

Public Notice

Environmental Protection Act 1994 — Sections 51 and 52

Public notice of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Proposed Eaglefield Expansion Project

An EIS has been prepared on behalf of Peabody Energy Australia Pty Limited for the Eaglefield Expansion Project (EEP) project.

The proposed project involves the expansion of an existing open-cut coal mine operation at Eaglefield Coal Mine in Queensland's Bowen Basin, 160 km south-west of Mackay and 36 km north of Moranbah, within the Isaac Regional Council area. The project is located on mining lease (ML) 6949.

The proponent proposes mining of up to 10.2 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) of run-of-mine (ROM) coal, up from the current average of 5 Mtpa. It is intended to use an in-pit crushing and conveying system combined with haul trucks to produce coking coal for the export market, over a mine life of approximately 22 years. The operation will involve external waste rock emplacement followed by progressive filling of the pit with waste rock once there is sufficient working space.

The proponent currently owns two operations within ML 6949. The Eaglefield Coal Mine is located in the south-west corner of the mining lease, while the North Goonyella Coal Mine, an underground longwall operation, is currently operating in the northern part of the lease. The EEP will utilise existing infrastructure such as power supply, sewage treatment facility and wastewater management infrastructure. Upgrades to the current coal handling and preparation plant, ROM facility, electrical infrastructure, and the addition of a temporary office complex, new workshop facility and supporting infrastructure, will be required.

Water will continue to be sourced from the existing Burton Gorge Dam pipeline and water captured in the site water management system. The product coal will be railed to the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal via existing rail infrastructure for export. A construction workforce of around 650 people will be employed during the construction phase of the project. The operation phase of the project will require around 700 people. Around 95 per cent of the construction and operation workforce are expected to be accommodated in the on-site mine accommodation facilities, although place of residence will be the choice of the employee. Approval for additional off-lease accommodation infrastructure and power supply will be sought under separate processes and does not from part of the EEP that is assessed in this EIS.

The approved Environmental Authority (EA) No. MIN100590107, applies to all operations on ML 6949. For the EEP to proceed, this EA will require amendment. The proponent applied for, and has been granted, approval to prepare a voluntary EIS for the project.

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth)

The project is a controlled action under the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The State's EIS process has been accredited for the assessment under Part 8 of the EPBC Act in accordance with the Bilateral Agreement between the Commonwealth of Australia and the State of Queensland (2009). The controlling provisions are sections 18 and 18A (listed threatened species and communities).

A **copy of the EIS** may be inspected at the following locations:

Department of Environment and Resource Management 99 Hospital Road Emerald QLD 4720	Nebo Library Reynolds Street Nebo QLD 4742
Moranbah Town Library Grosvenor Complex Bachelor Parade Moranbah QLD 4419	Peabody Energy Australia Pty Limited Level 13, B0Q Centre 259 Queens Street Brisbane QLD 4000

An electronic copy can be obtained from the Peabody Energy Australia Pty Limited's website <www.peabodyenergy.com.au>, by e-mailing <eaglefieldexpansionproject@peabodyenergy.com> or calling 1300 119 022. Requests can also be made to purchase a CD at a cost (per copy) of \$10.00.

Written comments in relation to the EIS are invited from any person within the submission period. The **submission period starts 28 February 2011 and ends 15 April 2011**. Please address written comments to:

The Chief Executive
Attention: the EIS Coordinator—Eaglefield Expansion Project
Environment and Natural Resource Regulation division
Department of Environment and Resource Management
GPO Box 2454
Level 8, 400 George St
Brisbane QLD 4001

The Chief Executive will accept all properly made submissions and may accept written submissions even if they are not properly made. A properly made submission is one that:

- is written
- is signed by or for each person ('signatory') who made the submission
- states the name and address of each signatory
- is made to the Chief Executive
- is received on or before the last day of the submission period.

Please note that it is a statutory requirement that all submissions will be forwarded to the proponent for consideration and provision of response to the Department of Environment and Resource Management.

For further information regarding the EIS process for this proposal, contact the EIS Coordinator on 13 QGOV (13 74 68).