Permit[1]

Environmental Protection Act 1994

Environmental authority – Suttor Creek Exploration Project

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

Permit[1] number: EPVX01519413

Environmental authority takes effect 7 February 2014

The anniversary date of this environmental authority is 24 August.

Environmental authority holder(s)

Name	Registered address
Queensland Coal Investments Pty Ltd	Level 11, 82 Eagle Street, Brisbane Queensland 4000

Environmentally relevant activity and location details

Environmentally relevant activity	Location(s)
Environmental Protection Regulation 2008, Schedule 2: ERA 63 Sewage treatment – Threshold 1 operating sewage treatment works, other than no-release works, with a total daily peak design capacity of— (a) more than 21 but not more than 100EP— (i) if treated effluent is discharged from the works to an infiltration trench or through an irrigation scheme	EPC2169 EPC2162 EPC2163

Additional information for applicants

Environmentally relevant activities

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

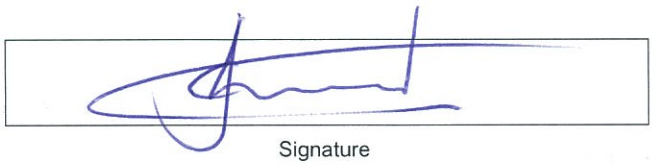
An environmental authority authorises the carrying out of an ERA and does not authorise any environmental harm unless a condition stated by the authority specifically authorises environmental harm.

[1] Permit includes licences, approvals, permits, authorisations, certificates, sanctions or equivalent/similar as required by legislation

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 if an owner or occupier of land becomes aware a notifiable activity (as defined in Schedule 3 and Schedule 4) is being carried out on the land, or that the land has been, or is being, contaminated by a hazardous contaminant, the owner or occupier must, within 22 business days after becoming so aware, give written notice to the chief executive.



Signature

10/2/14.

Date

Christopher Loveday
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
Delegate of the administering authority
Environmental Protection Act 1994

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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)

Conditions of environmental authority

With the exception of any variations, the conditions of approval for this environmental authority include standard conditions contained within the attached document(s) entitled:

- The *Code of Environmental Compliance for Exploration and Mineral Development Projects*, Version 1 (EM586). Variations to the standard conditions include condition 13 and condition 19:

Agency Interest	General
A1	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* (EM586), except Condition 13 and 19, which is replaced by the conditions in this **environmental authority**.
A2	An annual report must be prepared each year and submitted with each annual return. The report must include details of exploration activities undertaken, including: • GPS coordinates in GDA94 datum of constructed and/or completed drill sites; • the date each drill hole was drilled; • the number of drill holes proposed/completed at each drill site; • the location of drill sites relevant to Environmentally Sensitive Areas; • the location of any drill hole(s) being converted to monitoring bores; • the location of any newly constructed tracks; and • details of progressive rehabilitation works completed to demonstrate compliance with condition **B7**.
Agency Interest	**Land**
B1	The **environmental authority holder** must not carry out activities in category A or B **environmentally sensitive areas**. Prior to carrying out mining activities in a category C environmentally sensitive area, consultation must be held with the administering authority to determine if additional conditions are necessary.
B2	The **environmental authority holder** is authorised to carry out mining activities on EPC2169, EPC2162 and EPC2163 within 500m of category B **environmentally sensitive areas** where authorised under the conditions of this environmental authority.
B3	The **environmental authority holder** is authorised to undertake no more than five (5) drill sites within 500m of category B **environmentally sensitive areas** and to the dimensions specified in **Table 1: Drill Site Dimensions and Total Disturbance.**

Table 1: Drill Site Dimensions and Total Disturbance

Drill site specification and number	Total Area (Ha)
900m2 per drill site X 5 sites	0.45

B4	The **environmental authority holder** is authorised to undertake the clearing of access tracks within 500m of category B **environmentally sensitive areas** and to the dimensions specified in **Table 2: Access Tracks Dimensions and Total Disturbance.**

Table 2: Access Tracks Dimensions and Total Disturbance.

Access Tracks Specification	Total Area (Ha)
Total width per track <3m	3.3

B5	The **environmental authority holder** must minimise disturbance within any environmentally sensitive area buffer and avoid clearing mature trees when undertaking mining activities.
B6	Rehabilitation of areas, disturbed by mining activities, within the buffer of any **environmentally sensitive areas** must be completed as soon as practicable, but no longer than 3 months after completion of the mining activity.
B7	The **environmental authority holder** must ensure disturbed areas within the buffer of any **environmentally sensitive areas** are rehabilitated in such a way that promotes revegetation of native plant species consistent with those found naturally within the buffer.
Agency Interest	**Sewage**
C1	The only contaminant permitted to be released to land is treated sewage **effluent** in compliance with the release limits stated in **Table C1 - Contaminant release limits to land.**

