Central Queensland Coal Project

Appendix 2 - Standard Criteria

Supplementary Environmental Impact Statement

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Appendix A2 – Standard Criteria

1.1 Standard Criteria of the Environmental Protection Act 1994

Schedule 4 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (EP Act) provides the standard criteria against which the Project will be assessed. The standard criteria as defined by the EP Act, includes the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) and other relevant policy instruments.

The Project has addressed the standard criteria throughout the EIS and a summary response to the standard criteria is provided in Table 1. With regard to the principles of ESD, as listed in the National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development (NSESD), Table 2 provides a summary of how the Project conforms to these principles.

Table 1 Project's compatibility with the standard criteria

Standard criteria of the EP Act	EIS cross-reference
(a) The following principles of environmental policy as set out in the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment – i. the precautionary principle; ii. intergenerational equity; iii. conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity.	Refer to Chapter 2 – Project Needs and Alternatives, Section 2.4 and Table 2-14.
(b) Any Commonwealth or State government plans, standards, agreements or requirements about environmental protection or ecologically sustainable development.	Chapter 1 – Introduction provides an overview of the applicability of Commonwealth and State legislation to the Project. Each chapter covers the legislation relevant to that specific environmental factor.
(c) Any relevant environmental impact study, assessment or report.	The EIS provides a written record of the environmental impact study. All applicable technical reports and references relied on for this EIS have been incorporated into the body of the EIS and the technical reports made available as Appendices.
(d) The character, resilience and values of the receiving environment.	The current environmental conditions, including character, resilience and values are described in: ▪ Chapter 4 – Climate; ▪ Chapter 5 – Land; ▪ Chapter 6 – Traffic and Transport; ▪ Chapter 7 – Waste Management; ▪ Chapter 8 – Waste Rock and Rejects; ▪ Chapter 9 – Surface Water; ▪ Chapter 10 – Groundwater; ▪ Chapter 12 – Air Quality; ▪ Chapter 13 – Noise and Vibration; ▪ Chapter 14 – Terrestrial Ecology; ▪ Chapter 15 – Aquatic Ecology; ▪ Chapter 16 – Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES); ▪ Chapter 17 – Biosecurity; ▪ Chapter 18 – Cultural Heritage; ▪ Chapter 19A –Economics; ▪ Chapter 19B – Social Impact; ▪ Chapter 20 – Health and Safety; and ▪ Chapter 21 – Hazard and Risk.

Standard criteria of the EP Act	EIS cross-reference
(e) All submissions made by the applicant and submitters.	Submissions on the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the EIS were taken into account by DES when preparing the final ToR. Likewise, DES is required to consider any submissions received on the EIS. Government agencies and the public are invited to make submissions to DES during the EIS public submission period. Notification dates will be outlined in the advertised EIS public notice. All comments and submissions must be properly made and addressed to DES. DES is required to consider any submission received on the EIS. The submission process for the EIS is fully detailed in Chapter 1 – Introduction and will be considered by DES in their final assessment.
(f) The best practice environmental management for activities under any relevant instrument, or proposed instrument, as follows: i. an environmental authority; ii. an environmental management program; iii. an environmental protection order; iv. a disposal permit; or v. a development approval.	Proposed environmental management measures and activities are described in the relevant chapters. A Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan will developed. i. The Project will be subject to an Environmental Authority (EA). Draft EA conditions have been detailed in Chapter 23 – Draft EA conditions. Chapter 22 – Key Commitments and Chapter 23 – Draft EA Conditions have been developed to list significant mitigation and control measures concerning the Project. These are based upon appropriate guidelines published by DES, the latest model mining conditions and best practice. The area is not subject to any other approvals, permits or protection orders or programs.
(g) The financial implications of the requirements under an instrument, or proposed instrument, mentioned in paragraph (f) as they would relate to the type of activity or industry carried out, or proposed to be carried out, under the instrument.	Financial implications associated with the Project are discussed in Chapter 19A –Economics.
(h) The public interest.	Public interest is in the Project is addressed in: ▪ Chapter 18 – Cultural Heritage; ▪ Chapter 19A –Economics; ▪ Chapter 19B = Social Impacts; ▪ Chapter 20 – Health and Safety; and ▪ Chapter 21 – Hazard and Risk. Environmental values addressed in the EIS also include issues of public interest.
(i) Any relevant site management plan.	Although there is currently no applicable site management plan for the Project, the Project features significant mitigation and control measures within relevant EIS chapters. A Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan will be developed at a later stage to include those mitigation measures, commitments made within the EIS and the requirements of the EIS assessment report and the final EA conditions. Specific site management plans are identified in the EIS for a range of environmental values. These plans are designed to manage potential environmental impacts outlined in the EIS and will be developed prior to the relevant phases of construction and operation.
(j) Any relevant integrated environmental management system (EMS) or proposed integrated environmental management system.	Central Queensland Coal, the parent company, will establish an Environmental Management System consistent with ISO14001.

Standard criteria of the EP Act	EIS cross-reference
(k) Any other matter prescribed under a regulation.	All appropriate matters prescribed under relevant regulations have been considered in the EIS, these are outlined in Chapter 1 – Introduction, Section 1.10 Project Approvals. An approvals matrix is provided in Appendix A1 – Approvals Matrix. Any prescribed matters that arise during construction, operation or decommissioning will be addressed through consultation with the relevant regulatory agency as required.

1.2 National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development

The key objectives and guiding principles of ESD are outlined in the NSESD. The ESD principles and objectives are shown in Table 2 along with responses that demonstrate how the Project conforms with each principle from construction through to decommissioning. The assessment of the guiding principles of ESD in the planning and design are presented in Chapter 2 – Project Needs and Alternatives.

Table 2 Objectives and principles of the national strategy for ecologically sustainable development

ESD objectives/principles	EIS cross-reference
Core Objectives	
To enhance individual and community well-being and welfare by following a path of economic development that safeguards the welfare of future generations	Central Queensland Coal is committed to enhancing the well-being and welfare of the local community within which the Project will operate. The Project will provide employment opportunities to members of the community, and has committed to supporting local business. Central Queensland Coal is also conscious of the social issues that exist within the community and will work with the local council and landowners to address these. Sections of the EIS that address individual and community well-being and welfare are: ▪ Chapter 18 – Cultural Heritage; ▪ Chapter 19A –Economics; ▪ Chapter 19B – Social Impacts; ▪ Chapter 20 – Health and Safety; and ▪ Chapter 21 – Hazard and Risk.
To provide for equity within and between generations	Central Queensland Coal has committed to upfront investment in treatment technologies such as filter press reject processing to avoid tailings dams. These measures will ensure there are minimal risk of legacy environmental issues that could cost and impact future generations. A transparent and timely stakeholder consultation program will be conducted to engage and maintain a constructive relationship with all stakeholders, including landowners and traditional owners. This consultation is being conducted in a manner which informs stakeholders about the Project and encourages them to contribute ideas that can enhance its environmental and social acceptability. A rehabilitation and decommissioning framework outlined in Chapter 11 – Rehabilitation and Decommissioning will be developed and finalised to ensure the integrity of the land and landscape is restored to its pre-mining state as much as possible, and also to enhance conservation values in the area. This will ensure no legacy economic cost or environmental impacts for future generations.

