



SPECIAL MEETING

AGENDA

25 FEBRUARY 2021

Your attendance is required at a Special meeting of Council to be held in the Council Chambers, 232 Bolsover Street, Rockhampton on 25 February 2021 commencing at 10:00am for transaction of the enclosed business.

In line with section 277E of the Local Government Regulation 2012, it has been determined that it is not practicable for the public to attend Council meetings in person at the current time. Until further notice, Council meetings will instead take place via videoconference and will be livestreamed online.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "C. Pe", written in a cursive style.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
24 February 2021

Please note:

In accordance with the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, please be advised that all discussion held during the meeting is recorded for the purpose of verifying the minutes. This will include any discussion involving a Councillor, staff member or a member of the public.

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1 OPENING

2 PRESENT

Members Present:

The Mayor, Councillor A P Williams (Chairperson)
Deputy Mayor, Councillor N K Fisher
Councillor S Latcham
Councillor C E Smith
Councillor C R Rutherford
Councillor M D Wickerson
Councillor D Kirkland

In Attendance:

Mr E Pardon – Chief Executive Officer

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

5 OFFICERS' REPORTS

5.1 LETTER OF SUPPORT - CENTRAL QUEENSLAND COAL PROJECT

File No: 11092

- Attachments:**
1. Letter to Mayor Williams from CEO Central Queensland Coal Pty Ltd - 18 February 2021 [↓](#)
 2. Central Queensland Coal Project Presentation Overview [↓](#)
 3. Fact Sheet [↓](#)
 4. Senator Malcolm Roberts letter of support to the Hon Sussan Ley MP [↓](#)
 5. Minister for Resources, Water and Northern Australia letter to Central Queensland Coal Pty Ltd [↓](#)
 6. Mr Stephen Andrew MP letter of support to the Hon Meaghan Scanlon [↓](#)
 7. Draft letter of support to the Minister for the Environment and Great Barrier Reef the Hon Meaghan Scanlon [↓](#)

Authorising Officer: Evan Pardon - Chief Executive Officer

Author: Damon Morrison - Manager Office of the Mayor

SUMMARY

This report provides details of a request from Central Queensland Coal Pty Ltd to provide a letter of support for the Central Queensland Coal Project to the Queensland Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Hon Meaghan Scanlon MP.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council endorse the letter to the Queensland Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Hon Meaghan Scanlon MP supporting the development of the Central Queensland Coal Project.

BACKGROUND

The Central Queensland Coal Project (the CQ Coal Project) is a proposed metallurgical coal development located approximately 135km north of Rockhampton, along the Bruce Highway.

The CQ Coal Project consists of an open cut operation and rail connection to the Queensland Rail North Coast Line. The Project is a joint venture partnership between Central Queensland Coal Pty Ltd (CQCPL) (99%) and Fairway Coal Pty Ltd (1%).

Details of the request from CQPL of Council and associated documents referred to therein are attached.

COMMENTARY

The Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development (IESC) is a statutory committee of leading scientists that independently advises government regulators on the impacts that coal seam gas and large coal mining development may have on Australia's waters resources.

On 27 October 2020, the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) and the Queensland Department of Environment and Science (DES) requested that the IESC provide advice to them on CQCPL's and Fairway Coal Pty Ltd's CQ Coal Project.

On 11 December 2020 the IESC provided advice to the DAWE and DES in response to the questions raised from their request.

In summary, the IESC advice to DAWE and DES expressed a number of concerns in relation to the CQ Coal Project and has recommended that the Queensland Government refuses to approve the project.

In response, CQCPL has disputed the IESC's advice contending that it failed to consider the latest tests and technical analysis provided by CQCPL.

PREVIOUS DECISIONS

There are no previous resolutions of Council relevant to the matter currently under consideration.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no immediate budgetary implications from Council supporting the development of the Central Queensland Coal Project. If the project is approved, maximising opportunities for local/new residents and local businesses may lead to additional rates and fees and charges revenue.

LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

There is no relevant legislation to Council applicable.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no identified legal implications to Council relevant to this matter.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

There will be no implications to Council permanent staffing levels if Council endorses the letter of support. If the project is approved,

RISK ASSESSMENT

In order for Rockhampton to maintain and grow its important role as a major regional services hub for the resource sector Council has previously advocated on behalf of the sector. The recommendation under consideration has been assessed as low risk of adverse implications to Council.

CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN

Corporate Plan 2017-2022:

2.2 - Value add to the strengths of industry to deepen regional economic activity

2.5 Promote, foster and embrace growth opportunities, strategic investment and international exports.

CONCLUSION

The Central Queensland Coal Project provides an opportunity for Council to continue advocating on behalf of the resources sector to grow the Region's role as a major regional services hub. The project provides opportunities to the Region during the construction and operational phase

Endorsement of the draft letter of support is recommended.

LETTER OF SUPPORT - CENTRAL QUEENSLAND COAL PROJECT

**Letter to Mayor Williams from CEO
Central Queensland Coal Pty Ltd - 18
February 2021**

Meeting Date: 25 February 2021

Attachment No: 1



Thursday, 18 February 2021

Tony Williams
Mayor
Rockhampton Regional Council
E: tony.williams@rrc.qld.gov.au

Dear Mayor

Central Queensland Coal Project – Letter of Support

Thank you for your time and the time of your executive members, to allow the Central Queensland Coal Project team to present an approvals update of the Central Queensland Coal Project (the **Project**).

The Project is a small scale metallurgical coal project located approximately 135km north of Rockhampton, along the Bruce Highway.

The Project is expected to commence construction during July 2022, employing up to 250 people. The commencement of construction and operations will occur once State Government approvals and subsequent Commonwealth approvals are secured by the Project.

Subject to the approvals, operations will commence in December 2022 and will initially produce 1.5 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) of semi soft coking coal, employing approximately 167 people. The Project will move into steady state operations in 2024 and will produce 3.2 Mtpa of semi soft coking coal, employing approximately 250 people. The life of the mining phase of the Project will be 18 years, followed by two years of rehabilitation (although rehabilitation will also occur progressively throughout the life of the Project, concurrent with mining operations).

The project is now at the cusp of seeking both State and Commonwealth approvals and requests a letter of support from your council to be addressed to the State Environmental Minister Hon. Megan Scanlon to approve the project.

The project merits include:

- Robust and thorough understanding of ground and surface water regimes.
- Demonstrated ability to construct and operate without causing adverse impacts to downstream sensitive environments.
- Net benefit to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and Broadsound Fish Habitat via a reduction in sediment leaving the Styx River Catchment (up to 3%).
- Long-term direct employment for 167 to 250 employees during operations.
- Local community and regional support.
- State Royalty of \$766.0 million.
- Commonwealth taxes of \$1.087 billion.

Central Queensland Coal Pty Ltd ·
Level 17 240 Queen Street, Brisbane Q 4000 · GPO Box 1538 Brisbane Q 4001
Ph: +61 7 3832 2044 · A.C.N. 155 767 516 · www.waratahcoal.com



For your review and consideration, please find attached a power point and fact letter detailing further Project merits.

Also attached for your consideration are letters of support for the Project from State and Commonwealth members.

