



Annual Compliance Report

Drake Coal Mine
EPBC 2010/5457

8 November 2023 to 7 November 2024



24 January 2025

Project Name	Drake Coal Project
Approval Holder	Drake Coal Pty Ltd
EPBC Reference	2010/5457
Approved Actions	To develop and operate an open-cut coal mine, and associated infrastructure, located approximately 17km south of Collinsville, in north Queensland
Reporting Period	8 November 2023 to 7 November 2024
Version	V1
Declaration of Accuracy	
<p>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.</p>	
Signature of authorised reporting officer	<i>Trent Cini</i>
Name of Authorised reporting officer	Trent Cini
Title of authorised reporting officer	General Manager – Environment QCoal Group
Date	23 January 2025
Organisation Name	Drake Coal Pty Ltd Northern Hub (Drake) Pty Ltd
Organisation ABN	60 138 221 600 86 609 547 033

Table of contents

1	Introduction	4
2	Description of activities.....	5
3	EPBC 2010/5457 Compliance Table	7

List of Figures

Figure 1– Drake Coal Mine Layout	6
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1 Introduction

The Drake Coal Mine (DCM) is an open cut coal mine within the northern Bowen Basin in Central Queensland, located within the Whitsunday Regional Council (WRC) Local Government Area, approximately 13km south of the town of Collinsville, and approximately 110km by road to the southwest of the regional centre of Bowen (see **Figure 1**). The DCM is situated on the western side of the state-controlled Bowen Developmental Road (which is the primary access to the site) and the Newlands Rail line.

The DCM is one of four adjoining coal mines managed by QCoal, the others being the Sonoma Coal Mine (SCM), the Cows Coal Mine (CCM) and the Jax Coal Mine (JCM). Each mine has a separate Environmental Authority (EA) and EA holder. However, the four mines are collectively operated and managed under a co-development agreement as an integrated mining operation by QCoal Pty Ltd (QCoal), referred to as the QCoal Northern Hub (QNH), with pits, dumps, haul roads and other infrastructure spanning the tenure boundaries of the sites.

The DCM is wholly contained within Mining Leases (MLs) 10349, 10350 and 10351. The DCM MLs cover a total of 9,215 Ha. The granting of the DCM MLs enabled the mining of identified coal resources in the DCM area, including the continuous mining of the same coal seams encountered at the other QNH mines. Mining commenced at the DCM in mid-2014, using conventional open-cut mining methods to target the Moranbah Coal Measures (MCM) and Fort Cooper Coal Measures (FCCM) in a number of pits.

Approval Background

EPBC application 2010/5457 was approved by the Department of the Environment (now Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water [DCCEEW]) on the 22nd of April 2014.

On the 22nd of October 2014 the Department of the Environment varied the EPBC approval condition 14, to replace the condition. This condition relates to groundwater quality investigations and the timeframe of which the approval holder must notify DCCEEW of an exceedance of the groundwater triggers of the EA.

Notification of Commencement of Construction (under condition 15) was given to the Department of the Environment on the 25th of November 2014.

2 Description of activities

The DCM is an open cut mining operation located in the northern Bowen Basin, approximately 13 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.

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.

