

PROPOSED DRAKE COAL PROJECT



QCoal is a privately owned Queensland company based in Brisbane and has been active in the Queensland coal exploration and mining industry for over 20 years. QCoal is proposing to develop the Drake Coal Project which involves the development of a greenfield open cut coal mine located approximately 17 kilometres south of Collinsville. The proposed mine will produce up to 6 million tonnes per annum of product coal and will have a mine life of 30 years, inclusive of construction, operation and closure.



HOUSING AND ACCOMMODATION

Enterprise Whitsundays has established the Whitsunday Housing Initiative in order to address the issue of providing accommodation options for the forecast mining and industrial growth in the Whitsunday region.

The initiative is being coordinated by TBH (Tracey Brunstrom & Hammond, Project and Strategic Management Services) on behalf of Enterprise Whitsundays and participants include Whitsunday Regional Council, proponents of major mining projects, North Queensland Bulk Ports and Government departments.

The aim of the initiative is to understand and quantify the short, medium and long term requirements for accommodation and housing in the Whitsunday region. Through this understanding, benefits that can be delivered to the region from major projects can be optimised and viable housing and accommodation options can be delivered to staff working on these projects. The initiative is looking at a range of lifestyle and community developments that will assist with the attraction and retention of people to the region.



QCoal is participating in the initiative as it seeks to provide a range of accommodation options and a supportive community for its staff in the Whitsunday Region.

DRAKE COAL PROJECT SIGNS USER AGREEMENT WITH ABBOT POINT COAL TERMINAL X50

Coal from the proposed Drake Mine will be transported to the newly expanded Abbot Point X50 coal terminal (APCTX50) through new rail capacity available as part of Queensland Rail's GAP50 project. Both the port and rail expansion projects are anticipated to be completed by January 2012.

The physical port infrastructure is expected to be completed by mid 2011 which will provide export capacity of up to 50 million tonnes of coal per annum. New control and management systems to support the infrastructure will be fully operational by January 2012 when the GAP50 rail works will be completed. Major construction at the port is now winding down as the expansion nears completion.



Details of the APCT X50 terminal expansion and the GAP50 project are available at www.nqbp.com.au and <http://coalrail.qrnetwork.com.au/COALRAIL-Projects/Newlands-System/Goonyella-to-Abbot-Point-Expansion.aspx>



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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

HOW DOES THE PROCESS WORK?

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process ensures that potential environmental impacts, positive and negative, are accounted for in the planning of the project. The EIA is required under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (EP Act) and the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and is being coordinated and managed by the Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM).

The EIA process results in a report referred to as an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS presents the potential impacts and proposes management strategies to mitigate project impacts. The EIS is assessed by DERM.

WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE DRAKE COAL EIS?

The Terms of Reference for the Drake Coal Project have now been finalised and QCoal is currently preparing the Drake Project draft EIS for submission to DERM.

The Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Drake Coal Project were finalised in December 2010 following submissions from the community and government departments. Written submissions regarding the draft ToR were considered by DERM and QCoal. QCoal would like to thank all community members who participated in the ToR process and provided submissions. Community input and feedback are key factors to achieving a successful EIA Process.

The ToR defines the scope for the investigations and reporting required in the Drake Coal Project EIS. QCoal is currently preparing the draft EIS for submission to DERM. The completed draft EIS will be available online on the Drake webpage on the QCoal website and copies will be made available at public places.

Members of the wider community will have an opportunity to formally review and comment on the Drake Coal Project EIS. DERM will consider all properly made submissions before it provides QCoal with an Assessment Report.

The EIS for the Drake Coal Project is expected to be issued for public review and comment in June 2011.

Under the bilateral agreement between the Commonwealth and Queensland, the Drake Coal Project will be assessed under the *EP Act* and referred to SEWPaC (Commonwealth Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities) for assessment and approval.

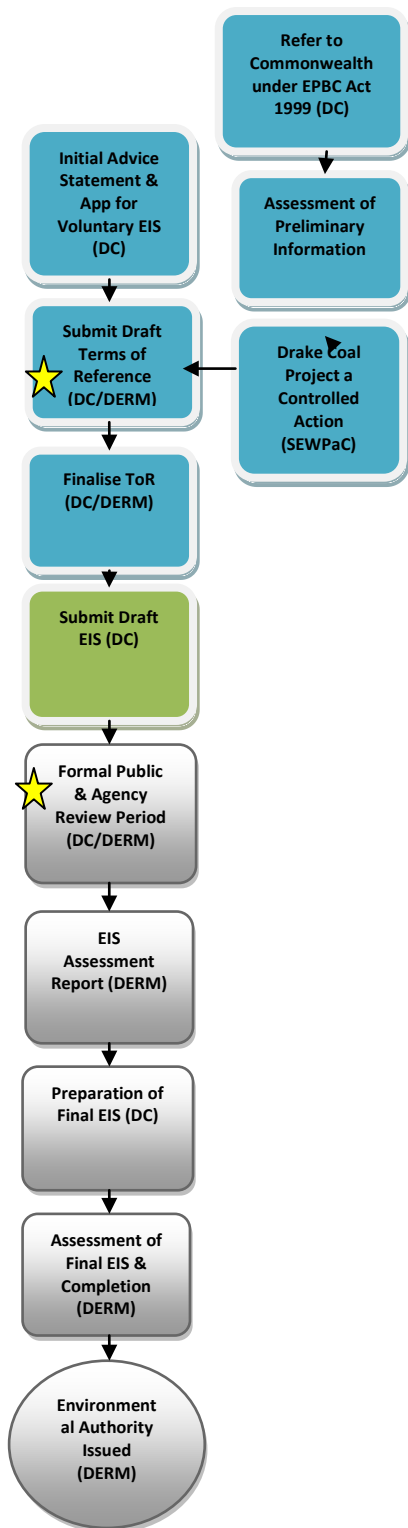
WILL I BE NOTIFIED WHEN DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW?




Yes. QCoal will place advertisements in local publications to alert the public to any documents available for review.


You can also keep up to date via the Drake webpage http://www.qcoal.com.au/page/drake_coal_project.html

WHO CAN I CONTACT?

QCoal on (07) 3002 2900 or via email, drake@qcoal.com.au for queries relating to the Drake Coal Project.



-  Step Completed
-  Active Step
-  Step to be Completed

 – Opportunities for community input

DC – Drake Coal

DERM – Dept of Environment & Resource Management