

# Compliance report

**Drake Coal Mine, Collinsville, Queensland**  
**EPBC 2010/5457**  
**8 November 2021 to 7 November 2022**



**Document version control**

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Author	Version	Date
Drake Environmental	1.0	02/02/2023

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# 1 Introduction

The Drake Coal Mine (DCM) is an open cut coal mine located in the northern Bowen Basin, approximately 17 km south of the town of Collinsville, and is operated by Drake Mine Management Pty Ltd (DMM). EPBC Approval 2010/5457 (the Approval), under section 130(1) and 133 of the *Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, was granted to Drake Coal Pty Ltd (Drake Coal) on 22 April 2014, and a variation to the approval was granted on 22 October 2014. On 16 August 2016, the Approval was transferred from Drake Coal to DMM.

Construction at the Drake Coal Project, now referred to as the DCM, commenced on 7 November 2014. The Approval is subject to 23 conditions and remains in effect until 31 December 2044.

This compliance report has been drafted to comply with Condition 17 of the Approval and has been prepared for the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE), who administers approvals under the EPBC Act. The *Annual Compliance Report Guidelines* (DotE, 2014) were referenced during this reporting.

The approved action is as follows:

**Approved action:**

*To develop and operate an open-cut coal mine, and associated infrastructure, located approximately 17 km south of Collinsville, in north Queensland*

The EPBC approval decision encompasses the following controlling provisions:

<b>Controlling Provision</b>	<b>Decision</b>
<i>Listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 &amp; 18A)</i>	<i>Approve</i>
<i>A water resource, in relation to coal seam gas development and large coal mining development (sections 24D &amp; 24E)</i>	<i>Approve</i>

## 1.1 Drake Mine Management corporate details

DMM is a subsidiary of QCoal Pty Ltd (QCoal). QCoal is a privately-owned Queensland company, based in Brisbane, which has been active in the Queensland coal exploration and mining industry since 1989.

Street address: Drake Mine Management Pty Ltd  
Level 15, 40 Creek Street  
Brisbane QLD 4000

Postal address: Drake Mine Management Pty Ltd  
PO Box 10630  
Brisbane QLD 4000

Contact number: (07) 3002 2900

## 1.2 Description of activities

The DCM is an open cut mining operation located in the northern Bowen Basin, approximately 17 km south of the town of Collinsville. The DCM is accessed via the State-controlled Bowen Developmental Road. The abutting rail line, the Newlands line system, connects to the Port of Abbot Point where all coal products are shipped to international customers (see **Figure 1**).

The DCM is permitted to extract up to 10 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) of run-of-mine (ROM) coal to produce approximately 6 Mtpa of combined coking and thermal coal products for the export market. DCM operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The resource target is the Moranbah Coal Measures, which are part of the Blackwater Group. The Moranbah Coal Measures are characterised by seven persistent coal seams. At the DCM, the Moranbah Coal Measures sub-crop in a north to north-east direction and dip at low angles to the east and south-east. All coal seams are potentially economic.



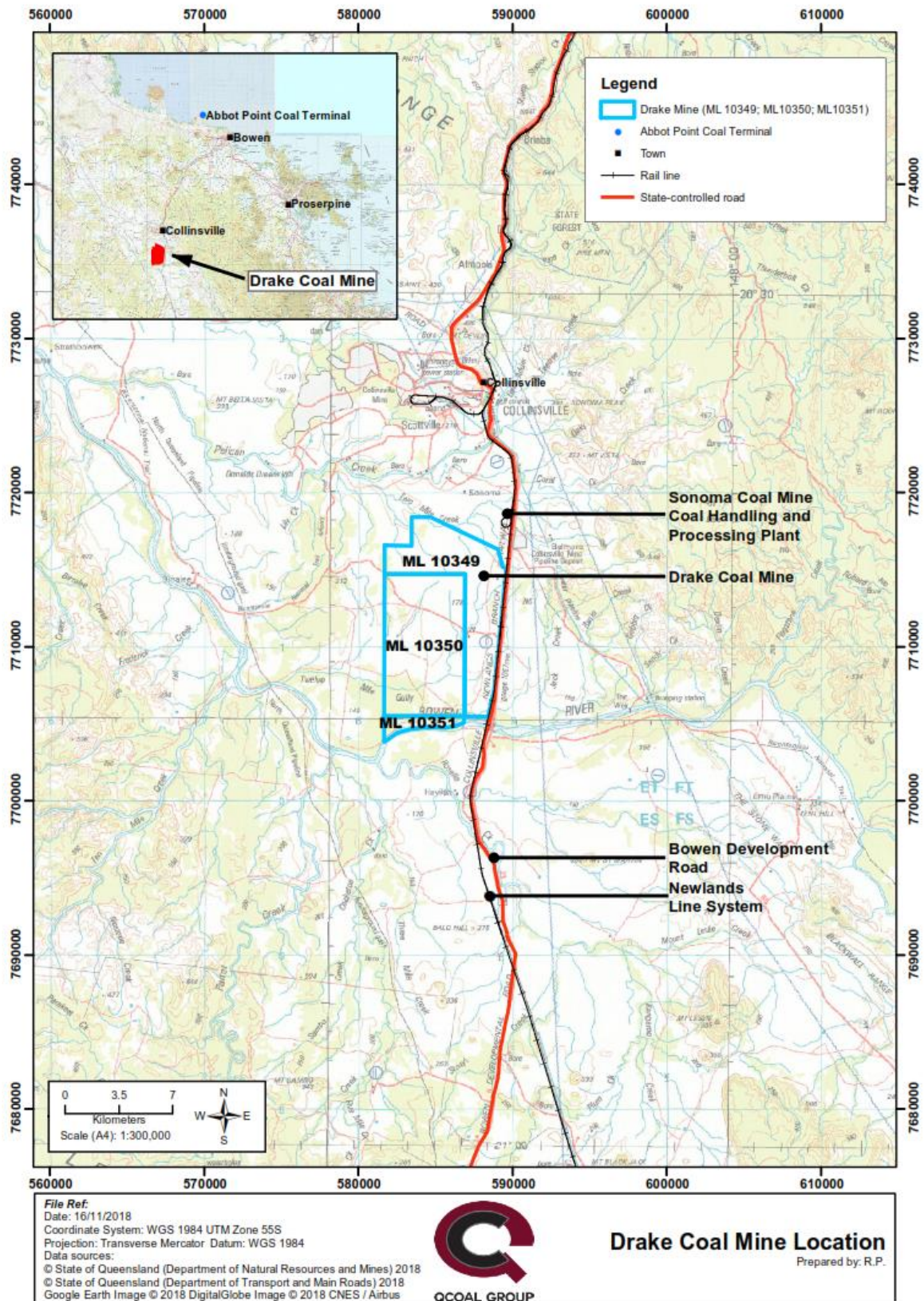


Figure 1 – Drake Coal Mine location

## 1.3 Declaration of accuracy

As recommended in section 3.1 of the *Annual Compliance Report Guidelines* (DotE 2014), the following declaration of accuracy is provided by the approval holder.

In making this declaration, I am aware that sections 490 and 491 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act) make it an offence in certain circumstances to knowingly provide false or misleading information or documents. The offence is punishable on conviction by imprisonment or a fine, or both. I declare that all the information and documentation supporting this compliance report is true and correct in every particular. I am authorised to bind the approval holder to this declaration and that I have no knowledge of that authorisation being revoked at the time of making this declaration.

Signed:



Full name: Christopher Ian Wallin

Position: Director

Organisation: Drake Mine Management Pty Ltd ACN 612 261 453

Date:

31 January 2023



## 2 EPBC approval conditions compliance table

The conditions attached to the approval granted on 22 April 2014 are presented in **Table 1**, along with a statement of compliance for each. The variation to the approval conditions dated 22 October 2014, specifically Condition 14, is reflected in **Table 1**. A copy of the approval and variation to the approval conditions have been provided in **Appendices A** and **B** respectively. A copy of the transfer of approval to DMM is provided in **Appendix C**.

Table 1 – EPBC approval conditions compliance table

Condition Number	Condition	Compliance Status	Evidence/comments
1	The <b>project area</b> is the area designated at <u>Attachment A</u> covering three Mining Lease Applications (MLA) 10349, 10350 and 10351.	Compliant	Project works have been undertaken exclusively within the project area as shown in Attachment A of the approval.  Please note: Mining Lease Applications (MLA) 10349, 10350 and 10351 were granted on 11 February 2014 resulting in these tenements becoming granted Mining Leases (MLs).
2	For the purpose of the action, the <b>approval holder</b> must not clear outside <b>the project area</b> .	Compliant	Disturbance has not occurred outside of the project area.
3	The <b>approval holder</b> must not clear more than: a) 176.5 hectares of <b>primary habitat</b> for the <b>Squatter Pigeon (southern)</b> b) 8.9 hectares of <b>Brigalow (<i>Acacia harpophylla</i> dominant and co-dominant)</b> c) 2.3 hectares of <b>Natural Grasslands of the Queensland Central Highlands and the northern Fitzroy Basin</b> .	Compliant	No clearing of Squatter Pigeon (southern), Brigalow ( <i>Acacia harpophylla</i> ) habitat, or Natural Grasslands of the Queensland Central Highlands and the northern Fitzroy Basin has occurred to date.
4	If the disturbance limits stated in Condition 3 of this approval are predicted to be exceeded, the <b>approval holder</b> must contact the <b>Department</b> in writing 20 <b>business days</b> before reaching the disturbance limit and provide for the <b>Minister's</b> approval: a) the actual and predicted amount of disturbance in hectares for each <b>EPBC Act listed species and community</b> b) justification why the approved disturbance limits require increasing, alternatives, and proposed actions to avoid, mitigate and manage impacts c) an assessment of the impact and residual impact to the <b>EPBC Act listed species or community</b> in	Compliant	The disturbance limits provided in Condition 3 have not been predicted to be exceeded.

	<p>accordance with the <b>EPBC Act Significant Impact Guidelines</b></p> <p>d) a proposal to offset additional impacts to <b>EPBC Act listed species and communities</b> in accordance with the <b>EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy</b>.</p>		
5	<p>The <b>approval holder</b> must submit a Biodiversity Offset Management Plan (BOMP) to the <b>Department</b> for the <b>Minister's</b> approval, outlining how offsets to address the residual impacts to the <b>Squatter Pigeon (southern)</b>, <b>Brigalow (<i>Acacia harpophylla</i> dominant and co-dominant)</b> and <b>Ornamental Snake</b> will be managed. The approved BOMP must be implemented.</p>	Compliant	<p>No impact to EPBC-listed species is planned for Stage 1 of the DCM operation. By agreement with the department, an Offset Delivery Plan stating nil impacts to EPBC listed species or MNES, was submitted to the Department on 18 July 2018 with a commitment to submitting a revised BOMP for approval prior to any impact on these species.</p>
6	<p>The BOMP must be submitted for approval within twelve months after the <b>commencement of construction</b>. Clearing of <b>EPBC Act listed species and communities</b> must not occur until the BOMP is approved by the <b>Minister</b> in writing.</p>	Compliant	<p>Construction commenced on 7 November 2014. On 6 November 2015, Drake Coal submitted a BOMP to the Department for approval via email and post. No clearing of EPBC Act listed species or communities has occurred to date.</p>
7	<p>The BOMP must include, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) maps of the offset area's inclusive of the distribution and extent (in hectares) of the <b>EPBC Act listed species and communities</b> to be offset in electronic Geographic Information System format</li> <li>b) evidence that the offsets have been calculated and comply with the requirements of the <b>EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy</b></li> <li>c) details of how the offset area/s have been or will be legally secured to provide long-term protection</li> <li>d) detailed on-ground surveys, complying with relevant <b>survey guidelines</b>, and description of the baseline condition, attributes and values of the offset area's with respect to <b>EPBC Act listed species and communities</b></li> </ul>	Not applicable at this stage	<p>The submitted BOMP included the details described in Condition 7. Any future BOMP submitted for approval is to address the requirements of this condition.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>e) management measures (including timing, frequency and longevity) for each of the <b>EPBC Act listed species and communities</b> and other vegetation within the offset areas with written evidence of input from a <b>suitably qualified expert</b> who has relevant expertise in the management of native vegetation of the Bowen Basin</li> <li>f) details of how the management measures align with the relevant Conservation Advice, Recovery Plans and Threat Abatement Plans for the <b>EPBC Act listed species and communities</b> to be offset</li> <li>g) discussion of connectivity of the offset area's with other habitats and biodiversity corridors</li> <li>h) a description of the risks to the successful implementation of the BOMP, including mitigation measures and residual risk ratings</li> <li>i) a monitoring program for the offset area/s which must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. clearly set out performance indicators and milestones</li> <li>ii. detail how the success of the management measures against the performance indicators and milestones will be measured, recorded and reported</li> <li>iii. include monitoring scope and parameters, timing, frequency, triggers and corrective actions</li> <li>iv. detail how adaptive management strategies will be incorporated</li> <li>v. outline how compliance will be reported detail who will be undertaking monitoring, reporting, review, and implementation of the BOMP (if this person is not the <b>approval holder</b>).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
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8	The BOMP must be updated, within a timeframe specified by the <b>Minister</b> , to include any changes to the offsets approved by the <b>Minister</b> . Updates must be consistent with the requirements in Condition 7.	Not applicable at this stage	The DCM does not currently have an approved or implemented BOMP.
9	The <b>approval holder</b> must, within two years of the <b>commencement of construction</b> (or as required under relevant Queensland legislation), register a legally binding conservation mechanism to provide long-term protection to the offset area/s approved by the <b>Minister</b> in the BOMP.	Not applicable at this stage	As required under Queensland legislation, a legally binding conservation mechanism is required to be in place within twelve months of impacting applicable biodiversity values (e.g. MNES or EPBC listed species). No impacts to applicable biodiversity values have occurred to date.
10	The <b>approval holder</b> must submit a Groundwater Monitoring and Management Plan (GMMP) to the <b>Department</b> for the <b>Minister's</b> approval. The approved GMMP must be implemented.	Compliant	A GMMP was submitted to the Department on 27 October 2014 and was subsequently approved by the Minister on 29 October 2014. The approved GMMP has been implemented.
11	The GMMP must be approved by the <b>Minister</b> in writing prior to the commencement of dewatering activities in the mining pits depicted in Figure 3 of the <b>Environmental Management Plan</b> .	Compliant	The GMMP was approved in writing by the Minister on 29 October 2014. Dewatering activities commenced after 7 November 2014.
12	The GMMP must include, but is not limited to: a) the groundwater quality and level triggers as described in Schedule E of the <b>Queensland Environmental Authority</b> b) a detailed description of the actions, including timeframes, the <b>approval holder</b> will take if groundwater quality and or level triggers (referred to in Condition 12a of this approval) are exceeded or predicted to be exceeded c) a strategy to conduct a landholder bore survey to determine water supply bores and water users in the vicinity of the project that may be impacted by mining activities and the potential to incorporate	Compliant	The approved GMMP satisfies Condition 12.



	<p>those bores into the groundwater monitoring program</p> <p>d) details of how the existing groundwater monitoring program will be expanded to better determine surface water-groundwater interaction, including monitoring locations, parameters to be measured, monitoring frequency and reporting requirements</p> <p>e) a numerical groundwater model to simulate and quantify groundwater drawdown extent and flow impacts on the Bowen River, and validate the assumptions and potential risks and impacts of the project on groundwater resources identified in the Environmental Impact Statement documents. The model must be developed with reference to the National Water Commission Groundwater Modelling Guidelines and must include a monitoring strategy to validate the model</p> <p>f) the methods, frequency and timeframes in which the GMMP and numerical groundwater model will be reviewed.</p>		
13	<p>The <b>Minister</b> may by written request, require the GMMP be reviewed by a <b>suitably qualified expert</b>. Following any review, the GMMP must be revised and updated accordingly and submitted to the Minister for approval.</p>	Not applicable at this stage	DMM has not received any requests from the Minister for the GMMP to be reviewed.
14	<p><b>Groundwater Quality and Levels</b></p> <p>a) If the groundwater quality and or level triggers referred to in Condition 12a of this approval are exceeded and an investigation is completed in accordance with Schedule E of the <b>Environmental Authority</b>, the <b>approval holder</b> must notify the <b>Department</b> within 3 months of becoming aware of the exceedance.</p>	Compliant	No notification requirements have been triggered during the reporting period.

	b) If requested, the <b>approval holder</b> must provide copies of any exceedance investigation documents to the <b>Department</b> , in a timeframe agreed in writing by the <b>Department</b> , which state the cause, response, and actions undertaken to prevent further occurrences.		
15	Within 20 <b>business days</b> after the <b>commencement of construction</b> , the <b>approval holder</b> must advise the <b>Department</b> in writing of the actual date of the <b>commencement of construction</b> .	Compliant	Construction commenced on 7 November 2014. The Department was notified via email on 25 November 2014, 13 business days later.
16	The <b>approval holder</b> must maintain accurate records substantiating all activities associated with or relevant to the conditions of approval, including measures taken to implement management plans, strategies, reports required by this approval, and make them available upon request to the <b>Department</b> . Such records may be subject to audit by the <b>Department</b> or an independent auditor in accordance with section 458 of the EPBC Act, or used to verify compliance with the conditions of approval. Summaries of audits will be posted on the <b>Department's</b> website. The results of audits may also be publicised through the general media.	Compliant	Records of all activities associated with, or relevant to, the conditions of approval, including measures taken to implement management plans, strategies, and reports required by the approval are held by DMM.
17	Within 60 <b>business days</b> of every 12 month anniversary of the <b>commencement of construction</b> , the <b>approval holder</b> must publish a report on their website addressing compliance with each of the conditions of this approval, including implementation of any management plans, strategies, reports as specified in the conditions. Documentary evidence providing proof of the date of publication and non-compliance with any of the conditions of this approval must be provided to the <b>Department</b> at the same time as the compliance report is published. The compliance reports	Compliant	<p>Publication and submission of this compliance report will be undertaken on or before 2 February 2023 (60 business days from 7 November 2022).</p> <p>All previous compliance reports have complied with this condition.</p>

	must remain on the website for the period the approval has effect.		
18	Potential or actual contraventions of the conditions of approval must be reported to the <b>Department</b> in writing within two <b>business days</b> of the <b>approval holder</b> becoming aware of the actual or potential contravention unless otherwise stated. All contraventions must be included in the compliance reports.	Compliant	No contraventions of the conditions of approval, potential or actual, have occurred to date at the DCM.
19	Upon the direction of the <b>Minister</b> , the <b>approval holder</b> must ensure that an independent audit of compliance with the conditions of approval is conducted and a report submitted to the <b>Minister</b> . The independent auditor must be approved by the Minister prior to the commencement of the audit. Audit criteria must be agreed to by the Minister and the audit report must address the criteria to the satisfaction of the Minister.	Not applicable at this stage	The Minister has not required an independent audit of compliance with these conditions of approval to date.
20	If the <b>approval holder</b> wishes to carry out any activity otherwise than in accordance with the management plans, strategies, reports as specified in the conditions, the <b>approval holder</b> must submit to the <b>Department</b> for the <b>Minister's</b> approval a revised version of that management plan, strategy, report. The varied activity shall not commence until the <b>Minister</b> has approved the varied management plan, strategy, report in writing. If the <b>Minister</b> approves the revised management plan, strategy, report, that management plan, strategy, report must be implemented in place of the management plan, strategy, report originally approved.	Not applicable at this stage	DMM has carried out activities in accordance with the management plans, strategies and reports specified in the conditions; therefore, no request for approval of a varied activity has been submitted to the Minister.
21	If the <b>Minister</b> believes that it is necessary or convenient for the better protection of <b>EPBC Act listed species and communities</b> or a water resource to do	Not applicable at this stage	The Minister has not requested revisions to the management plans, strategies, or reports specified in the conditions.