Thank you once again for your time, and we look forward to working closely with you on developing this essential community project.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nui Harris", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nui Harris - CEO

Email: nharris@cqcoal.com.au

Phone: 07 3832 2044

Mobile: 0418 872 181

Street Address: Level 17, 240 Queen St, Brisbane Qld 4000

Postal Address: PO Box 1538, Brisbane QLD 4001


Web: www.cqcoal.com

LETTER OF SUPPORT - CENTRAL QUEENSLAND COAL PROJECT

Central Queensland Coal Project Presentation Overview

Meeting Date: 25 February 2021

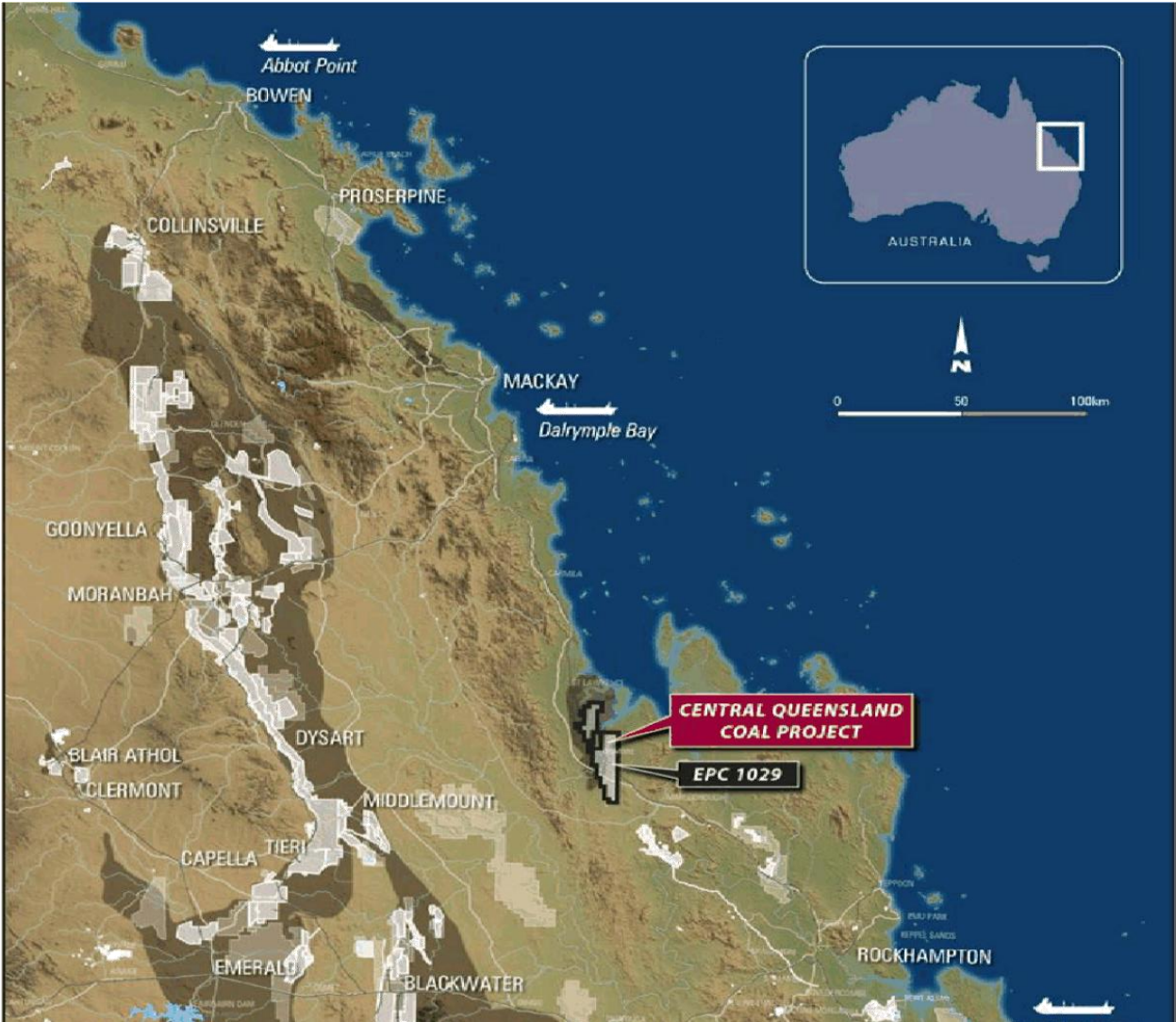
Attachment No: 2



Central Queensland Coal

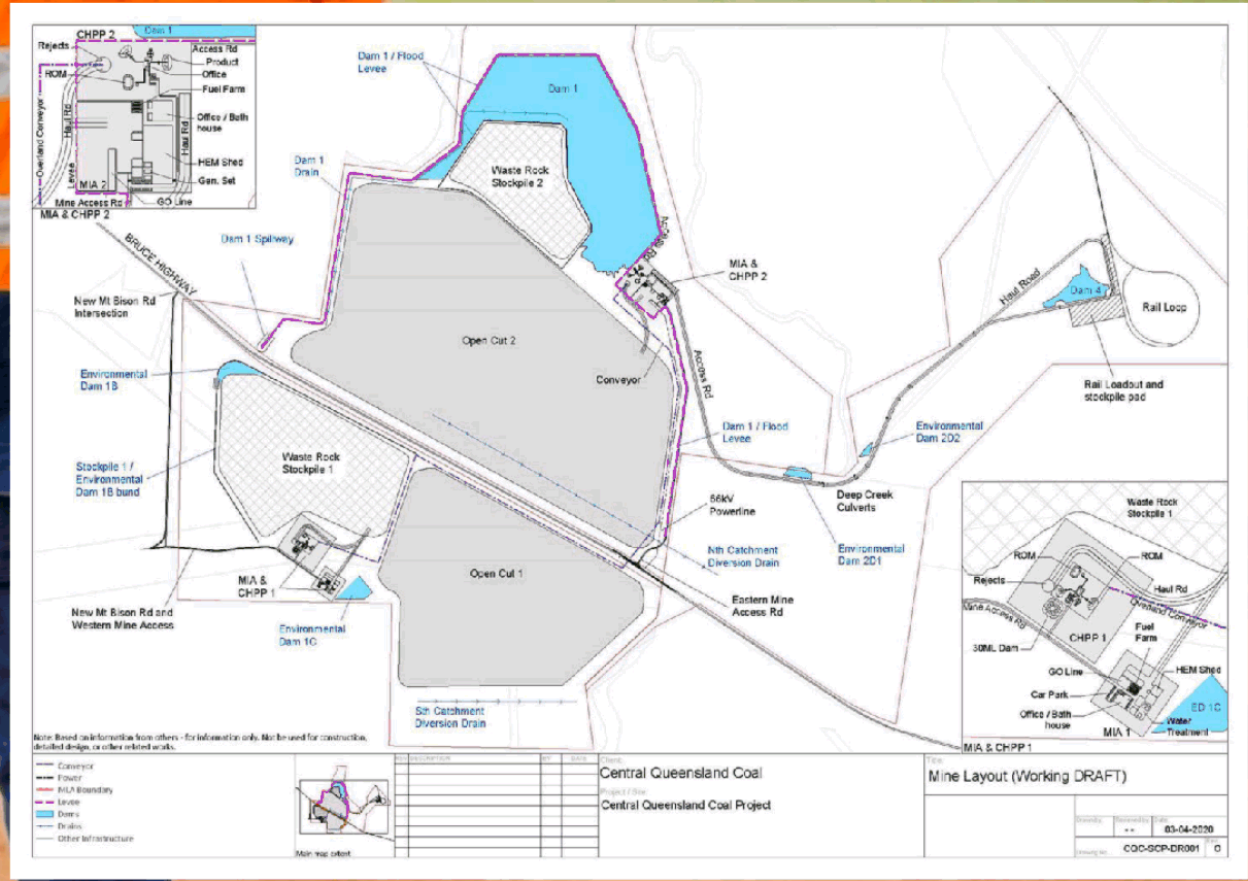
LSC Presentation – 17 February 2021

- Project Overview
- Mine Overview
- Rail Overview
- Port Overview
- Community Benefits
- Approvals
- Questions





