillway to discharge treated stormwater to the receiving environment. The discharged water will be conveyed to an existing minor tributary to North Creek via a drain along the northern edge of the access road. It is proposed that monitoring of sediment water discharge will occur as per the EA requirements with upstream and downstream monitoring for water quality to occur and a single streamflow gauging station intended to be installed on North Creek a short distance upstream of the discharge point.

The applicant has identified through hydraulic modelling of the Isaac River that flooding is unlikely to affect the project site.

Groundwater

The applicant has identified that an underground water impact report is likely to be required under S137 of the Water Act. The main hydrostratigraphic units identified within the project area and surrounds include; alluvium, Granitoid Intrusion, Triassic Rewan Group and Permian Coal measures.

Within a 5km radius of the centre of the project 19 bores were identified. The majority are for mining and geological purposes. Only one is used for water supply.

The applicant drilled seven groundwater monitoring bores in early 2019. All bores are screened within the Rangal Coal measures. It was identified groundwater levels were consistent across the bores. The applicant has utilised additional information from Olive Downs located 10km south of MLA 700062.

It was identified that groundwater levels dropped to the west of the project due to dewatering of the neighboring Daunia mine. Groundwater flow is in a south southeast direction regionally towards the Isaac River to the south and southeast. Dewatering of the Daunia mine has led to the development of a cone of depression around that mine. Groundwater quality from the site bores were found to be typically of poor quality and not suitable for human consumption, irrigation or stock watering purposes.

The projects groundwater management is to maintain the baseline groundwater conditions. The potential impacts of mining on groundwater have been identified. Excavation of the mining pit has the potential to disrupt the local groundwater flow in the Rangal Coal Measures strata. Dewatering of the pit may lead to a cone of depression and also lead to impacts to groundwater and surface water interaction being affected. Groundwater quality could also be impacted by the pit excavation and also leaching from the waste rock dump and the use of contaminants on site.

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Noise and vibration issues

MediumCommunity noise
Low Transportation noise
Low Industrial noise
Low Ground vibration
Low Airblast overpressure
Low Low frequency
NA. Marine noise (underwater)
Low Ecological impacts

Notes:

The applicant identified that within the guideline 'Guideline – Model Mining Conditions 2017' the model mining conditions should be applied to all new mining project applications, and that therefore this project is subject to the noise criteria outlined in the guidelines.

The applicant identified the noise environment in the vicinity of the project as 'very rural' with likely existing sources of noise comprised of adjacent mining activities and rail activities. However environmental noise is expected to be the dominant noise sources at the nearest sensitive receptors.

The applicant proposes the use of previous noise studies conducted at surrounding projects in particular Arrow Bowen Gas Project and Olive Downs Coking Coal Project. These projects are north and south of the project site and the applicant deemed the data representative. It was found from these projects noise assessments that the background noise levels are well below the minimum noise levels referenced in the model mining conditions. Therefore the applicant has deemed it acceptable to utilise the model mining conditions for noise. However, it was identified that noise modelling results do indicate that noise levels from the project are likely to exceed the noise criteria at the closest sensitive receptor during the worst climatic weather conditions in the night time period.

In regards to blasting the applicant has adopted the model mining conditions for blasting and identified blasting would likely occur between 7:00am and 6:00pm Monday to Saturday and not occur on Sundays or public holidays. The nearest receptor to blasting locations is approximately 3.6 km. Predicted blast vibration and airblast overpressure levels are expected to comply with the criteria proposed.

Waste issues

Low Solid waste
Low Liquid waste
Low Gaseous waste
NA. Dredge spoil disposal
NA. Energy
NA. Best practice environmental management
Low Waste water
MediumRock waste dumps
MediumNon-acid forming and potentially acid forming material

Notes:

The applicant identifies the use of the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011 to prioritise waste management practices.

The applicant is expecting both general and regulated waste streams to be generated by the project. Non mineral waste is expected to be disposed of at an off-site disposal facility (contaminated soil may be remediated on site). Waste tyres and contaminated soil may be disposed of in pit. The applicant has identified mineral waste including excavated waste (overburden and interburden) and coal rejects. The applicant provides details of overburden and coal as reject material being assessed by ALS laboratory. These waste types will be disposed of in out-of-pit waste rock dumps and within mined out voids. Waste characterisation was completed on 12 samples and assessed as low risk for acid forming with all samples classified as NAF. The samples were also tested for sodicity and were found to be generally alkaline with the salinity generally low. However this indicates the potential for problems relating to stability and dispersion.

Land issues

High	Land disturbance
Low	Contaminated land
Low	Acid sulfate soils
Medium	Erosion/stability
NA.	Subsidence
NA.	Landscape
Low	Effects on hydrology (surface and underground)
Low	Sustainable use
Low	Land use history and compatibility
Low	Areas of regional interest ⁸
Low	Compliance with planning schemes
Low	Rehabilitation and subsequent use
Low	Native title rights
NA.	Rehabilitation issues (for existing activities)
Low	Non-acid forming and potentially acid forming material
Medium	Final voids
Medium	Progressive rehabilitation and closure plan

Notes:

The project area is approximately 330.4 ha with a disturbance footprint of approximately 182 ha. The project area includes the mining infrastructure area, MAW dam, Sediment dams x 3, open cut area, waste rock dumps, ROM stockpile, haul roads and water containment infrastructure.

The project is not located within an area of regional interest under the Regional Planning Interests Act 2014. It has been historically cleared for grazing and has highly fragmented vegetation patches within the landscape. The project also has no reported contaminated land. The volume of waste rock generated during the project is estimated to be approximately 23MBCM. Acid sulphate soils are deemed a low risk following laboratory analysed sampling. The results indicate the waste material is generally alkaline to highly alkaline and contain relatively no sulphur. Overburden and Interburden was analysed for saline and sodic material. With the salinity generally being low. Sodicity ranged from medium to very high. Strongly sodic material can result in stability issues and relate to potential dispersion.

Progressive rehabilitation will occur through the life of the mine as areas become available. Topsoil and subsoil will be stripped and stockpiled with amelioration used where necessary. Alongside the EA application the PRCP application was submitted with the PRC

Cultural and heritage issues

Low	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural sites
NA.	European cultural heritage significance (historic sites, buildings and locations)
NA.	Queensland heritage place (<i>Queensland Heritage Act 1992</i>)
NA.	Designated landscape area (<i>Cultural Record (Landscapes Queensland and Queensland Estate) Act 1987</i>)
NA.	Native title rights

Notes:

The risk to cultural and heritage issues are identified and deemed as low risk. The resource authority public report for MDL444 and EPC830 states the applicant is the current holder and that the land is 100% exclusive, so Native title rights have been extinguished. The project is currently in the process of negotiating a Cultural Heritage Management Plan with the Barada Barna People to manage the risk of harm to Aboriginal cultural heritage by the project activities.

The Queensland Heritage Register did not identify any Registered (protected) places within the project footprint.

⁸ <https://planning.dsdmip.qld.gov.au/planning/regional-planning-interests-act/areas-of-regional-interest>

schedule. The applicant has identified within the PRCP application that no Non Use Management Areas (NUMAs) will remain. The voids will be backfilled above the expected water table level located at the top of the catchment and outside the probably maximum flood extent. The expected Post Mine Land Use (PMLU) is identified as pasture grazing. The PRCP application identifies that the final landform design is to create a gentle sloping landform suitable for pasture grazing which blends into the surrounding landscape. All embankments/slopes will be battered to 15% or less.

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Impacts on surrounds and transport

Low	Transportation (air, rail, road, port, shipping)
Low	Visual impacts
Low	Compatibility with surrounding uses, activities and land users
Medium	Adjacent landholders
Low	Amenity
Low	Community & landholder views
Low	Lighting

Notes:

The existing visual environment in the project area is typical of the region, including mining, grazing and bush. The final landform and visual amenity of the site will be compatible with the local area. Visibility of the mine is likely to be partly blocked by the current Daunia quarry and Daunia Mine. The Mavis Downs Homestead is indicated as being impacted however the existing gumtree vegetation will act as a screen. The final rehabilitation outcome of the site is to return it to a pre-mining landscape being grazing.

MLA 700063 is being applied for as a mining lease for transportation over the existing access road corridor used for the Daunia Quarry operations. During the construction phase road transport will be the principle method for transportation of equipment and during the life of mine waste will be removed via road transport options. Peak Downs Highway will be the major access route to and from the project. The project is located approximately 3 km east of the Red Mountain train load out facility where the coal is to be transported (via mining haul roads) to for rail to the port facility. The port facility utilised will be the existing DBCT for export of the product coal with no increases required for the port operation. There will be no requirements to move or alter any public roads. The project may increase the number of road users due to the project but the risk was deemed as low.

There are no easements for public or private utility across the project area.

Artificial lighting will be required for operations however light emissions will be minimised whilst ensuring operational safety and will be directed towards the required areas only.

