Approval

Surat Gas Expansion Project (EPBC 2010/5344)

This decision is made under sections 130(1) and 133 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

person to whom the approval is granted	Arrow Energy Pty Ltd
proponent's ABN	ABN: 73 078 521 936
proposed action	To expand coal seam gas operations in the Surat Basin, Queensland, as described in the referral received under the EPBC Act on 2 February 2010; and as described in the Surat Gas Project Environmental Impact Statement (March 2012) and Supplementary Report to the Environmental Impact Statement (June 2013).
decision	To approve the proposed action for each of the following controlling provisions: • Listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 and 18A) • Listed migratory species (sections 20 and 20A) • A water resource, in relation to coal seam gas development and large coal mining development (sections 24D and 24E)
Conditions of approval	This approval is subject to the conditions specified below.
expiry date of approval	This approval has effect until **31 December 2080**.

Decision-maker	Greg Hunt
name and position	The Hon Greg Hunt MP Minister for the Environment
signature	
date of decision	19:12:2013

Conditions of approval

1. The **Minister** may determine that a plan, strategy or program approved by the Queensland Government satisfies a plan required under these conditions.

Disturbance Limits

2. For the purpose of the action, the **approval holder** must not take any action outside the **project area**.
3. The action is limited to a maximum of 6,500 coal seam gas production wells and associated infrastructure.
4. The **approval holder** must not undertake hydraulic fracturing.
5. To protect **EPBC listed species** and **EPBC communities** within the **project area** the maximum disturbance limits in Table 1 apply to the project. The **approval holder** must not exceed these disturbance limits.

Table 1: Whole of project maximum disturbance limits

Terrestrial species	**Maximum disturbance (hectares) to core habitat**
Curly-bark Wattle, *Acacia curranii*	1210
Hando's Wattle, *Acacia handonis*	1210
Belson's Panic, *Homopholis belsonii*	140
Lobed Blue Grass, *Bothriochloa biloba*	305
Kogan Waxflower, *Philotheca sporadica*	480
Prostanthera sp Dunmore	380
Small-leaved Denhamia, *Denhamia parvifolia*	50
Calytrix gurulmundensis	1210
Ooline, *Cadellia pentastylis*	No disturbance
Finger Panic Grass, *Digitaria porrecta*	174
Austral Toadflax, *Thesium australe*	160
Acacia lauta	990
Cobar Greenhood Orchid, *Pterostylis cobarensis*	2 170
Xerothamnella herbacea	110
Hawkweed, *Picris evae*	120
Austral Cornflower, *Rhaponticum australe*	160
Eucalyptus virens	170
King Blue-grass, *Dichanthium queenslandicum*	160
Queensland White-gum, *Eucalyptus argophloia*	10
Macrozamia machinii	No disturbance
South-eastern Long-eared Bat, *Nyctophilus corbeni*	4 080
Dunmall's Snake, *Furina dunmalli*	4 400
Five-clawed Worm-skink, *Anomalopus mackayi*	560
Squatter Pigeon (Southern), *Geophaps scripta scripta*	3261

Regent Honeyeater, *Anthochaera phrygia*	20
Collared Delma, *Delma torquata*	90
Yakka Skink, *Egernia rugosa*	310
Australian Painted Snipe, *Rostratula australis*	5
EPBC Communities	**Maximum disturbance (hectares)**
Brigalow (*Acacia harpophylla* dominant and co-dominant)	106
Coolibah - Black Box Woodlands of the Darling Riverine Plains and the Brigalow Belt South Bioregions	8
Weeping Myall Woodlands	1
Natural Grasslands on basalt and fine-textured alluvial plains of northern New South Wales and southern Queensland	No disturbance
White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland	No disturbance
Semi-evergreen vine thickets of the Brigalow Belt (North and South) and Nandewar Bioregions	No disturbance

6. To protect **EPBC listed species and communities** within the **project area** the maximum disturbance limits in Table 2 apply to **Stage 1**. The **approval holder** must not exceed these disturbance limits.

