

# 01 | Introduction



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## Section 01 Introduction

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### 1.1 Purpose of the Supplementary Environmental Impact Assessment Report

Hancock Prospecting Pty Ltd (HPPL), the Proponent, prepared an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with Part 4 of the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* (Queensland [Qld]), the *Environment Protection and Conservation Act 1999* (Commonwealth [Cwth]) and Terms of Reference (TOR) issued by the Queensland Coordinator-General in June 2009 (Queensland Government, 2009). The EIS (Issue 3, November 2010) assessed the environmental, social, and economic impacts associated with developing an open-cut mine that is targeting the thermal coal seams in the Upper Permian coal measures of the Galilee Basin in Queensland, Australia. The proposed Alpha Coal Project includes the development of a standard gauge 495 kilometre (km) railway line for transporting processed coal to the Port of Abbot Point in North Queensland for exporting to international customers.

The EIS was made available for public comment and review from 5 November 2010 through 20 December 2010. In response, a total of 63 submissions were received from 56 different respondents comprising members of the public, advisory agencies, regulatory bodies, and organisations.

This Supplementary EIS (SEIS) report has been prepared in response to the submissions made and includes additional information related to amendments made to the Project Description since the release of the EIS.

Due to changes in Queensland Government cabinet responsibilities, the Significant Project Coordination team that assess this project under the Coordinator General, have moved from the Department of Infrastructure and Planning (DIP) and are now with the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI).

### 1.2 Structure of the Supplementary Environmental Impact Assessment Report

The structure of the SEIS Report is described in Table 1-1 below.

Table 1-1 Structure of the Supplementary Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) report

Section	Section Title	Details
Section 1	Introduction	Provides details of the purpose and structure of the SEIS Report, including details of public, advisory agency and organisation submissions and an outline of the key issues raised. Also, current and future approvals are provided along with a summary of ongoing assessment activities and the proposed offsets strategy.
Section 2	Amendments to the Project Description	Provides a description of the key changes made to the Project since the release of the Alpha Coal Project EIS. These changes have been made as further design studies have been completed and options optimised. Environmental impacts resulting from these changes are detailed and assessed within the SEIS report.
Section 3	Submission and Responses – Project Wide	Comments and responses to submissions pertaining to the Project Wide Volumes of the Alpha Coal Project EIS (Volume 1 and Volume 4) are provided.
Section 4	Submission and Responses – Coal Mine	Comments and responses to submissions pertaining to the Coal Mine Volumes of the Alpha Coal Project EIS (Volume 2 and Volume 5) are provided.
Section 5	Submission and Responses – Railway Corridor	Comments and responses to submissions pertaining to the Railway Corridor Volumes of the Alpha Coal Project EIS (Volume 3 and Volume 6) are provided.
Appendices A - Z	Various	Provide documentation supporting submission responses and additional studies conducted since the release of the EIS and in response to changes made to the Project Description.

## 1.3 Submissions

Through the Alpha Coal Project EIS being made available for public review and comment, a total of 63 submissions (comprising 1,109 issues) were received from 56 different respondents. On receipt of a submission from a given respondent, the submission was firstly sorted according to whether the respondent was an individual from the public, an advisory agency, or an organisation. Each submission was then reviewed to identify the nature and category of comments made. Each comment was categorised according to the relevant Volume of the EIS, i.e. Project Wide (Volume 1 and Volume 4), Coal Mine (Volume 2 and Volume 5) or Railway Corridor (Volume 3 and Volume 6), and then further categorised as it related to a particular Section, Appendix or a technical area (e.g. cumulative impacts, consultation report, air quality, etc.)

Details of respondents are provided in the sections that follow, including a cross-reference within the SEIS to where responses to comments have been compiled.

### 1.3.1 Public Submissions

A total of 20 public submissions from 17 different respondents were received.

