

## **Appendix F List of Proponent Commitments**

## **General**

1. 1 The Project will operate in accordance with an Environmental Management System.
1. 2 An Environmental Monitoring Manual (EMM) will be developed as part of the Project Environmental Management System. The EMM will outline the Project's environmental monitoring program (including monitoring sites, parameters and their frequency of measurement and make reference to monitoring procedures and records).
1. 3 Annual Returns will be prepared as required under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.
1. 4 A Register of Environmental Incidents will be maintained. Incidents that may potentially compromise compliance with the conditions of the Environmental Authority will be reported immediately to operations management.
1. 5 Environmental monitoring will be implemented, including rehabilitation success, surface water quality, groundwater quality and level, the stability of the Gowrie Creek diversion, aquatic ecology, dust deposition and noise.

## **Section 3 – Land Resources**

3. 1 The Proponent commits to developing processes whereby matters surrounding the question of Native Title can be effectively negotiated. It is accepted that some resources will need to be provided by the Proponent to enable the relevant group to negotiate with the Proponent in an equitable fashion, and the proponent commits to providing such resources within reasonable limits.
3. 2 Stable landforms will be established following mining, using soils capable of supporting vegetation communities adapted to the local environment. The disturbed land will be rehabilitated to a condition that is self-sustaining, or to a condition where the maintenance requirements are consistent with the post-mining land use.
3. 3 Progressive rehabilitation will occur, and the post-mine land use for areas disturbed by mining at the Project will be a self-sustaining vegetation community using appropriate native tree, shrub and grass species based on site-specific trials.
3. 4 On-site field trials will be conducted with a range of native tree and shrub species and grasses to optimise regeneration on major soil types.
3. 5 On-site trials will be conducted to establish native bluegrass on former grazing and cropping land.
3. 6 Topsoil will be salvaged from all disturbed areas, unless specific directions have been given that certain soils are unsuitable.
3. 7 Topsoil stockpiles will be located away from drainage lines and the final surface will be ripped to promote natural vegetation.
3. 8 Erosion and sediment control measures will be employed, consistent with the practices described in the 'Technical Guidelines for Environmental Management for Exploration and Mining in Queensland'.
3. 9 The Engineering Guidelines for Queensland for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control (IEAust 1996) will be followed;
3. 10 Clearing will not commence until drainage control works are in place;
3. 11 Rehabilitated areas will be monitored to identify any areas in need of maintenance at an early stage. Rehabilitated areas that have not reached a sufficient density of vegetation will be reseeded. Supplementary plantings or seeding may be used to increase species diversity. Maintenance work will be performed to repair any areas exhibiting excessive soil erosion.

3. 12 Rehabilitated areas will be monitored using the selected parameters and trends tracked to demonstrate progress towards a self-sustaining ecosystem.
3. 13 Trials will be conducted to vary the slope angle used on final landforms. The use of competent waste rock and soil will be trailed on slopes steeper than 17%.
3. 14 A Waste Rock Management Plan will be developed which aims to minimise ARD processes. This plan will provide for the on-going analysis and identification of waste to ensure their appropriate placement.
3. 15 The management of any potentially acid forming (PAF) materials will be achieved by the selective placement and burial of PAF waste rock and the construction of an earth material cover over the final Coal Washery Waste Disposal Area.
3. 16 Once run-of-mine waste materials are available, investigations of appropriate waste rock dump design and optimal depth of burial of PAF waste rock would be investigated.
3. 17 Once run-of-mine waste materials and coal washery waste are available, investigations of cover strategies to minimise the release of oxidation products in leachate, and salt rise into the growth horizon, would be investigated.
3. 18 On the completion of mining, infrastructure will be treated as follows:
  - mine roads will be left behind for use as farm roads (or rehabilitated);
  - water dams and levee banks will remain if required by the subsequent landowner and approved by regulators; otherwise, they will be breached;
  - buildings, plant and equipment will be removed and the surface rehabilitated. This will include the CPP, workshop, offices, storage tanks and coal handling facilities; and
  - concrete pads will be covered with benign waste rock, topsoiled and revegetated.
3. 19 All fuel and chemical storage areas within the industrial area will be bunded, and any spills contained.
3. 20 The decommissioning and final rehabilitation of the Project will occur on a staged basis over several years.
3. 21 A contaminated site assessment will be carried out prior to surrender of the mining lease, and reported as part of the Final Rehabilitation Report.