Social issues

Low	Accommodation
Low	Transport of workers
Low	Fly-in/fly-out (<i>Strong and Sustainable Resource Communities Act 2017</i>)
Low	Drive-in/drive-out (<i>Strong and Sustainable Resource Communities Act 2017</i>)
NA.	Displacement of use
Low	Public safety
Low	Politics/policy
Low	Compatibility with surrounding uses, activities and land users

Notes:

The Mackay Airport is the nearest major regional airport servicing the region with smaller airports located at Moranbah and Dysart. The project is aiming to engage a local workforce, principally within a 125km radius of the project. Therefore it will be a local commute and accommodation for the workforce.

Due to the small scale of the project and the surrounding mining activities in the region the potential social impacts are relatively low.

PART B – TRIGGER CRITERIA

An EIS will be required if any of the following trigger criteria are met. If no criteria are triggered, this does not provide an exemption from having to prepare an EIS if the administering authority for the department considers that there may be a significant environmental impact, or there is a high level of uncertainty about the possible impacts, or there is a high level of public interest in the proposal.

For each question, indicate whether the answer is ‘yes’ or ‘no’:

Criteria	Yes	No
For greenfield (new) mine proposals (sections 70 or 143 of the EP Act)		
1. Would the application involve the removal of two million tonnes per year or more of run-of-mine (ROM) ⁹ ore or coal?	☐	☒
2. Would the application involve the removal of one million tonnes per year or more of run-of-mine (ROM) ore or coal on or under a floodplain ¹⁰ or in a coastal hazard area ¹¹ ?	☐	☒
3. Would the application involve the introduction of a novel or unproven resource extraction process, technology or activity ¹² ?	☐	☒
For proposals to amend/alter an existing mine (sections 143 and 228 of the EP Act)		
4. For mines already removing 2 – 10 million tonnes per year ROM ore or coal, would the application increase the current annual removal rate by more than 100% or 5 million tonnes per year (whichever is the lesser)?	☐	☐
5. For mines already removing over 10 million tonnes per year ROM ore or coal, would the application increase the current annual removal rate by more than 50% or 10 million tonnes per year (whichever is the lesser)?	☐	☐
6. For mines already removing more than 20 million tonnes per year ROM ore or coal, would the application increase the current annual removal rate by more than 25%?	☐	☐
7. Would the application involve an extension into and significant impact on a Category A or B environmentally sensitive area, which is not already authorised by the State?	☐	☐
8. Would the application involve a substantial change in mining operations – such as from underground to open cut, or (for underground mining) a change in operations from one causing little subsidence to one likely to cause substantial subsidence?	☐	☐

⁹ ROM ore or coal means the material excavated but prior to washing or chemical concentration. It does not include overburden.

¹⁰ The *Water Act 2000* defines a floodplain as an area of reasonably flat land adjacent to a watercourse that— (a) is covered from time to time by floodwater overflowing from the watercourse; and (b) does not, other than in an upper valley reach, confine floodwater to generally follow the path of the watercourse; and (c) has finer sediment deposits than the sediment deposits of any bench, bar or in-stream island in the watercourse. See also the Queensland Floodplain Assessment Overlay at the *Wetland Info* section of the department's website at <https://wetlandinfo.des.qld.gov.au/wetlands/>.

¹¹ A coastal hazard area is an area vulnerable to coastal hazards, referred to as coastal erosion or storm tide inundation (as per the departmental coastal hazard area mapping). Maps of these areas are accessible at http://www.des.qld.gov.au/coastal/management/coastal_plan_maps.php and <http://qldspatial.information.qld.gov.au/catalogue/custom/index.page>.

¹² For example: underground coal gasification; in-seam coal slurring; a new method of ore concentration; but this will be decided on a case-by-case basis and this trigger is not intended to discourage innovation.

9. Would the application introduce a novel or unproven resource removal process, technology or activity?	☐	☐
For petroleum and gas activities (sections 70, 143 and 228 of the EP Act)		
10. Would the application involve a total disturbance area of greater than 2000 hectares at any one time during the life of the proposed project? This includes areas occupied by well pads (single or multi-directional), access tracks and roads, water storages, and process plants?	☐	☐
11. Would the application involve the construction of a high pressure pipeline over a distance of 300 kilometre or greater?	☐	☐
12. Would the application involve the construction of a liquefied natural gas plant?	☐	☐
General considerations		
<p>Where needed, make comments on the rating of the application against the trigger criteria.</p> <p>The assessing officer has reviewed the EIS trigger criteria and determined that an EIS is not required for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The project is estimated to extract approximately 500,000 tpa of ROM coal for the five year life of mine. - The project's disturbance footprint has been identified as not being on a floodplain therefore the project will not be removing 1Mtpa or more of ROM coal under a floodplain as defined under the Water Act. - The project will consist of a traditional truck and shovel open cut mine transitioning into highwall mining in later years. 		

