

Public notice

Environmental Protection Act 1994 (EP Act) - Section 42

Public notice of draft terms of reference for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Proposed Washpool Coal Mine Project

The proponent for the Washpool Coal Mine Project is the Washpool Coal Management Pty Ltd (WCM), a wholly owned subsidiary of Aquila Resources Limited. The project would involve the development of an open cut pit mining up to four million tonnes a year of run-of-mine (ROM) coal to produce approximately 1.6 to 2.0 million tonnes a year (Mt/y) of coking coal for export. The project site (Mining Lease application 80164) is located 260km west of Rockhampton, 60km to the north east of Emerald and 24km to the north west of Blackwater. The coal would be mined initially using trucks and shovels with a view of moving to dragline in the future. ROM coal would be processed at an on-site Coal Handling and Preparation Plant. Transport route options are being investigated for the transfer of product coal by road between 9km and 20km within an infrastructure lease to a rail load-out facility. The EIS will examine options for locating the rail load-out facility. Coal would then be transported along the existing Peak Downs – Emerald – Blackwater railway system to the new Wiggins Island Coal Terminal for export. The expected life of the project is approximately 18 years.

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth)

The project is a controlled action under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The State's EIS process has been accredited for the assessment under Part 8 of the EPBC Act in accordance with the Bilateral Agreement between the Commonwealth of Australia and the State of Queensland (2009). The controlling provisions are sections 18 and 18A (Listed threatened species and communities).

In accordance with section 41 of the EP Act, the proponent has prepared and submitted to the chief executive of the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) a draft terms of reference (TOR) for carrying out an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposal.

A **copy of the draft TOR** may be viewed at:

- Customer Referral Centre
Department of Environment and Resource Management
Level 3, 400 George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000
- Department of Environment and Resource Management
99 Hospital Road
EMERALD QLD 4720
- Blackwater Library
Community Centre, Wey Street
BLACKWATER QLD 4717
- Aquila Resources
Level 11, 10 Market Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

This public notice, the draft terms of reference and an initial advice statement describing the project are also available on the DERM's web site: www.derm.qld.gov.au.

Written comments

The DERM's chief executive invites written comments from any person in relation to the draft TOR, within the **comment period starting on Monday, 15 March 2010 and closing on Wednesday, 28 April 2010**. Please address written comments to:

- The Chief Executive
Department of Environment and Resource Management
Attention: The EIS Co-ordinator - Washpool Coal Mine Project
GPO Box 2454
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Please note that it is a statutory requirement that all submitted comments will be forwarded to the proponent so that they may consider them and provide a response to DERM.

When the draft EIS is complete, public submissions will be invited. **For further information** about the EIS process for this proposal, contact the EIS Co-ordinator on 1300 130 372.



Queensland Government

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