



## Approval

### Rolleston Coal Expansion Project, Rolleston, Queensland (EPBC 2011/5965)

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** Glencore Coal Queensland Pty Limited

**proponent's ACN** ACN 098 156 702

**proposed action** To expand the existing open cut mining operations at Rolleston Coal Mine, located 16 kilometres west of Rolleston in Central Queensland, 270 kilometres west of Gladstone (EPBC 2011/5965).

#### Approval

Controlling Provision	Decision
World Heritage properties (sections 12 & 15A)	Approved
National Heritage places (sections 15B & 15C)	Approved
Listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 & 18A)	Approved
Listed migratory species (sections 20 & 20A)	Approved
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (sections 24B & 24C)	Approved
Water resources/trigger (section 24D)	Approved

#### Conditions of approval

This approval is subject to the conditions specified below.

**Expiry date of approval** This approval has effect until 5 February 2046.

#### Decision-maker

**name and position** James Barker  
Assistant Secretary  
Assessments and Policy Implementation Branch

#### signature

#### date of decision

18 / 3 / 2016

## Conditions attached to the approval

### Project area

1. The person taking the action must not clear outside of the **project area** shown in Appendix A.

### Disturbance limits

2. To protect **EPBC Act listed threatened species and communities** within the **project area**, the maximum whole of **project** disturbance limits in table 1 apply to the **project**. The person taking the action must not exceed these maximum disturbance limits.

Table 1 Project stages and maximum disturbance limits for impacts on habitat for listed threatened species and ecological communities

Matter of National Environmental Significance	Stage 1 impact area (hectares)	Stage 2 impact area (hectares)	Maximum disturbance limits from mining activities (hectares)
<b>Ecological communities</b>			
Brigalow ( <i>Acacia harpophylla</i> dominant and co-dominant)	13	29	42
Natural grasslands of the Queensland Central Highlands and Northern Fitzroy Basin	39	711	750
Semi-evergreen vine thickets of the Brigalow Belt and Nandewar bioregions	51	0	51
Coolibah-black box woodlands of the Darling Riverine Plains and Brigalow Belt south bioregions	29	0	29
<b>Habitat for listed species</b>			
King blue-grass( <i>Dichanthium queenslandicum</i> )	100	939	1039
Black –breasted button quail ( <i>Turnix melanogaster</i> )	51	0	51
Ornamental snake ( <i>Denisonia maculata</i> )	74	78	152
Squatter pigeon (southern) ( <i>Geophaps scripta scripta</i> )	364	1176	1540

### Offsets

3. The **person taking the action** must, within six (6) months of **commencement** of the **stage 1** works as identified in table 1 and Appendix A, submit in writing a Biodiversity Offset Management Plan (BOMP) for the **stage 1 impact area** for the **Minister's** approval to compensate for any authorised impacts on **protected matters**. The approved **stage 1** BOMP must be implemented.
4. The **person taking the action** must, at least three (3) months prior to **commencement** of the **stage 2** works as identified in table 1 and Appendix A, submit in writing a BOMP for the **stage 2 impact area** for the **Minister's** approval to compensate for any authorised impacts on **protected matters** listed in table 1. The **person taking the action** must not commence

clearance within the **stage 2 impact area** until the BOMP required by this condition has been approved. The approved **stage 2 BOMP** must be implemented.

5. The BOMP for each **stage** must:
  - a) define the objectives and outcomes of the BOMP
  - b) comply with the principles of the **EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy**
  - c) consider all relevant **conservation advices, recovery plans** and or **threat abatement plans**
  - d) provide a completed offsets assessment guide
  - e) provide **maps** of the proposed offset sites
  - f) define the baseline condition of the EPBC Act listed threatened species and communities within the **stage 1 impact area** or **stage 2 impact area** (depending on which **stage** the BOMP is for) prior to **commencement**
  - g) define the baseline condition of the proposed offset prior to submission of the BOMP
  - h) define the performance goals for offsets relevant to the **project stage**
  - i) identify the timing and frequency of monitoring to determine whether the offset strategy is meeting performance goals or whether the offset strategy needs to be adaptively managed
  - j) identify clear and concise indicators of whether performance goals are being achieved
  - k) identify appropriate corrective actions if the proposed performance goals are not achieved
  - l) clearly state the position of persons responsible for actions under the BOMP
  - m) outline timelines for review noting that any revisions to the BOMP must be approved by the **Minister** before implementation
6. Prior to the **commencement** of **stage 1**, and prior to the submission of the **stage 1 BOMP** (described in condition 3), the **person taking the action** must acquire and commence the management of at least 80% of the land for offsets proposed in the **stage 1 BOMP**. The quality of the environmental offsets must not fall below the baseline identified in the BOMP submitted in condition 3 unless the loss of condition can be attributed to an **environmental event**. The **person taking the action** must employ mitigations and adaptive management to minimise the impacts of **environmental events** upon offsets. This condition lapses if the **Minister** approves the **stage 1 BOMP**.
7. The **person taking the action** must register a **legally binding conservation mechanism** over the offset areas approved by the **Minister** in the BOMP within 3 years of the commencement of the relevant **stage** (**stage 1** and or **stage 2**) identified in table 1 and shown in Appendix A. The **legally binding conservation mechanism** over the offset areas must not be removed unless another **legally binding conservation mechanism** is in place.

## General

8. For the protection of **protected matters** the **person taking the action** must:
  - a) comply with Environmental Authority EPML00370013 (issued on 8 October 2015 for the Rolleston Coal Mine project) under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (Qld) where the conditions relate to monitoring, managing, mitigating, avoiding, offsetting, recording, or reporting on impacts to **protected matters**.