PART C – STANDARD CRITERIA

The standard criteria have to be considered in making the EIS decision. Provide comments on the standard criteria as defined under schedule 4 of the EP Act (where relevant):

Standard criteria, EP Act, schedule 4, definitions (current as at 1 January 2018)¹³:

Standard criteria	Comment
Standard criteria means –	
(a) the following principles of environmental policy as set out in the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the precautionary principle; (ii) intergenerational equity; (iii) conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity; and 	i. The precautionary principle is not expected to be compromised by the new site-specific EA applications proposed activities. The proposed activity is unlikely to cause serious environmental harm or have a detrimental impact on the conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity. The application is not proposing any new, novel or untested activities. The application material provided includes potential impacts to

¹³ Check standard criteria against latest version of the EP Act and amend if required
<https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-1994-062>

Report
CAC report on the need for an EIS

	<p>all EVs and an information request will be issued to the applicant to ensure all required information is provided to the department to ensure no impacts to EVs are identified. If a suitable response is not received following the information request the department will condition appropriately or refuse the application. Therefore ensuring a precautionary approach is adopted.</p> <p>ii. The intergenerational equity principle is not expected to be compromised during and following the completion of the proposed activity. The application has included impacts to environmental values and mitigation and management to ensure any potential impacts do not cause environmental harm. The department will during EA conditioning ensure the activity and subsequent rehabilitation ensures protection of the area for future generations. In addition rehabilitation conditions and milestones will be further enhanced and enforceable through the separate PRCP. The PRCP conditioning will ensure the areas impacted by the activity are returned to a landform that is safe, stable and non-polluting.</p> <p>iii. Conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity will be maintained for the proposed activities impacted areas. This will be through the requirement for the department to consider the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment and Environmental objectives and performance outcomes (EP Reg Schedule 8 Part 3) during the assessment process. In addition the Environmental Offsets Act 2014 will be considered when reviewing potential impacts to MSES.</p>
<p>(b) any Commonwealth or State government plans, standards, agreements or requirements about environmental protection or ecologically sustainable development; and</p>	<p>There are a number of Commonwealth or State government plans, standards, agreements or requirements that will be utilised during the assessment process including (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EP Act 1994; - EP Regulation 2019; - Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011

Report
CAC report on the need for an EIS

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 - Queensland Offsets Act and Regulation 2014 - Queensland Environmental Offsets Policy - Water Act 2000 - Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2019 - Environmental Protection (Noise) Policy 2019 - Environmental Protection (Water and Wetland Biodiversity) Policy 2019 - Model Mining Conditions (ESR/2016/1936)
(d) any relevant environmental impact study, assessment or report ; and	The applicant submitted an EA Application Supporting Documentation with appendices and the PRCP application. These supporting documents include the proposed project, environmental values and potential impacts.
(e) the character, resilience and values of the receiving environment; and	The character, resilience and values of the receiving environment are all identified within the application supporting documentation.
(f) all submissions made by the applicant and submitters; and	The applicant has not submitted a voluntary EIS or been required to submit an EIS. The MLAs have not gone to public comment at this time. Therefore there has been no opportunities for submitters to lodge submissions. Ongoing discussions between the applicant and Department of Resources (DoR) have indicated public notification will occur in early 2021. As required under s152(2)(a) of the EP Act public notification must occur simultaneously or together with the application under resource legislation.
(g) the best practice environmental management for activities under any relevant instrument, or proposed instrument, as follows— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) an environmental authority; (ii) a transitional environmental program; (iii) an environmental protection order; (iv) a disposal permit; (v) a development approval; and 	i. The applicant does not have a current EA for this project and is currently applying for an EA alongside mining lease applications (MLA700062 and MLA700063). As part of the EA approval process the department will authorise appropriate EA conditions and PRCP criteria to ensure best practice environmental management for activities under the EA.