Table C1 - Contaminant release limits to land

Contaminant	Unit	Release limit	Limit type	Monitoring Frequency
5 day Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD)1	mg/L	20	Maximum	Monthly
Total suspended solids	mg/L	30	Maximum	Monthly
Nitrogen	mg/L	30	Maximum	Monthly
Phosphorus	mg/L	15	Maximum	Monthly
E-coli	Organisms/100ml	1000	Maximum	Monthly
pH	pH units	6.0 – 9.0.	Range	Monthly

C2	Treated sewage **effluent** may only be released to land in accordance with the conditions of this approval at the following locations: (a) within the nominated area (Option A or Option B) identified in **Schedule A—Figure 1 (sewage treatment plant and effluent disposal)**; and (b) other land for the purpose of dust suppression and/or fire fighting.
C3	The application of treated **effluent** to land must be carried out in a manner such that: (a) vegetation is not damaged; (b) there is no surface ponding of **effluent**; and (c) there is no run-off of **effluent**.

C4	If areas irrigated with **effluent** are accessible to employees or the general public, prominent signage must be provided advising that effluent is present and care should be taken to avoid consuming or otherwise coming into unprotected contact with the **effluent**.
C5	All sewage **effluent** released to **land** must be monitored at the frequency and for the parameters specified in **Table C1 - Contaminant release limits to land**.
C6	The daily volume of **effluent** release to land must be measured and records kept of the volumes of **effluent** released.
C7	When circumstances prevent the irrigation or beneficial reuse of treated sewage **effluent** such as during or following rain events, waters must be directed to a wet weather storage or alternative measures must be taken to store/lawfully dispose of **effluent**.
C8	A minimum area of **0.3 hectares** of **land**, excluding any necessary buffer zones, must be utilised for the irrigation and/or beneficial reuse of treated sewage **effluent**.
C9	If the person undertaking the activity to which this approval relates gives or transfers ownership of the treated sewage **effluent** to another person(s) ("the third party"), the person undertaking the activity to which this approval relates must[1]: (a) prior to giving such **effluent** or transferring ownership of such effluent to the third party, obtain from the third party details of how they will comply with the general environmental duty (GED) provided for by section 319 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* in respect of the use and disposal of such **effluent**, particularly in relation to the environmental sustainability of any **effluent** disposal, protection of public health and protection of environmental values of water; and (b) only give or transfer ownership of such **effluent** in accordance with a written agreement between the person undertaking the activity to which this approval relates and the third party; (c) include, in any third party agreement, the provision that supply of treated wastewater may be discontinued at any time if the supplier reasonably believes that the third party is utilising treated wastewater in a way that may cause environmental harm, or is otherwise not complying with the GED; and (d) if the person becomes aware that the person is not or is not likely to comply with the general environmental duty provided by section 319 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, cease the giving and transferring ownership of such effluent.

[1] *Any recycled water management plan approved under the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008 that fulfils the above requirements is deemed to achieve compliance with this condition.*

END OF CONDITIONS

Definitions

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 Protection Act 1994, its regulations and policies must be used.

"Authority" means environmental authority (mining activities) under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

"Campsite" The area encompassing any dwelling, amenities (e.g. toilet block, power generator), sewage or general waste disposal facility and includes the office area and vehicle parking areas associated with a temporary or permanent mining camp.

"Concentrated drilling" as defined in the *"Environmental Management Plan (19 July 2012) for EPC1013 & 2302 Walton Exploration Project"* July 2012.

"Costeaning" The digging of a trench or pit across the seam or ore body for exposing, sampling and mapping of the ore body.

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

"Effluent" treated waste water released from sewage treatment plants.

"Endangered regional ecosystem" means a regional ecosystem identified as endangered in the database maintained by the administering authority called 'Regional ecosystem description database' containing regional ecosystem numbers and descriptions.

"Environmental authority" means a licence or approval issued by the administrating authority under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

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

"Environmentally Sensitive Areas" refers to locations, however large or small, that have environmental values that contribute to maintaining biological diversity and integrity, have intrinsic or attributed scientific, historical or cultural heritage value, or are important in providing amenity, harmony or sense of community. Refer to Appendix A of Code of Environmental Compliance for Exploration and Mineral Development Projects.

"Financial assurance" means a security deposit, either cash or a bank guarantee that is held by the administrating authority to cover the potential:

(a) costs to rehabilitate areas disturbed by mining activities; and
(b) costs to restore property improvements disturbed by mining activities; and
(c) failure of the tenure holder to pay rents and royalties.

"Land" in the 'land schedule' of this document means land excluding waters and the atmosphere, that is, the term has a different meaning from the term as defined in the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. For the purposes of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1954*, it is expressly noted that the term 'land' in this environmental authority relates to physical land and not to interests in land.

"Mature trees" are trees greater than 20 centimetres diameter at breast height (measured at 1.3 metres from the ground).