	so, the <b>Minister</b> may request that the <b>approval holder</b> make specified revisions to the management plans, strategies, reports specified in the conditions and submit the revised management plans, strategies, reports for the <b>Minister's</b> written approval. The <b>approval holder</b> must comply with any such request. The revised approved management plans, strategies, reports must be implemented. Unless the <b>Minister</b> has approved the revised management plans, strategies, reports, then the <b>approval holder</b> must continue to implement the management plans, strategies, reports originally approved, as specified in the conditions.		
22	If, at any time after five years from the date of this approval, the <b>approval holder</b> has not <b>substantially commenced</b> the action, then the approval holder must not substantially commence the action without the written agreement of the <b>Minister</b> .	Not applicable	The approval is dated 22 April 2014 and the action commenced on 7 November 2014.
23	Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the <b>Minister</b> , the <b>approval holder</b> must publish all management plans, strategies, reports referred to in these conditions of approval on their website. Each management plan, strategy, report must be published on the website within 20 <b>business days</b> of being approved. The <b>approval holder</b> must notify the <b>Department</b> with five <b>business days</b> of publishing the management plan, strategy, report on their website and the management plan, strategy, report must remain on the website for the period the approval has effect.	Compliant	<p>The approved <i>Groundwater Monitoring and Management Plan – Drake Coal Project</i> is currently published on the QCoal website: <a href="http://qcoal.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/20141024-Drake-GMMP.pdf">http://qcoal.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/20141024-Drake-GMMP.pdf</a>. This document was approved on 29 October 2014 and published on the above-mentioned website on 27 November 2014 (20 business days after approval). Drake Coal notified the Department of the document being published on the website by letter and email on 27 November 2014.</p> <p>The compliance report for the period 8 November 2020 to 7 November 2021 is to be submitted to DAWE and published on the QCoal website prior to 2 February 2023.</p> <p>There are no other approved management plans, strategies or reports for the DCM.</p>

# Appendix A Approval, 22 April 2014



**Australian Government**  
**Department of the Environment**

## Approval

### Drake Coal Project, Collinsville, Queensland (EPBC 2010/5457)

This decision is made under sections 130(1) and 133 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

#### Proposed action

**person to whom the approval is granted** Drake Coal Pty Ltd

**proponent's ACN (if applicable)** 138 221 600

**proposed action** To develop and operate an open-cut coal mine, and associated infrastructure, located approximately 17 km south of Collinsville, in north Queensland [see EPBC Act referral 2010/5457].

#### Approval decision

Controlling Provision	Decision
Listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 & 18A)	Approve
A water resource, in relation to coal seam gas development and large coal mining development (sections 24D & 24E)	Approve

#### Proposed conditions of approval

This approval is subject to the conditions specified below.

#### expiry date of approval

This approval has effect until 31 December 2044.

#### Decision-maker

**name and position** Deb Callister  
Assistant Secretary  
Queensland and Sea Dumping Assessment Branch

**signature**



**date of decision**

22 April 2014



#### Conditions attached to the approval

- 1) The **project area** is the area designated at Attachment A covering three Mining Lease Applications (MLA) 10349, 10350 and 10351.
- 2) For the purpose of the action, the **approval holder** must not clear outside the **project area**.

#### Disturbance limits

- 3) The **approval holder** must not clear more than:
  - a) 176.5 hectares of **primary habitat** for the **Squatter Pigeon (southern)**
  - b) 8.9 hectares of **Brigalow (*Acacia harpophylla* dominant and co-dominant)**
  - c) 2.3 hectares of **Natural Grasslands of the Queensland Central Highlands and the northern Fitzroy Basin**.
- 4) If the disturbance limits stated in Condition 3 of this approval are predicted to be exceeded, the **approval holder** must contact the **Department** in writing 20 **business days** before reaching the disturbance limit and provide for the **Minister's** approval:
  - a) the actual and predicted amount of disturbance in hectares for each **EPBC Act listed species and community**
  - b) justification why the approved disturbance limits require increasing, alternatives, and proposed actions to avoid, mitigate and manage impacts
  - c) an assessment of the impact and residual impact to the **EPBC Act listed species or community** in accordance with the **EPBC Act Significant Impact Guidelines**
  - d) a proposal to offset additional impacts to **EPBC Act listed species and communities** in accordance with the **EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy**.

#### Biodiversity Offset Management Plan

- 5) The **approval holder** must submit a Biodiversity Offset Management Plan (BOMP) to the **Department** for the **Minister's** approval, outlining how offsets to address the residual impacts to the **Squatter Pigeon (southern)**, **Brigalow (*Acacia harpophylla* dominant and co-dominant)** and **Ornamental Snake** will be managed. The approved BOMP must be implemented.
- 6) The BOMP must be submitted for approval within twelve months after the **commencement of construction**. Clearing of **EPBC Act listed species and communities** must not occur until the BOMP is approved by the **Minister** in writing.
- 7) The BOMP must include, but is not limited to:
  - a) maps of the offset area/s inclusive of the distribution and extent (in hectares) of the **EPBC Act listed species and communities** to be offset in electronic Geographic Information System format
  - b) evidence that the offsets have been calculated and comply with the requirements of the **EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy**
  - c) details of how the offset area/s have been or will be legally secured to provide long-term protection
  - d) detailed on-ground surveys, complying with relevant **survey guidelines**, and description of the baseline condition, attributes and values of the offset area/s with respect to **EPBC Act listed species and communities**
  - e) management measures (including timing, frequency and longevity) for each of the **EPBC Act listed species and communities** and other vegetation within the offset area/s with written evidence of input from a **suitably qualified expert** who has relevant expertise in the management of native vegetation of the Bowen Basin
  - f) details of how the management measures align with the relevant Conservation Advice, Recovery Plans and Threat Abatement Plans for the **EPBC Act listed species and communities** to be offset
  - g) discussion of connectivity of the offset area/s with other habitats and biodiversity corridors

- h) a description of the risks to the successful implementation of the BOMP, including mitigation measures and residual risk ratings
- i) a monitoring program for the offset area/s which must:
  - i) clearly set out performance indicators and milestones
  - ii) detail how the success of the management measures against the performance indicators and milestones will be measured, recorded and reported
  - iii) include monitoring scope and parameters, timing, frequency, triggers and corrective actions
  - iv) detail how adaptive management strategies will be incorporated
  - v) outline how compliance will be reported
  - vi) detail who will be undertaking monitoring, reporting, review, and implementation of the BOMP (if this person is not the **approval holder**).
- 8) The BOMP must be updated, within a timeframe specified by the **Minister**, to include any changes to the offsets approved by the **Minister**. Updates must be consistent with the requirements in Condition 7.
- 9) The **approval holder** must, within two years of the **commencement of construction** (or as required under relevant Queensland legislation), register a legally binding conservation mechanism to provide long-term protection to the offset area/s approved by the **Minister** in the BOMP.