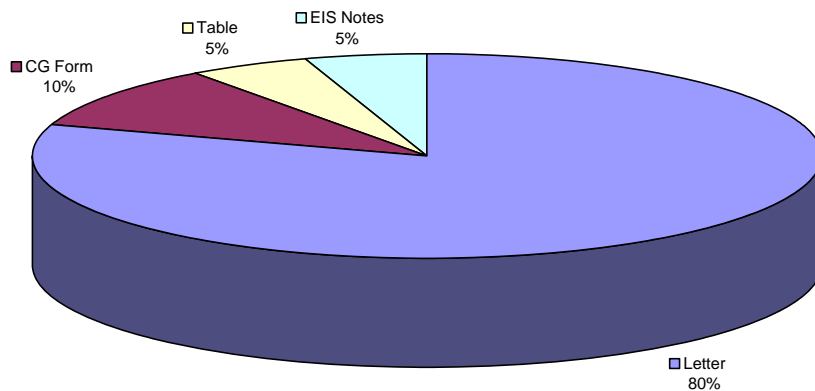
Table 1-2 lists the public respondents who provided submissions on the Alpha Coal Project EIS and indicates where responses to each comment can be found within the SEIS. Individuals from the public in Table 1-2 are listed in alphabetical order by surname.

Table 1-2 Details of public respondents who provided submissions on the Alpha Coal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) report and cross-references to comments and responses

Public Respondent Details		Comments and Responses SEIS Cross-Reference		
Surname	First Name	Project Wide	Coal Mine	Railway Corridor
Adams	Robyn	Volume 1, Section 3 – Page 3-4.	Volume 1, Section 4 – Pages 4-1 to 4-14	No comments.
Anderson	Paul & Janeice	No comments.	Volume 1, Section 4 – Page 4-14 to 4-15	No comments.
Bauman	Reid	No comments.	Volume 1, Section 4 – Page 4-15 to 4-16.	No comments.
Carruthers	Doug	Volume 1, Section 3 – Pages 3-5 to 3-7.	Volume 1, Section 4 – Page 4-16 to 4-25.	Volume 1, Section 5 – Pages 5-5
Cormack	Val	No comments.	No comments.	Volume 1, Section 5 – Pages 5-6 to 5-8
Coyne	Allan & Rhondda	No comments.	Volume 1, Section 4 – Pages 4-26 to 4-27.	No comments.
Duus	Sonya	Volume 1, Section 3 – Pages 3-7 to 3-11	Volume 1, Section 4 – Pages 4-27 to 4-30.	No comments.
Heelan	John	No comments.	No comments.	Volume 1, Section 5 – Pages 5-8 to 5-22.
Kimber	Stephen	No comments.	Volume 1, Section 4 – Pages 4-31 to 4-32.	No comments.
Lawrie	Lex	No comments.	Volume 1, Section 4 – Page 4-32 to 4-33.	No comments.
McKeering	Ross	No comments.	Volume 1, Section 4 – Pages 4-33 to 4-36.	No comments.
The Moran Family		No comments.	No comments.	Volume 1, Section 5 – Pages 5-22 to 5-41
O'Dell	MHG, JJ & BG	No comments.	Volume 1, Section 4 – Pages 4-36 to 4-39.	No comments.
Salmond	Joanne	Volume 1, Section 3 – Pages 3-11 to 3-12.	Volume 1, Section 4 – Pages 4-39 to 4-42.	Volume 1, Section 5 – Page 5-42
Scott	Owen and Lee	No comments.	No comments.	Volume 1, Section 5 – Pages 5-42 to 5-43
Sypher	Kelvin	No comments.	Volume 1, Section 4 – Pages 4-42 to 4-55.	No comments.

Public submissions were received in a number of formats, including letters, emails, and table style submissions. Submissions in letter format were most common with 80% of public respondents choosing to utilise this format. Figure 1-1 below details the breakdown of response formats received from the public.

**Figure 1-1 Breakdown of public submission format types**



### 1.3.2 Advisory Agency Submissions

A total of 28 submissions were received from 15 different advisory agencies. Table 1-3 lists the advisory agency respondents who provided submissions on the Alpha Coal Project EIS and indicates where responses to each comment can be found within the SEIS. Advisory Agencies in Table 1-3 are listed in alphabetical order by agency name and in instances where more than one respondent from the same advisory agency sent a submission, then by surname of the respondent.