"Native vegetation" Vegetation that occurs naturally in a certain area.

"Rehabilitation" the process of reshaping and revegetating land to restore it to a stable landform.

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

"Rehabilitation processes" The measures and actions taken to achieve rehabilitation outcomes, including any or all of the following:

- removing all unwanted infrastructure;

- backfilling mine excavations (e.g. pits) and capping drill holes;
- reshaping the land surface to a stable landform similar to that of surrounding
- undisturbed areas;
- spreading of topsoil;
- spreading seed or planting seedlings to promote revegetation;
- benching ridge cuts and removing any overhanging material.

"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:

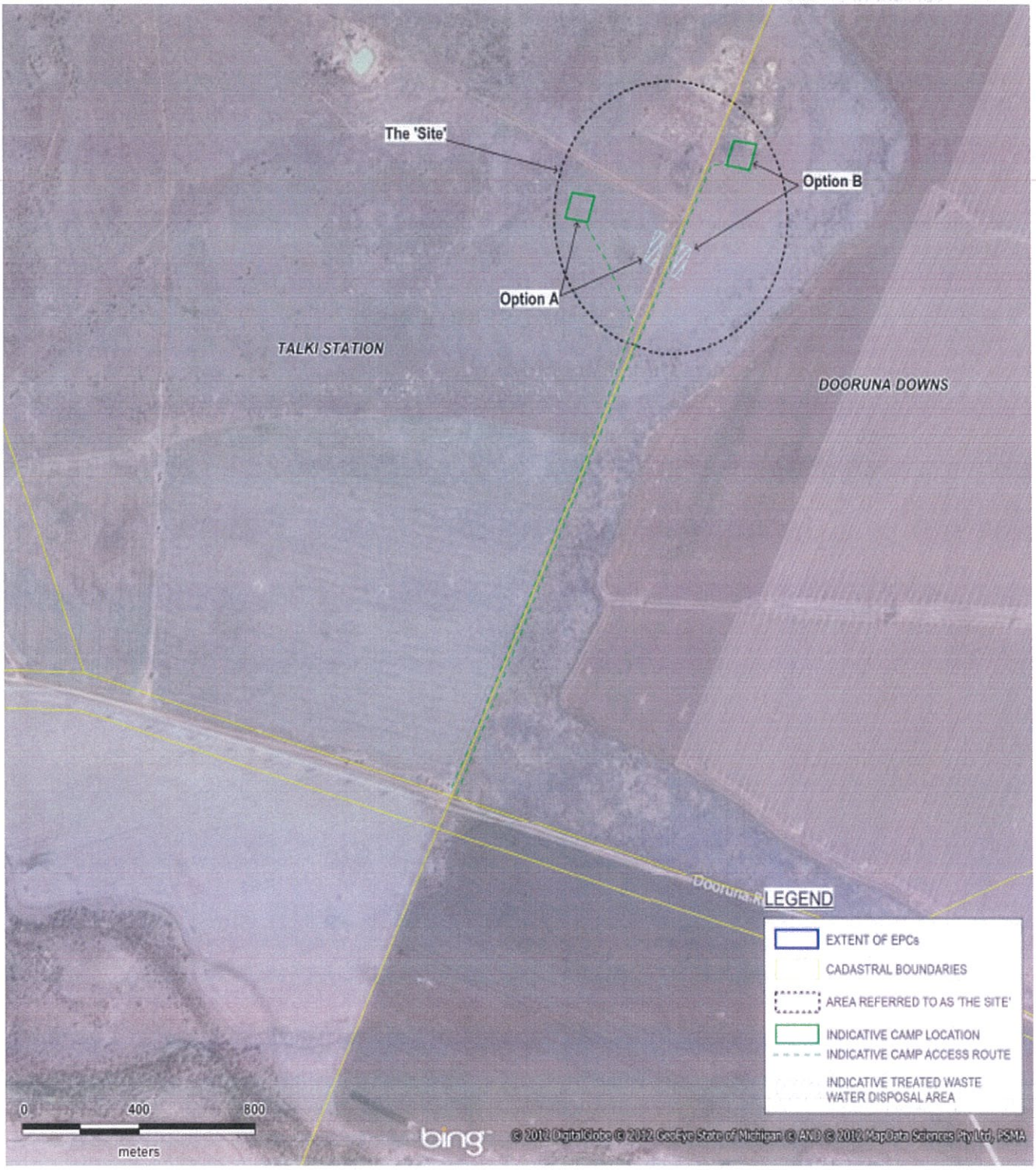
(a) continuous bed and banks;
(b) an extended period of flow for some months after rain ceases, and
(c) an adequacy of flow that sustains basic ecological processes and maintains biodiversity

"Monitoring bore" means a water bore used for monitoring groundwater.

END OF DEFINITIONS

Schedule A

Figure 1 (sewage treatment plant and effluent disposal)



END OF PERMIT