

Permit¹

Environmental Protection Act 1994
Environmental Authority (Exploration or Mineral Development) Non Code Compliant
Level 2 Mining Project

Permit¹ Number: MIN200438106

This permit is issued by the administering authority to authorise the activity specified in the permit in accordance with the conditions specified in the permit. This decision was made pursuant to Section 171 of the Environmental Protection Act 1994.

Takes Effect From: 10 Aug-2010

Details

Permit Holder(s)	Name	Address
Principal Holder	Independent Coal Pty Limited	Level 1, 61 Stewart Avenue HAMILTON EAST NSW 2303
Joint Holder	Aston Dingo Pty Ltd	620 Moggill Road CHAPEL HILL QLD 4069

Activity(s)	Location(s)
Exploration - Coal	EPC1063

The anniversary date of the environmental authority is 03 August.

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

Cathy Birt
 Delegate
 Department of Environment and
 Resource Management
 10- Aug 2010

Enquiries:
 Permit and Licence Management
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¹ Permit includes licences, approvals, permits, authorisations, certificates, sanctions or equivalent/similar as required by legislation administered by the Department of Environment and Resource Management

Schedule of conditions

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

- Schedule A - General condition
- Schedule B - Activities within Buffer of Endangered Regional Ecosystem
- Schedule C - Definitions

Schedule A – General

- (A1-1) For exploration activities 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 Condition 13, which is replaced by Schedule B conditions.
- (A1-2) The holder of the environmental authority must not carry out exploration activities within a category A or B Environmentally Sensitive Area.
- (A1-3) The holder of the environmental authority must install temporary visual markers on the boundary of the ERE to ensure that exploration activities are not carried out within the environmentally sensitive area.

END OF CONDITIONS FOR SCHEDULE A

Schedule B –Activities within Buffer of Endangered Regional Ecosystem**Drilling or seismic grid**

- (B1-1) Spacing of gridlines within the ERE buffer may only be undertaken at no less than 500 m apart.
- (B1-2) Spacing of gridlines may be reduced to 250 m at no more than three specified prospects within the ERE buffer.

Drill sites

- (B2-1) The operational area of the drill site within the ERE buffer must not exceed 1000 m².
- (B2-2) Drill holes within the ERE buffer are limited to 100-200 mm in diameter.
- (B2-3) The construction of sumps within the ERE buffer must not exceed 10 m².
- (B2-4) Topsoil stripping within the ERE buffer is limited to the sump area of 10 m².
- (B2-5) The environmental holder must minimise disturbance within the ERE buffer and avoid clearing

mature trees.

Tracks

- (B3-1) Existing access and fence line tracks must be used. Any new tracks are to be constructed by linking natural cleared or disturbed areas.
- (B3-2) Tracks are not to be constructed greater than 4 metres in width.
- (B3-3) Track construction involving blade clearing of established ground cover vegetation and/or clearing of mature trees is prevented or minimised.

Temporary disturbance to waterways

- (B4-1) The authority holder will ensure that the construction of new crossings over watercourse within the ERE buffer is to be avoided and only permitted when no reasonable alternative is available.
- (B4-2) In accordance to the *Water Act 2000*, the holder of this environmental authority is permitted to destroy vegetation, excavate and fill watercourses to establish temporary crossings when there is no flow. Works shall remain in place for no longer than **4 weeks**.

Other land disturbance

- (B5-1) Exploration within the ERE buffer must not involve costeaning or bulk sampling activities.
- (B5-2) Exploration camps must not be established within the ERE buffer.

END OF CONDITIONS FOR SCHEDULE B

Schedule C - Definitions

“**authority**” means environmental authority (mining activities) under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

“**environmental authority holder**” means the holder of this environmental authority.

“**ERE**” means Endangered Regional Ecosystem.

“**land**” in the “land schedule” of this document means land excluding waters and the atmosphere.

“**watercourse**” means a river, creek or stream in which water flows permanently or intermittently in a visibly defined channel (natural, artificial or artificially improved) with:

- (a) continuous bed and banks;
- (b) an extended period of flow for some months after rain ceases, and
- (c) an adequacy of flow that sustains basic ecological processes and maintains biodiversity.

“**waters**” includes river, stream, lake, lagoon, pond, swamp, wetland, unconfined surface water, bed and bank of any waters, dams, non-tidal or tidal waters (including the sea) or any part-thereof.

END OF CONDITIONS