

Notice

Environmental Protection Act 1994

Information request

This information request is issued by the administering authority under section 140 of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 to request further information needed to assess an amendment application for a site-specific environmental authority

To: Coronado Curragh Pty Ltd
Level 33, Central Plaza One
345 Queen Street
Brisbane City QLD 4000
By email transmission only

ATTN: Scott Weatherall, Anthony De Domenico
Email: sweatherall@coronadoglobal.com , adedomenico@coronadoglobal.com

Our reference: EPML00643713

Further information is required to assess an amendment application for environmental authority

1. Application details

The amendment application for a site-specific environmental authority EPML00643713 was received by the administering authority on 24 May 2024.

The application reference number is: A-EA-AMD-100656558

Land description: ML1878, ML1990, ML700006, ML700007, ML700008, ML700009, ML80010, ML80011, ML80012, ML80086, ML80110, ML80112, ML80123, ML8017.

2. Information request

The administering authority has considered the abovementioned application and is writing to inform you that further information is required to assess the application (an information request).

The information requested is provided in **Appendix A – Information requested**.



3. Actions

The abovementioned application will lapse unless you respond by giving the administering authority -

- (a) all of the information requested; or
- (b) part of the information requested together with a written notice asking the authority to proceed with the assessment of the application; or
- (c) a written notice –
 - i. stating that you do not intend to supply any of the information requested; and
 - ii. asking the administering authority to proceed with the assessment of the application.

A response to the information requested must be provided by **13 January 2025** (the information response period). If you wish to extend the information response period, a request to extend the period must be made at least 10 business days before the last day of the information response period.

The response to this information request or a request to extend the information response period can be submitted to the administering authority by email to CRMining@des.qld.gov.au.

If the information provided in response to this information request is still not adequate for the administering authority to make a decision, your application may be refused as a result of section 176 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, where the administering authority must have regard to any response given for an information request.


4. Human rights

A human rights assessment was carried out in relation to this decision and it was determined that no human rights are engaged by the decision.

5. Review and appeal rights

You may apply to the administering authority for a review of this decision within 10 business days after receiving this notice. Information about your review rights is attached to this notice or search 'DESI Internal review and appeals' at business.qld.gov.au. This information is guidance only and you may have other legal rights and obligations.

If you require more information, please contact the department on the telephone number listed below.



Signature

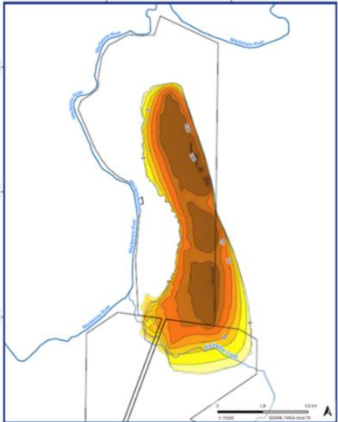
11/07/2024

Date

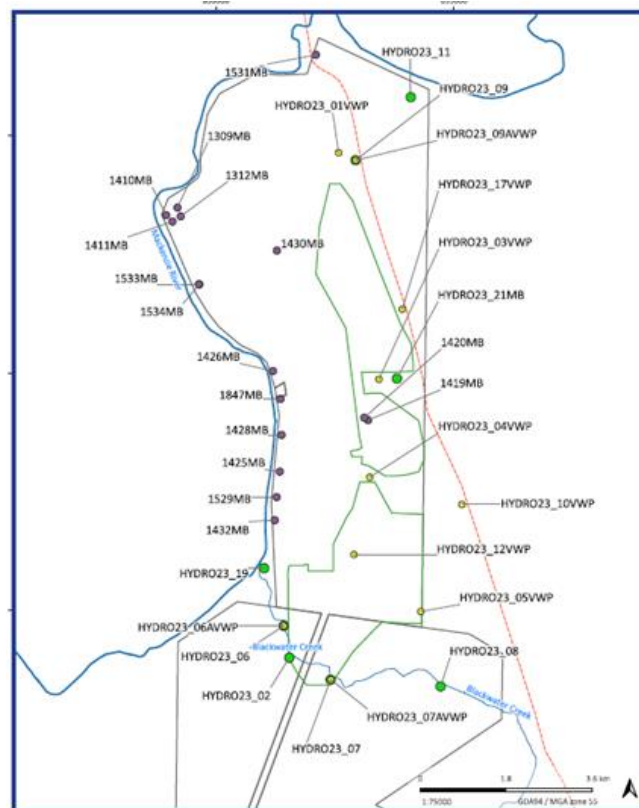
Cate Puschmann
Department of Environment, Science and Innovation
Delegate of the administering authority
Environmental Protection Act 1994