- b) publish on their website, the annual water monitoring report required under condition D23 of the Environmental Authority (detailed in condition 8a) within one (1) month of submission to the Queensland Government.
  - c) publish on their website, an annual groundwater monitoring report within twelve (12) months of **commencement** and then within every twelve (12) months for the life of the approval. The annual groundwater monitoring report must outline the findings of the groundwater monitoring program which is required to be developed under condition E6 of the Environmental Authority (detailed in condition 8a). This must include the results of monitoring, a summary report and discussion of how the results compare to past results and relevant water quality standards. The reports required in condition 8b and 8c of this approval must be retained on the **person taking the action's** website for the duration of the approval.
  - d) advise the Department in writing of any proposed change to Queensland Environmental Authority conditions for which condition 8a applies, within 10 days of formally proposing a change or becoming aware of the Queensland Government proposing a change.
  - e) notify the Department in writing of non-compliance or potential non-compliance with any condition of this approval for which condition 8a applies, within ten (10) business days of becoming aware of the non-compliance or potential non-compliance.
9. Within twenty (20) business days after the **commencement** of the **action**, the **person taking the action** must advise the **Department** in writing of the actual date of **commencement**.
  10. The **person taking the action** must maintain accurate records substantiating all activities associated with or relevant to the conditions of approval, including measures taken to implement the BOMP, reports or strategies 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.
  11. Within three months of every twelve (12) month anniversary of the **commencement** of the **action**, the **person taking the action** must publish a report on its website addressing compliance with each of the conditions of this approval, including implementation of any management plans as specified in the conditions for the life of the approval outlining how they have been compliant with the conditions of this approval over the previous twelve (12) months, including the implementation of any management plans, strategies or programs as specified in the conditions. Documentary evidence providing proof of the date of publication must be provided to the **Department** at the same time as the compliance report is published.
  12. Upon the direction of the **Minister**, the **person taking the action** must ensure that an independent audit of compliance with the conditions of approval is conducted and a report submitted to the **Minister**. The audit must not commence unless and until the **Minister** has approved the independent auditor and audit criteria. The audit report must address the criteria to the satisfaction of the **Minister**.
  13. If, at any time after five (5) years from the date of this approval, the **person taking the action** has not **substantially commenced** the **action**, then the **person taking the action** must not **substantially commence** the **action** without the written agreement of the **Minister**.

14. Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the **Minister**, the **person taking the action** must publish all management plans referred to in these conditions of approval on its website. Each management plan must be published on the website within one (1) month of being approved by the **Minister** and remain available on that website for the life of the approval.

## Definitions

**Action:** has the definition assigned to it in section 523 of the EPBC Act.

**Commencement:** the first instance of any specified activity. Unless the activity is specifically defined for the purposes of these conditions, commencement of an activity includes any physical disturbance including clearing of vegetation, earthworks, new road works, new rail works, construction of new camps, development of mining associated infrastructure and mining operations. Commencement does not include:

- (a) erection of signage or fencing
- (b) minor physical disturbance necessary to undertake pre-clearance surveys or establish monitoring programs or associated with the mobilisation of the plant, equipment, materials, machinery and personnel prior to the start of railway and road development or construction; or
- (c) activities that are critical to commencement that are associated with mobilisation of plant and equipment, materials, machinery and personnel prior to the start of railway or road development or construction only if such activities will have no adverse impact on **protected matters**.

**Conservation advice/s:** a conservation advice approved by the Minister under the **EPBC Act**.

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

**Environmental event/s:** includes fire, flood drought unless the event occurs as a result of an action undertaken by the **person taking the action** within the **project area**.

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

**EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy:** the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* Environmental Offsets Policy (October 2012), or subsequent revision, including the Offsets Assessment Guide.

**EPBC Act listed threatened species and communities:** means a threatened flora or fauna species listed under the EPBC Act or an endangered ecological community listed under the EPBC Act.

**Impact/s/ed:** has the definition assigned to it in section 527E of the EPBC Act.

**Legally binding conservation mechanism:** means a covenant or similar legal agreement in relation to a site, to provide enduring protection for the site against developments incompatible with conservation.

**Listed ecological communities:** means ecological communities listed as threatened under the **EPBC Act** and also listed in table 1 of this document.

**Listed species:** means species listed as threatened under the **EPBC Act** and also listed in table 1 of this document.

**Substantial commencement:** relates to the initial extraction of coal from the ground.

**Map:** to remove ambiguity, all maps provided by the **person taking the action** must be geo-referenced and easily readable if printed on A3 paper.

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

**Protected matters:** means any matter protected under the provisions of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* for which this approval applies.

**Person taking the action:** The person to whom the approval is granted or any person acting on their behalf, or to whom the approval is transferred under section 145B of the EPBC Act.

**Project:** The Rolleston Coal Expansion Project as referred under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC 2011/5965).

**Project area:** identified in Appendix A as the **project area** for the Rolleston Coal Expansion Project.

**Recovery plan:** a recovery plan made or adopted by the Minister under the **EPBC Act**.

**Stage/s:** includes impact areas identified in Appendix A and the offsets to be provided to compensate for **impacts** (listed in table 1) to **protected matters** from this **project**.

**Stage 1/ Stage 1 impact area:** identified in Appendix A. Impacts to **protected matters** related to **Stage 1** are identified in table 1 of this document.

**Stage 2/ Stage 2 impact area:** identified in Appendix A. Impacts to **protected matters** related to **Stage 2** are identified in table 1 of this document.

**Threat abatement plan:** a threat abatement plan made or adopted by the **Minister** under the **EPBC Act**.



