

**Environmental Authority (exploration or mineral development) for Non Code Compliant
Level 1 Mining Project****Permit number: MIN100923809 – EPC837 Exploration Program*****Environmental Protection Act 1994*****Takes Effect From: 9 October 2009****Details**

Principal Permit Holder	Joint Holders	Address
BHP Coal Pty Ltd	UMAL Consolidated Pty Ltd BHP Queensland Coal Investments Pty Ltd Mitsubishi Development Pty Ltd QCT Investment Pty Ltd QCT Mining Pty Ltd QCT Resources Pty Ltd	GPO Box 1389 BRISBANE QLD 4001

Activity(s)	Location(s)
Exploration (Coal)	EPC 837

The anniversary date of the environmental authority is 9 October.

The environmental authority is subject to the attached conditions of approval.



Clancy Ahern
Delegate
Environmental Protection Act 1994
9 October 2009

CONDITIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORITY

Department Interest: General

- A1** Provide a financial assurance in the amount and form required by the administering authority prior to the commencement of activities proposed under this environmental authority.
- A2** The financial assurance is to remain in force until the administering authority is satisfied that no claim on the assurance is likely.
Note: Where progressive rehabilitation is completed and acceptable to the administering authority, progressive reductions to the amount of financial assurance will be applicable where rehabilitation has been completed in accordance with the acceptance criteria defined within this environmental authority.
- A3** The conditions of this environmental authority are in force until a surrender of the authority is accepted pursuant to the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. The conditions apply unless an amendment is approved pursuant to the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.
- A4** The environmental authority holder must develop and implement during the continuation of this authority, a program to ensure that all employees and contractors on site are aware of and comply with the relevant requirements for this authority.
- A5** The environmental authority holder must comply with each of the Standard Environmental Conditions contained in the *Code of Environmental Compliance for Exploration and Mineral Development Projects*, except Conditions 2 and 13, which is replaced by the conditions in this environmental authority.
- A6** If there is any inconsistency between a standard environmental condition referred to in A5 and an additional condition in this environmental authority, the additional condition prevails to the extent of any inconsistency.
- A7** Words and phrases used throughout this environmental authority are defined in the Definitions section of this authority. Where a definition for a term used in this environmental authority is sought and the term is not defined within this environmental authority, the definitions in the *Code of Environmental Compliance for Exploration and Mineral Development Projects* and the definitions in the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, its regulations and policies must be used.

Department Interest: Land

B1 Drill sites

This environmental authority authorises the construction of 59 drill holes within the Endangered Regional Ecosystem (ERE) buffer zone of EPC837 and 12 drill holes within the ERE in accordance with of the document *EPC837 Saraji East Exploration Project - Environmental Management Plan (August 2009)*.

B2 Drill holes constructed in accordance with condition B1 must be constructed in a manner consistent with *EPC837 Saraji East Exploration Project - Environmental Management Plan (August 2009)*.

B3 Land Disturbance

The operational area of the drill must not exceed 1500m².

B4 Drill holes are limited to less than 250mm in diameter.

B5 The construction of sumps must not exceed 10m².

B6 Topsoil stripping must be limited to the sump area.

B7 No clearing of mature trees is authorised except with approval of the administering authority.

B8 Exploration within the ERE and ERE buffer must not involve costeaning or bulk sampling activities.

B9 Exploration camps must not be established within the ERE and ERE buffer.

B10 Rehabilitation of drill sites and sumps will be in accordance with the *Code of Environmental Compliance for Exploration and Mineral Development Projects*.

B11 Seismic Lines

This environmental authority authorises the construction of 17.8 kilometres of 2D seismic lines within the ERE buffer zone of EPC837 and 9.8 hectares of 2D seismic lines within the ERE of EPC837 in accordance with *EPC837 Saraji East Exploration Project - Environmental Management Plan (August 2009)*.

B12 The environmental authority holder is not authorised to undertake 3D seismic survey tracks within ERE or ERE buffer unless an amendment application is approved pursuant to s189 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

B13 Tracks

Existing access and fence line tracks must be used within ERE and ERE buffer areas. New tracks may only be constructed in these areas with approval of the administering authority.

B15 Constructed tracks must be less than 5m in width.

B16 Authorised track construction involving blade clearing of established ground cover vegetation and/or clearing of mature trees is to be minimised.

B17 All new tracks are to be recorded with GPS and records kept of their location and made available to the administering authority on request.

B18 The environmental authority holder must consult with the landowner prior to establishing any new roads or tracks.

B19 All tracks, including water course crossings, must be commissioned and operated in accordance with the *Code of practice for native timber forest production (2002)*.

B20 Rehabilitation and reporting

Rehabilitation of areas disturbed within the ERE or ERE buffer zone must be completed as soon as practicable but no longer than 3 months after completion of the disturbance activity.

B21 The environmental authority holder must revegetate disturbed areas of the ERE and ERE buffer zone with native plant species endemic to the area that will promote the same vegetation type and density of cover to that of the surrounding undisturbed areas in the ERE and ERE buffer zone.

B22 An annual report must be prepared each year and submitted with each annual return. The report must include details of the exploration activities undertaken and details of progressive rehabilitation works completed to demonstrate compliance with rehabilitation requirements of the environmental authority.

B23 The environmental authority holder must complete rehabilitation of disturbed areas to the satisfaction of the administering authority.

Definitions

"authority" means environmental authority (exploration or mineral development activities) under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

"administering authority" means the Department of Environment and Resource Management or its successor.

"cover material" means any soil or rock suitable as a germination medium or landform armouring

"density of cover" - In reference to trees and/or shrubs, it means the number of trees or shrubs in a specified area (e.g. 50 trees per square kilometre). With reference to understorey plant species (e.g. grasses and forbs), it means the percentage of surface area covered by a particular species.

"disturbed" means any area that has had its natural state altered by the action or interference of carrying out an activity associated with the exploration project.

"ERE" or "Endangered Regional Ecosystem" means an endangered regional ecosystem identified in the database maintained by the department called 'Regional Ecosystem Description Database' containing regional ecosystem numbers and descriptions.

"environmental authority holder" means the holder of this environmental authority.

"mature trees" means any tree relevant to the tenure that is classified as a **commercial sized tree** by the *Code of Practice for Native Forest Timber Production 2002*

"native vegetation" means vegetation that occurs naturally in a certain area.

"progressive rehabilitation" means rehabilitation undertaken progressively or a staged approach to rehabilitation as mining operations are ongoing.

"self sustaining" means an area of land which has been rehabilitated and has maintained the required acceptance criteria without human intervention for a period nominated by the administering authority.

END OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORITY