

Public Notice

Environmental Protection Act 1994 (EP Act) – Sections 51 and 52

Public notice of Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Proposed Middlemount Coal Project, Stage 2

An EIS has been prepared by Middlemount Coal Pty Ltd (MCPL), an incorporated joint venture between Macarthur Coal (70 %) and the Noble Group (30 %). The proposed project is for an expansion of the existing Middlemount Coal Mine, located in the Bowen Basin on mining lease (ML) 70379. The mine is situated approximately 6 km south-west of the Middlemount township and approximately 270 km north-west of Rockhampton.

Stage 1 of the Middlemount Mine was approved in May 2009 for the production of 1.8 million tonnes per year (Mt/y) of 'run of mine' (ROM) coal to produce 1.45 Mt/y of product coal for export. The Stage 2 expansion, subject to this EIS process, proposes to increase the rate of mining up to 5.4 Mt/y of ROM coal to produce 4 Mt/y of product coal for export. The estimated coal resource is approximately 100 million tonnes, and the mine would operate for approximately 19 years. Diversions of Roper Creek and Thirteen Mile Gully have been proposed. A portion of the Saraji water supply pipeline would also have to be diverted.

Operations would be conducted 24 hours per day, seven days per week, and employ around 500 people. The mining process would be undertaken either by shovels, excavators, and trucks, or by dragline, shovels, excavators and trucks. Both options will be assessed in the EIS. Processing of the coal would require an increase of the presently approved capacity of the Coal Handling and Preparation Plant (CHPP) from 400 tonnes per hour (t/h) to 700 t/h.

A proposal for a new rail loop has been submitted to the Isaac Regional Council (as part of Stage 1), for approval under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*. The EIS describes the rail loop and its relationship to Stage 2 of the mine (e.g. any additional rail traffic, etc), but does not conduct a full impact assessment of it as this work has already been undertaken.

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth)

The Middlemount Coal Project Stage 2 has been determined by the Commonwealth (Cwlth) to be a controlled action (EPBC 2010/5394) under the Cwlth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The controlling provisions are, 'Listed threatened species and communities' (sections 18 and 18A). The Cwlth has accredited the State's EIS process for the purposes of the Cwlth's assessment under Part 8 of the EPBC Act.

A copy of **the EIS can be inspected** at the locations listed below. An electronic copy can be obtained from Parsons Brinckerhoff's website at <www.pb.com.au/middlemountcoal> or at a cost of \$15 from the Middlemount Coal Project Team on freecall 1800 008 438 or by emailing <middlemountcoal@pb.com.au>.

- Department of Environment and Resource Management
Level 3, 400 George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000
- Middlemount Library
Isaac Regional Council
Shopping Centre, Leichhardt Drive
MIDDLEMOUNT QLD 4746
- Department of Environment and Resource Management
99 Hospital Road
EMERALD QLD 4720
- Middlemount Coal Pty Ltd
Ground Floor Reception
100 Melbourne Street
SOUTH BRISBANE QLD 4101

Written comments in relation to the EIS are invited from any person during the submission period.

The submission period starts Monday 7 February 2011 and concludes at close of business on Monday 28 March 2011.

Please address written comments to:

The EIS Co-ordinator, Middlemount Coal Project, Stage 2
Environment and Natural Resource Regulation Division
Department of Environment and Resource Management
GPO Box 2454
Level 8, 400 George Street
Brisbane QLD 4001

The chief executive will accept all properly made submissions and may accept written submissions even if they are not properly made. Please note that it is a statutory requirement that all submitted comments will be forwarded to the proponent so that they may consider them and provide a response to the Department of Environment and Resource Management.

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.

For further information regarding the EIS process for this proposal, contact the EIS Coordinator on 13 QGOV (13 74 68) or email <eis@derm.qld.gov.au>.