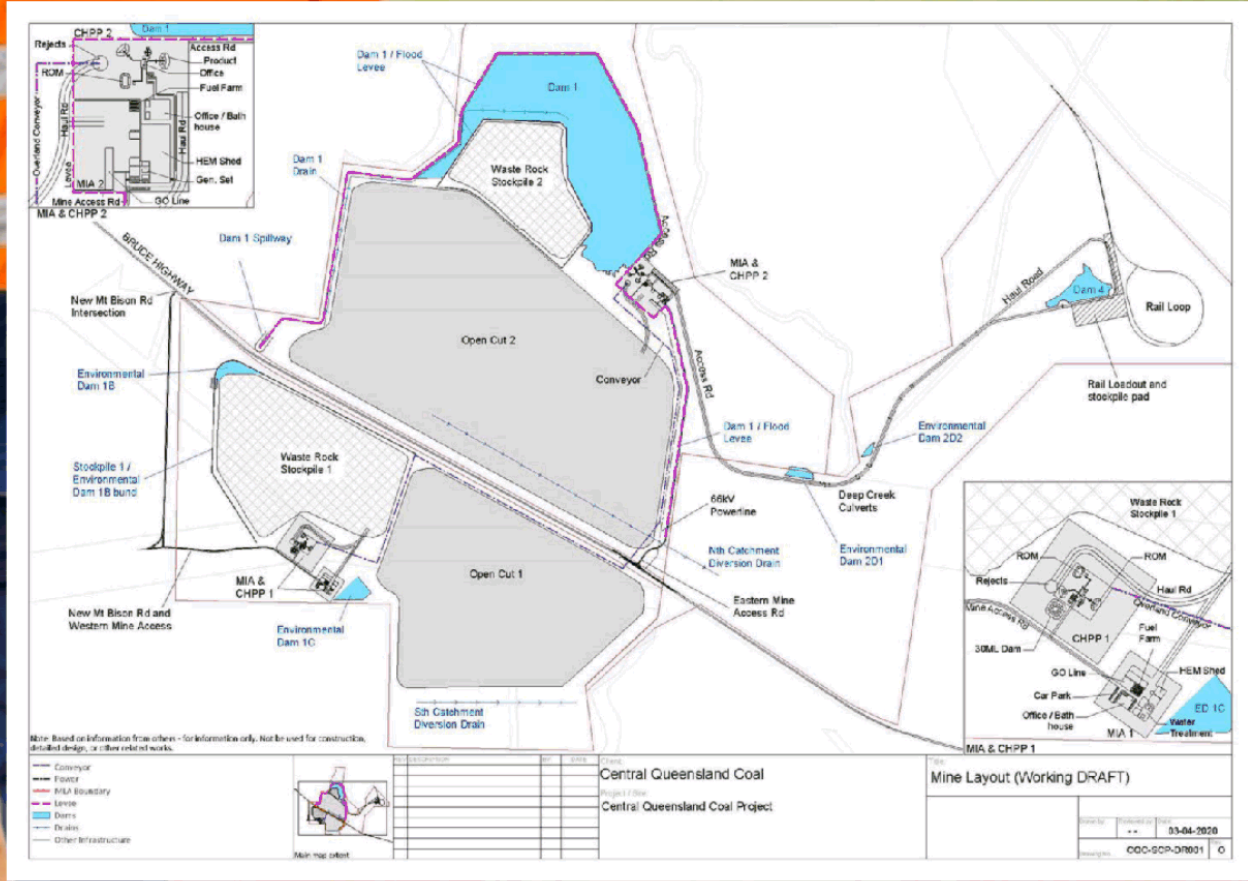
- ### Project Overview
- Semi-soft coking coal open cut
 - 1.5 Mtpa to 3.2 Mtpa production
 - Life of mine 20 years plus
 - Open Cut, MIA and Rail Load out
 - 250 people during construction
 - 150 to 250 people during operations
 - Workforce - Caves to St Lawrence
 - State Royalties approximately A\$766M
 - Commonwealth taxes A\$1.087B

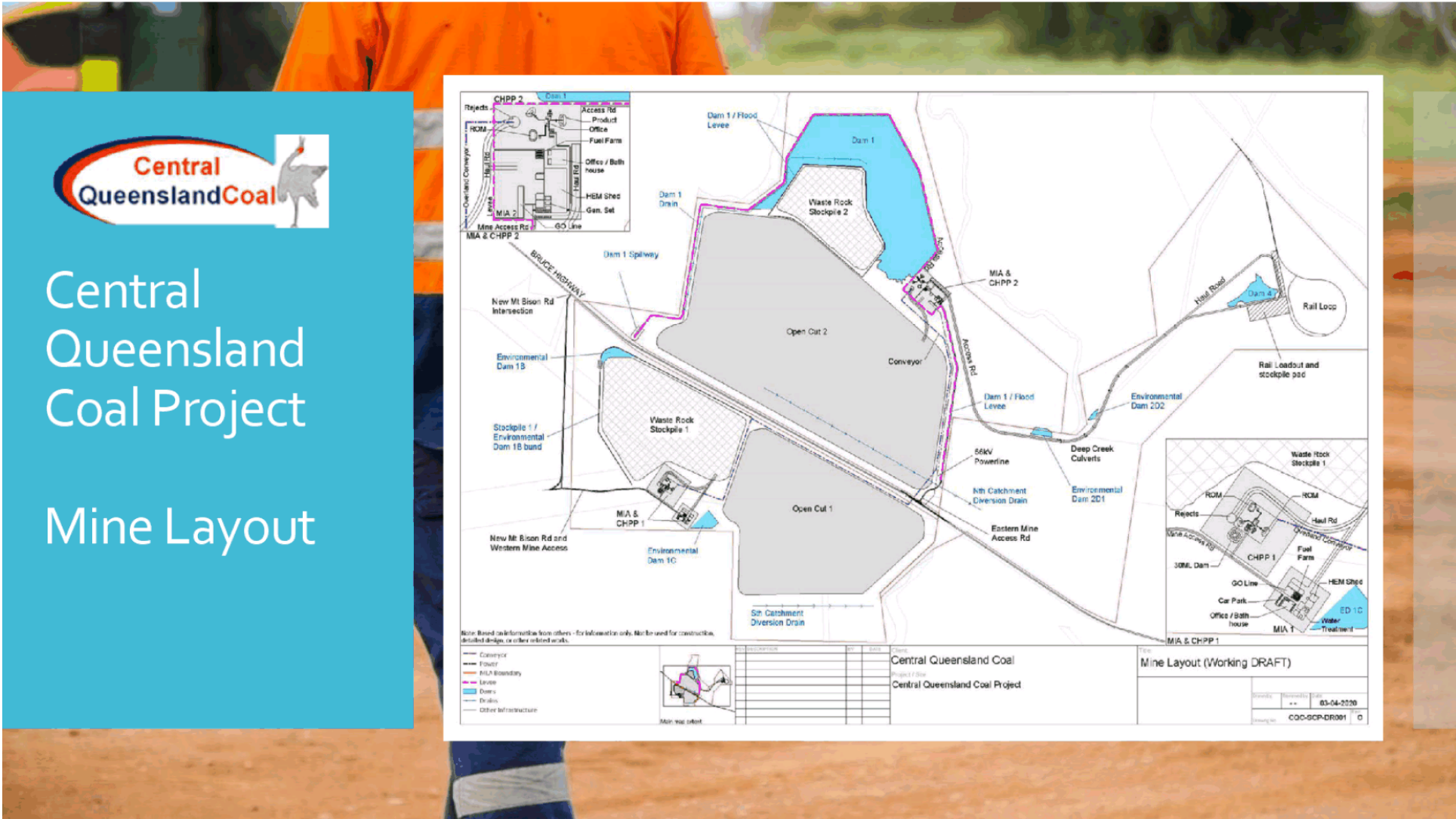
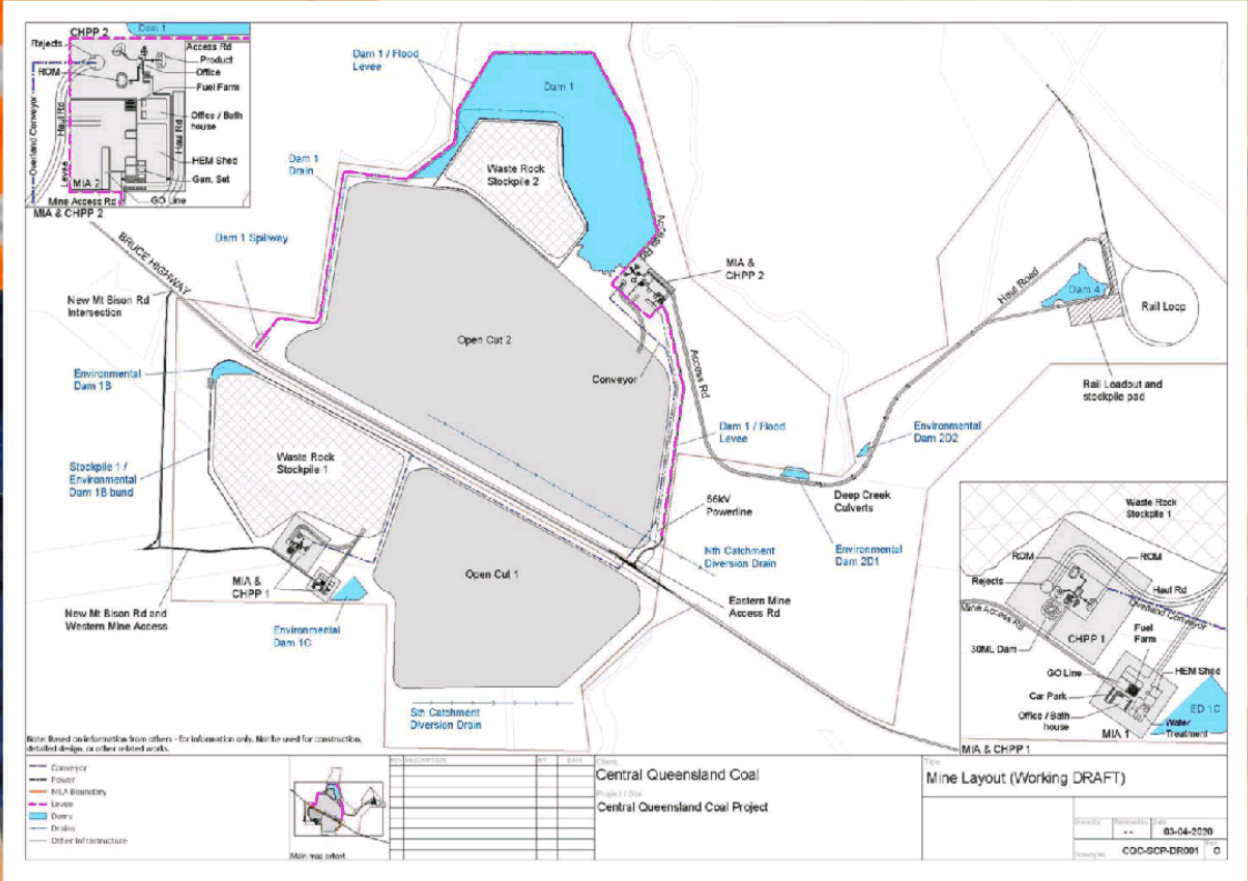




Project Overview

- 1918 – 1964: Coal mines in Bowman and Ogmoo townships
- November 2017: lodged EIS
- December 2017: IESC responses
- May 2018: lodged amended EIS
- July 2018: IESC responses
- December 2018: amended EIS v2
- October 2020: amended EIS v3
- 11 December 2020: IESC responses
- 24 December 2020: CQC rebuttal to DES on IESC comments
- 6 January 2021: CQC met with DES and DAWE on IESC comments/rebuttal
- 26 February 2021: Final day for DES to advise adequacy decision





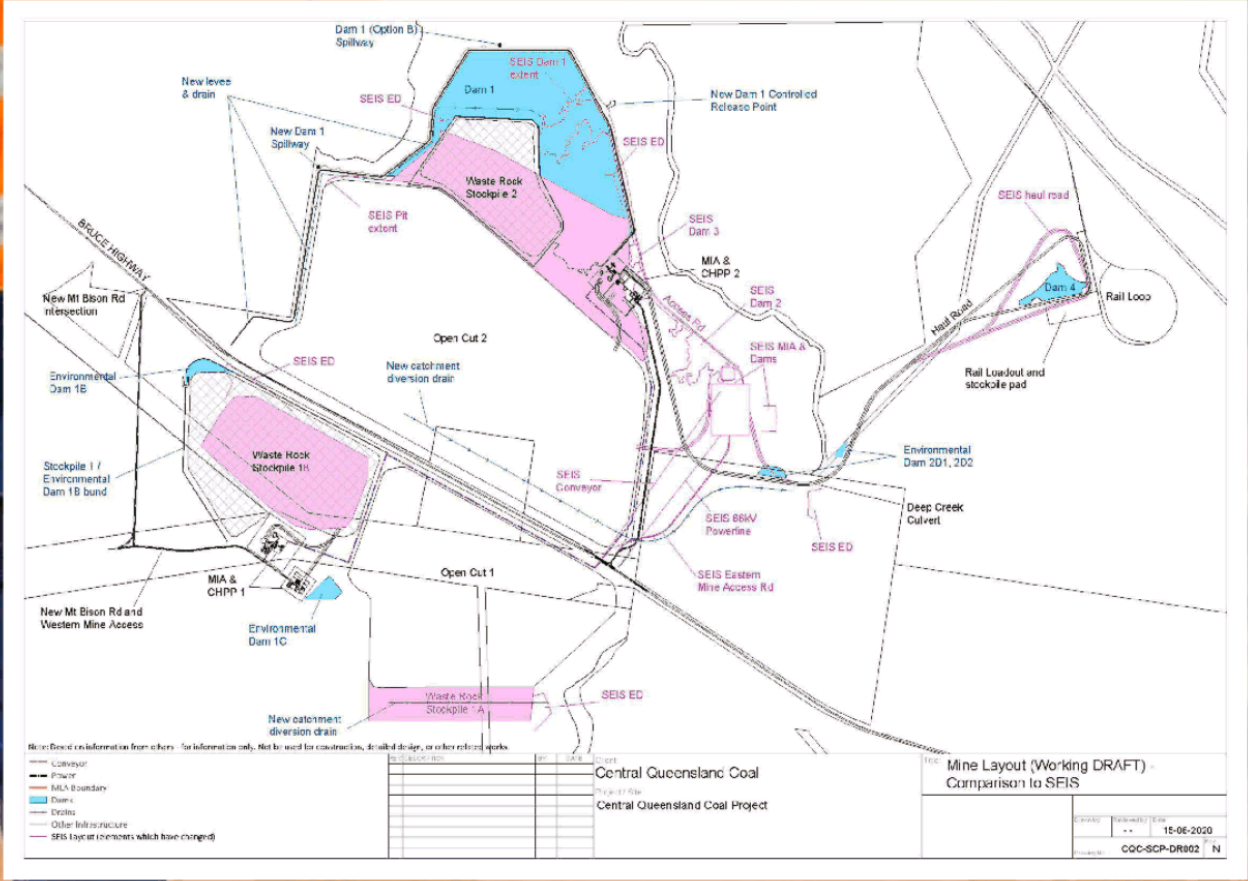
Central Queensland Coal Project Mine Layout



Central Queensland Coal

Central Queensland Coal Project

Mine Amendments





Central Queensland Coal Project

Mine Amendments

1. Excise 349ha from ML80187 to reduce overall impact
2. Consolidate water storages & increase Dam 1 in areas of non-remnant vegetation
3. Remove Dam 2 to avoid impact on least concern & of concern & 1% AEP floodplain area
4. Move MIA2 & CHPP2 adjacent to Dam 1 allowing removal of Environmental Dam2C
5. Relocate Environmental Dam2D from of concern to non-remnant
6. Relocate haul road to avoid impacts to least concern (RE11.3.35 & 11.3.27) & of concern (RE11.4.2)
7. Retract Open Cut 2 pit Nth wall by 40m to increase buffer to endangered RE11.3.11
8. Redesign Waste Rock Stockpiles & remove WRS 1A to minimise disturbance & maximise postmining rehab
9. Relocate overland conveyor from 0.1%AEP & further away from Deep Ck (560m at closest).