#### **Section 4 – Water Resources**

4. 1 The Project will have a site management system comprised of a series of storages and sediment dams. Stored water will be preferentially reused in the CPP or for dust suppression.
4. 2 Routine monitoring of key water storages within the Project site will be undertaken to provide information on the operation of the mine water management system. Locations and parameters to be monitored regularly are described in **Table 4-21** of the EIS.
4. 3 The impacts of the mining operation on downstream water quality will be minimised by:
  - releasing from the Mine Water Dam only during times of flow in Wolfgang or Gowrie Creeks;
  - releasing from the Mine Water Dam only if the resultant EC in Wolfgang Creek does not exceed 1 800  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ , and the resultant pH in Wolfgang Creek is maintained in the range 6.0 – 8.5; and
  - ensuring all runoff from disturbed areas passes through sediment dams before entering local creeks.
4. 4 During a release event from the Mine water Dam, the quality of the release water and the quality of the receiving waters (Wolfgang creek) will be monitored. The range of parameters shall be reviewed after four years.

- 4.5 All water quality sampling will be undertaken in accordance with the *Water Quality Sampling Manual, Third edition* (EPA, 1999). The frequency of monitoring and range of parameters analysed during flow and routine monitoring as described in the EIS will be reviewed after the first two years of mine operation.
- 4.6 Upon completion of the construction phase of the proposed diversion a quantitative monitoring and evaluation program will be put in place to ensure that the diversion is working as intended. The program will follow the principals and procedures outlined in the Australian Coal Association Research Program (ACARP) Project "Monitoring and Evaluation Program for Bowen Basin River Diversions" (Project Number C9068). Specifically, a combination of pre-determined frequency and event based monitoring would be implemented.
- 4.7 A program of adaptive waterway management (i.e. intervention management) within the Gowrie Creek diversion would be undertaken. Adaptive waterway management will be undertaken as a result of a diversion monitoring program which will be part of the environmental monitoring program for the site.
- 4.8 The Proponent will undertake further hydrogeological evaluations to assess the potential availability of alternative groundwater supplies that would be unaffected by the mine dewatering program. Based on the results of these assessments and discussions with relevant landholders, options to ensure access to adequate alternative water supplies will be developed and discussed with the affected parties.
- 4.9 The Proponent will continue discussions with landholders affected by groundwater draw-down, with a view to reaching mutually agreeable arrangements for the provision of alternative supplies throughout the mine life, and after mine closure.
- 4.10 A groundwater monitoring program will be undertaken during the operation of the dewatering borefield and during the operational phase of the Project. Groundwater level fluctuation and water chemistry monitoring will be undertaken of groundwater bores within major aquifers surrounding the Mining Leases.
- 4.11 The Proponent will conduct a stygofauna survey to establish if stygofauna are present within the Project area and if so, the range of taxa present. This survey is planned to occur once the regional monitoring bore network is installed. Selected bores both within and outside the anticipated zone of groundwater drawdown will be sampled.

## **Section 5 – Nature Conservation**

- 5.1 The Proponent will implement off-set strategies for the unavoidable loss of 35 ha of the bluegrass community by compensatory establishment of 35 ha of bluegrass on in-situ black soil in the north-east of ML 1884.
- 5.2 Areas to be cleared will have boundaries clearly marked by tape, pegs or other means, means and will conform to the limits of design drawings. Particular attention will be paid to defining the boundaries of clearing where endangered and of concern regional ecosystems are present.
- 5.3 All vegetation clearance will be restricted to that necessary for the works.
- 5.4 Small areas of Belyando cobbles pegs will be disturbed by the Project, however, the Proponent is committed to managing the remaining community for long-term survival. The Proponent will fence off remaining communities of Belyando cobbles pegs to exclude stock, machinery and people.
- 5.5 Rehabilitation strategies for the flood plain of the Gowrie Creek diversion will include the establishment of Coolibah open woodland with a grassy understorey.
- 5.6 The Proponent will consider strategies such as a nature conservation agreement or land covenant for the long-term protection and management of Belyando cobbles pegs and proposed bluegrass off-set planted areas, at the time of relinquishment of the mining leases.