Table 1-3 Details of Advisory Agencies who provided submissions on the Alpha Coal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) report and cross-references to comments and responses

Advisory Agency	Representative Details		Comments and Responses SEIS Cross-Reference		
	Surname	First Name	Project Wide	Coal Mine	Railway Corridor
Barcaldine Regional Council	Bauer	Robert	Volume 1, Section 3 – Pages 3-12 to 3-14.	Volume 1, Section 4 – Pages 4-55 to 4-94.	Volume 1, Section 5 – Pages 5-44 to 5-47.
Blackall-Tambo Regional Council	Duffy	Colin	No comments.	Volume 1, Section 4 – Pages 4-94 to 4-98.	No comments
Central Highlands Regional Council	Ottone	Bryan	No comments	Volume 1, Section 4 – Pages 4-98 to 4-103.	Volume 1, Section 5 – Page 5-47
Department of Communities	Williams	Rick	No comments	Volume 1, Section 4 – Pages 4-103 to 4-104.	Volume 1, Section 5 – Pages 5-48 to 5-49.
Department of Community Safety	Mahon	Gary	No comments	Volume 1, Section 4 – Pages 4-104 to 4-108	No comments.
Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI)	Baxendell	Sandra	Volume 1, Section 3 – Page 3-15	No comments	Volume 1, Section 5 – Pages 5-49 – 5-53.
DEEDI	Bownds	Celeste	Volume 1, Section 3 – Page 3-16.	Volume 1, Section 4 – Pages 4-109 to 4-110.	Volume 1, Section 5 – Pages 5-49 – 5-53.
DEEDI	Brizuela	Nicole	Volume 1, Section 3 – Page 3-16.	Volume 1, Section 4 – Pages 4-110 to 4-111.	No comments.
DEEDI	Ferenczi	Phil	Volume 1, Section 3 – Page 3-17 to 3-18.	Volume 1, Section 4 – Pages 4-111 to 4-118.	No comments.
DEEDI	Kabamba	Alenta	No comments.	Volume 1, Section 4 – Pages 4-119 to 4-121.	Volume 1, Section 5 – Pages 5-49 – 5-53

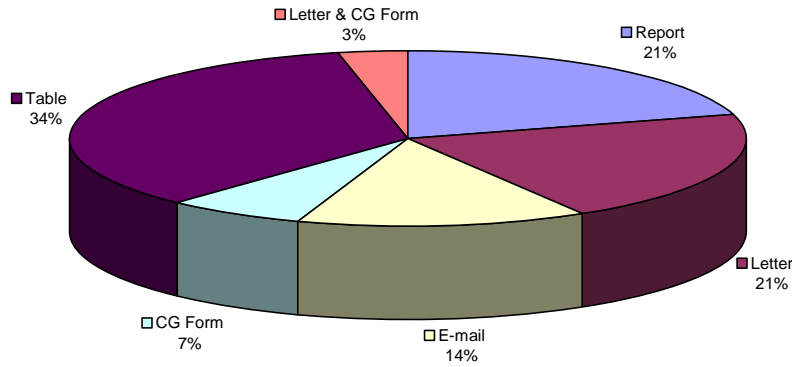
Advisory Agency	Representative Details		Comments and Responses SEIS Cross-Reference		
	Surname	First Name	Project Wide	Coal Mine	Railway Corridor
DEEDI	McKay	Peter	Volume 1, Section 3 – Page 3-32.	No comments.	No comments.
DEEDI	Morton	Jane	No comments.	No comments.	Volume 1, Section 5 – Pages 5-49 – 5-53.
DEEDI	O'Flynn	Mick	Volume 1, Section 3 – Page 3-32.	Volume 1, Section 4 – Pages 4-121 to 4-127.	Volume 1, Section 5 – Pages 5-49 – 5-53.
Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM)	Bradley	John	Volume 2, Appendix AJ	Volume 2, Appendix AJ	Volume 2, Appendix AJ
Department of Local Government and Planning (DLGP)	Pearson	Damian	Volume 1, Section 3 – Page 3-33	Volume 1, Section 4 – Pages 4-127 to 4-129.	Volume 1, Section 5 – Pages 5-53 – 5-56.
DEEDI (State Development Area Branch) formally Department of Infrastructure and Planning	-	-	Volume 1, Section 3 – Pages 3-33 to 3-39.	No comments	Volume 1, Section 5 – Pages 5-56 – 5-86.
Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR)	Aprile	Patricia	No comments	Volume 1, Section 4 – Pages 4-129 to 4-130.	Volume 1, Section 5 – Pages 5-86 – 5-94.
DTMR	Hannah	Lawrence	No comments.	No comments.	Volume 1, Section 5 – Pages 5-86 – 5-94.
DTMR	Quirk	Patrick	Volume 1, Section 3 – Page 3-40 to 3-41.	No comments.	No comments.