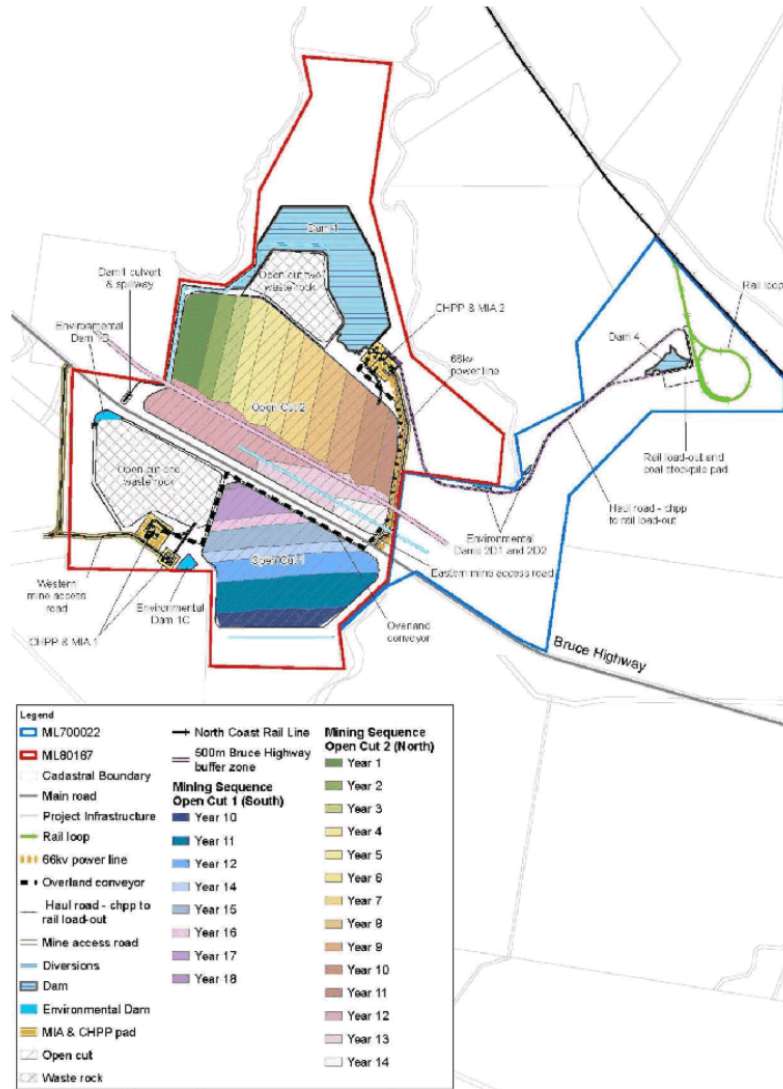
Further Project Commitments

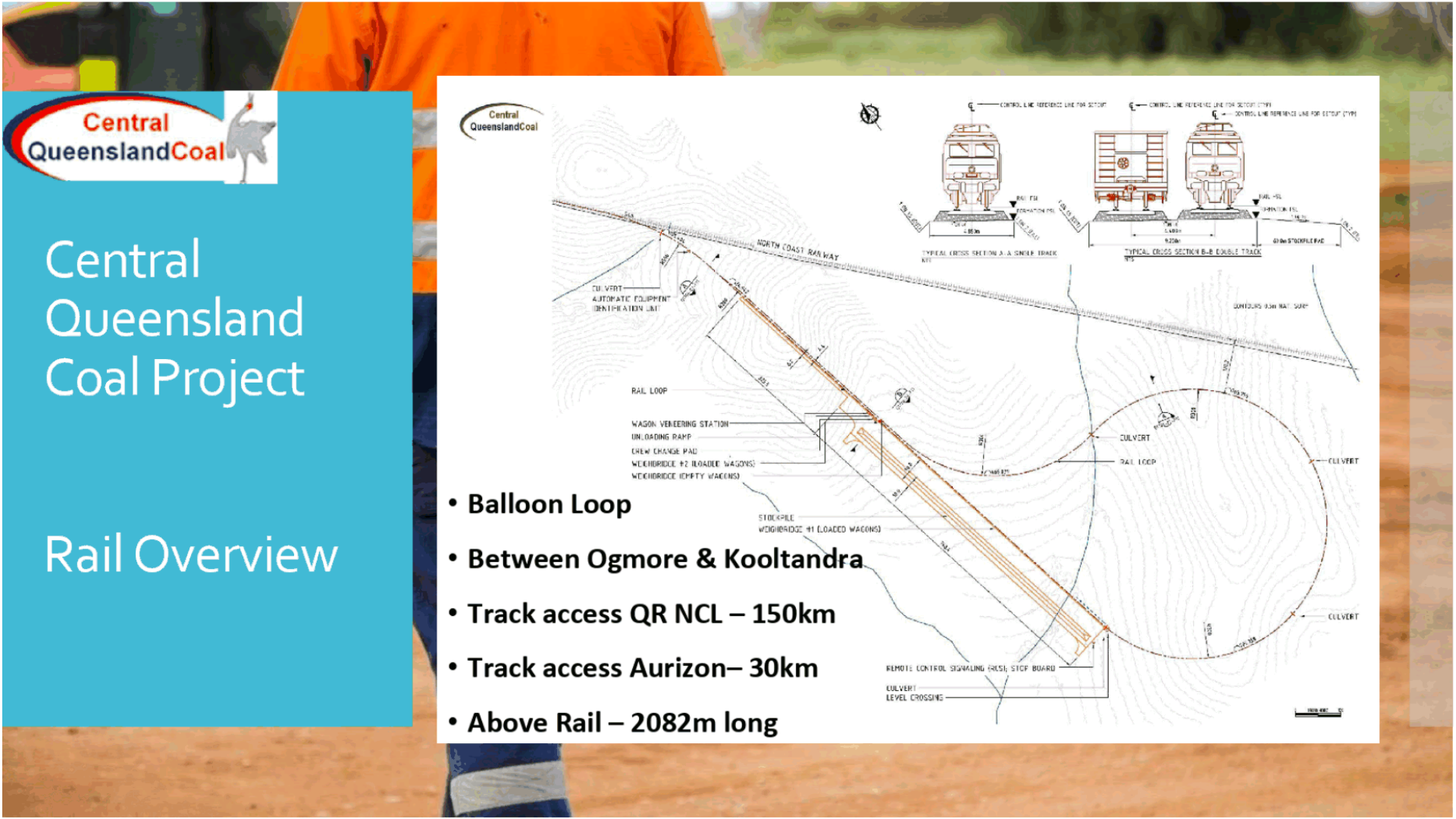
- a. Source all water from on-site capture & re-use
- b. No construction outside the open cut pit at night to avoid noise disturbance at receptors
- c. Replace 3 haul truck models previously proposed, with a quieter fleet.