- 5.7 A Weed Management Plan will be prepared for the Project. It will be consistent with the Belyando Shire Weed Management Strategy.
- 5.8 A plan for dealing with fauna during clearing and construction will be prepared to outline protocols for dealing with injured wildlife and other necessary actions relating to fauna.
- 5.9 Once development of the Project commences, a routine ecological monitoring program would be undertaken. To ensure consistency with baseline data collected for the EIS, monitoring would be scheduled to follow significant regional rainfall (ideally in the early part of the 'wet season'). Monitoring would comprise habitat assessment, water quality monitoring, and the components of biological monitoring used to establish the baseline data set for the EIS. Annual monitoring during the operational life of the mine, and for a period of three years post cessation of groundwater discharge is considered appropriate. Frequency of monitoring may be reduced if there is little change between years.
- 5.10 Monitoring of the four plots established for the riparian vegetation assessment for the EIS will be undertaken. Monitoring will include assessment against baseline floristics and structural information to determine whether the abundance of weeds are increasing downstream of the Project or whether there is a major change to riparian communities downstream of the Project.
- 5.11 Monitoring for weed species at random locations above and below the Project will be undertaken to ascertain whether new weed species are spreading downstream of the proposed low-flow discharge point.

## **Section 6 – Air Quality**

- 6.1 Dust deposition monitoring will be carried out at Araluen, Crillee, the Airport and Glenmore residences for five years, following the commencement of construction, to confirm the modelling prediction that operations shall not result in a significant increase in dust levels.
- 6.2 Any dust complaint will be investigated expeditiously and the complainant will be responded to.
- 6.3 The Proponent will maintain an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions for the Project once construction starts; publicly report greenhouse emissions and progress on greenhouse mitigation measures; and maintain membership of the Commonwealth Government Greenhouse Challenge Program.

## **Section 7 – Noise and Vibration**

- 7.1 Noise at the nearest residences shall not exceed 37 dB(A) under typical adverse night time weather conditions.
- 7.2 The following measures will be adopted where required to meet the noise criteria described in the Environmental Authority, at the nearest sensitive receptors:
  - installation of 5m noise control berms adjacent to major haul roads;
  - adoption of proper maintenance and operation procedures to minimise nuisance noise emissions from equipment; and
  - provision of a cover over the conveyor and side barriers where necessary.
- 7.3 Noise monitoring will be conducted at least annually at Araluen, Crillee, Fleurs, Homelea Downs, Airport Glenmore, new Blair Athol and Old Blair Athol for the first five years of mining and thereafter if requested by the residents. Occupants will be informed of any changes to mine operations that have the potential to cause a significant change to noise emissions.
- 7.4 A site contact number will be provided to neighbours to allow a timely response to any complaint about nuisance noise. Complaints will be investigated to determine the source of the nuisance noise and, where appropriate, noise monitoring will be conducted at the affected residence. Should monitoring indicate that the noise level is persistently over 35 dB(A) and is causing a continuing nuisance, Clermont Coal Mine shall seek to reach an agreement with the

occupier of the residence to provide noise reduction treatment of the dwelling to minimise the nuisance.

7. 5 Airblast will be managed by environmental blast design and accurate implementation to achieve the 115 dBL limit at the nearby residences.
7. 6 A predictive airblast model will be calibrated based on field observation and used to determine blast specifications (such a stemming, hole spacing and charge factor) such that blasts are managed within *Environmental Protection Regulation* limits.
7. 7 Ground vibration due to blasting shall not exceed 10 mm/s at the nearest residences.

### **Section 8 – Cultural Heritage**

8. 1 The Proponent will prepare a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) and meet duty of care standards set by the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003.
8. 2 The Proponent will engage with the endorsed Aboriginal parties to compile a comprehensive schedule of the cultural heritage places and values of the study area, and then to negotiating a strategy to manage those places and values in a culturally appropriate fashion in the context of the proposed development.
8. 3 In order to minimise the risk of accidental damage to cultural heritage features, the Proponent will incorporate cultural heritage awareness into worker induction sessions and training; and implement a procedure requiring a permit to be obtained from the relevant site person(s) prior to undertaking any clearing or excavations.