Advisory Agency	Representative Details		Comments and Responses SEIS Cross-Reference		
	Surname	First Name	Project Wide	Coal Mine	Railway Corridor
DTMR	Rolfe	Rick	Volume 1, Section 3 – Pages 3-41 to 3-45	Volume 1, Section 4 – Pages 4-130 to 4-135.	Volume 1, Section 5 – Pages 5-86 – 5-94.
Isaac Regional Council	Crawley	Mark	Volume 1, Section 3 – Pages 3-45 to 3-46.	Volume 1, Section 4 – Pages 4-135 to 4-149.	Volume 1, Section 5 – Page 5-95
Queensland Health	Dwyer	Sophie	No comments.	Volume 1, Section 4 – Pages 4-149 to 4-153.	Volume 1, Section 5 – Page 5-95
Queensland Police Service	Moy	Bruce	Volume 1, Section 3 – Pages 3-46 to 3-48.	Volume 1, Section 4 – Pages 4-154 to 4-162.	Volume 1, Section 5 – Pages 5-95 to 5-100.
Whitsunday Regional Council	Gibbons	Jon	Volume 1, Section 3 – Pages 3-49 to 3-52.	Volume 1, Section 4 – Pages 4-163 to 4-167.	Volume 1, Section 5 – Pages 5-100 to 5-121.

Advisory agency submissions were received in a number of formats including letters, individual emails, reports and table style submissions. Submissions in a table style format were most common, with 34% of advisory agency respondents choosing to use this format. Figure 1-2 below details the breakdown of response formats received from the different advisory agencies.

**Figure 1-2 Breakdown of advisory agency submission formats types**



### 1.3.3 Organisations Submissions

A total of 14 submissions on the Alpha Coal Project EIS were received from 13 different organisations. Table 1-4 lists the advisory agency respondents who provided submissions on the Alpha Coal Project EIS and indicates where responses to each comment can be found within the SEIS. Organisations in Table 1-4 are listed in alphabetical order by organisation name, and in instances where more than one respondent from the same organisation sent a submission, then by surname of the respondent.

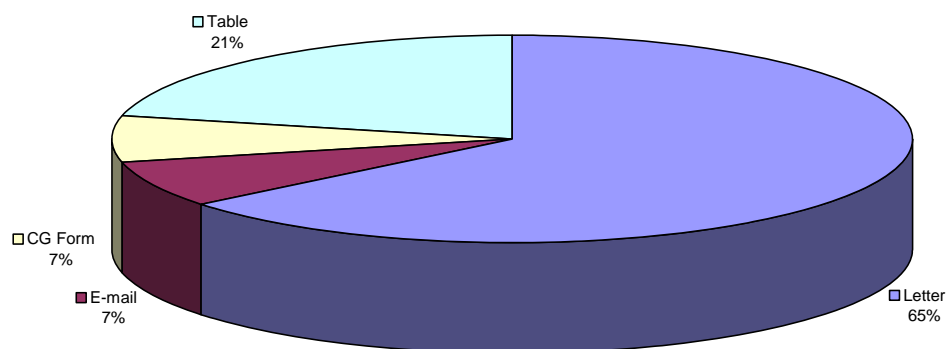
Table 1-4 Details of Organisations who provided Submissions on the Alpha Coal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Report and Cross-References to Comments and Responses

Organisation	Representative Details		Comments and Responses SEIS Cross-Reference		
	Surname	First Name	Project Wide	Project Wide	Railway Corridor Comments
Bimblebox Nature Refuge Team	Cassoni	Paola	Volume 1, Section 3 – Page 3-52.	No comments	No comments
Capricorn Conservation Council	-	-	Volume 1, Section 3 – Pages 3-52 to 3-54.	Volume 1, Section 4 – Pages 4-168 to 4-170.	Volume 1, Section 5 – Page 5-121.
Construction, Forestry, Mining & Energy Union	Valery	Jim	No comments.	Volume 1, Section 4 – Pages 4-170 to 4-180.	No comments.
Environmental Defenders Office of Northern Queensland Inc. and Environmental Defenders Office (QLD) Inc.	Bragg	Jo-Anne	No comments.	Volume 1, Section 4 – Pages 4-180 to 4-183.	Volume 1, Section 5 – Page 5-122.
Environmental Defenders Office of Northern Queensland Inc. and Environmental Defenders Office (QLD) Inc.	Pearlman	Patrick	No comments.	Volume 1, Section 4 – Pages 4-180 to 4-183.	Volume 1, Section 5 – Page 5-122.
Hannan Pastoral Company	Mason	Edward	No comments.	No comments.	Volume 1, Section 5 – Page 5-122.
Lambton Grazing Company	Rea	Andrew and Shannon	Volume 1, Section 3 – Pages 3-54 to 3-55.	No comments.	No comments.
Mackay Conservation Group	Julien	Patricia	Volume 1, Section 3 – Pages 3-55 to 3-61.	Volume 1, Section 4 – Pages 4-183 to 4-185.	Volume 1, Section 5 – Page 5-123 to 5-126.
North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation	Duke	Simona	Volume 1, Section 3 – Pages 3-61	No comments.	No comments.
Qcoal Pty Ltd	Wallin	Christopher	No comments.	No comments.	Volume 1, Section 5 – Pages 5-126 to 5-207.

Organisation	Representative Details		Comments and Responses SEIS Cross-Reference		
	Surname	First Name	Project Wide	Project Wide	Railway Corridor Comments
QR National	Stuart	Bob	Volume 1, Section 3 – Pages 3-61 to 3-63.	No comments.	Volume 1, Section 5 – Pages 5-207 to 5-208.
Queensland Conservation and its members	Hutcheon	Toby	Volume 1, Section 3 – Pages 3-63	No comments.	No comments.
South Galilee Coal Project	McNamara	Rob	No comments.	No comments.	Volume 1, Section 5 – Pages 5-208 to 5-211.
Walsh Accounting	Walsh	Lionel	Volume 1, Section 3 – Page 3-64.	Volume 1, Section 4 – Pages 4-185 to 4-186.	No comments.

The different format types in which submissions from organisations were received included letters, individual emails, table style submissions and a report. Submissions in letter format were most common, with 65% of respondents representing various different organisations choosing to use this format. Figure 1-3 below details the breakdown of response formats received from organisations.

Figure 1-3 Breakdown of organisation submission format types



## 1.4 Key Issues Raised in Submissions

Out of the submissions received from the different respondents, the main issues raised included:

- Surface water management and flooding;
- Mine waste management and storage;
- Groundwater drawdown and impacts;
- Social impact management; and
- Dust impacts

These issues have been addressed in Volume 1, Sections 4, 5, and 6 and Volume 2, Appendix AJ for those issues raised by DERM, and are supported through additional studies presented in the remaining appendices in Volume 2.

## 1.5 Approvals Framework

### 1.5.1 Current Approvals

The Alpha Coal Project EIS and SEIS documents have been prepared to provide to the appropriate regulatory bodies adequate information to assess the potential environmental, social and economic impacts of the Project. To this end, approvals sought after the Coordinator General's report are provided in Table 1-5 below.

Table 1-5 Approvals sought as part of the Coordinator General's report for the Alpha Coal Project

Area	Approval Sought
Coal Mine	Mine Lease under <i>Mineral Resources Act 1989</i> Environmental Authority under <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>
Railway Corridor	Ministerial Designation under <i>Sustainable Planning Act 2009</i>

## 1.5.2 Future Approvals

It is recognised that the Alpha Coal Project will require a range of additional approvals in order to proceed to construction and operation. Those approvals will be the subject of separate future applications and are expected to include, but not be limited to, those listed in Table 1-6.

Table 1-6 Future approvals required for the Alpha Coal Project

Item	Legislation	Relevant Approval	Status
<b>Coal Mine</b>			
Open new roads and stock routes	<i>Sustainable Planning Act 2009</i>	Reconfiguration of a Lot (RoL)	Off-tenure, location and details to be confirmed
Close on-tenure roads and stock routes	<i>Land Act 1994 and Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002</i>	Close roads and stock routes where on-tenure	On-tenure, location and details to be confirmed
Approval to undertake works and ancillary works on a state-controlled road	<i>Transport Infrastructure Act 1994</i>	Roadworks	Off-tenure, locations and details to be determined
Approval to make an alteration or improvement to a local government road	<i>Local Government Act 2009</i>	Roadworks	Off-tenure, locations and details to be determined
Approval for on site sewerage treatment plant	<i>Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002</i>	Approval for on site sewerage treatment plant	On-tenure, locations and details to be determined.
Environmentally Relevant Activity (ERA) 8	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	ERA 8 – Chemical Storage	On-tenure, locations and details to be determined.
Environmentally Relevant Activity (ERA) 15	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	ERA 15 – Fuel Burning	On-tenure, locations and details to be determined.
Environmentally Relevant Activity (ERA) 16	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	ERA 16 – Extractive and screening activities	On-tenure, locations and details to be determined.
Environmentally Relevant Activity (ERA) 18	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	ERA 18 – Boilermaking or Engineering	On-tenure, locations and details to be determined.
Environmentally Relevant Activity (ERA) 31	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	ERA 31 – Mineral Processing	On-tenure, locations and details to be determined.