Note 1: To ensure efficiency the **approval holder** may prepare and align the BOMP required under the conditions of approval with the requirements of the Biodiversity Offset Strategy required under the **Queensland Environmental Authority**, as long as the relevant matters under the conditions of this approval are clearly and adequately addressed.

#### **Groundwater Monitoring and Management Plan**

- 10) The **approval holder** must submit a Groundwater Monitoring and Management Plan (GMMP) to the **Department** for the **Minister's** approval. The approved GMMP must be implemented.
- 11) The GMMP must be approved by the **Minister** in writing prior to the commencement of dewatering activities in the mining pits depicted in Figure 3 of the **Environmental Management Plan**.
- 12) The GMMP must include, but is not limited to:
  - a) the groundwater quality and level triggers as described in Schedule E of the **Queensland Environmental Authority**
  - b) a detailed description of the actions, including timeframes, the **approval holder** will take if groundwater quality and or level triggers (referred to in Condition 12a of this approval) are exceeded or predicted to be exceeded
  - c) a strategy to conduct a landholder bore survey to determine water supply bores and water users in the vicinity of the project that may be impacted by mining activities and the potential to incorporate those bores into the groundwater monitoring program
  - d) details of how the existing groundwater monitoring program will be expanded to better determine surface water-groundwater interaction, including monitoring locations, parameters to be measured, monitoring frequency and reporting requirements
  - e) a numerical groundwater model to simulate and quantify groundwater drawdown extent and flow impacts on the Bowen River, and validate the assumptions and potential risks and impacts of the project on groundwater resources identified in the Environmental Impact Statement documents. The model must be developed with reference to the National Water Commission Groundwater Modelling Guidelines and must include a monitoring strategy to validate the model
  - f) the methods, frequency and timeframes in which the GMMP and numerical groundwater model will be reviewed.
- 13) The **Minister** may by written request, require the GMMP be reviewed by a **suitably qualified expert**. Following any review, the GMMP must be revised and updated



accordingly and submitted to the **Minister** for approval.

Note 2: To ensure efficiency the **approval holder** may prepare and align the GMMP required under the conditions of approval with the requirements of the groundwater monitoring program required under the **Queensland Environmental Authority**, as long as the relevant matters under the conditions of this approval are clearly and adequately addressed.

#### **Groundwater quality and levels**

- 14) The **approval holder** must notify the **Department** in writing within 10 **business days** if the groundwater quality and or level triggers referred to in Condition 12a of this approval are exceeded, and if requested, provide copies of any exceedance investigation documents to the **Department**, in a timeframe agreed in writing by the **Department**, which state the cause, response, and actions undertaken to prevent further occurrences.

#### **General**

- 15) Within 20 **business days** after the **commencement of construction**, the **approval holder** must advise the **Department** in writing of the actual date of the **commencement of construction**.
- 16) The **approval holder** must maintain accurate records substantiating all activities associated with or relevant to the conditions of approval, including measures taken to implement management plans, strategies, reports required by this approval, and make them available upon request to the **Department**. Such records may be subject to audit by the **Department** or an independent auditor in accordance with section 458 of the EPBC Act, or used to verify compliance with the conditions of approval. Summaries of audits will be posted on the **Department's** website. The results of audits may also be publicised through the general media.
- 17) Within 60 **business days** of every 12 month anniversary of the **commencement of construction**, the **approval holder** must publish a report on their website addressing compliance with each of the conditions of this approval, including implementation of any management plans, strategies, reports as specified in the conditions. Documentary evidence providing proof of the date of publication and non-compliance with any of the conditions of this approval must be provided to the **Department** at the same time as the compliance report is published. The compliance reports must remain on the website for the period the approval has effect.
- 18) Potential or actual contraventions of the conditions of approval must be reported to the **Department** in writing within two **business days** of the **approval holder** becoming aware of the actual or potential contravention unless otherwise stated. All contraventions must be included in the compliance reports.
- 19) Upon the direction of the **Minister**, the **approval holder** must ensure that an independent audit of compliance with the conditions of approval is conducted and a report submitted to the **Minister**. The independent auditor must be approved by the **Minister** prior to the commencement of the audit. Audit criteria must be agreed to by the **Minister** and the audit report must address the criteria to the satisfaction of the **Minister**.
- 20) If the **approval holder** wishes to carry out any activity otherwise than in accordance with the management plans, strategies, reports as specified in the conditions, the **approval holder** must submit to the **Department** for the **Minister's** approval a revised version of that management plan, strategy, report. The varied activity shall not commence until the **Minister** has approved the varied management plan, strategy, report in writing. If the **Minister** approves the revised management plan, strategy, report, that management plan, strategy, report must be implemented in place of the management plan, strategy, report originally approved.
- 21) If the **Minister** believes that it is necessary or convenient for the better protection of **EPBC Act listed species and communities** or a water resource to do so, the **Minister** may request that the **approval holder** make specified revisions to the management plans, strategies, reports specified in the conditions and submit the revised management plans, strategies, reports for the **Minister's** written approval. The **approval holder** must comply with any such request. The revised approved management plans, strategies, reports must be implemented. Unless the **Minister** has approved the revised management plans,

strategies, reports, then the **approval holder** must continue to implement the management plans, strategies, reports originally approved, as specified in the conditions.

