

Permit

Environmental Protection Act 1994

Environmental authority EPVX00162513

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

Environmental authority number: EPVX00162513

Environmental authority takes effect on 03 December 2019

Environmental authority holder(s)

Name(s)	Registered address
NEW HOPE EXPLORATION PTY LTD	3/22 Magnolia Drive BROOKWATER QLD 4300

Environmentally relevant activity and location details

Environmentally relevant activity/activities	Location(s)
Resource Activity, Non-Scheduled, Mining Activity, Exploration Permit Coal - EPC	EPC762

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:

Environmental authority

- 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.

Tony Baker
Department of Environment and Science
Delegate of the administering authority
Environmental Protection Act 1994

Enquiries:
Coal & Gemstone Mining
Department of Environment and Science
Phone: 07 4987 9320
Email: crmining@des.qld.gov.au

Date issued: 03 December 2019

Environmental authority

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)

This environmental authority consists of the following schedules of conditions relevant to various issues:

- Schedule A - General conditions
- Schedule B - Environmentally Sensitive Areas
- Schedule C - Land Management

Schedule A - General conditions

- (A1) The environmental authority does not take effect until the grant of the tenure to the environmental authority holder, or until each environmental authority holder has become a holder, under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989*, of each of the relevant mining tenements.
- (A2) 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*.
- (A3) The environmental authority holder is to give the administering authority a financial assurance in the amount and form and at a time required by the administering authority.
- (A4) 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* dated January 2001.

END OF CONDITIONS FOR SCHEDULE A

Schedule B - Environmentally Sensitive Areas

- (B1) Condition B1 to Condition C3 are additional conditions under section 209 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. If there is any inconsistency between a Standard Environmental Condition referred to in Condition A4 and an additional condition, then the additional condition prevails to the extent of any inconsistency.
- (B2) The holder of the environmental authority must consult with the Environmental Protection Agency to identify the specific values that must be preserved within the area identified as an Endangered Regional Ecosystem¹.
- (B3) The holder of the environmental authority is authorised, subject to conditions B1 to C3 to carry out standard exploration activities on the relevant tenement in, or within 500m of areas mapped as Endangered Remnant Ecosystem²; **(with the exception of the Category A, Environmentally Sensitive Areas - Irongate Conservation Park located within the tenement boundaries of EPC761 and Lake Broadwater Resource Reserve located near boundary of EPC758 (maps attached). No exploration work is to be undertaken within 1km of the Irongate Conservation Park or the Lake Broadwater Resource Reserve**
- (B4) When carrying out exploration activities within an Endangered Regional Ecosystem the holder of the environmental authority must do so in accordance with the scale of the activities as outlines below:

Drilling or seismic Grid Lines

- 1.1 spacing of gridlines is not less than 500m apart; and
- 1.2 spacing may be reduced to 250m at no more than three specified prospects.

Drill Sites

- 1.3. operational areas are no greater than 1000m² ;
- 1.4. sump size is no greater than 10m² ;
- 1.5. topsoil stripping is limited to sump area; and
- 1.6. clearing of mature trees is prevented or minimised.

Tracks

- 1.7. spacing between tracks is not less than 500m; and
- 1.8. existing access and fence line tracks are used where possible and any new tracks are constructed by linking natural clearings where possible; and
- 1.9. track construction involving blade clearing of established ground cover vegetation and/or clearing of mature trees is prevented or minimised; and
- 1.10. line of sight clearing is prevented or minimised.

Local Land Disturbance

- 1.11. exploration must not involve costeaning or bulk sampling in areas of Endangered Regional Ecosystems; and
- 1.12. establishing exploration camps will not involve clearing of areas of Endangered Regional Ecosystems.