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Item	Legislation	Relevant Approval	Status
Environmentally Relevant Activity (ERA) 33	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	ERA 33 – Crushing, Milling, Grinding or Screening	On-tenure, locations and details to be determined.
Environmentally Relevant Activity (ERA) 38	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	ERA 38 – Surface Coating	On-tenure, locations and details to be determined.
Environmentally Relevant Activity (ERA) 43	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	ERA 43 – Concrete Batching	On-tenure, locations and details to be determined.
Environmentally Relevant Activity (ERA) 60	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	ERA 60 – Waste Disposal	On-tenure, locations and details to be determined.
Environmentally Relevant Activity (ERA) 63	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	ERA 63 – Sewage Treatment	On-tenure, locations and details to be determined.
Environmentally Relevant Activity (ERA) 64	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>	ERA 64 – Water Treatment	On-tenure, locations and details to be determined.
Licenses required for Referable and Hazardous Dams	<i>Water Act 2000</i>	Referable and hazardous dam applications	Locations and details to be confirmed.
Taking or interfering with water	<i>Water Act 2000</i>	Taking or Interfering with water	Location and details to be confirmed.
Licensing for bores, taking water for groundwater monitoring, dewatering and compensatory water supply	<i>Water Act 2000</i>	Taking and interfering with groundwater	On- and off-tenure as required, locations and details to be confirmed.
Riverine Protection Permit	<i>Water Act 2000</i>	Riverine Protection Permit	On- and off-tenure, locations and details to be determined
Clearing Permit of Least Concern Plants	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>	Protected Plant Permit	Location and details to be confirmed.
Mapping of Assessable Remnant Vegetation	<i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i>	Property Map of Assessable Vegetation (PMAV)	Location and details to be confirmed.
Clearing Protected Plants	<i>Nature Conservation (Wildlife Management) Regulation 2006</i>	Species Management Program (SPM) and/or Damage Mitigation Permit	Location and details to be confirmed.
Clearing of Native Plants	<i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i>	Clearing of Native Vegetation and High Value Regrowth	Location and details to be confirmed.
Clearing of Native Plants	<i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i>	Clearing of Regional Ecosystems	Location and details to be confirmed.
Clearing of Native Plants	<i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i>	Clearing of Essential Habitat Communities	Location and details to be confirmed.

Item	Legislation	Relevant Approval	Status
<b>Railway Corridor</b>			
Rail Infrastructure	<i>State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1984</i>	Material Change of Use within Abbot Point State Development Area.	Location confirmed with indicative design provided.
(1) Construction Camp - Salisbury Plains Camp	<i>Sustainable Planning Act 2009</i>	Material Change of Use under Bowen Shire Planning Scheme 2006.	Location confirmed with indicative design provided.
(2) Construction Camp - Collinsville Camp	<i>Sustainable Planning Act 2009</i>	Material Change of Use under Bowen Shire Planning Scheme 2006.	Location confirmed with indicative design provided.
(3) Construction Camp - Wollombi Camp	<i>Sustainable Planning Act 2009</i>	Material Change of Use under Belyando Shire Planning Scheme 2008.	Location confirmed with indicative design provided.
(4) Construction Camp - Gregory Development Road	<i>Sustainable Planning Act 2009</i>	Material Change of Use under Belyando Shire Planning Scheme 2008.	Location confirmed with indicative design provided.
Rollingstock Maintenance Facility	<i>Sustainable Planning Act 2009</i>	Material Change of Use under Bowen Shire Planning Scheme 2006.	Location confirmed with indicative design provided.
Hard Rock Quarry	<i>Sustainable Planning Act 2009</i>	Material Change of Use under relevant Shire Planning Scheme.	Location and details to be confirmed.
Operational Works	<i>Sustainable Planning Act 2009</i>	Roadwork, Filling and Excavation under relevant Shire Planning Scheme	Location and details to be confirmed.
Environmental Relevant Activity (ERA) 8	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1994.</i>	ERA 8 - Chemical Storage	Location and details to be confirmed.
Environmental Relevant Activity (ERA) 16	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1994.</i>	ERA 16 - Extractive and Screening Activities	Location and details to be confirmed.
Environmental Relevant Activity (ERA) 17	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1994.</i>	ERA 17 - Abrasive Blasting	Location and details to be confirmed.
Environmental Relevant Activity (ERA) 18	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1994.</i>	ERA 18 - Boiler making or Engineering	Location and details to be confirmed.
Environmental Relevant Activity (ERA) 21	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1994.</i>	ERA 21 - Motor Vehicle Workshop Operation	Location and details to be confirmed.
Environmental Relevant Activity (ERA) 38	<i>Sustainable Planning Act 2009</i>	ERA 38 - Surface Coating	Location and details to be confirmed.
Environmental Relevant Activity (ERA) 43	<i>Sustainable Planning Act 2009</i>	ERA 43 - Concrete Batching	Location and details to be confirmed.
Environmental Relevant Activity (ERA) 50	<i>Sustainable Planning Act 2009</i>	ERA 50 - Bulk Material Handling	Location and details to be confirmed.
Clearing Permit of Least Concern Plants	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>	Protected Plant Permit	Location and details to be confirmed.



