

Public Notice

Environmental Protection Act 1994 - Section 42**Draft terms of reference for an environmental impact statement (EIS)
Proposed Teresa Coal Project**

Linc Energy Ltd proposes to develop an underground coal mine located 17 km north of Emerald in the Bowen Basin. The proponent has applied for mining leases (ML 70442 and ML 70405) covering 13 000 hectares. Coal would be mined at a rate of up to eight million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) of run-of-mine (ROM) coal, which after processing would produce 6.4 Mtpa of export quality pulverised coal injection (PCI) coal for up to 30 years.

Mining would be by retreat longwall extraction. ROM coal would be transferred to an on-site coal handling and preparation plant. Product coal would be transferred to an on-site rail loop. Options to transport coal from the mine site to existing rail to port infrastructure will be documented in the EIS. Coarse and fine rejects would be transported to on-site disposal areas. Waste rock would be disposed in waste rock dumps. The total workforce required would be 500 during construction and 380 during operations. The construction workforce will be accommodated in either temporary on-site accommodation, or in established accommodation in surrounding towns. Accommodation options for the operations workforce will be documented in the EIS. Annual raw water requirements are expected to be 3000 megalitres per year. An allocation from Fairburn Dam is likely to be required to meet raw water requirements until sufficient groundwater can be extracted from the underground mine. Power would come from the 66 kilovolt Lilyvale–Emerald transmission line.

On 16 February 2011, an application was made by the proponent under section 154 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994 (EP Act)* for an environmental authority. Under section 162 of the EP Act it was determined by the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) that assessment of the Teresa Coal Project would be by environmental impact statement (EIS).

On 7 October 2011, the Commonwealth Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities determined the proposed project to be a controlled action under the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)*. The controlling provisions are sections 18 and 18A (listed threatened species and communities) and 20 and 20A (listed migratory species). The potential impacts of the project on the controlling provisions will be assessed under the bilateral agreement using the EIS prepared under the EP Act.

In accordance with section 41 of the EP Act, Linc Energy Ltd has prepared and submitted a draft terms of reference (TOR) for carrying out an EIS for the proposal to DERM's chief executive.

A copy **of the draft TOR** may be viewed at:

Department of Environment and Resource Management
Level 3, 400 George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Central Highlands Regional Council Emerald Library
44 Borilla Street
EMERALD QLD 4720

Department of Environment and Resource Management
99 Hospital Road
EMERALD QLD 4720

Central Highlands Regional Council Capella Library
Peak Downs Street
CAPELLA QLD 4723

The public notice, the draft TOR and an initial advice statement describing the project are available on the DERM website <www.derm.qld.gov.au> or by contacting the Teresa Coal Project EIS coordinator on 13 QGOV (13 74 68). Copies can also be obtained from <www.lincenergy.com/eis_teresa_coal_project.php>, or by calling **1800 802 848**.

Written submissions

DERM's chief executive invites written comments from any person in relation to the draft TOR from **Monday 7 November 2011 until Friday 16 December 2011**. Please address written comments to:

The Chief Executive
Department of Environment and Resource Management
Attention: The EIS Coordinator (Teresa Coal Project)
GPO Box 2454, BRISBANE QLD 4001
Level 8, 400 George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

or by email to <eis@derm.qld.gov.au>.

Please note that it is a statutory requirement that all submitted comments be forwarded to the proponent for consideration and provision of a response to DERM.

When the EIS is complete, public submissions will be invited. For further information about the EIS process for this proposal, contact the EIS coordinator on 13 QGOV (13 74 68) or <eis@derm.qld.gov.au>.