- (B5)** Rubber tyred low ground pressure vehicles and machinery is to be used where possible.
- (B6)** Transport of weeds on vehicles and machinery must be prevented.
- (B7)** The environmental authority holder will limit total disturbance within any areas identified as Endangered Regional Ecosystems to a maximum area of 1% of the remnant patch or up to a maximum area of 1000 square metres at any one location.
- (B8)** In regards to complying with Standard Environmental Condition 42, the holder of the environmental authority must revegetate the areas identified as Endangered Regional Ecosystems with plant species from the same ecosystem type. The holder of the environmental authority must consult with the Environmental Protection Agency prior to commencing rehabilitation of disturbed areas in or within 500m of an Endangered Regional Ecosystem to determine the most appropriate technique for the specific area.
- (B9)** Rehabilitation of all areas disturbed within the Endangered Regional Ecosystem will be completed as soon as practical by no longer than three months after completion of the disturbance activity.

¹ Important Note to Condition (B2)

Environmentally Sensitive Areas identified in and adjacent to EPC 762 are listed in the table below.

Category	Land Area Classification	General location	Who to contact
Category B	Designated Landscape Area (Meringandan)	BRIS 2975 sub-block o p t u (EPC762)	Environmental Protection Agency Principle Conservation Officer (Cultural Heritage) Toowoomba (07) 46398358
Category B	Cultural Heritage (Jondaryan Homestead)	BRIS 2899 sub-block t u y z BRIS 2900 sub-block v (EPC762)	Environmental Protection Agency Register and Database Officer (07) 3227 8542
Category B	Endangered Regional Ecosystems (including but note limited to the following): 11.8.5, 11.8.5(a), 12.8.16/12.8.17, 11.9.5, 11.9.10, 11.3.1, 11.3.21, 11.3.21/11.3.24, 11.9.9/11.9.5, 11.3.17, 12.8.15, 11.4.3.	Scattered over EPC 762	Environmental Protection Agency South West (Southern Region) PO Box 731 Toowoomba QLD 4350 Ph: (07) 4639 4599 Fax: (07) 4639 4524
Category C	River Improvement Trust (Millmerran)	Overlaps with EPC 762	Natural Resources and Mines, Water Monitoring and Information (07) 3224 7668

The Endangered Regional Ecosystems are outlined in "The Conservation Status of Queensland's Bioregional Ecosystems" by Sattler & Williams, 1999.

² Important Note to Condition (B3)

Condition B3 is a condition that overrides the Standard Environmental Condition (SEC) 13 to the extent that SEC 13 prohibits the holder of the environmental authority carrying out mining activities within 500m of a Category B Environmentally Sensitive Area (i.e. an Endangered Regional Ecosystem).

Advisory Note

Endangered Regional Ecosystems (ERE11.3.21, 11.3.1, 11.4.3, 12.8.15) are potential habitats for rare and threatened flora and fauna species.

Potential rare and threatened flora species include *Bothriochloa bunyensis*, *Eucalyptus argophloia*, *Grantiella picta*, *Thesium australe*, *Picris evae*, *Stemmacantha australis*, *Dichanthium queenslandica*, *Bothriochloa biloba* and *Digitaria porrecta*. An application to Environment Australia must be lodged if any clearing/disturbance of plant species listed as endangered, rare or vulnerable under the *Environmental Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* is planned. Potential rare or threatened fauna species include *Tympanocryptis pinguicolla* and *Anomalopus mackayi*.

- (B10) Access onto all State Forests (Category C Environmentally Sensitive Areas) will be subject to an application for a Permit to Traverse for Exploration Purposes from the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service Dalby Office.

END OF CONDITIONS FOR SCHEDULE B

Schedule C - Land Management

- (C1) The holder of the environmental authority accepts the rehabilitation liability associated with exploration activities on EPC 762.
- (C2) The holder of the environmental authority must consult with the Environmental Protection Agency to determine the existing rehabilitation liability associated with exploration activities undertaken by New Hope Exploration Pty Ltd on EPC 762.
- (C3) The holder of the environmental authority must rehabilitate the areas disturbed by exploration activities on EPC 762 to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Agency.

END OF CONDITIONS FOR SCHEDULE C

END OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORITY