# Permit

Environmental Protection Act 1994

## Environmental authority EPPR00561313

*This environmental authority is issued by the administering authority under Chapter 5 of the Environmental Protection Act 1994.*

## Environmental authority number: EPPR00561313

**Environmental authority takes effect on 16 July 2019**

## Environmental authority holder(s)

| Name(s) | Registered address |
|---|---|
| QUEENSLAND COKING COAL PTY LTD | Suite 2, Level 6, 12 Creek Street "Blue Tower" BRISBANE CITY QLD 4000 Australia |

## Environmentally relevant activity and location details

| Environmentally relevant activity/activities | Location(s) |
|---|---|
| Resource Activity, Schedule 2A, 09: A mining activity involving drilling, costeaning, pitting or carrying out geological surveys causing significant disturbance | EPC1238 |

**Additional information for applicants**

Environmentally relevant activities

The description of any environmentally relevant activity (ERA) for which an environmental authority (EA) is issued is a restatement of the ERA as defined by legislation at the time the EA is issued. Where there is any inconsistency between that description of an ERA and the conditions stated by an EA as to the scale, intensity or manner of carrying out an ERA, the conditions prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.

An EA authorises the carrying out of an ERA and does not authorise any environmental harm unless a condition stated by the EA specifically authorises environmental harm.

A person carrying out an ERA must also be a registered suitable operator under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 (EP Act).

Contaminated land

It is a requirement of the EP Act that an owner or occupier of contaminated land give written notice to the administering authority if they become aware of the following:



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- the happening of an event involving a hazardous contaminant on the contaminated land (notice must be given within 24 hours); or
- a change in the condition of the contaminated land (notice must be given within 24 hours); or
- a notifiable activity (as defined in Schedule 3) having been carried out, or is being carried out, on the contaminated land (notice must be given within 20 business days);

that is causing, or is reasonably likely to cause, serious or material environmental harm.

For further information, including the form for giving written notice, refer to the Queensland Government website www.qld.gov.au, using the search term 'duty to notify'.

Take effect

Please note that, in accordance with section 200 of the EP Act, an EA has effect:

a) if the authority is for a prescribed ERA and it states that it takes effect on the day nominated by the holder of the authority in a written notice given to the administering authority-on the nominated day; or
b) if the authority states a day or an event for it to take effect-on the stated day or when the stated event happens; or
c) otherwise-on the day the authority is issued.

However, if the EA is authorising an activity that requires an additional authorisation (a relevant tenure for a resource activity, a development permit under the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 or an SDA Approval under the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971), this EA will not take effect until the additional authorisation has taken effect.

If this EA takes effect when the additional authorisation takes effect, you must provide the administering authority written notice within 5 business days of receiving notification of the related additional authorisation taking effect.

If you have incorrectly claimed that an additional authorisation is not required, carrying out the ERA without the additional authorisation is not legal and could result in your prosecution for providing false or misleading information or operating without a valid environmental authority.

Gillian Naylor
Department of Environment and Science
Delegate of the administering authority
Environmental Protection Act 1994

**Enquiries:**
Department of Environment and Science
Phone:
Email:

**Date issued: 17 July 2019**



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**Obligations under the Environmental Protection Act 1994**

In addition to the requirements found in the conditions of this environmental authority, the holder must also meet their obligations under the EP Act, and the regulations made under the EP Act. For example, the holder must comply with the following provisions of the Act:

- general environmental duty (section 319)
- duty to notify environmental harm (section 320-320G)
- offence of causing serious or material environmental harm (sections 437-439)
- offence of causing environmental nuisance (section 440)
- offence of depositing prescribed water contaminants in waters and related matters (section 440ZG)
- offence to place contaminant where environmental harm or nuisance may be caused (section 443)

## Legislative Requirements and Conditions of Environmental Authority

### Conditions of environmental authority

The environmentally relevant activity(ies) conducted at the location as described above must be conducted in accordance with the following site specific conditions of approval.



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**www.ehp.qld.gov.au ABN 46 640 294 485**

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| **Agency interest: General** | |
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| **Condition number** | **Condition** |
| **A1** | Provide 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. |
| **A3** | **Prevent and /or minimise likelihood of environmental harm**<br>In carrying out the environmentally relevant activities, you must take all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent and / or to minimise the likelihood of environmental harm being caused. Any environmentally relevant activity, that, if carried out incompetently, or negligently, may cause environmental harm, in a manner that could have been prevented, shall be carried out in a proper manner in accordance with the conditions of this authority.<br>**NOTE:** *This authority authorises the environmentally relevant activity. It does not authorise environmental harm unless a condition contained within this authority explicitly authorises that harm. Where there is no condition or the authority is silent on a matter, the lack of a condition or silence shall not be construed as authorising harm.* |
| **A4** | **Maintenance of measures, plant and equipment**<br>The environmental authority holder must ensure:<br>a) that all measures, plant and equipment necessary to ensure compliance with the conditions<br>of this environmental authority are installed;<br>b) that such measures, plant and equipment are maintained in a proper condition; and<br>c) that such measures, plant and equipment are operated in a proper manner. |
| **A5** | **Monitoring and records**<br>Record, compile and keep for a minimum of five (5) years all monitoring results required by this environmental authority and make available for inspection all or any of these records upon request by the administering authority. |

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| **A6** | Where monitoring is a requirement of this environmental authority, ensure that a competent person(s) conducts all monitoring. |
| **A7** | **Notification of emergencies, incidents and exceptions**<br><br>All reasonable actions are to be taken to minimise environmental harm, or potential environmental harm, resulting from any emergency, incident or circumstances not in accordance with the conditions of this environmental authority. |
| **A8** | As soon as practicable after becoming aware of any emergency, incident or information about circumstances which results or may result in environmental harm not in accordance with the conditions of this environmental authority, the administering authority must be notified by telephone. |
| **A9** | Not more than ten (10) business days following the initial notification of an emergency, incident or<br><br>information about circumstances which result or may result in environmental harm, written advice<br><br>must be provided to the administering authority in relation to:<br><br>a) proposed actions to prevent a recurrence of the emergency or incident;<br><br>b) the outcomes of actions taken at the time to prevent or minimise environmental harm; and<br><br>c) proposed actions to respond to the information about circumstances which result or may result in environmental harm. |
| **A10** | As soon as practicable, but not more than six (6) weeks following the initial notification of an emergency, incident or information about circumstances which result or may result in environmental harm environmental monitoring must be performed and written advice must be provided of the results of any such monitoring performed to the administering authority. |
| **A11** | **Definitions**<br><br>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 *Environmental Protection Act 1994,* its regulations and policies must be used. |

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| **A12** | **Code of compliance**<br>The environmental authority holder must comply with each of the Standard Environmental<br>Conditions contained in the *Code of Environmental Compliance for Exploration and Mineral*<br>*Development Projects*, except where a condition of the code is replaced by the conditions of this environmental authority. |

| **Agency interest: Land** | |
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| **Condition number** | **Condition** |
| **B1** | **Land disturbance**<br>The holder of the environmental authority must ensure that:<br>a) the area and duration of disturbance to land and vegetation is minimised; and<br>b) not more than 1000m$^2$ can be disturbed at any one location, excluding campsites. |
| **B2** | **Topsoil and overburden management**<br>The holder of the environmental authority must:<br>a) ensure that topsoil is removed and stockpiled prior to carrying out any exploration activities; and<br>b) prevent or minimise the mixing and erosion of topsoil and overburden stockpiles. |

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| **B3** | **Endangered Regional Ecosystems (ERE)**<br>The holder of this environmental authority is authorised to undertake mini SOSIE survey lines within ERE. The area disturbed by the mini SOSIE survey lines within ERE is limited to seven (7) hectares. |
| **B4** | The holder of this environmental authority is not authorised to undertake exploration drilling within<br>ERE. |
| **B5** | **Buffer zone for Endangered Regional Ecosystems (ERE)**<br>The holder of the environmental authority is authorised to undertake two (2) drill holes within the five hundred (500) meter buffer zone of ERE. |
| **B6** | Exploration activities undertaken within the five hundred (500) meter buffer zone of ERE must implement the following measures to limit disturbance:<br>a) drill site areas must not exceed 500$m^2$;<br>b) drill holes must not exceed 200mm in diameter;<br>c) the construction of sumps within the ERE buffer zone will not exceed 10$m^2$;<br>d) topsoil stripping must be limited to the sump area of 10$m^2$; and<br>e) disturbance must be minimised and mature tree clearance should avoided. |

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| **B7** | **Roads and tracks**<br>When constructing new roads and tracks, the holder of the environmental authority must:<br>a) consult with the landowner prior to establishing any new roads and tracks;<br>b) consult with the landholder and gain written approval from the administering authority prior to<br>establishing any new roads and tracks within ERE or ERE buffer zones;<br>c) ensure that the area and duration of disturbance to land, vegetation and watercourses is minimised;<br>d) wherever possible use or upgrade existing roads and tracks;<br>e) construct roads and tracks along natural grades;<br>f) minimise the width of roads and tracks to less than 4m;<br>g) minimise the number of crossings in riverine areas;<br>h) construct crossings in riverine areas in a stable section of the bed;<br>i) avoid constructing roads or tracks that run straight down the bank to the crossing;<br>j) construct a bed level causeway, a culvert or a bridge where natural bed conditions within a watercourse will not carry the intended traffic load or where crossing of the bed will generate a significant increase in turbidity;<br>k) minimise the number of cuts and fills in riverine areas;<br>l) position cuts and fills in riverine areas to minimise risk of erosion from subsequent flood events;<br>m) position crossings to prevent flow being directed towards the banks and provide erosion resistance to the bed and banks downstream of a crossing for a distance equal to the width of the normal flow channel;<br>n) existing access and fence line tracks must be used;<br>o) any new tacks must be constructed by linking existing cleared or disturbed areas;<br>p) track construction involving blade clearing of established ground cover vegetation and / or clearing of mature trees must be prevented or minimised; |

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| | q) regularly clean out culverts, bridges and causeways to prevent flow being impeded or redirected; and<br><br>r) construct in-stream crossings outside of main fish migration periods. |
| **B8** | **Campsites**<br><br>When establishing a campsite, the holder of the environmental authority must:<br><br>a) consult with the landowner prior to establishing any campsites; and<br><br>b) ensure that the area and duration of disturbance to land, vegetation and watercourses is minimised. |
| **B9** | Campsites must not be established within ERE or ERE buffer zones. |
| **B10** | **Rehabilitation**<br><br>The holder of the environmental authority must:<br><br>a) rehabilitate areas disturbed by exploration activities to a stable landform similar to that of surrounding undisturbed areas; and<br><br>b) complete the rehabilitation processes on all areas disturbed by mining activities, apart from those areas currently being utilised for mining activities:<br><br>i. in riverine areas as soon as practical and prior to the onset of the wet season; and<br><br>ii. for all other areas on the mining tenement as soon as practical and at least within six (6) months of the completion of works in those areas. |
| **B11** | The holder of the environmental authority must backfill all excavations, drill holes or sampling sites as soon as practical following the completion of exploration activities, unless drill holes or sampling sites are to remain after the completion of exploration activities, by agreement with the land owner. |

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| **B12** | **Revegetation**<br><br>The holder of the environmental authority must spread seeds or plant species that will promote vegetation of a similar species and density of cover to that of the surrounding undisturbed areas or vegetation that is appropriate for providing erosion control and stabilisation of the disturbed areas.<br><br>To revegetate disturbed areas the following measures or similar measures can be used:<br><br>a) for areas which have become compacted during the project, break up the soil surface to a depth that is suitable for establishing vegetation;<br><br>b) spread stockpiled topsoil over disturbed areas to a depth that is suitable as a rooting medium for the revegetation process;<br><br>c) provide suitable nutrient conditions for planting by using fertiliser if necessary;<br><br>d) collect and store native seeds to be used in rehabilitation;<br><br>e) plant native species endemic to the area and location in the landscape (e.g. if clearing has<br><br>occurred in a riverine area, revegetate the disturbed area using local riverine species); and<br><br>f) vegetation used to provide erosion protection and stabilise disturbed areas in the short term should be comprised of sterile, short-lived species (e.g. a cover crop). However, the long term aim of revegetating any disturbed area is to establish a stable vegetation community that is similar to that of the surrounding undisturbed areas or endemic species. |
| **B13** | **Infrastructure**<br><br>For any exploration infrastructure to remain after all exploration activities have ceased, the holder of the environmental authority must obtain the written agreement of the land owner stating they will take over responsibility for that infrastructure. |
| **B14** | **Surrender**<br><br>The holder of the environmental authority must complete rehabilitation of disturbed areas to the satisfaction of the administering authority prior to surrender of the environmental authority. |

| **Agency interest: Drilling Activities** | |
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| **Condition number** | **Condition** |
| **C1** | Drilling activities under this environmental authority must be conducted in accordance with the document titled *Environmental Management Plan – For exploration mini SOSIE survey lines and drilling activities within EPC 1238 - Queensland Geological Services Pty Ltd trading as QGESS May 2009.* |
| **C2** | The holder of the environmental authority must ensure:<br>a) all marker pegs are marked with contrasting colour so as to be clearly visible;<br>b) all marker pegs are removed from the tenement at the completion of exploration activities; and<br>c) all permanent markers, concrete plugs or steel plates are installed at ground level and made safe. |
| **C3** | When drilling, excavating or sampling, the holder of the environmental authority must:<br>a) ensure that the area and duration of disturbance to land and vegetation is minimised;<br>b) consider seasonal influences, such as rainfall before excavating or establishing a drill site;<br>c) construct drill pads no larger than necessary to safely accommodate the drilling rigs and ancillary equipment;<br>d) use excavators or backhoes wherever possible in preference to bulldozers;<br>e) use drilling fluids and other process fluids which are non-toxic to the receiving environment;<br>f) not locate drill sites within 100m of an identified water watercourse; and<br>g) not drill, excavate or clear vegetation:<br>i. in standing waters, wetlands or lakes; or<br>ii. on the sloped banks or within 3m of the top of the bank or 5m of the toe of the bank; or<br>iii. within, or on the levee banks of the normal flow channel. |

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| **C4** | The holder of the environmental authority must decommission all non-artesian drill holes, apart from those still required for monitoring purposes as soon as practical, but no later than six (6) months after the hole was drilled by undertaking the following actions:<br>a) where practical dispose of all unused drill chips to the hole or to a sump pit and;<br>b) cap the hole at a depth that is appropriate for the previous land use of the area (unless the land<br>owner stipulates a future use which requires the cap to be placed deeper); and<br>c) backfill the hole above the cap with soil or material similar to the surrounding soil or material. |
| **C5** | Capping conducted in accordance with condition **C4** must be completed to the following depths:<br>a) surface level in rock outcrops;<br>b) at least 1 metre below the surface on land used for cropping; and<br>c) at least 300mm below the surface on other land. |
| **C6** | **Non-artesian drill holes**<br>The holder of the environmental authority must isolate non-artesian aquifers where a drill hole<br>intersects more than one water bearing strata by casing or plugging the hole as soon as practical<br>after the hole is no longer required, but no later than two (2) months after the hole was drilled, apart from those holes that are still required for monitoring purposes if:<br>a) the flow difference between aquifers exceeds 500L/hour; and<br>b) the difference in electrical conductivity of water is greater than 10% of the lower value. |

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| **C7** | Conditions **C4-C6** do not apply to a non-artesian exploration drill hole if:<br>a) the land owner and the environmental authority holder have agreed that it should be left for conversion to a water bore;<br>b) the landowner gives a written undertaking to accept responsibility for the hole;<br>c) the details of the agreement and the drill hole (such as its Global Positioning System (GPS) location and the drill logs showing the water bearing strata and flow rates) are provided to the Department of Natural Resources and Water within thirty (30) days of the land owner giving the undertaking;<br>d) the hole is temporarily capped so as to prevent possible ingress of surface waters and associated sediments and pollutants; and<br>e) the drill holes, to be converted to a water bore, are done so by a licensed water bore driller. |
| **C8** | **Artesian drill holes**<br>The holder of the environmental authority must ensure that exploration drill holes that strike artesian flows of water that exceeds 500L/hour for seven (7) days must be either:<br>a) decommissioned as soon as practical, but no later than one (1) month after the hole was drilled, apart from holes that are still required for monitoring or evaluation purposes. Refer to *Report No. SW4 – Minimum Construction Requirements for Water Bores in Australia, (ARMCANZ 1997)*;<br>b) capped to allow for future conversion into a controlled artesian bore by a licensed water bore driller; or<br>c) converted into a controlled artesian bore by a licensed water bore driller, provided that:<br>i. the land owner has undertaken in writing to accept responsibility for the drill hole; and<br>ii. the holder of the environmental authority provides details of the agreement and the drill hole to the administering authority within thirty (30) days of obtaining the landowner's agreement. |

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| **C9** | **Exploration drill holes**<br><br>The holder of the environmental authority must ensure that exploration drill holes that are to be retained for future mineral resource evaluation purposes are cased and capped. Holes to be retained for more than three years must be capped with steel casing and appropriately identified. |
| **C10** | **Gridlines and geophysical surveys**<br><br>The holder of the environmental authority must plan and determine the final position of gridlines and geophysical lines in consultation with the landowner. |
| **C11** | When constructing gridlines and seismic lines, the holder of the environmental authority must ensure that the area and duration of disturbance to land and vegetation is minimised by utilising the following measures:<br><br>a) conduct surveying of gridlines on foot;<br><br>b) use existing gates, tracks, roads and seismic lines;<br><br>c) before deciding on the location of new seismic lines, record the location of all underground or<br><br>surface pipelines, cables, power lines, etc. and avoid these areas;<br><br>d) in planning for drilling and sampling activities, ensure the activities occur at least 100m from<br><br>riverine areas;<br><br>e) construct seismic lines that do not exceed the width necessary to safely undertake the survey;<br><br>f) use GPS, or other techniques, to reduce the need for line of sight clearing;<br><br>g) maintain buffer widths of at least 25m between all disturbed areas;<br><br>h) minimise the use of bulldozers and excavators when cutting gridlines and/or seismic lines; and<br><br>i) notify landowners at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to detonating seismic explosives. |

**Definitions**
Key terms and/or phrases used in this document are defined in this section throughout this document. Applicants should note that where a term is not defined, the definition in the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, its regulations or environmental protection policies must be used. If a word remains undefined it has its ordinary meaning.

**"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.
**"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"** 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.*

**"progressive rehabilitation"** means rehabilitation (defined below) undertaken progressively or a staged approach to rehabilitation as mining operations are ongoing.

## END OF PERMIT