Enquiries:
Business Centre Coal
PO Box 3028, Emerald QLD 4720
Phone: (07) 4987 9320
Email: CRMining@des.qld.gov.au

Appendix A – Information requested

No.	Matter of Interest	DESI Comment	Requested Action/s
1.	<p>Groundwater Drawdown</p> <p>Section 6.4 – Appendix B, Groundwater Report</p> <p>Section 7.6.3 – Application Supporting Document, Main Report</p>	<p>Section 6.4 of the Appendix B – <i>Groundwater Report</i>, states that drawdown is predicted in the shallow groundwater units along Blackwater Creek.</p> <p>Section 7.6.3 of the application supporting document – <i>Main Report</i>, states that there is limited alluvium present in the Blackwater Creek area.</p> <p>However, the shallow standpipe bores that have been drilled into the weathered Permian along Blackwater Creek have water levels between 10m and 15m below ground level.</p> <p>It is unclear whether the shallower water levels (10 – 15m) in the standpipe bores indicate the presence of groundwater on which vegetation along Blackwater Creek is dependant.</p>	<p>Provide clarification about why the standpipe bores have shallower water levels and discuss whether GDEs are potentially using water in this area for all or some of their water requirements.</p>
2.	<p>Groundwater Monitoring Network</p> <p>Figure C45 – Appendix B, Groundwater Report</p>	<p>Figure C45 of Appendix B – <i>Groundwater Report</i> demonstrates the predicted depressurisation in the Mammoth coal seam. As shown below, the figure indicates that depressurisation is restricted along the eastern side by the Jellinbah fault, however, in the southeast the predicted depressurisation appears to extend outside of the boundary of ML80110.</p>  <p>Figure C45 of Appendix B</p>	<p>Revise the Curragh groundwater monitoring network to include standpipe bores in the south-eastern area where depressurisation is predicted outside the mining lease boundaries to better monitor the impacts from mining.</p>

It is noted that the only monitoring of groundwater levels in the area where depressurisation is predicted to occur outside the mining lease is via vibrating wire piezometers (VWPs).



Legend

- Curragh Mining Leases
- Existing Curragh Mine monitoring bore
- Dedicated additional monitoring bore
- Dedicated additional Vibrating Wire Piezometer
- Blackwater Creek
- Mackenzie River
- Project underground mining area
- Alignment of the Jellenbah fault with its intersection of the Mammoth seam

Project groundwater monitoring network
4150A - Curragh Bord and Pillar Mine Project

Figure 13
09/05/2024
hydrogeologist

Project Groundwater Monitoring Network

		<p>The department has noted at varying locations in Queensland that data coming from a number of VWP's often has significantly different trends and absolute water level elevation than that measured in nearby standpipe bores in the same formations. In some instances, the majority of the VWP's are considered to be providing erroneous data.</p> <p>It is therefore recommended that some standpipe bores are drilled into the coal measures in this south-eastern area to provide confidence in the understanding of mining impacts. Data from the standpipe bores can also be used to validate data provided from the existing VWP's.</p>	
3.	<p>Groundwater Monitoring Network</p> <p>Section 6.5 – application supporting document Main Report</p>	<p>Section 6.5 of the application supporting document – <i>Main Report</i>, describes the installation of an additional three (3) monitoring bores that will be added to the existing Curragh Mine groundwater monitoring network, within the project underground mining area and the surrounding area, to measure groundwater levels, groundwater quality and hydraulic parameters.</p> <p>Groundwater levels and proposed trigger levels for the monitoring bores have not been supplied in the supporting information. This information must be supplied to ensure that groundwater monitoring for the underground project is robust and allows for detection of mine related impacts to groundwater. It is noted that the current EA in Table C13 includes a number of 'TBA' values for existing monitoring locations which should be addressed as soon as feasible. For the purpose of assessing this proposed underground expansion, the inclusion of TBA values will not be appropriate.</p> <p>Additionally, the details provided in Table 5 of the Main Report in relation to the proposed groundwater monitoring bores, are not the full details currently included in Table C12 of the EA in relation to the current monitoring bores. In relation to the new proposed groundwater bores, the screened interval and target formation should be supplied.</p> <p>Ideally, the environmental authority should include a visual representation of the Groundwater Monitoring Network that can be referred to alongside the water schedule to improve interpretation of the conditions.</p>	<p>Develop and provide groundwater monitoring trigger values and groundwater levels for the new proposed bores.</p> <p>Provide a figure for inclusion in the EA that clearly illustrates the full groundwater monitoring network at Curragh Mine.</p>

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4.	Spatial Data	<p>Spatial data was not provided to support the amendment application.</p> <p>Spatial data is required to assist the department's understanding of the areas of approved and proposed disturbance.</p>	<p>Provide spatial data that includes polygons of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The existing disturbance area - The currently approved disturbance area - The total proposed underground bord and pillar mining area
5.	Environmental Authority EPML00643713 – Figure 4.	<p>The current EA, in Figure 4, demonstrates the extent of approved mining activities associated with ML700006, ML700007, ML700008 and ML700009. It is understood that the underground project will occur beneath sections of ML700007 and ML700008, thus Figure 4 is required to be updated to appropriately condition the environmental authority. The department requires an updated Figure which demonstrates the proposed changes to disturbance areas or the extent of the proposed underground Bord and Pillar project. Additionally, it is considered necessary and desirable for Figure 4 to demonstrate the full extent of approved mining activities across all mining leases.</p>	<p>Provide an updated Figure that includes all mining leases and up to date disturbance and mine activity areas. It would be preferable if the Figure was supplied as an image file to ensure quality and readability of the image when included in the environmental authority.</p>
6.	<p>Rehabilitation of underground workings</p> <p>Section 3.3.3 – application supporting document, Main Report</p> <p>Section 3.3.9 – application supporting document, Main Report</p>	<p>Section 3.3.3 of the application supporting document states that underground mine access is proposed from two locations in the Pit S highwall and there will be 4 access portals at each mine entrance location for the transport of personnel and equipment, the ROM coal conveyor and ventilation and section 3.3.9 states that the underground mine access portals in the highwall will be sealed with concrete plugs. Limited information has been provided regarding the type and rating of mine seals and whether the seals used will be required to have a qualified engineer rating certificate.</p>	<p>Provide further information regarding the method of sealing underground openings including ventilation shafts.</p> <p>Provide further information regarding the rehabilitation and management strategy, should unplanned surface subsidence and unplanned</p>

		Information has not been provided regarding subsidence monitoring and the management and rehabilitation of potential unplanned surface subsidence of the surface area above underground mining areas.	ground collapse such as sinkholes and pot holing occur. Provide further information on the monitoring regime that will be developed to monitor potential subsidence.
7.	<p>GHG abatement plan</p> <p>Section 4.2 of Appendix D – Curragh Bord and Pillar Mine Project GHG Report</p> <p>Table 6 (e) of Appendix D – Curragh Bord and Pillar Mine Project GHG Report</p> <p>Section 4.2 of Appendix D – Curragh Bord and Pillar Mine Project GHG Report</p>	<p>Section 4.2 of Appendix D – <i>Curragh Bord and Pillar Mine Project GHG Report</i> identifies the project as a medium to high emission category and acknowledges a GHG abatement plan is required in accordance with the departmental Greenhouse Gas Emissions Guideline (ESR/2024/6819) (GHG Guideline). One of the requirements for a GHG abatement plan listed in Appendix A Part A is to provide a GHG emission reduction program that includes the detailed information stated in Part B of the GHG guideline. The projects GHG abatement plan in compliance with the guideline is provided in Table 6, with the GHG emission reduction program provided in part (e).</p> <p>Table 6 (e) of Appendix D – <i>Curragh Bord and Pillar Mine Project GHG Report</i> provides an overview of further work to be completed and states “<i>an assessment of abatement scenarios has been completed and Coronado are currently finalising assessments on the most cost-effective forms of abatement to go forwards to feasibility studies and potential trials</i>”. The information supplied in Table 6 (e) does not comprise an adequate GHG emission reduction program as it does not satisfy the detailed requirements in Part B of the GHG guideline.</p>	<p>Provide a GHG abatement plan for the project that complies with Appendix A of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Guideline (ESR/2024/6819).</p> <p>Provide a specific emissions reduction program that includes the information stated in Part B of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Guideline (ESR/2024/6819).</p>