

DES comments on the joint amendment application – EPML00732813, PRCP EPML00732813 V2 – Ensham Coal Mine – 6 December 2022

Item	Document/section	Comment/issue	Requirement	Response
1	Chapter 6 Land Resources Appendix A Land Resources	Chapter 6 states, “The estimated volume of waste rock from the Project over the life of the mine is approximately 143,100 m³ in total, which is approximately less than 0.40% of total approved waste rock volumes (36 million m³) currently approved for the rehabilitation of open cut Pit C and Pit D. At less than 0.40% of total approved rock volume for Pit C and Pit D, it is not expected this addition would impact the approved final landform outcomes in the PRCP.” It is not clear whether the 0.4% (143,100m³) from Zone 1 is additional to the approved 36Mm³ or already included in the approved volume? i.e., does the approved volume of waste rock for Pit C and Pit D require re-assessment to 36,143,100m³?	Clarify whether the volume of waste rock to be generated from Zone 1 is additional to the existing approved 36Mm³. Confirm that the Waste Management Plan required by Condition F6 of the EA will be updated to account for the additional waste generated from Zone 1.	F6 refers to regulated waste, general waste, recyclable etc not waste rock. Waste rock is covered by condition G2 which has been characterised for the whole mine. 36 M m³ is the approximate ERC estimation of the volume of overburden that has to be moved to complete the final landform in Pits C & D. If 143,000 m³ is produced from UG then the volume of overburden to be moved will probably be reduced.
2	Chapter 9 Surface Water Resources Appendix Water Quality	Figures in Chapter 9 Surface Water Resources of the EA documentation depict surface water monitoring points on site. The figures depict names that are inconsistent with the EA (Table C5 Receiving water upstream background sites and	Confirm which, if any, surface water monitoring points are proposed and which are existing. Confirm the naming convention for the monitoring points and ensure Table C5 and Appendix 1	All surface water monitoring points are existing. Naming convention has been standardised. Two new upstream REMP monitoring points (MP1 & MP7)

		downstream monitoring points and Appendix 1). Appendix G Water Quality states, “In order to understand impacts from non-mining activities to surface water quality, water quality monitoring (in accordance with EA EPML00732813) will include two new water quality monitoring sites ENMP07 (upstream of the Project) and ENMP08 (eastern end of the Project). These sites which have been established to provide reference sites to monitor water quality in the Nogoia River as part of the REMP.” Table C5 does not include ENMP07 and ENMP08. Table C5 includes REMP only upstream background monitoring points MP1 and MP7. Chapter 18 Commitments states, “Two additional upstream monitoring points have been included in the REMP to monitor upstream (of Zones 1 & 2) water quality of the Nogoia River.”	of the EA are consistent. Provide an updated figure, if required.	were added to the EA during previous amendment. These are used for assessment of river conditions well upstream of the Ensham release points. Due to the difficulty in accessing MP1, it is only monitored annually during the collection of macroinvertebrates etc. At other times, water samples are collected from MP8 on Braylands. These REMP monitoring points are not monitored during water releases as they are inaccessible and MP2 is located immediately upstream of the release points. New figure provided for EA.
3	Chapter 11 Groundwater Resources	It is noted that there is an additional groundwater monitoring point proposed to the west of Zone 1 (RB11).	Provide a figure (similar to that of Figure 73 in Appendix I) to replace Appendix 2:	New figure provided for EA, RB11 position is provisional, will depend on CHRC permission to

	Appendix I Groundwater Resources	The applicant states that there are no EA condition amendments proposed. Note that the department would expect there to be updates to the groundwater schedule to include the new bore (RB11) and its standing water level and quality triggers.	Groundwater Monitoring Network of the EA. Other figures that require updating in the EA to account for Zone 1: - Appendix 1: Environmental Authority Water Monitoring Points - Appendix 3: Zone 2 and Zone 3 location Provide the figures and/or location of relevant figure in the amendment documentation.	drill. In Table I1, the location will be TBD. New figures provided for EA.
<u>Amended PRCP EPML00732813_V2</u>				
4	Ensham PRC Plan Schedule - November 2022	The cumulative area for RA5 has reduced to 80.5ha. The existing schedule has a cumulative area of 161.7 as per area for RM3. The cumulative area should be the maximum area available on that date, which in this case is 161.7ha for RM3, as opposed to 80.5ha for RM4 and RM5.	Provide an accurate cumulative area for each RA for each date. Alternatively, provide justification for the change.	No changes proposed from approved version dated 23 rd August for 2023 milestones. Unsure how the typo occurred. RA5 has not reduced in area, 161.7ha will reach RM3, only 80.5 ha will reach the next milestones of RM4 & RM5 in 2023.
5	Ensham PRC Plan Schedule - November 2022 Ensham PRCP V6	Areas are proposed to be amended in the PRCP schedule for the following rehabilitation areas (RAs): - RA5 – Yongala cattle grazing - RA6 – Yongala native bushland corridor - RA8 – Central cattle grazing	Provide further justification for the increase in areas for these RAs and the specific area they are proposed to be increased by. Confirm that the figures in Ensham PRCP V6 for these RAs	The crest and base of the battered down high walls are slightly different to previous modelled rehab due to Thiess operational rehab plans. Because RA6 has a different final land use (Native Bushland Corridor) to RA5

		• RA9 – Central native bushland corridor • RA11 – Southern cattle grazing; and • RA15 – Surface area of underground mining areas Minimal justification has been provided for the area increases for these RAs, particularly in relation to being relevant to the Zone 1 amendment – i.e. the relevant RA for Zone 1 appears to be RA15.	are intended to replace the current figures in the PRCP schedule.	(Grazing) the boundary between the 2 RAs change in location. The boundary of certified rehabilitation at Ramp 10 has been modified to allow for Thiess to re-disturb and re-rehabilitate. The change in boundary extents is to allow for working room for rehabilitation activities such as carting topsoil and rock mulch. This has been incorporated into the ERC. Yes, provided to Spatial Data
6		For RA15, the area is increasing from 3,770ha to 5,619ha. This is an increase of 1,849ha. The mining lease application (MLA700061) area in the amendment documentation is stated as 2,134ha. The Department of Resource <u>public authority report for ML700061</u> states an ML area of 2,119ha. This is inconsistent with the amendment documentation.	Confirm that the underground workings on ML700061 is proposed to span 1,849ha of the lease. Confirm the ML area is 2,119ha, as per the public authority report. Ensure the PRCP and EA documentation are consistent with the ML application area.	Correct I think 2,134 ha was the application area, it may have been surveyed which will change the area. Also flat survey plan area will be different to spherical GIS projection area. I would use 2,119 ha as the official area at this point.

7	General	Note that the department will provide a draft EA and draft PRCP schedule containing tracked changes of proposed amendments to conditions and the schedule. The draft EA and PRCP schedule will be provided for comment/agreement after a response to the above has been received.
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