### **Section 9 – Scenic Values**

9. 1 Vegetation will be retained and progressive rehabilitation will occur to reduce visual impacts.
9. 2 The Proponent will retain/establish a buffer of vegetation between the North West Waste Dump and the realigned section of the Peak Downs Highway and Gregory Highway.
9. 3 The Proponent will vegetate the Gowrie Creek diversion progressively to replace woodland presently acting as a mid-field screen for views from the east.
9. 4 The Proponent will consult with the occupiers of the Homelea Downs residence in order to determine if the impact requires mitigation, and if so, discuss what form of mitigation is acceptable.
9. 5 The Proponent will locate night lights as required for safety and security, but ensure lights are focussed on the areas required, with shields around the globes to limit extraneous light where necessary.

### **Section 10 – Waste Management**

- 10.1 The Proponent will estimate and report Project emissions to the NPI annually once mining commences.
- 10.2 Separate skips will be provided to maintain waste segregation and maximise economic reuse and recycling, in preference to disposal to landfill.
- 10.3 Transportation of wastes off-site will be by a licensed waste contractor.
- 10.4 Any hazardous materials used on site will be recorded in a Hazardous Materials Register.
- 10.5 A Waste Management Procedure will be developed, incorporating an approved waste tracking system for those wastes that require tracking.
- 10.6 Sites that become contaminated will be investigated, managed and remediated in accordance with the requirements of the contaminated land provisions of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

10.7 Waste monitoring and auditing will be undertaken at the Project.

## **Section 11 – Traffic and Infrastructure**

- 11.1 The new road sections and intersections will all be designed in accordance with the appropriate safety and geometric standards to the satisfaction of Department of Main Roads.
- 11.2 As required by Department of Main Roads, the effect of heavy vehicle traffic generated by the development on pavement life and maintenance needs will be assessed in detail in accordance with the DMR (2000) Guidelines, and the Proponent will consult with DMR about mitigation of any effects identified.
- 11.3 The single landholder affected by the conveyor has been fully consulted and suitable access over the conveyor will be provided in two locations.
- 11.4 RTCA has agreed with a DNRME request that:
- the road reserve be widened from minimum 60m to minimum 90m width along western boundary south from intersection with Peak Downs Highway;
  - the stock route be selectively cleared and stick-raked along the western boundary where the timber is quite thick and there is a lot of fallen timber;
  - additional fencing be provided so that stock move in a laneway separated from road traffic by a fence, and a post and rail fence (or stock yard fencing) be provided to separate stock from road traffic where the stock will cross under the conveyor (the need and scope of these fences will be confirmed with the stock inspector once road construction and conveyor overpass are complete); and
  - additional stock watering be provided (tank and trough or small dam in one of the gullies) at a point midway down western side.
- 11.5 RTCA will continue to consult with DMR and DNRME and negotiate the approvals for the realignment of the Peak Downs Highway and the Gregory Highway and associated stock routes. RTCA also proposes to work closely with the Belyando Shire Council throughout the Project to ensure that benefits to the Shire are maximised and potentially adverse impacts are minimised.
- 11.6 A new school bus stop will be provided on the Peak Downs Highway near the Gregory Developmental Road intersection to replace the existing stop. The location and design of the bus stop will conform with the relevant geometric and safety standards.
- 11.7 Coal will be transported to product stockpiles at the BAM by conveyor. The Proponent does not propose to transport coal to the BAM via road when the conveyor is shut down (e.g. for maintenance).

## **Section 13 – Social Impact**

- 13.1 During the approval phase of the Project, the Proponent will continue ongoing communication with the Clermont community and existing BAM employees about the Project approval process and timeline, and key Project milestones.
- 13.2 The Site Construction Village is temporary and will be decommissioned and removed at the end of the construction phase.
- 13.3 The Proponent would cater for the employees who choose to maintain their home base outside of Clermont during the operational phase by providing accommodation in the Township Village. The proponent would restrict the distance employees travel on a daily basis to and from the mine to minimise the exposure to fatigue.
- 13.4 The Project will provide employees with financial assistance towards the cost of purchase or rental of a principal place of residence.