Central Queensland Coal Project

Mine Sequence

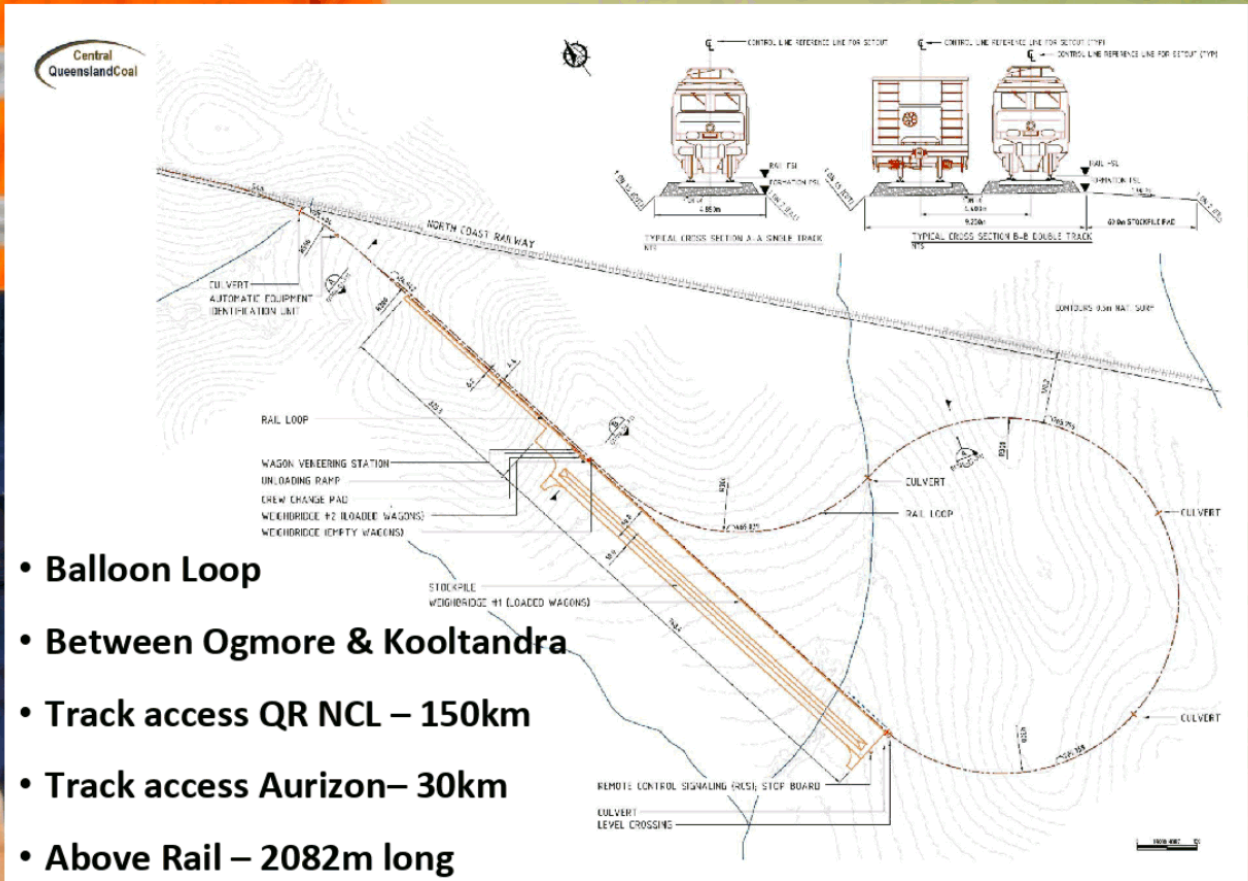




Central Queensland Coal

Central Queensland Coal Project

Rail Overview



- **Balloon Loop**
- **Between Ogmore & Kooltandra**
- **Track access QR NCL – 150km**
- **Track access Aurizon – 30km**
- **Above Rail – 2082m long**



Central Queensland Coal Project

Port Overview

- 178km from Rail Loop
- Bottom dump wagons
- 20-50kt consignments
- Available Capacity
- Increasing availability





Central Queensland Coal Project

LSC
Presentation
17 February 2021

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

1. Export revenues approx. \$8 billion
2. State royalties approx. \$760 million
3. Life style packages on long term basis
4. Construction workers Phase 1 – 222 (up to 150 existing regional)
5. Operation employment – 167 direct (all local and regional)
6. Increase population to support towns and communities
7. Business support
8. More children to support schools
9. More residents – community volunteers
10. Consultative Reference Group



Central Queensland Coal Project

LSC
Presentation
17 February 2021

APPROVALS

1. Bi-Lateral Agreement
2. SEIS v3
3. IESC Recommendation
4. State of Assessment – Qld DES
5. Commonwealth Assessment
6. EA/ML Advertising & Grant



Central Queensland Coal Project

LSC
Presentation
17 February 2021

IESC MAJOR CONCERNS

1. Significant & irreversible damage to high value ecosystems & downstream water quality
2. No confidence in groundwater model –uncertainties limit the reliability of groundwater predictions
3. Intrusion of seawater into aquifers
4. Coal conveyor near Deep Creek – constant source of coal dust
5. Deficiencies in measures and commitments to monitor impacts
6. Potential contaminant transport from final landform not assessed



Central Queensland Coal Project

LSC
Presentation
17 February 2021

QUESTIONS



LETTER OF SUPPORT - CENTRAL QUEENSLAND COAL PROJECT

Fact Sheet

Meeting Date: 25 February 2021

Attachment No: 3



PERTINENT POINTS NOT CONSIDERED BY THE IESC
MONDAY 25TH JANUARY 2021

CQC PROJECT FACT SHEET

The IESC review has not considered any of the relevant new work that was undertaken to address their previous comments - they acknowledge this substantial work has been carried out and therefore their review statement is false and misleading. A summary of some of the facts totally ignored by IESC are listed below.

1. Coal Mining has existed at Ogmoo and Bowman townships from 1918 to as recently as 1964 (Mining began in 1858).
2. The historical Bowman Coal Mine is contiguous to Central Queensland Coal Project (the Project).
3. The historical Ogmoo Coal Mine is located down stream of CQ Coal project and 5km from the GBRMP.
4. Neither of these have any environmental legacy issues.
5. Ogmoo was a community of 600 people, who worked within the historical mines. A number of open cut mines still operate in the local area today, and the community identifies as being a mining community.
6. IESC are chartered to comment on National and International water related issues.
7. Sector Regulation (November 2020) Finding 6.3 (page 168) makes specific reference to the interim report of the second review of the EPBC Act (Samuel, 2020) recommendation that the water trigger be limited to consideration of only projects where cross-border water resources are at risk (e.g. Great Artesian Basin) to reduce unnecessary regulatory burden and duplication. That is, the Commonwealth already has the responsibility for protected matters under the EPBC Act, regardless of the 'concerns' and beliefs or opinions of the IESC members.
8. Potential impacts to downstream values have been specifically investigated and Significant Impact assessed by independent consultancies in accordance with relevant state and commonwealth guidelines which have found **NO** significant impacts to the Great Barrier Reef or the Broad Sound Fish Habitat Area.
9. Consistent with requirements of the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan (2015) the project will have a **POSITIVE** impact on the Great Barrier Reef as cattle will be removed and water runoff significantly controlled compared to the existing conditions. In particular,
 - a. Sediment load from the project site will be reduced by over 50% (from 5,037 t/year, reduced to 2,297t/year – a reduction of 2,740t/year = 2.74% of Styx Basin loads)
 - b. Nutrients will be reduced
 - c. There will be **NO** change to the number of flow days (24%) of Tooloombah and Deep Creeks.
10. Creek banks will remain intact and riparian vegetation along Deep Creek to be improved by weed removal, enhancement planting to a width of 10m.
11. 'Possible' 'minor' impacts are conservatively estimated for the majority of the 165ha of riparian vegetation predicted to be affected by the project along Deep Creek, however offsets are planned for the entire 165ha. Note, no loss of this vegetation will occur based on the predicted impacts and control measures, and regardless, no impacts would occur until at least 10 years after the Project commences, giving ample time to improve the resilience of this area from its current condition.
12. No rainfall or flood waters from outside the Mining Lease will flow onto the Mining Lease - only runoff within the Mining Lease will need to be managed by the Project (small, compared to the larger catchment).
13. All water on the Mining Lease will be managed. The dams have been designed to contain the 1:100 year event, and the overall site has been designed to capture all water up to a 1:1000 year event (i.e. using the mine pit and levees), with all water treated and settled in water storages prior to any releases. Controlled releases are proposed to manage water volumes in wet events. The size of flow and the quality of the released water have been explicitly modelled and assessed, and controlled release rules have been developed to ensure that receiving water quality is protected and water quality will remain well within the range of receiving water ambient conditions. Based on the proposed release rules, the assessment found that there would be no significant impact to downstream water quality.
14. In accordance with the IESC Guidelines, an Independent Peer Review was undertaken which found that the groundwater assessment and modelling work has ***“been carried out in a professional and rigorous manner that meets current industry standards... been completed in line with... the IESC Uncertainty Analysis***