Table 2: Maximum disturbance limits for Stage 1

Terrestrial species	**Maximum disturbance (hectares) to core habitat**
South-eastern Long-eared Bat, *Nyctophilus corbeni*	167
Dunmall's Snake, *Furina dunmalli*	66
Five-clawed Worm-skink, *Anomalopus mackayi*	2
Squatter Pigeon (Southern), *Geophaps scripta scripta*	203
Regent Honeyeater, *Anthochaera phrygia*	1
Collared Delma, *Delma torquata*	11
Yakka Skink, *Egernia rugosa*	19
EPBC Communities	**Maximum disturbance (hectares)**
Brigalow (*Acacia harpophylla* dominant and co-dominant)	39
Coolibah - Black Box Woodlands of the Darling Riverine Plains and the Brigalow Belt South Bioregions	8

EPBC Species Impact Management and Offset Plan

EPBC Species Impact Management and Offset Plan – Stage 1

7. An EPBC Species Impact Management and Offset Plan for **Stage 1** must be submitted for approval of the **Minister** at least 3 months prior to **commencement**, and must include:

    (a) measures to report the methodology and results of **pre-clearance surveys,** and quantification of actual impacts, in the annual reporting required by condition 28. **Pre-clearance surveys** must be undertaken in accordance with the **Department's survey guidelines** in effect at the time of the survey or other survey methodology approved by the **Department** in writing;

(b) a map of the location of each **EPBC listed threatened species** and its habitat or **EPBC community** in relation to infrastructure and proposed disturbance for **Stage 1**;

(c) potential threats and **impacts** to **EPBC listed species** and **EPBC communities** from **Stage 1**;

(d) a description of the measures that will be taken to avoid, mitigate and manage **impacts** to the **EPBC listed species** and its habitat, including to the **Murray Cod** and **Fitzroy River Turtle,** or an **EPBC community**;

(e) measures to report to the **Department** on the occurrence and circumstances of **EPBC listed species** deaths as a result of the action and actions taken to reduce the likelihood of any such circumstance reoccurring;

(f) a monitoring program to determine the success of mitigation and management measures and inform the next Stage of the EPBC Species Impact Management and Offset Plan to ensure adaptive management for the duration of the project approval;

(g) a discussion of relevant **conservation advice**, **recovery plans** and **threat abatement plans** and how the EPBC Species Impact Management and Offset Plan - **Stage 1** is consistent with these documents;

(h) details of the following minimum offset areas for **Stage 1** including, for each area, the location, tenure, site description and map of environmental values:

i. 112 hectares for Brigalow (*Acacia harpophylla* dominant and co-dominant);

ii. 30 hectares Coolibah - Black Box Woodlands of the Darling Riverine Plains and the Brigalow Belt South Bioregions;

iii. 80 hectares for Yakka Skink, *Egernia rugosa*;.

iv. 42 hectares for Collared Delma, *Delma torquata*;

v. 230 hectares for Dunmall's Snake, *Furina dunmalli*;

vi. 545 hectares for Squatter Pigeon (Southern), *Geophaps scripta scripta*;

vii. 6.5 hectares for Five-clawed Worm-skink, *Anomalopus mackayi*;

viii. 4 hectares for Regent Honeyeater, *Anthochaera phrygia*; and

ix. 765 hectares for South-eastern Long-eared Bat, *Nyctophilus corbeni*.

(i) a process for any significant **impact** to an **EPBC listed species** or **EPBC community** for **Stage 1**, where the species or community is not identified in Table 2, to be offset in accordance with the **EPBC Act Offsets Policy**;

(j) an offset area management plan for each offset area, which sets out management measures that will be implemented to improve the offset site for the respective **EPBC species** and/or **EPBC community**; and

(k) a timeline for when actions identified in the EPBC Species Impact Management and Offset Plan will be implemented and for legally securing offsets including, for each area, the proposed legal mechanism for securing the offset. Offsets for **Stage 1** must be legally secured prior to **commencement** of **Stage 2**.

8. The EPBC Species Impact Management and Offset Plan for **Stage 1** must be peer reviewed by a **suitably qualified ecologist** approved by the **Minister** in writing. The peer review must be submitted to the **Minister** together with the EPBC Species Impact Management and Offset Plan for **Stage 1** and a statement from the **suitably qualified ecologist** stating that they carried out the peer review and endorse the findings of the peer review.

9. The **approval holder** must not **commence** the action until the EPBC Species Impact Management and Offset Plan for **Stage 1** has been approved by the **Minister** in writing.

EPBC Species Impact Management and Offset Plan – Stages 2 to 4

10. The **approval holder** must update the EPBC Species Impact Management and Offset Plan for the next **development stage** (i.e. **Stage 2, Stage 3** and **Stage 4**) and submit for approval of the **Minister** at least 3 months prior to **commencement** of each **development stage**. Each updated plan must include:

    (a) the information required for the EPBC Species Impact Management and Offset Plan in conditions 7 (a) to (g) and conditions 7 (j) and 7 (k) for the respective **development stage**;

    (b) where **impacts** are unavoidable, an offset strategy to compensate for residual **impacts** to each **EPBC species** or **EPBC community** for that **development stage** in accordance with the **EPBC Act Offsets Policy**. The offset strategy must:

        i. demonstrate how the offset builds on offsets secured as part of the EPBC Species Impact Management and Offset Plan – **Stage 1** and any other **development stage** and, where possible, will contribute to a larger strategic offset for whole of project **impacts**;

        ii. identify land (including a map, site description and shapefile) that has or will be acquired and how it has been or will be legally secured;

        iii. include a detailed discussion of the quality, condition, site context and environmental values of the impact and offset site relevant to the **EPBC species** or **EPBC community** being offset;

        iv. include a description of potential risks to successful implementation of the offset, including a description of contingency measures that would be implemented to mitigate against these risks; and

        v. discuss connectivity of the offset area with other habitats and biodiversity corridors.

    (c) a reconciliation of **impacts** against whole of project disturbance limits. To incentivise avoidance, the **approval holder** is only required to offset realised **impacts**. Where the full **impact** from **Stage 1, Stage 2** or **Stage 3** that has been offset is not realised, the balance of the offset can be transferred to a future offset liability for a future **development stage** for this project.

11. The updated EPBC Species Impact Management and Offset Plan for each **development stage** must be peer reviewed by a **suitably qualified ecologist** approved by the **Minister** in writing. The peer review must be submitted to the **Minister** together with the EPBC Species Impact Management and Offset Plan for each **development stage** and a statement from the **suitably qualified ecologist** stating that they carried out the peer review and endorse the findings of the peer review.

12. The **approval holder** must not **commence Stage 2, Stage 3** or **Stage 4** until the EPBC Species Impact Management and Offset Plan for that **development stage** has been approved by the **Minister** in **writing**. The approved EPBC Species Impact Management and Offset Plan for each **development stage** must be implemented.

Note 1: The Minister may determine that a plan, strategy or program approved by the Queensland Government satisfies the requirements for the EPBC Species Impact Management and Offset Plan under these conditions.

Note 2: Offsets for some species may be accommodated within ecological communities or overlap State approval requirements or other species habitat requirements, as long as they meet the requirements of these conditions of approval in respect of each individual species being offset.

Coal Seam Gas Water Monitoring and Management Plan

Stage 1 CSG Water Monitoring and Management Plan

13. Prior to **commencement**, the proponent must submit a Stage 1 Coal Seam Gas Water Monitoring and Management Plan (Stage 1 CSG WMMP) for the approval of the **Minister,** who may seek the advice of an **expert panel**. The Stage 1 CSG WMMP must include:

    (a) an analysis of the results of the most recent **OGIA model** (built or endorsed by **OGIA**), relevant to all of the project's tenement areas;

    (b) a fit for purpose numerical simulation to assess potential impacts on water resources arising from the action in the project area, subsequent surface water-groundwater interactions in the Condamine Alluvium and impacts to dependent ecosystems;

    (c) an assessment of potential **impacts** from the action on non-spring based groundwater dependent ecosystems through potential changes to surface-groundwater connectivity and interactions with the sub-surface expression of groundwater;

    (d) an assessment of predicted project wide groundwater drawdown levels and pressures from the action, together with confidence levels;

    (e) parameters and a sampling regime to establish baseline data for surface and groundwater resources that may be impacted by the action, including: surface water quality and quantity in the **project area**, and upstream and downstream of potential impact areas; groundwater quality, levels and pressures for areas that may be **impacted** by the project; and for determining connectivity between surface water and groundwater that may be **impacted** by the project;

    (f) a best practice baseline monitoring network that will enable the identification of spatial and temporal changes to surface water and groundwater. This must include a proposal for aquifer connectivity studies and monitoring of relevant aquifers to determine hydraulic connectivity (including potential groundwater dependence of Long Swamp and Lake Broadwater) and must also enable monitoring of all aquatic ecosystems that may be **impacted** by the action;