- 22) If, at any time after five years from the date of this approval, the **approval holder** has not **substantially commenced** the action, then the **approval holder** must not **substantially commence** the action without the written agreement of the **Minister**.
- 23) Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the **Minister**, the **approval holder** must publish all management plans, strategies, reports referred to in these conditions of approval on their website. Each management plan, strategy, report must be published on the website within 20 **business days** of being approved. The **approval holder** must notify the **Department** with five **business days** of publishing the management plan, strategy, report on their website and the management plan, strategy, report must remain on the website for the period the approval has effect.

#### Definitions

**Approval holder:** person to whom the approval is granted.

**Brigalow (*Acacia harpophylla* dominant and co-dominant):** the threatened ecological community listed under the **EPBC Act**.

**Business days:** measured in Queensland in relation to the doing of any action, any day other than a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday.

**Commencement of construction:** any preparatory works required to be undertaken including clearing vegetation, the erection of any onsite temporary structures and the use of heavy duty equipment for the purpose of breaking the ground for mining, buildings or infrastructure.

**Department:** the Australian Government Department administering the **EPBC Act**.

**Environmental Management Plan:** the Drake Coal Project Environmental Management Plan, September 2013.

**EPBC Act:** the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth).

**EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy:** the *EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy* (October 2012).

**EPBC Act listed species and/or community/ies:** threatened species or ecological communities listed under the **EPBC Act**.

**EPBC Act Significant Impact Guidelines:** the Matters of National Environmental Significance, Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1, *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

**Minister:** the Minister administering the **EPBC Act** and includes a delegate of the Minister.

**Natural Grasslands of the Queensland Central Highlands and the northern Fitzroy Basin:** the threatened ecological community listed under the **EPBC Act**.

**Ornamental Snake:** the Ornamental Snake (*Denisonia maculata*), listed as a threatened species under the **EPBC Act**.

**Primary habitat (Squatter Pigeon (southern)):** open *Eucalyptus* spp. and *Corymbia* spp. dominated woodland (Regional Ecosystems 11.3.30 / 11.3.9 / 11.3.7 / 11.3.4 in mixed polygon) adjacent to and within three kilometres of the Bowen River within the **project area**.

**Project area:** the area defined in Condition 1 of this approval as the project area.

**Queensland Environmental Authority:** the Environmental Authority (EPML00393013) issued by the Queensland Government under the *Environment Protection Act 1994* for Drake Coal Pty Ltd.

**Squatter Pigeon (southern):** the Squatter Pigeon (southern) (*Geophaps scripta scripta*), listed as a threatened species under the **EPBC Act**.

**Substantially commence/d:** the extraction of coal from the **project area** for the purpose of commercial production. Substantially commenced does not include test extraction or extraction of coal samples for quality assurance prior to commercial production.

**Suitably qualified expert:** a person who has professional qualifications, training, skills or experience relevant to the nominated subject matter and can give authoritative assessment, advice and analysis on performance relating to the subject matter using the relevant protocols, standards, methods or literature.