- 13.5 RTCA will continue to inform the existing BAM workforce, accommodation services providers, and other relevant stakeholders on the progress of the Project, including proposed plans for accommodating the workforce.
- 13.6 The Proponent would monitor the demand for accommodation and consider options to ensure that demand for workforce accommodation is met and impacts on the Clermont housing market are minimised.
- 13.7 The Proponent would provide training to all employees. The Proponent would also work closely with the BACJV to ensure that all BAM employees are:
- aware of the employment opportunities available at the Project;
  - understand the recruitment and selection process and criteria that will be used to assess their applications; and
  - aware of the timeframe for decisions relating to employment at the Project.
- 13.8 RTCA will provide opportunities for people to be trained under traineeships and apprenticeships. Initiatives in this area will include:
- encouraging contractors working on construction, developing the box-cut or providing services to site to provide traineeships for young people;
  - seeking to work with engineering companies in the region to support additional apprenticeships, including opportunities for females and indigenous applicants through the provision of financial support and site placements to gain experience. An example of this type of initiative is the partnership between RTCA's Hail Creek Mine and the Mackay Area Industry Network (MAIN); and
  - providing opportunities, either directly or through external providers for traineeships and apprenticeships. Initiatives similar to those developed through the Blair Athol Mine Community Development Fund, would be continued during the Project.
- 13.9 A relationship with Central Queensland TAFE and other training organisations would be developed to ensure that these agencies are aware of Project requirements and build them into long-term training and upskilling plans. Partnerships with the community and agencies, that help to develop skills within the community, would also be considered by the Proponent.
- 13.10 The Proponent will continue to support certain local community enterprises through programs similar to the Blair Athol Mine Community Development Fund. An objective of such support is that the enterprises must be self-sustaining.
- 13.11 Counselling services would be provided for employees during the construction and operational phases of the Project by phone and regular Project site or town visits by a counsellor. During the operational phase counselling services would also be extended to families of all employees, including those who do not reside in Clermont.
- 13.12 The construction and operational phase workforce would be governed by the policies and codes of conduct devised and implemented by RTCA and its contractors. RTCA's policies from "The Way We Work" and the "RTCA Code of Good Conduct" would be implemented.

## **Section 15 – Health and Safety**

- 15.1 The Proponent will implement the RTCA Safety Standards and Occupational Health Standards that are currently in use at all RTCA operations and provide the basis for effective management of employee and public health and safety.
- 15.2 The Rio Tinto Occupational Health Standard for Hearing Conservation will apply to all phases of the Project. The Project will implement hearing conservation standards and procedures during construction and operation to ensure that employees and contractors will not suffer adverse health effects from noise generated in the workplace.

- 15.3 The Proponent would provide first aid and emergency rescue facilities and equipment during all phases of the Project. The Proponent would ensure that appropriately trained personnel would be on site throughout the life of the Project to provide first aid and respond to on-site emergencies as required.
- 15.4 MSDS information will be obtained and communicated to all site personnel involved in the storage, handling use and disposal of hazardous substances and materials.
- 15.5 Designated first aid and emergency rescue facilities and equipment will be available during the construction and operation phases.
- 15.6 The site will have a fire brigade approved fire response/fighting system
- 15.7 The Proponent will liase with local State Emergency Services and local ambulance and hospital services with respect to planning for Emergency Response.
- 15.8 An Emergency Response Plan will be prepared and implemented.

### **Section 16 EMOS**

- 16.1 RTCA will ensure that employees, contractors and visitors receive appropriate environmental awareness training. Environmental awareness training will occur at induction, and will be a regular feature of site-wide training. Records of training content and attendance will also be maintained.
- 16.2 Employees and contractors required to undertake work at the site must undergo an environment, health and safety induction.
- 16.3 The Proponent will develop and implement a complaints procedure. Any complaints will be recorded on a register. Complaints will be investigated and where appropriate, corrective action will be implemented.