

04 | Environmental Management Plans



Section 04 Environmental Management Plans

4.1 Introduction

The Alpha Coal Project (the Project) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as described in Volume 1, Sections 1 and 2, comprises two components: a coal mine and a railway corridor. These two components have been presented separately in the EIS, as the associated environmental impacts and sensitive receptors are predominantly different. As part of the EIS Terms of Reference (TOR) an Environmental Management Plan (EM Plan) is required for the Project. Due to the differences in the requirements and purpose of an EM Plan for a mine and for a rail line, two separate EM Plans have been developed. The outlines of these EM Plans are described in the subsections that follow.

4.2 Coal Mine

An EM Plan is required for the coal mine component of the EIS under Section 201 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (EP Act) as part of the application for an Environmental Authority (mining activities) process. Section 202 of the EP Act states that the purpose of an EM Plan is to propose environmental protection commitments to assist the administering authority in preparing the draft Environmental Authority.

The content of the EM Plan addresses the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) Guideline No. 8, *Preparing an Environmental Management Overview Strategy (EMOS) for non-standard Mining Projects* (DERM, 2003). The commitments expressed are measurable and auditable; they set objectives and outline control strategies to achieve the objectives. In accordance with Section 203 of the EP Act, the coal mine EM Plan will contain sections outlined in Table 4-1 below.

Table 4-1 Mine Environmental Management Plan sections

Section Number	Section Name	Purpose
1	Introduction	Provides background on the Proponent, describes each of the relevant mining leases and land tenure, and identifies the relevant stakeholders.
2	Project Description	Describes the relevant mining activities and the land on which the mining activities are to be carried out.
3	Environmental Values, Impacts, Commitments, and Draft Conditions	Describes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental values likely to be affected by the mining activities; • Potential adverse and beneficial impacts of the mining activities on the environmental values; • Environmental protection objectives; • Performance criteria; • Control strategies adopted to achieve the environmental protection objectives; • Commitments; and • Proposed Environmental Authority conditions.
4	Environmental Management	Describes details of the Project's systems for monitoring, reporting, research, training and auditing.

An EM Plan has been prepared to address the TOR requirements for the mine, and is presented in Volume 5, Appendix P of this EIS.

4.3 Railway Corridor

The railway corridor EM Plan has been developed to address the environmental management requirements relevant to the railway corridor component of the Project. The EM Plan details the measures to be adopted to address identified impacts during the construction and operation of the Alpha Coal Project (Rail). The EM Plan for the railway corridor forms a component of the project development applications and will be reviewed once the development conditions for the Project have been finalised.

The EM Plan provides:

- A practical framework for establishing best practice environmental management standards;
- Guidelines to mitigate potential environmental harm for each activity undertaken;
- A mechanism to assist managers, supervisors and crews to comply with current legislation;
- A means of identifying environmental issues and provide general procedures that must be considered when undertaking activities;
- A mechanism to reduce the potential impacts of the activities undertaken; and
- A basis for establishing environmental due diligence during the project.

In essence, the railway corridor EM Plan is to provide the Proponent and the construction contractors with a practical guide to ensure compliance by all parties with the environmental requirements. The EM Plan achieves this by providing a framework for comprehensive monitoring and control of project activities. The aim is to minimise the potential for negative environmental impact.

The EM Plan, in addition to mitigation measures, identifies corrective actions if monitoring indicates that the performance requirements have not been met. The railway corridor EM Plan has been prepared to address the TOR, and is presented in Volume 3, Section 26 of this EIS.