

30 | Matters of National Environmental Significance



Section 30 Matters of National Environmental Significance

A Matters of Environmental Significance (MNES) report for the Kevin's Corner Coal Mine Project has been produced and can be found in Volume 2, Appendix H of this Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The report was produced through consultation with the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, People and Communities (SEWPaC) coupled with an effort to fulfil the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Project. This report discusses the MNES that relate to the Kevin's Corner Coal Mine Project EIS and are listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

The TOR describes the Project as the mine and infrastructure facilities, plus supply water and power supply utilities. The Project EIS addresses only the mine components as the remaining aspects are subject to separate environmental approvals. The EPBC Referral No. 2009/5033 was submitted by the Proponent to the Commonwealth Government and in September 2009 the project was determined to be a controlled action due to likely impacts on MNES.

To describe the existing environmental values of the Project area in terms of the presence of EPBC-listed species, a combination of ecological desktop assessments and seasonal field surveys were conducted. The desktop assessment comprised a review of relevant literature and database searches. Flora and fauna surveys were conducted to obtain ecological information relevant to the Project and to ground-truth results from desktop assessments. These assessments resulted in a list of EPBC-listed species that potentially occur on the Project site.

The presence/absence data obtained from the combined desktop and field assessments was then applied in a mapping study which utilised Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) data to describe the potential habitat available to the EPBC-listed species that may occur in the Project study area. This habitat was overlaid with potential direct and indirect impact footprints and the area of potential habitat at risk of impacts from the Project was calculated, provided and discussed. The significance of these impacts was then assessed in relation to the amount of available habitat in the region of the Project in conjunction with the mitigation measures and management strategies proposed for the Project.

The layout of the MNES report (Volume 2, Appendix H of this EIS) is as follows:

- **Section H.1: Executive Summary**
- **Section H.2: Introduction**
- **Section H.3: Overview of the Matters of National Environmental Significance of relevance to the Project**
- **Section H.4: Terrestrial Flora and Fauna Assessment Methodology**
 - Overview of methodologies undertaken in EIS to evaluate these MNES.
 - Outcomes of likelihood of occurrence assessment – threatened flora, fauna and TECs of relevance to the mine study area.
 - Habitat modelling and mapping methodology (including validation and assumptions).
- **Section H.5: Flora and Fauna Assessment Results**
- **Section H.6: Assessment of Impacts to EPBC Act-listed Flora, TECs and Fauna**
 - Description of potential impacting processes (direct and indirect).

- Quantification of area of habitat impacted (direct and indirect).
- Proposed mitigation and management strategies to avoid/minimise/reduce identified impacts.
- **Section H.7: Aquatic Flora, Fauna and Stygofauna Assessment Summary**
 - Description of methodologies undertaken in EIS to evaluate these MNES.
 - Outcomes of likelihood of occurrence assessment – threatened flora, fauna and TECs of relevance to the mine study area.
 - Proposed mitigation and management strategies to avoid/minimise/reduce identified impacts.
- **Section H.8: Great Artisan Basin Impact Assessment**
- **Section H.9: Conclusion**
- **Section H.10: References.**
- **Appendix H.A: Threatened Species Profiles**
 - A general overview of species distribution and habitat requirements and a summary of threatening processes known or considered to be of relevance to the species.
 - Commonwealth survey guidelines applicable to the species and the survey effort undertaken during field studies for the Project EIS.
 - Species specific desktop assessment and field survey results.
 - Habitat mapping criteria selected to model and map potential habitat for the threatened species of relevance to the mine study area (with descriptive text explaining the rationale for habitat criteria selection provided where necessary).
 - Two maps (local and regional scales) depicting potential habitat for each species/TEC in the mine study area and surrounding landscape.