Item	Legislation	Relevant Approval	Status
Mapping of Assessable Remnant Vegetation.	<i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i>	Property Map of Assessable Vegetation (PMAV)	Location and details to be confirmed.
Clearing Protected Plants	<i>Nature Conservation (Wildlife Management) Regulation 2006</i>	Species Management Program (SMP) and/or Damage Mitigation Permit	Location and details to be confirmed.
Vegetation Offsets	<i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i>	Vegetation Offset investigations involving Bio-condition surveys	Location and details to be confirmed.
Operational Works - Clearing of Native Plants	<i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i>	Clearing of Native Vegetation and High Value Regrowth	Location and details to be confirmed.
Operational Works - Clearing of Native Plants	<i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i>	Clearing of Regional Ecosystems	Location and details to be confirmed.
Operational Works - Clearing of Native Plants	<i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i>	Clearing of Essential Habitat Communities	Location and details to be confirmed.
Operational Works	<i>Coastal Protection and Management Regulation 2003</i>	Tidal Works- onshore	Location and details to be confirmed.
Operational Works	<i>Water Act 2000</i>	Taking or Interfering with Water	Location and details to be confirmed.
Operational Works	<i>Water Act 2000</i>	Riverine Protection Permit	Location and details to be confirmed.
Operational Works	<i>Water Act 2000</i>	Quarrying in a Watercourse or Lake	Location and details to be confirmed.
Operational Works	<i>Fisheries Act 1994</i>	Removal, Destruction, or Damage to Marine Plants - onshore	Location and details to be confirmed.
Operational Works	<i>Fisheries Act 1994</i>	Waterway Barrier Works	Location and details to be confirmed.
Subdivision of Land	<i>Sustainable Planning Act 2009</i>	Reconfiguring of a Lot (RoL) under relevant Shire Planning Scheme.	Location and details to be confirmed.
Quarry Material	<i>Forestry Act 1959</i>	Quarry Material Sales Permit.	Location and details to be confirmed.

## 1.5.3 Port Approval Outline

### 1.5.3.1 Port Overview

North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation (NQBPC) is a Queensland Government Owned Corporation under the *Government Owned Corporations Act 2003*. NQBPC is the Port Authority under the *Transport Infrastructure Act 1994* for the ports of Abbot Point, Hay Point, Mackay, Weipa and Maryborough.

Situated about 25 km north of Bowen, the Port of Abbot Point is Australia's most northerly coal port. Hancock proposes to export its coal products via new port facilities at the Port of Abbot Point.

### Existing Infrastructure (Terminal 1) at Abbot Point

The Queensland Government in May 2011 announced the 99-year lease of the existing X50 Abbot Point Coal Terminal (referred to as Terminal 1 or T1) to Mundra Port Pty Ltd. Under the lease, the State will retain ownership of the Port land and fixed infrastructure such as the jetty and the wharf.

### Proposed New Infrastructure (Terminals 2 and 3) at Abbot Point

NQBP is developing two additional separate coal export terminals immediately adjacent the existing T1 facility. The facilities are termed the T2 (previously X80) and T3 (previously X110) projects.