Central Queensland Coal Pty Ltd -
Level 17 240 Queen Street, Brisbane Q 4000 - GPO Box 1538 Brisbane Q 4001
Ph: +61 7 3832 2044 - Fax: +61 7 3832 2021 - A.C.N. 155 767 516 - www.cqcoal.com.au

Facts Missed by IESC / Central Queensland Coal Project | 1



FACTS MISSED BY IESC
MONDAY 25TH JANUARY 2021

Guidance Note and we have not identified any fundamental flaws in the work.” (see peer review concluding statement)

15. A substantial number of groundwater monitoring bores were installed and monitored throughout the EIS process, used in calibrating and checking model predictions – a total of 51 bores covering the full spectrum of hydrostratigraphic units, with an additional 7 bores drilled for the latest targeted work totalling 61 bores in total.
16. The Project will not cause mobilisation of the groundwater-saltwater interface as it is conservatively estimated to be below -280mAHD at the Toooloombah-Deep Creek confluence (2.2km downstream) and -480 to -680mAHD at the mine (ie. well beneath the deepest mine excavations), **IF** seawater even extended inland that far.
17. All water required for the Project will be sourced from on-site capture and reuse (i.e. no water abstraction proposed).
18. The enclosed Conveyor was relocated and is now 560m away from Deep Creek at the closest point, is out of the 1:1000 year floodplain area and coal will be at 15% moisture avoiding any dust resulting in **NO** impact.
19. Offsets and financial remuneration are in accordance with both State and Commonwealth offset policies.
20. The assessment of risks posed by potential contaminant transport from the final landform found that no negative effect in terms of water quality from waste rock and rejects would occur to groundwater.
21. Will create 167 new permanent direct jobs for the local region.

Central Queensland Coal Pty Ltd ·
Level 17 240 Queen Street, Brisbane Q 4000 · GPO Box 1538 Brisbane Q 4001
Ph: +61 7 3832 2044 · Fax: +61 7 3832 2021 · A.C.N. 155 767 516 · www.cqcoal.com.au

Facts Missed by IESC / Central Queensland Coal Project | 2

LETTER OF SUPPORT - CENTRAL QUEENSLAND COAL PROJECT

**Senator Malcolm Roberts letter of
support to the Hon Sussan Ley MP**

Meeting Date: 25 February 2021

Attachment No: 4



Senator Malcolm Roberts
One Nation Senator for Queensland

The Hon Sussan Ley M.P.

Minister for the Environment

M.1.40

Dear Minister Ley

I am writing to you in support of the Central Queensland Coal Project and to highlight some of the difficulties in accepting the findings of the Independent Expert Scientific Committee Review.

The recommendations of the IESC are not timely as the review did not take into account relevant new work that has since been completed satisfactorily as identified in earlier considerations and recommendations.

Apart from acknowledging that new works have been completed, the Review did not address the impact of the new works on earlier identified problems.

Neither the Ogmoo Coal Mine nor the Bowman Coal Mine are related to environmental legacy issues.

The existing local community relate to being part of a mining community. And are fully supportive. In terms of protecting the environment the Commonwealth already carries responsibility for protected matters under the EPBC Act.

Independent consultancies have already found there would be no significant Impact to the Great Barrier Reef or Broad Sound Fishing habitat downstream using State and Commonwealth guidelines.

To the contrary, excess nutrition and run-off will be diminished because of the reduction in cattle numbers. It is considered that the risk of damage through flooding is minimal. Only normal runoff will need to be managed, with no significant impact on downstream water quality.

Extensive modelling has not disclosed unmanageable water problems with dams and levees able to deal with significant rain events.

Even IESC guidelines requiring peer review revealed that all groundwater assessment and modelling work had been carried out in a professional and rigorous manner meeting current standards.

During this time of post Covid recovery, all opportunities to promote employment and prosperity for small communities should be grasped with both hands.

GPO Box 228
BRISBANE QLD 4001
Level 36, Waterfront Place, 1 Eagle Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Brisbane Office: +61 7 3221 9099
Parliament House: +61 2 6277 3694
Email: senator.roberts@aph.gov.au

I request that you look closely at the facts when considering support for this project as the facts speak for themselves.

This project deserves your support and the local mining community will welcome this project coming to fruition.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M Roberts', is positioned above the printed name.

Malcolm Roberts
SENATOR FOR QUEENSLAND

LETTER OF SUPPORT - CENTRAL QUEENSLAND COAL PROJECT

**Minister for Resources, Water and
Northern Australia letter to Central
Queensland Coal Pty Ltd**

Meeting Date: 25 February 2021

Attachment No: 5

**The Hon Keith Pitt MP**

Minister for Resources, Water and Northern Australia

MC21-000198

Mr Nui Harris
Chief Executive Officer
Central Queensland Coal Pty Ltd
GPO Box 1538
BRISBANE QLD 4001

NHarris@waratahcoal.com

Nui
Dear Mr Harris

Thank you for your letter of 9 January 2021 concerning the proposed Central Queensland Coal Project (the Project).

The Australian Government supports the sustainable development of Australia's coal resources and I welcome the potential economic benefits the Project could bring to Queensland, including the jobs for local communities.

The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) is responsible for administering the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and assessing mining project proposals. I understand your Project is being assessed under the bilateral agreement process by the Queensland Department of Environment and Science (DES) with advice from DAWE.

I have been advised that on 6 January 2021, you met with DES and DAWE to discuss recent advice from the Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development. On 15 January 2021, DAWE provided comments to DES on the adequacy of the draft amended Environmental Impact Assessment to help inform DES' decision on whether the assessment of the project should proceed. I encourage you to continue working with DES and DAWE on the Project.

The Government is working to improve regulatory processes by reducing unnecessary burdens and will continue to pursue reforms that improve the efficiency and effectiveness of resources sector regulation.

Thank you for writing on this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Keith Pitt'.

Keith Pitt

5/2/2021

Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

Telephone (02) 6277 7180

LETTER OF SUPPORT - CENTRAL QUEENSLAND COAL PROJECT

**Mr Stephen Andrew MP letter of
support to the Hon Meaghan Scanlon**

Meeting Date: 25 February 2021

Attachment No: 6



Stephen Andrew MP

State Member for Mirani

Colonial Corner
PO Box 56
SARINA QLD 4737

PH: 07 4806 0700
Mirani@parliament.qld.gov.au

2nd February 2021
The Hon Meaghan Scanlon
Minister for Environment and The Great Barrier Reef

Email: environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Minister,

RE: CENTRAL QUEENSLAND COAL PROJECT

I have recently met with Central Queensland Coal Pty Ltd management regarding their Central Qld Coal Mining Project situated near Tooloomba Creek Rd House on the Bruce Hwy north of Marlborough.

I am writing to you in full support for this mining project within the Mirani Electorate and to highlight some of the difficulties in accepting the findings of the Independent Expert Scientific Committee Review (IESC).