    (g) a program to monitor subsidence **impacts** from the action, including trigger thresholds and reporting of monitoring results in annual reporting required by condition 28. If trigger thresholds are exceeded, the **approval holder** must develop and implement an action plan to address impacts within 90 calendar days of a trigger threshold being exceeded;

    (h) provisions to make monitoring results publicly available on the **approval holder's** website to facilitate a greater understanding of cumulative **impacts**;

    (i) a discussion on how the **approval holder** is contributing to the **Joint Industry Plan,** including its periodic review. The **approval holder** must contribute to the **Joint Industry Plan** and comply with any part of the **Joint Industry Plan**, or future iterations of the **Joint Industry Plan**, that applies to the **approval holder**;

    (j) a groundwater early warning monitoring system, including:

        i. groundwater drawdown limits for all consolidated aquifers potentially impacted by the action, excluding the Walloon Coal Measures;

        ii. for the Condamine Alluvium, appropriate triggers and groundwater limits and a rationale for their selection;

        iii. early warning indicators and trigger thresholds, including for Lake Broadwater, Long Swamp and other groundwater dependent ecosystems that may potentially be impacted by the action, including

those that may occur outside the **project area** and may be impacted by the action; and

iv. investigation, management and mitigation actions, including substitution and/or groundwater repressurisation, for both early warning indicators and trigger thresholds to address flux impacts on the Condamine Alluvium.

(k) early warning indicators and trigger thresholds, including corrective actions for both early warning indicators and trigger thresholds, for aquatic ecology and aquatic ecosystems;

(l) a CSG water management strategy for produced salt/brine, which discusses how co-produced water and brine will be managed for the action, including in the context of other coal seam gas activities in the Surat Basin;

(m) an analysis of how the **approval holder** will utilise beneficial use and/or groundwater repressurisation techniques to manage produced CSG water from the action, and how any potential adverse **impacts** associated with groundwater repressurisation will be managed;

(n) a discharge strategy, consistent with the recommendations and requirements of the Department of the Environment and Heritage Protection in its **Assessment Report** (pages 94 to 95 and pages 254 to 255) and that includes scenarios where discharge may be required, the quality of discharge water (including water treated by reverse osmosis), the number and location of monitoring sites (including upstream and downstream sites), frequency of monitoring and how the data from monitoring will be analysed and reported, including recommendations on any changes or remedial actions that would be required;

(o) a flood risk assessment for processing facilities and any raw co-produced water and brine dams, which addresses flood risks to the environment from the action in the case of a 1:1000 ARI event. The risk assessment should estimate the consequences if major project infrastructure was subject to such an event, including release of brine and chemicals into the environment;

(p) a cumulative **impact** assessment based on the outputs of the **OGIA model** which integrates groundwater model outputs with known and potential groundwater dependent ecosystems and presents the outputs in map form. Contribute to investigations coordinated through the OGIA to assess hydrological and ecological characteristics of **impacted** groundwater dependent ecosystems;

(q) details of performance measures; annual reporting to the **Department**; and publication of reports on the internet; and

(r) an explanation of how the Stage 1 CSG WMMP will contribute to work undertaken by other CSG proponents in the Surat Basin to understand cumulative **impacts**, including at the local and regional scale, and maximise environmental benefit.

14. The Stage 1 CSG WMMP must be peer reviewed by a **suitably qualified water resources expert/s** approved by the **Minister** in writing. The peer review must be submitted to the **Minister** together with the Stage 1 CSG WMMP and a statement from the **suitably qualified water resources expert/s** stating that they carried out the peer review and endorse the findings of the Stage 1 CSG WMMP.

15. The **approval holder** must not exceed the groundwater drawdown or groundwater limits for each aquifer specified in the Stage 1 CSG WMMP.

16. Unless otherwise agreed in writing by the **Minister**, the **approval holder** must not **commence** the action until the Stage 1 CSG WMMP is approved in writing by the **Minister**. The approved Stage 1 CSG WMMP must be implemented.

Note 3: to ensure efficiency the approval holder may prepare and align the Stage 1 WMMP with the requirements of the Queensland Government, as long as the relevant matters under the conditions of this approval are clearly and adequately addressed.