ESD objectives/principles	EIS cross-reference
To protect biological diversity and maintain essential ecological processes and life-support systems.	Biodiversity conservation is a principle of ESD policy considered throughout the Project. Studies of terrestrial and aquatic flora and fauna have been undertaken, and significant species and ecosystems have been assessed and where possible avoided or the impact mitigated. A Land Use Management Plan will be established, this will address the following issues: ▪ Weed management in accordance with the requirements of the LP Act; ▪ Vegetation monitoring in Regional Ecosystems (RE) adjacent to the mining activities to identify whether indirect impacts are occurring; and ▪ Biodiversity offsets will be developed in consultation with DES prior to works being undertaken on site. As part of rehabilitation in the areas of the transport corridor where clearing of REs is required, these areas will be rehabilitated with similar species compositions and local seed stocks to ensure corridor re-establishment for wildlife and protect long-term biological diversity. Sections of the EIS that address the protection of biological diversity and ecological processes are: ▪ Chapter 14 – Terrestrial Ecology; ▪ Chapter 15 – Aquatic Ecology; and ▪ Chapter 16 – MNES.
Guiding Principles	
Decision making processes should effectively integrate both long and short-term economic, environmental, social and equity considerations.	The EIS process and results of specific environmental studies that have been undertaken has enabled Central Queensland Coal to identify and incorporate both long and short-term economic, environmental, social and equity considerations into project planning processes, which are described in Chapter 3 – Project Description. Chapter 19A –Economics and Chapter 19B – Social Impacts identify the social and economic and impacts and benefits of the Project. The economic impacts on the local community and region are generally positive for the life of the Project. Central Queensland Coal is: ▪ Committed to employing and training local residents where possible, thereby building the skills base of the community; and ▪ Committed to remediating the land following cessation of operations.
Where there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation.	Through the EIS process Central Queensland Coal has incorporated the management of environmental risks into the Project's design; while mitigation measures have been developed and are provided throughout the EIS and in Chapter 21 – Hazard and Risk. Central Queensland Coal are committed to periodic updates of technical modelling undertaken to date to assess actual impacts against the predicted impacts. This will be undertaken through proposed ongoing monitoring programs for a range of environmental factors to increase known certainty of impacts throughout the life of the Project. While potential impacts causing serious or irreversible environmental damage are not predicted to result from the development of the Project, Central Queensland Coal has the technical experience and financial support to establish, implement, and maintain controls needed to protect the environment. Where this is out of Central Queensland Coal's level of experience third party audits and studies will be undertaken and relevant technical experts engaged.
The global dimension of environmental impacts of actions and policies should be recognised and considered.	The Project is not expected to have a global environmental impact, other than a minor contribution to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Potential greenhouse gas impacts and abatement measures are discussed in Chapter 4 – Climate and Chapter 12 – Air Quality. Central Queensland Coal has committed to reduce GHG emissions where possible. In addition to this, the Project will also adopt appropriate waste and water minimisation strategies and an energy conservation program.

ESD objectives/principles	EIS cross-reference
The need to develop a strong, growing and diversified economy which can enhance the capacity for environmental protection should be recognised.	The Project is economically significant at a local, regional and state level. The Project will further boost the currently declining coal industry in the region, and create new and sustainable opportunities for small and medium-sized businesses in the local and regional economy, especially those providing services to the mining industry. At full operating capacity, the Project is anticipated to employ approximately 500 people and many more indirectly from flow-on contracting jobs and services. Economic impacts are described in detail in Chapter 19A –Economics. The Project will enhance capacity for environmental protection through an investigation into emissions offsets. Where emissions cannot be avoided or minimised the impacts of the Project can be reduced by voluntary offsetting carbon emissions if desired. These offsets can be generated from a variety of sources such as renewable energy, forestry plantations or energy efficiency projects.
The need to maintain and enhance international competitiveness in an environmentally sound manner should be recognised.	The Project will provide a further boost to Queensland's and Australia's economy. A significant proportion of this investment will flow directly into the local and regional economy from the goods and services required during the construction and operation phases. The standards to which the Project must comply will ensure that a high regard to environmental protection is incorporated throughout the Project life. Environmental management obligations for the Project are provided within the relevant EIS Chapters.
Cost effective and flexible policy instruments should be adopted, such as improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms.	Central Queensland Coal supports all levels of Government in the use of cost effective and flexible policy instruments that oversee valuation, pricing and incentives.
Decisions and actions should provide for broad community involvement on potential issues.	Central Queensland Coal will implement the management and monitoring strategies outlined in Chapter 19B – Social Impacts. The Social Impact Strategy will support ongoing management of the social change processes, social impacts and benefits associated with the Project. A transparent and timely stakeholder consultation program will be conducted to engage and maintain a constructive relationship with all stakeholders.