CQ Coal have invested considerable resources over several years toward developing this project and have demonstrated a net environmental impact plan over the life of the mine.

Extensive modelling has not disclosed unmanageable water problems with dams and levees able to deal with significant rain events out to Q1000.

Excess nutrition and run-off will be diminished because of the reduction in cattle numbers and the complete bunding of the project site.

In October 2020 CQ Coal lodged amended EIS Version 3 to IESC who have since responded with concerns of which I am convinced have already been addressed and documented by CQ Coal.

Independent consultancies have found there would be nil significant impact to the Great Barrier Reef or Broad Sound Fishing habitat downstream using State and Commonwealth guidelines.

IESC guidelines requiring peer review revealed that all groundwater assessment and modelling work had been carried out in a professional and rigorous manner meeting current standards.

Given the current state of Government Debt, the impact of Covid-19 and subsequent impact to regional industry employment, I ask that you provide appropriate resources to investigate and assess this project impartially, and to consider whether the IESC have given adequate or in some cases no regard to the documentation provided by CQ Coal within the SEIS Version 3.

I look forward to a favourable response to this request and thank the Minister for their attention to this matter prior to final decision by the department due on 26 February 2021.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Andrew'.

Mr Stephen Andrew
Member for Mirani

LETTER OF SUPPORT - CENTRAL QUEENSLAND COAL PROJECT

**Draft letter of support to the Minister
for the Environment and Great Barrier
Reef the Hon Meaghan Scanlon**

Meeting Date: 25 February 2021

Attachment No: 7



OFFICE OF
THE MAYOR

MAYOR TONY WILLIAMS

ROCKHAMPTON REGIONAL COUNCIL

25 February 2021

The Hon Meaghan Scanlon
Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef
Minister for Science and Youth Affairs
1 William Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Minister Scanlon

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR CENTRAL QUEENSLAND COAL PROJECT

I am writing to advise that at a Special Meeting of Rockhampton Regional Council's on 25 February 2021, Council endorsed the provision of this letter to express its support of the CQ Coal Project, located on the Bruce Highway approximately 135 kilometres north of Rockhampton.

The project is a small scale metallurgical coal project hoped to commence construction in July 2022, employing up to 250 people. The commencement of construction and operations will occur once State Government approvals and subsequent Commonwealth approvals are secured.

In the current local, national and global climate, job creation is key in the recovery of our economy. In particular resource and construction jobs. These sectors have contributed significantly in the success that Australia and Queensland have had in mitigating the impact of the COVID19 pandemic.

Initiatives such as the CQ Coal Project are paramount in the progression of our state and country in ensuring a pipeline of quality and diverse jobs for our communities. Regional Queensland is now coming of age and contribute significantly to the state's economy through projects such as this.

Subject to approvals, operations will commence in December 2022 and will initially produce 1.5 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) of semi soft coking coal, employing approximately 167 people. The Project will move into full operation in 2024 and will produce 3.2 Mtpa of semi soft coking coal, employing approximately 250 people.

The life of the mining phase of the Project will be 18 years, followed by two years of rehabilitation. Rehabilitation will also occur progressively throughout the life of the project.

It would be remiss of me to not consider the potential environmental impacts this project could pose to our region in a goal to generate jobs.

Independent consultancies have confirmed that there will be no significant impact to the Great Barrier Reef or Broad Sound Fishing habitat downstream using State and Commonwealth guidelines and for this reason and the significant potential for job generation, we ask you to seriously consider the facts and support our region and this project.

PH: (07) 4936 8275 | E: mayor@rrc.qld.gov.au | W: www.rrc.qld.gov.au | PO Box 1860, Rockhampton Qld 4700

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This project is supported by the local, regional communities and I list below a number of important factors that this project will bring:

- A reduction in sediment leaving the Styx River Catchment (up to 3%) to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and Broadsound Fish Habitat
- Long-term direct employment for up to 250 employees
- State Royalty of \$766 million; and
- Commonwealth taxes of over \$1 billion

This project deserves approval, as does the surrounding communities deserve job opportunities. We appreciate your time in reading my correspondence, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me through my office on (07) 49368275 or via mayor@rrc.qld.gov.au.

Yours Sincerely

Tony Williams
Mayor
Rockhampton Regional Council

5.2 ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

File No:	11092
Attachments:	Nil
Authorising Officer:	Ross Cheesman - Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Author:	Angus Russell - Manager Strategy and Planning

SUMMARY

The report proposes endorsement of advocacy priorities for Council.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council:

1. Endorse the proposed advocacy priorities for further development and immediate action where appropriate; and,
2. Formally seek reallocation of \$25 million funding previously identified in the Queensland State Budget to augmentation of the North Rockhampton Sewage Treatment Plant.

COMMENTARY

There are a number of upcoming opportunities for Council to advocate for priority projects and initiatives. These opportunities include current reviews of the Central Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (CQROC) and Regional Development Australia Central and Western Queensland (RDACWQ) priorities, State and Federal Government Budgets and the next Federal Election.

The proposed advocacy priorities have been workshopped by Council and relate to both Council projects and wider regional projects, initiatives and needs.

Priorities range from those that are very mature and well understood to those that are in formative stages and require further development.

The proposed priorities are intentionally focused on essential Council infrastructure projects that will support growth and development of the region and projects and initiatives that will deliver significant economic and industry development outcomes.

The following priorities are proposed for endorsement:

Council Projects

- South Rockhampton Flood Levee
- North Rockhampton Sewage Treatment Plant Augmentation
- Parkhurst Development Infrastructure
- Bulk Water Supply Infrastructure
- Airport Developments
- Pilbeam Theatre Redevelopment Design and Business Case
- Zoo and Botanic Gardens Redevelopment
- Glenroy Bridge Design and Business Cases
- North Rocky Multi-Sports Precinct
- Mount Morgan and Gracemere Pathways

Non-Council Projects

- Further Water Infrastructure Development
 - State Development Area (or alternate support for industrial development)
 - Tourism Facilities Developments
-

- Energy Precinct Development
- Defence Presence and Activities
- Health and Education Developments
- Capricorn Highway Upgrades and Rockhampton Ring Road
- Community Advocacy

In order to progress the proposed priorities in a deliberate and targeted way, an advocacy framework is also under development and will be workshopped with Council on 3 March 2021 prior to seeking formal endorsement.

PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Council periodically prioritises projects and initiatives for both advocacy and grant funding applications. A number of the priorities proposed in this report have been subject to earlier Council considerations and decisions.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

A number of the proposed projects will have a significant impact on Council's budget over the coming years and external support may alleviate some of that impact. Some projects will require contributions from Council and will need to be considered in Budget planning and Long Term Financial Forecasts.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

Significant internal staff resources will be required to further develop a number of the proposed priorities, support engagement with key stakeholders (including CQROC and RDACWQ), develop advocacy materials and support direct advocacy to relevant parties.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The proposed advocacy priorities are largely focused on supporting growth and economic development. There are risks that the "list" may be too long, that priorities are "under-prepared" and that the advocacy will be unsuccessful.

CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The proposed advocacy priorities support multiple Corporate Plan outcomes including:

- Safe, accessible, reliable and sustainable infrastructure and facilities (1.1)
- Regional public places that meet our community's needs (1.2)
- A destination sought for lifestyle, community events and tourism (2.1)
- Infrastructure services are driven to deliver future economic growth (2.4)
- Promote industry diversification to enhance regional economic resilience (2.6)
- Plan for future population and economic growth giving consideration to a diverse range of industries and services (4.4)
- Productive partnerships with all levels of government and relevant stakeholders (5.1)

CONCLUSION

Effectively advocating for Council and wider regional priorities is essential to attracting support from Federal and State Governments. Establishing a clear set of priorities will enable Council and officers to focus their efforts and better engage with local and regional stakeholders to generate support and momentum.

6 CLOSURE OF MEETING