Stage 2 CSG Water Monitoring and Management Plan

17. Prior to **Stage 2** the **approval holder** must submit a Stage 2 Coal Seam Gas Water Monitoring and Management Plan (Stage 2 CSG WMMP) to the **Minister** for approval, who may seek the advice of an **expert panel.** The Stage 2 CSG WMMP must:

    (a) include all matters in the Stage 1 CSG WMMP, and discuss how the Stage 1 CSG WMMP is informing adaptive management for the Stage 2 CSG WMMP;

    (b) include any updated modelling for the project, including in respect of the **OGIA model** or any updates to the **OGIA model** by **OGIA**;

    (c) include an explanation of how the **approval holder** will contribute to the **Condamine Interconnectivity Research Project**. The Stage 2 CSG WMMP must present the findings of the Condamine Interconnectivity Research project and any modelling done by the **OGIA** to validate predicted drawdown and a review of trigger thresholds and corrective actions for the action;

    (d) report on the potential for flow reversal from the Condamine Alluvium to underlying aquifers, based on data obtained during the Stage 1 CSG WMMP;

    (e) review and update the monitoring network in Stage 1 WMMP to reflect changes in understanding of **impacts** to water resources, including from baseline monitoring and relevant research;

    (f) identify any predicted changes in stream connectivity due to groundwater drawdown from the action and assess potential impacts to groundwater dependent ecosystems due to any predicted changes in stream connectivity, including to water quality, quantity and ecology;

    (g) address any uncertainty in the groundwater-dependency of ecosystems and springs with supporting evidence from field-based investigations for any groundwater-dependent ecosystems and springs confirmed in the **OGIA model**;

    (h) provide details of an ongoing monitoring plan that:

        i. sets out the frequency of monitoring and rationale for the frequency;

        ii. includes continued collection of baseline data for each monitoring site over the life of the project;

        iii. outlines the approach to be taken to analyse the results including the methods to determine trends to indicate potential **impacts**; and

        iv. builds on the groundwater early warning system required at condition 13 (j) and sets out early warning indicators and trigger thresholds and limits for groundwater and surface water.

    (i) include a risk based exceedance response plan that details the actions the **approval holder** will take and the timeframes in which those actions will be undertaken if: early warning indicators and trigger threshold values contained in the Stage 2 CSG WMMP are exceeded, or there are any emergency discharges.

18. The Stage 2 CSG WMMP must be peer reviewed by a **suitably qualified water resources expert/s** approved by the **Minister** in writing. The peer review must be submitted to the **Minister** together with the Stage 2 CSG WMMP and a statement from the **suitably qualified water resources expert/s** stating that they carried out the peer review and endorse the findings of the Stage 2 CSG WMMP.

19. The **approval holder** must not exceed the groundwater drawdown or groundwater limits specified in the Stage 2 CSG WMMP.

20. The **Minister** may direct in writing that the **approval holder** cease water/gas extraction and/or water discharge or use if an early warning indicator, trigger threshold or limit is exceeded, and if the **Minister** is not satisfied that the action proposed or taken by the proponent will remedy the situation. The **Minister** may direct the proponent to implement alternative action at the expense of the proponent.

Note 4: The proponent will be provided with a reasonable opportunity to comment on any such direction before it is required to be implemented.

21. Unless otherwise agreed by the **Minister** in writing, the Stage 2 CSG WMMP must be approved in writing by the **Minister** prior to first extraction of gas. The approved Stage 2 CSG WMMP must be implemented. The Stage 1 CSG WMMP will apply until the commencement of the approved Stage 2 CSG WMMP.

Note 5: to ensure efficiency the approval holder may prepare and align the Stage 2 WMMP with the requirements of the Queensland Government, as long as the relevant matters under the conditions of this approval are clearly and adequately addressed.

Revision of the Stage 2 CSG WMMP

22. To ensure an adaptive management approach, the proponent must submit periodic revisions of the Stage 2 CSG WMMP for approval by the **Minister** in writing, who may seek the advice of an **expert panel**. Revisions must be submitted at least 3 months prior to planned **commencement** of each new **development stage** for the project. The revised CSG WMMP must take into account outcomes of the ongoing monitoring program in the Stage 2 CSG WMMP, groundwater model updates and any bioregional assessments.

23. If the **OGIA model** ceases to exist, then the **approval holder** must submit an alternate model to be used for the purpose of these conditions that replaces the **OGIA model** as referred to in these conditions. The alternate model must be approved by the **Minister** in writing before the next relevant stage of the CSG WMMP is submitted to the **Minister** for approval.

24. The **approval holder** must not **commence Stage 3** or **Stage 4** until a revised Stage 2 CSG WMMP is approved in writing by the **Minister** for that **development stage.** The approved revised Stage 2 CSG WMMP must be implemented.