NQBP originally proposed a multi-product coal export infrastructure facility on the site. The original NQBP referral to the Commonwealth Government (EPBC 2008/4468) under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) reflected that proposal. Subsequently in April 2010 NQBP awarded Preferred Developer status to Hancock and BHP Billiton, splitting the site between the parties and allocating the renamed T3 to Hancock and T2 to BHP Billiton.

As part of the new arrangements the parties agreed that Hancock may continue with the original referral (EPBC 2008/4468) as the scope of the Hancock T3 facility is largely the same as the project originally proposed by NQBP. Accordingly, the referral transfer was confirmed by NQBP and Hancock in June 2011 to the Commonwealth Minister pursuant to section 156(F)1 of the EPBC Act.

Hancock in July 2011 submitted a variation proposal to the Commonwealth Minister to reflect some minor adjustments to the project description contained in the original NQBP referral, to reflect the Hancock project scope. The approval documentation is being updated to incorporate the T3 project description and related impact assessments, and will be re-submitted for approval in due course.

In relation to State approvals, Hancock understands that NQBP is proposing the onshore and offshore areas be declared strategic port land. Hancock has initiated discussions with NQBP and DEEDI through the Coordinator General (the current landholder) regarding requirements for development approvals (including for material change of use) for T3 under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009* (Qld).

### Multi Cargo Facility (MCF)

The Queensland Government is planning for Abbot Point to become the next major industrial development in Queensland, having established the Abbot Point State Development Area over the land surrounding the Port of Abbot Point. In keeping with this strategic plan, NQBP aims to develop a new multi cargo facility (MCF) adjacent to the existing and proposed terminals (T1, T2 and T3).

Stage 1 of the proposed MCF incorporates four ship berths and a common user tug facility. Stage 2 will comprise additional berths for new terminals and other cargo. NQBP is underway with an MCF Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) approval process, with approval anticipated in late 2011.

Hancock and NQBP are assessing the MCF as a possible (and preferred by NQBP) alternative ship berth facility in lieu of constructing the T3 ship berths. Therefore Hancock is proceeding with approval processes for two ship berth options (i.e. T3 and MCF) and will finalise its preferred option with NQBP.

## 1.6 Ongoing Assessment Activities

The following sections describe ongoing activities from which further information will be progressively provided to the Coordinator General in order to inform preparation of the Coordinator General's report.

## **1.6.1 Coal Mine**

### **1.6.1.1 Social Impact Management Plan**

The Proponent has developed plans for further development of the project Social Impact Management Plan (SIMP). The scope of activities and outcomes are outlined in SEIS Volume 2, Appendix E.

### **1.6.1.2 Groundwater Monitoring and Investigations**

Site investigations to assist ongoing development of the regional groundwater model are continuing, including assessment of the proposed tailings storage facility area east of Lagoon creek. The program and preliminary results are outlined in SEIS Volume 2, Appendix N.

### **1.6.1.3 Tailings Storage Facility Geotechnical Information**

Site investigations to assist assessment of the geotechnical characteristics (material classification, strength, and permeability) of the in situ soil and rock forming the foundation of the proposed tailings storage facility area east of Lagoon creek are continuing. Results will be provided to the Coordinator General and DERM to assist with approval and design of the preferred tailings disposal solution.

### **1.6.1.4 In-Pit Tailings Study**

A preliminary in-pit tailings disposal assessment has been provided with the SEIS. A more detailed pre-feasibility study is underway to further assess various in-pit and in-spoil disposal options. Study results will be provided to the Coordinator General and DERM to assist with approval and design of the preferred tailings disposal solution.

## **1.6.2 Railway Corridor**

### **1.6.2.1 Social Impact Management Plan**

The Proponent has developed plans for further development of the project Social Impact Management Plan (SIMP). The scope of activities and outcomes are outlined in SEIS Volume 2, Appendix E.

### **1.6.2.2 Flood Plain Impact Assessments**

Hydrological studies and consultations with landholders are continuing so that further information can be provided into the assessment of potential impacts of the railway upon flood plain areas. The study results and consultation outcomes will inform further development of proposed mitigation solutions, and assist the Coordinator General in the development of appropriate approval conditions.

## **1.7 Offsets Strategy**

The project offset strategy is provided in Appendix X of this SEIS. The strategy incorporates both the mine and rail components of the project and addresses both the Commonwealth and State offset requirements.