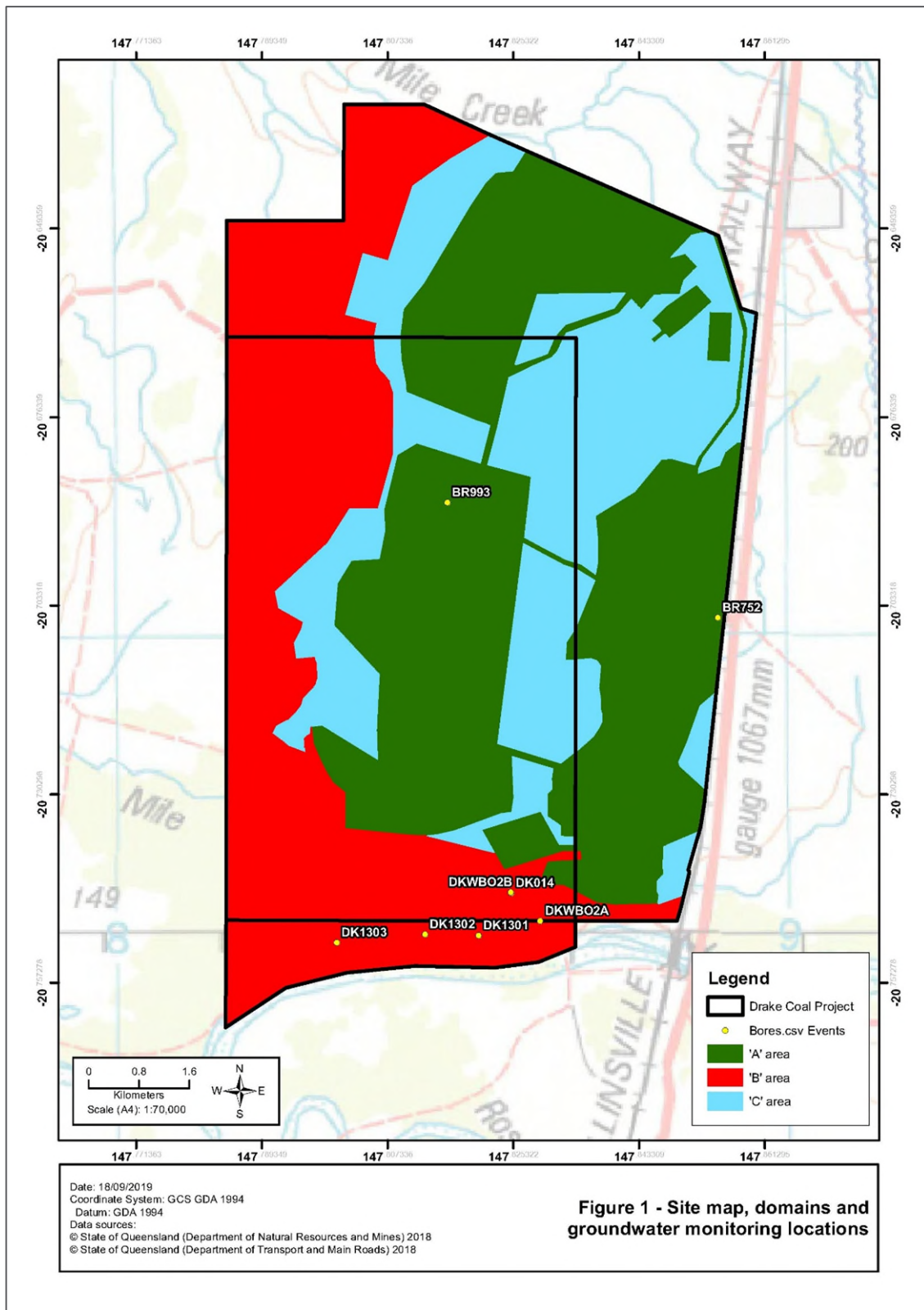


Figure 1 - Site map, domains and groundwater monitoring locations

Figure 1– Drake Coal Mine Layout

3 EPBC 2010/5457 Compliance Table

Condition number	Condition	Compliance	Evidence/comments
1	The project area is the area designated at <u>Attachment A</u> covering three Mining Lease Applications (MLA) 10349, 10350 and 10351. For the purpose of the action, the approval holder must not clear outside the project area .	Compliant	No clearing has occurred outside of the area designated in Attachment A of the EPBC Approval.
2	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 (<i>Acacia harpophylla</i> dominant and co-dominant) c) 2.3 hectares of Natural Grasslands of the Queensland Central Highlands and the northern Fitzroy Basin .	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.
3	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 .	Compliant	The disturbance limits provided in Condition 3 have not been exceeded.

Condition number	Condition	Compliance	Evidence/comments
4	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 (<i>Acacia harpophylla</i> dominant and co-dominant) and Ornamental Snake will be managed. The approved BOMP must be implemented.	Compliant	Completed in a prior period.
5	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.	Compliant	Completed in a prior period.

<p>6</p>	<p>The BOMP must include, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 areas 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<p>Compliant</p>	<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>
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Condition number	Condition	Compliance	Evidence/comments
	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 approval holder).		
7	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.	Compliant	Noted.
8	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.	Compliant	Noted. No impacts to the MNES have occurred to date. Therefore, offsets have not been obtained.
9	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.	Compliant	Completed in a prior period.
10	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 .	Compliant	Completed in a prior period.

Condition number	Condition	Compliance	Evidence/comments
11	<p>The GMMP must include, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	Compliant	Completed in a prior period.
12	<p>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.</p>	Compliant	Noted.

Condition number	Condition	Compliance	Evidence/comments
13	<p>Groundwater Quality and Levels</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 Environmental Authority, the approval holder must notify the Department within 3 months of becoming aware of the exceedance.</p> <p>a) 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.</p>	Compliant	Noted.
14	<p>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.</p>	Compliant	Completed in a prior period.
15	<p>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.</p>	Compliant	DCM maintains the records which substantiate all activities associated with or relevant to the conditions of the approval.

Condition number	Condition	Compliance	Evidence/comments
16	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.	Compliant	This report.
17	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.	Compliant	Noted.
18	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.	Compliant	Noted.

Condition number	Condition	Compliance	Evidence/comments
19	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.	Compliant	Noted.
20	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.	Compliant	Noted.
21	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 .	Compliant	Completed in a prior period.

Condition number	Condition	Compliance	Evidence/comments
22	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.	Compliant	The approved <i>Groundwater Monitoring and Management Plan – Drake Coal Project</i> is published on the QCoal website http://qcoal.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/20141024-Drake-GMMP.pdf