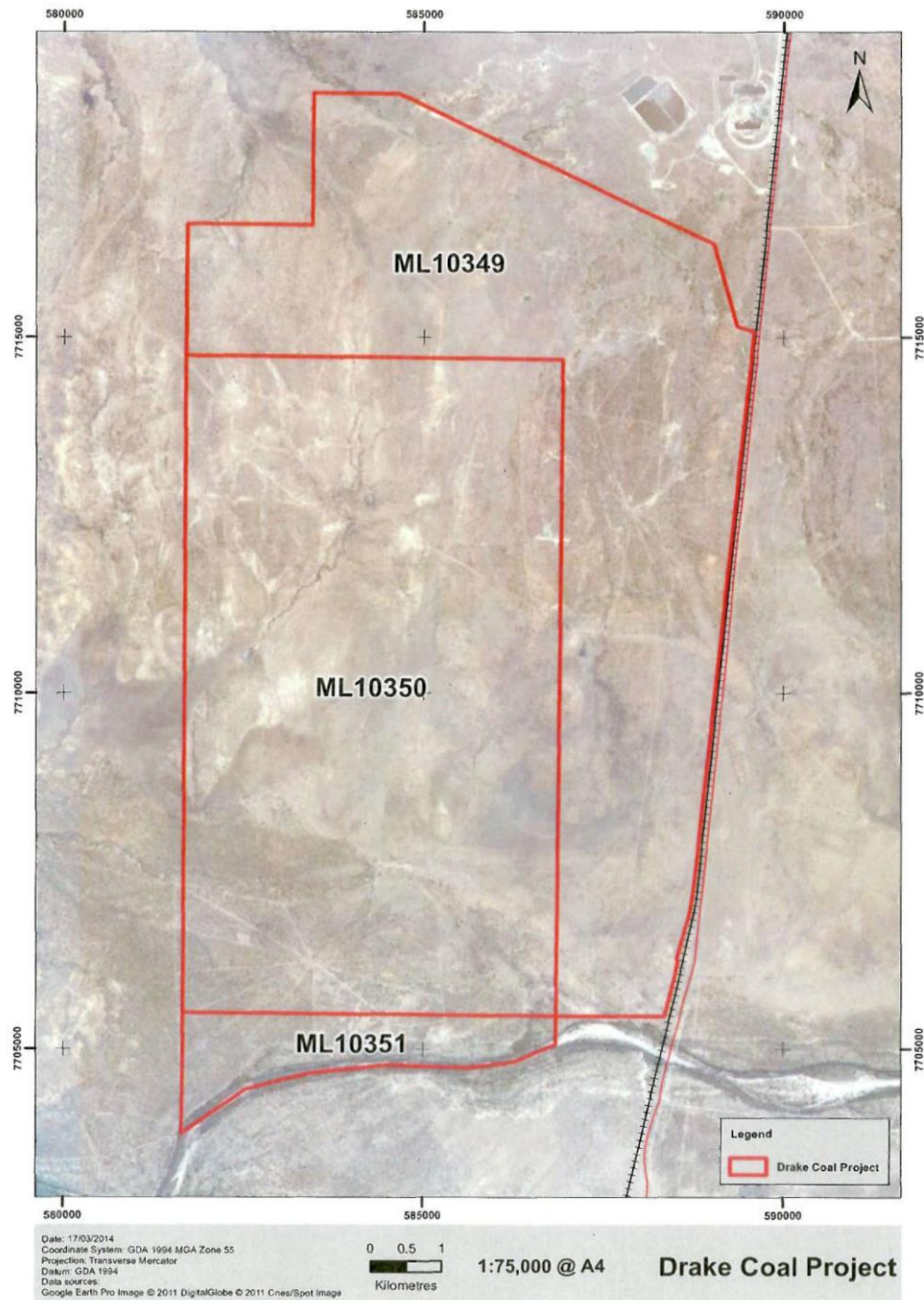
**Survey Guidelines:**

Survey guidelines for Australia's threatened birds, Guidelines for detecting birds listed as threatened under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

Survey guidelines for Australia's threatened reptiles, Guidelines for detecting reptiles listed as threatened under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*



Attachment A



# Appendix B Variation to conditions attached to the approval, 22 October 2014



Australian Government  
Department of the Environment

## VARIATION TO CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO APPROVAL

### Drake Coal Project, Collinsville, Queensland (EPBC 2010/5457)

This decision to vary conditions of approval is made under section 143 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).


#### Approved action

Person to whom the approval is granted	Drake Coal Pty Ltd ACN: 138 221 600
Approved action	To develop and operate an open-cut coal mine, and associated infrastructure, located approximately 17 km south of Collinsvale, in north Queensland [see EPBC Act referral 2010/5457]

#### Variation

Variation of conditions of approval	The variation is: Delete condition 14 of the approval dated 22 April 2014 and substitute the condition specified below.
Date of effect	This variation has effect on the date the instrument is signed

#### Person authorised to make decision

Name and position	Shane Gaddes Assistant Secretary Compliance and Enforcement Branch
Signature	
Date of decision	22 October 2014

#### Conditions attached to the approval

##### (14) Groundwater quality and levels

(a) If the groundwater quality and or level triggers referred to in Condition 12a of this approval are exceeded and an investigation is completed in accordance with Schedule E of the **Environmental Authority**, the **approval holder** must notify the **Department** within 3 months of becoming aware of the exceedance.

(b) If requested, the **approval holder** must provide copies of any exceedance investigation documents to the **Department**, in a timeframe agreed in writing by the **Department**, which state the cause, response, and actions undertaken to prevent further occurrences.

# Appendix C Notice of transfer of approval, 16 August 2016

Australian Government  
Department of the Environment and Energy

## NOTICE OF TRANSFER OF APPROVAL

### Drake Coal Project, Collinsville, Queensland (EPBC 2010/5457)

This decision is made under (Section 145B) of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

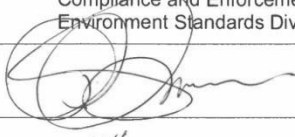
#### Transfer of approval

Transferor (holder of approval)	Drake Coal Pty Ltd (ACN: 138 221 600 )
Transferee (person proposing to accept the transfer of approval)	Drake Mine Management Pty Ltd (ACN: 612 261 453)
Proposed action	To develop and operate an open-cut coal mine and associated infrastructure, located approximately 17 Km south of Collinsville in north Queensland (See EPBC Act referral 2010/5457).

#### Transfer Decision

Person to whom the approval is transferred	Drake Mine Management Pty Ltd (ACN: 612 261 453)
Proposed action	Drake Coal Project, Collinsville, Queensland as per Approval Decision of 22 April 2014 and variation dated 22 October 2014

#### Person authorised to make decision

Name and position	Paul Simonsson Acting Assistant Secretary Compliance and Enforcement Branch Environment Standards Division
Signature	
Date of decision	16 <sup>th</sup> August 2016