

PROPOSED BYERWEN COAL PROJECT



Byerwen Coal Pty Ltd is proposing to develop the Byerwen Coal Project which involves the development of an integrated open cut and underground coal mine located to the west of the existing Newlands Mine operated by Xstrata Coal (Qld). The site is approximately 20km west of the township of Glenden and approximately 140km west of Mackay in Queensland's Bowen Basin.

THE PROPONENT

The Proponent for the Byerwen Coal Project is Byerwen Coal Pty Ltd (Byerwen Coal) which is a joint venture between QCoal Pty Ltd and JFE Steel (20%). The JFE Group is Queensland's largest coal export customer. JFE Steel and associated companies already have direct equity investments in several Queensland coal mines. 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.



THE PROPOSED MINE

The proposed Byerwen mine will produce up to 10 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) product coal for the export market. The mine life is expected to be up to 50 years, inclusive of construction, operation and closure.

Open cut mining will initially be by a combination of large excavator, truck and dozer equipment. Coal resources at depth have been identified and will be extracted by underground mining (longwall) as part of the Project.

Subject to various statutory and internal approvals, construction is intended to commence in 2012, with the Project expected to be commissioned and producing coal during 2013.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

Infrastructure requirements for the Project include a new rail loop, power transmission lines, water pipelines and bridges to cross existing, and proposed, roads and railway lines. Product coal will be transferred to a train loading facility located adjacent to the existing Newlands-Abbot Point railway line. Coal will be railed to Abbot Point for export to JFE Steel and other international customers.



The proposed Project will have a construction workforce of approximately 350-500 people and an operational workforce of up to 1000 people over the life of the Project. Accommodation for construction and operations personnel is envisaged to be in surrounding local townships including Glenden and Collinsville. Studies into the accommodation requirements of the Project are ongoing and will form part of the current Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process.

PROPOSED BYERWEN COAL PROJECT DECLARED A SIGNIFICANT PROJECT PURSUANT TO THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS ORGANISATION ACT 1971 (SDPWO)

On 1 March 2011, the Coordinator-General Keith Davies declared the Byerwen Coal Project a Significant Project requiring preparation of an EIS. "This declaration is recognition of the significant complexity of the proposed project," Mr Davies said. "It marks the start of a rigorous and thorough assessment of the proposed project, which will consider the project's environmental, economic and social impacts".

Treasurer and Minister for State Development and Trade, The Honourable Andrew Fraser, welcomed the Coordinator-General's decision to declare the proposed Byerwen Coal Project a 'significant project': "if approved, this will be a substantial investment for Queensland and will ensure the longer-term future of townships in the area that rely on mining for their survival".

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) investigates the potential environmental, social and economic impacts that may be associated with a proposed project and outlines ways of managing these impacts. A range of detailed environmental studies will be required to assess the impact of the Project on land, water, flora & fauna, noise, air quality, socio-economic and cultural heritage environments. Byerwen Coal recognises that a Project of this magnitude and complexity requires an EIS and has commenced detailed studies to collect the required site data to inform the EIS.

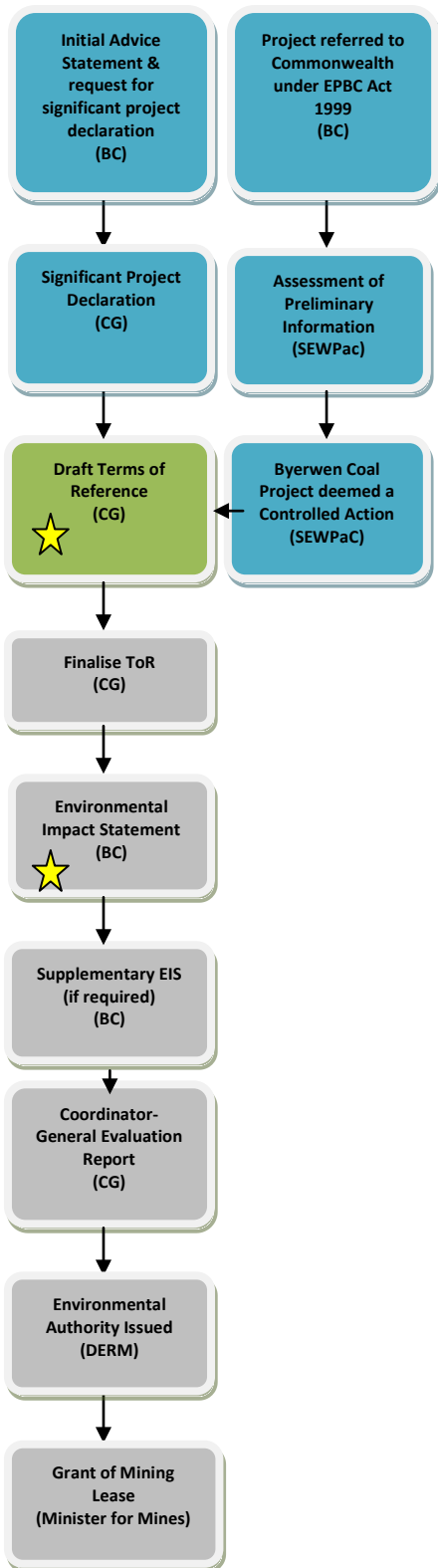


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HOW DOES THE EIS PROCESS WORK?

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process ensures that potential environmental impacts, positive and negative, are accounted for in the planning of the project. The EIS is being undertaken pursuant to requirements of the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act (1971)* and the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and is being coordinated by the Queensland Coordinator-General.

The EIS identifies the potential impacts of the project and proposes management strategies to mitigate identified impacts. Community members are encouraged to review and comment on the Project at several stages of the EIS process. Further information on the role of the Coordinator General and the EIS process is available at: <http://www.dlqp.qld.gov.au/byerwencoal>

On the 13 January 2011 the Commonwealth Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (SEWPac) determined the Byerwen Coal Project as a controlled action which requires assessment and approval under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act*.

WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE BYERWEN COAL PROJECT?

The draft Terms of Reference for the project, which is the first stage in the preparation of the EIS, is now available for public comment.

Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference (ToR) is a document which sets out the scope of technical and specialist studies required to be undertaken for an EIS. Draft ToR are developed by the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI), which manages the EIS process on behalf of the Coordinator-General.

The draft ToR is available online on the Byerwen webpage of the QCoal website at www.qcoal.com.au/page/byerwen_coal_project.html and www.dlqp.qld.gov.au/byerwencoal

Community members interested in the Project have an opportunity to formally review and comment on the Byerwen Coal Project draft ToR. The Coordinator-General will consider all properly made submissions and other information before providing Byerwen Coal with the final ToR for the Project.

The draft ToR for the Byerwen Coal Project is available for public review and comment from 9 April 2011.

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

Yes. Advertisements will be placed in local publications to alert community members to any documents available for review.

You can also keep up to date via the Byerwen webpage:

www.qcoal.com.au/page/byerwen_coal_project.html

WHO CAN I CONTACT?

Please contact Byerwen Coal on (07) 3002 2900 or via email byerwen@qcoal.com.au for queries relating to the Byerwen Coal Project.

- Step completed
- Current step
- Step to be completed

Opportunities for community input

- BC – Byerwen Coal
- CG – Coordinator General
- SEWPac - Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities
- DERM – Department of Environment & Resource Management