25. The **Minister** may, by written request to the **approval holder**, require the Stage 1 or Stage 2 CSG WMMP to be revised, including to address expert advice. Any request must be acted on by the **approval holder** within the timeframe specified in the request.

Note 6: The Minister may throughout the life of the project life seek advice from experts, or an expert panel. As a consequence specific matters identified through such advice may need to be addressed in the CSG WMMP Plan. Where such advice is sought the approval holder would be provided with opportunity to submit information and respond to the specific matters identified, in order to ensure the CSG WMMP Plan is based on the best available information. Review requirements will facilitate adaptive management, align with Queensland Government approval requirements, and account for potential cumulative impacts as new scientific information becomes available over the life of the project.

General

26. Within 20 business days after the **commencement** of the action, the **approval holder** must advise the **Department** in writing of the actual date of **commencement.**

27. The **approval holder** must maintain accurate records substantiating all activities associated with or relevant to the conditions of approval, including measures taken to implement the management plans, reports or strategies required by this approval, and make them available upon request to the **Department**. The annual report (condition 28) must state all confirmed cases of non-compliance along with details of any remedial actions. 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.

28. Within three months of every 12 month anniversary of the **commencement** of the action, the **approval holder** must publish a report on its website for the life of the approval outlining how they have been compliant with the conditions of this approval over the previous 12 months, including implementation of any management plans as specified in the conditions. The **approval holder** must also report against disturbance limits. Documentary evidence providing proof of the date of publication and non-compliance with any of the conditions of this approval must be provided to the **Department** at the same time as the compliance report is published.

29. The **approval holder** must notify the **Department** in writing of potential non-compliance with any condition of this approval as soon as practical and within no later than ten business days of becoming aware of the potential non-compliance. The notice provided to the **Department** under this condition must specify:

    a) the condition which the **approval holder** has potentially breached;

    b) the nature of the potential non-compliance;

    c) when and how the **approval holder** became aware of the non-compliance;

    d) how the non-compliance will affect the approved action;

    e) how the non-compliance will affect the anticipated **impacts** of the approved action, in particular how the non-compliance will affect the **impacts** on the matters of national environmental significance;

    f) the measures the approval holder will take to address the **impacts** of the non-compliance on the matters of national environmental significance and rectify the non-compliance; and

    g) the time by when the approval holder will rectify the non-compliance.

30. Upon the direction of the **Minister**, the **approval holder** must ensure that an independent audit of compliance with the conditions of approval is conducted and a report submitted to the **Minister**. The independent auditor must be approved by the **Minister** prior to the commencement of the audit. Audit criteria must be agreed to by the **Minister** and the audit report must address the criteria to the satisfaction of the **Minister.**

31. If the **approval holder** wishes to carry out any activity other than in accordance with the management plans as specified in the conditions, the **approval holder** must submit to the **Department** for the **Minister's** written approval a revised version of that management plan. The approval holder must not **commence** the varied activity until the **Minister** has approved the varied management plan. The **Minister** will not approve a varied management plan unless the revised management plan would result in an equivalent or improved environmental outcome over time. If the **Minister** approves the revised management plan, that management plan must be implemented in place of the management plan originally approved.

32. If the **Minister** believes that it is necessary or convenient for the better protection of listed threatened species, listed migratory species or water resources to do so, the **Minister**

may request that the **approval holder** make specified revisions to the management plans specified in the conditions and submit the revised management plan for the **Minister's** written approval. The **approval holder** must comply with any such request within the timeframe specified by the **Minister**. The revised approved management plan must be implemented. Unless the **Minister** has approved the revised management plan, then the person taking the action must continue to implement the management plan originally approved, as specified in the conditions.

33. If, at any time after five years from the date of this approval, the **approval holder** has not **commenced** the action, then the **approval holder** must not **commence** the action without the written agreement of the **Minister.**

34. Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the **Minister**, the **approval holder** must publish all management plans referred to in these conditions of approval on their website. Each management plan must be published on the website within 1 month of being approved and remain available on that website for the life of the approval.

Definitions

Approval holder: means the person to whom the approval is granted.

Assessment Report: means the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection's report under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1994* for the action.

Commenced/commencement: means any physical disturbance, including clearance of native vegetation, new road work and the establishment of well sites to develop the gas field project area. Commencement does not include:

a) minor physical disturbance necessary to undertake pre-clearance surveys or establish monitoring programs or geotechnical investigations; or

b) activities that are critical to commencement that are associated with mobilisation of plant and equipment, materials, machinery and personnel prior to the start of development only if such activities will have no adverse impact on matters of national environmental significance, and only if the proponent has notified the Department in writing before an activity is undertaken.

Core habitat: means core habitat known and core habitat possible as defined in the rules for habitat mapping for each individual species in the *Supplementary Report to the Surat Gas Project EIS (March 2012), Attachment 1 – Matters of National Environmental Significance.*

Conservation advice: means an approved conservation advice under the EPBC Act for an EPBC Act listed species or community.

Core habitat known: means habitat where a spatially accurate confirmed record of a particular species exists (e.g. Herbrecs or survey record). Core habitat known is attributed to the particular habitat polygon in which it occurs, based on either regional ecosystem (RE) mapping provided by the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (or successor agency) or high resolution habitat mapping developed for a specific purpose. Core habitat known also means a 1 km buffer around all spatially accurate (< 400 metres accuracy) species records.

Condamine Interconnectivity Research Project: means the Condamine Interconnectivity Research Project being undertaken by the Queensland Office of Groundwater Impact Assessment as part of the implementation of the Surat Underground Water Impact Report (UWIR), which was prepared by the Queensland Water Commission (QWC) in 2012.

Core habitat possible: means an area where previous records of a particular species are not known to occur within a given area or habitat, although specific habitat features are present which are known to be favoured by the species and the habitat occurs within the species known geographic range.

Department: means the Australian Government Department administering the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Department's survey guidelines: means:
Matters of National Environmental Significance, Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1, Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 - http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/publications/nes-guidelines.html.

Survey Guidelines for Australia's Threatened Frogs, Threatened Birds, Threatened Fish, Threatened Mammals, Threatened Reptiles and Threatened Bats: http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/guidelines-policies.html.

Development stage: means Stage 1, Stage 2, Stage 3 or Stage 4 of project development, as defined in these definitions.

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

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

EPBC community: means an endangered ecological community listed under the EPBC Act.

EPBC listed threatened species: means a threatened flora or fauna species listed under the EPBC Act.

Expert panel: means an expert panel appointed by the Minister.

Fitzroy River Turtle: means the Fitzroy River Turtle, *Rheodytes leukops*, listed as vulnerable under the EPBC Act.

General habitat: means where a species has not been recorded in a given location and habitat accounts for some of the features favoured by a particular species. The habitat occurs on the margins of a species known geographic range. Otherwise, the habitat is suitable for the species

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

Joint Industry Plan: means the *Joint Industry Plan for an Early Warning System for the Monitoring and Protection of EPBC Springs* established with other coal seam gas proponents operating within the Surat Cumulative Management Area.

Minister: means the Minister administering the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and includes a delegate of the Minister.

Murray Cod: means the Murray Cod, *Maccullochella peelii*, listed as vulnerable under the EPBC Act.

OGIA: means the Office of Groundwater Impact Assessment or its successor body,

OGIA model: means the groundwater model developed by the Office of Groundwater Impact Assessment, or its successor body, for the Surat Cumulative Management Area.

Pre-clearance surveys: means surveys that are undertaken for EPBC species and EPBC communities for all areas of the project area that may be disturbed by project activities.

Project area: means the area identified as the project area in Attachment A.

Recovery plan: means an approved recovery plan under the EPBC Act for an EPBC listed species or EPBC community.

Stage 1: means year 1 to 3 (inclusive) of the action, starting at the date of commencement.

Stage 2: means year 4 to 11 (inclusive) of the action.

Stage 3: means year 12 to 20 (inclusive) of the action

Stage 4: means year 21 to decommissioning (inclusive) of the action.

Suitably qualified ecologist: means a person who has professional qualifications, training, skills or experience relevant to the nominated subject matter and can give authoritative assessment, advice and analysis to performance relative to the subject matter using relevant protocols, standards, methods and literature.

Suitably qualified water resources expert/s: means a natural person with at least a postgraduate degree (or equivalent) in a suitable area (such as hydrology or hydrogeology) and a minimum of 10 years relevant experience in water resources assessment, including at least one year of experience in Australia.

Threat abatement plan: means an approved threat abatement plan under the EPBC Act.

ATTACHMENT A