

## Public Notice

### *Environmental Protection Act 1994 (EP Act) – Section 42*

#### Public notice of draft terms of reference for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

##### Proposed Drake Coal Project

Drake Coal Pty Ltd (a subsidiary of QCoal Pty Ltd) is the proponent for a new greenfield open-cut coal mine to be known as the Drake Coal Project. The proposed project would be located 150 km north-west of Mackay and 17 km south of Collinsville, in the Whitsunday Regional Council local government area, in the Bowen Basin, Central Queensland. The proposed project would be situated adjacent to the Bowen River, within Exploration Permit for Coal (EPC) 586.

The open-cut mine would use conventional open-cut truck and excavator methods to produce up to 10 million tonnes of run of mine (ROM) coal per year for up to 20-25 years with the possibility of extension based on ongoing exploration. The mine would produce predominantly high quality coking coal, thermal coal and ultra low volatile coal for export markets.

A coal handling and preparation plant would be constructed within the project area to process and wash coal. Coarse and fine rejects would be piped to a purpose-built co-disposal dam. Washed product coal would be transported by train via the Collinsville-Newlands rail line to the Abbot Point Coal Terminal near Bowen for export using existing port facilities. A balloon rail loop connecting the project to the Collinsville-Newlands main line would be constructed on-site.

The preferred water supply option is to obtain an allocation from SunWater.

The diversion of some ephemeral creeks and minor drainage features may be required to facilitate the location of mining pits and project infrastructure.

The preferred option for power supply is a new 33 kV powerline constructed in conjunction with Ergon Energy.

The preferred option for accommodation is to house workers in Collinsville and/or Scottsville, with the provision of an on-site workers village in the event of an accommodation shortfall.

Site access is proposed via the Bowen Development Road.

##### **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 (2004). The controlling provisions are sections 18 and 18A (listed threatened species and communities).

##### **Draft Terms of Reference (TOR)**

In accordance with section 41 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, Drake Coal Pty Ltd has prepared and submitted to the chief executive of the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) a draft terms of reference (TOR) for carrying out an EIS for the proposal. The draft TOR may be viewed at:

- Department of Environment and Resource Management  
Business Centre  
Lvl 3, 400 George St  
BRISBANE 4000
- Department of Environment and Resource Management Mackay Office  
1st Floor, 30 Tennyson Street  
Mackay QLD 4740
- Whitsunday Regional Council Library  
Cnr Stanley & Conway Streets  
COLLINSVILLE QLD 4808
- QCoal Pty Ltd  
Level 15, 40 Creek Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

This public notice, the draft terms of reference and an initial advice statement describing the project are also available on the DERM website [www.derm.qld.gov.au](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au) or copies can be obtained from the Project Manager of QCoal on 07 3002 2900.

##### **Written submissions**

DERM's chief executive invites written comments from any person in relation to the draft TOR, within the comment **period starting on Monday 30 August and closing on Friday 8 October 2010**. Please address written comments to:

The Chief Executive  
Department of Environment and Resource Management  
Attention: The EIS Co-ordinator (Drake Coal Project)  
GPO Box 2454  
Brisbane QLD 4001

Please note that any properly made submissions are likely to be accessible under the provisions of the *Right to Information Act 2009*.

When the draft EIS is complete, public submissions will be invited. For further information about the EIS process for the Drake Coal Project, contact the EIS Co-ordinator on 13 74 68.