Report
CAC report on the need for an EIS

	<p>ii. There are no transitional environmental programs related to this application.</p> <p>iii. There are no environmental protection orders related to this application.</p> <p>iv. There are no disposal permits related to this project.</p> <p>v. There are not development approvals related to this project.</p>
(h) the financial implications of the requirements under an instrument, or proposed instrument, mentioned in paragraph (g) as they would relate to the type of activity or industry carried out, or proposed to be carried out, under the instrument; and	There would be financial implications for the applicant associated with implementing the requirements of an EA once approved. In addition financial costs would include the costs associated with complying with the EA conditions.
(i) the public interest ; and	<p>Public notification pursuant to s149 of the EP Act relates to this application as two mining leases are being applied for. It is in the public's best interest that this application be assessed under the EP Act to ensure the risk to the environment is minimised and promote best practice environmental management.</p> <p>In addition the Human Rights Act 2019 will be considered through the assessment process.</p>
(j) any relevant site management plan ; and	The application has identified a number of site management plans will be implemented and included within the EA conditions. These proposed management plan conditions will be reviewed and assessed by the department and further conditions and management plans will be imposed if the department requires.
(k) any relevant integrated environmental management system or proposed integrated environmental management system; and	The applicant has not submitted or referred to an integrated environmental management system within the application.
(l) any other matter prescribed under a regulation.	There are no other matters prescribed under the EP Reg for consideration when making an EIS decision.
General considerations	
<p>Where needed, make comments on the rating of the application against the standard criteria.</p> <p>The standard criteria has been considered and rated against the application and the assessing officer is recommending that an EIS is not required for this application.</p>	

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CAC decision for 17 December 2020 are as follows:

Isaac River Coking Coal Project – Site-specific application for an EA for a resource project

CAC members – Chris Loveday and Kate Bennink

- The Department of Environment and Science (the department) received a site-specific environmental authority (EA) application for the Isaac River Coking Coal Project (the project) on 7 October 2020.
- The applicant is Coking Coal One Pty Ltd (100% owned subsidiary of Bowen Coal Ltd).
- The 'greenfield' project would involve the development of a truck and shovel open cut coal mine and associated infrastructure over MLa 700062 and MLa 700063. The project is proposed to operate for approximately 5 years (plus 2 years for rehabilitation and closure). The project is proposing to extract approximately 500,000tpa of hard coking coal, semi-hard coking coal and pulverised coal injection product. Coal would be transported via truck through Daunia Coal Mine haul roads to the Red Mountain (RM) Coal Handling and Processing Plant then transported to the RM train load out facility.
- The project area is approximately 330.4ha with a disturbance footprint of approximately 182ha. The project area includes the mining infrastructure area, MAW dam, Sediment dams x 3, open cut area, waste rock dumps, ROM stockpile, haul roads and water containment infrastructure.
- Progressive rehabilitation would occur through the life of the mine as areas become available. Alongside the EA application the PRCP application was submitted with the PRC schedule. The applicant has identified within the PRCP application that no Non Use Management Areas would remain. The voids would be backfilled above the expected water table level located at the top of the catchment and outside the probably maximum flood extent. The expected Post Mine Land Use is identified as pasture grazing.
- Significant residual impacts to MNES may require offsetting under the *Environmental Offsets Act 2014*.
- The project area contains medium Listed threatened species and ecological communities under the EPBC Act. However, no clearing of the REs associated with the Endangered Brigalow TEC is proposed within MLa 700063 as the existing Daunia Quarry access road will be utilised as access to the mine.
- The applicant is applying for an EA alongside mining lease applications (MLA700062 and MLA700063). As part of the EA approval process the department would authorise appropriate EA conditions and PRCP criteria to ensure best practice environmental management for activities under the EA.

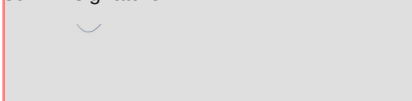
Consultation

- The assessing officer from Coal and Central Qld Compliance recommends that an EIS is not required as per Part B – Trigger Criteria checklist.
- The project does not trigger the EIS criteria outlined in Part B as required under the EP Act for a greenfield site. The department does not anticipate the project would cause significant impacts, there is not a high level of uncertainty about the possible impacts and there is not a high level of public interest in the proposal.
- The applicant is not proposing to produce more than 2Mtpa of ROM coal. The applicant is applying to produce approximately 500,000tpa of hard coking coal, semi-hard coking coal and pulverised coal injection product with an approximate 5 year life of mine plus two years for rehabilitation and closure activities.
- The applicant is also not applying to remove one Mtpa or more of ROM coal from on or under a floodplain or in a coastal hazard area. The applicant has identified that the proposed project area is not located within a floodplain. The project is not located within a coastal hazard area.
- The applicant has identified the project would initially consist of a standard truck and shovel open cut coal mine operation with high wall mining methods commencing later in the 5 year period. These coal mining processes are not deemed as novel or unproven resource extraction process, technology or activity.

Decision

- An EIS process is not required for the project.

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Chris Loveday

A/Executive Director, Coal and Central Compliance

Date: 21 December 2020