

# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

RED HILL  
MINING LEASE

Section 01  
Introduction



## Section 01 Introduction

---

### 1.1 The Project

The Red Hill Mining Lease is located adjacent to the existing Goonyella Riverside and Broadmeadow (GRB) mine complex in the Bowen Basin, approximately 20 kilometres north of Moranbah and 135 kilometres south-west of Mackay, Queensland.

BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance (BMA), through its joint venture manager, BM Alliance Coal Operations Pty Ltd, proposes to convert the existing Red Hill Mining Lease Application (MLA) 70421 to enable the continuation of existing mining operations associated with the GRB mine complex. Specifically, the mining lease conversion will allow for:

- An extension of three longwall panels (14, 15 and 16) of the existing Broadmeadow underground mine (BRM).
- A future incremental expansion option of the existing Goonyella Riverside Mine (GRM).
- A future Red Hill Mine (RHM) underground expansion option located to the east of the GRM complex.

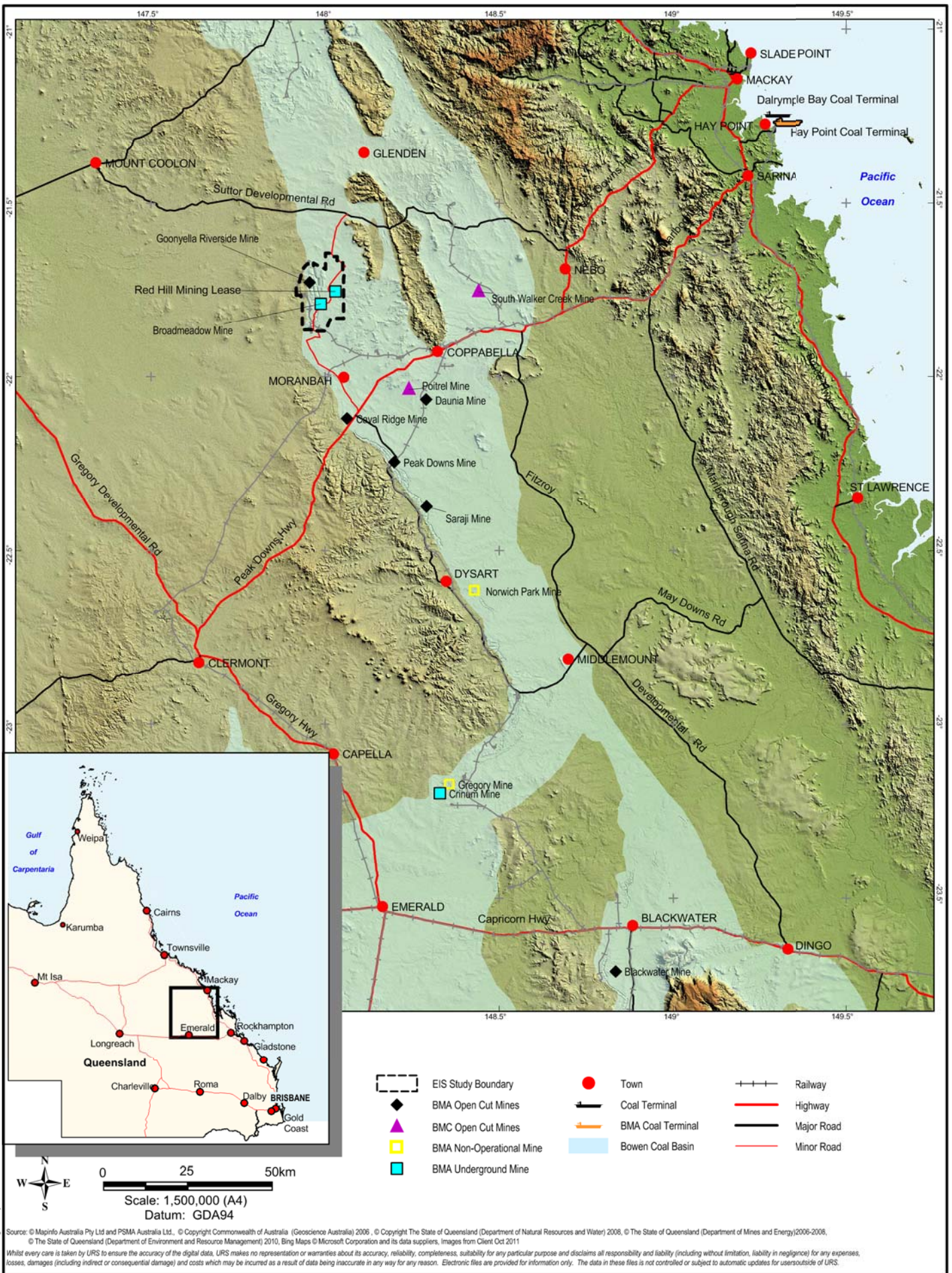
The three project elements described above are collectively referred to as 'the project'.

The project is of strategic importance to the planning and development of existing operations within and around the existing GRB mine complex. It is anticipated that development work for mining of panels 14, 15 and 16 associated with the BRM will commence in Financial Year (FY) 2016. The mining of the Broadmeadow extension will utilise existing mine infrastructure and extend the life of mine by approximately one year.

The GRM incremental expansion option refers to those project activities which are located within the existing GRB mine complex and associated with the proposed RHM underground expansion option. Timeframes for delivery of the GRM project components will be subject to the ultimate timing for commencement, the rate of development and scale of future production for the RHM underground expansion option once determined by the project owners.

At full production, the RHM underground expansion option has the potential to produce up to 14 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) of high quality hard coking coal over a life of 20 to 25 years. Under this scenario, the potential capacity of the extended complex (GRB mine complex and RHM) would be up to approximately 32.5 mtpa.

The location of the project within the regional context is shown in **Figure 1-1**. The project specific environmental impact statement (EIS) study area and project components, including the current GRB mine complex, are shown in **Figure 1-2**.



BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance

## RED HILL MINING LEASE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

## REGIONAL LOCATION



### INTRODUCTION

File No: 42627136-g-1001c.wor

Drawn: VH

Approved: CT

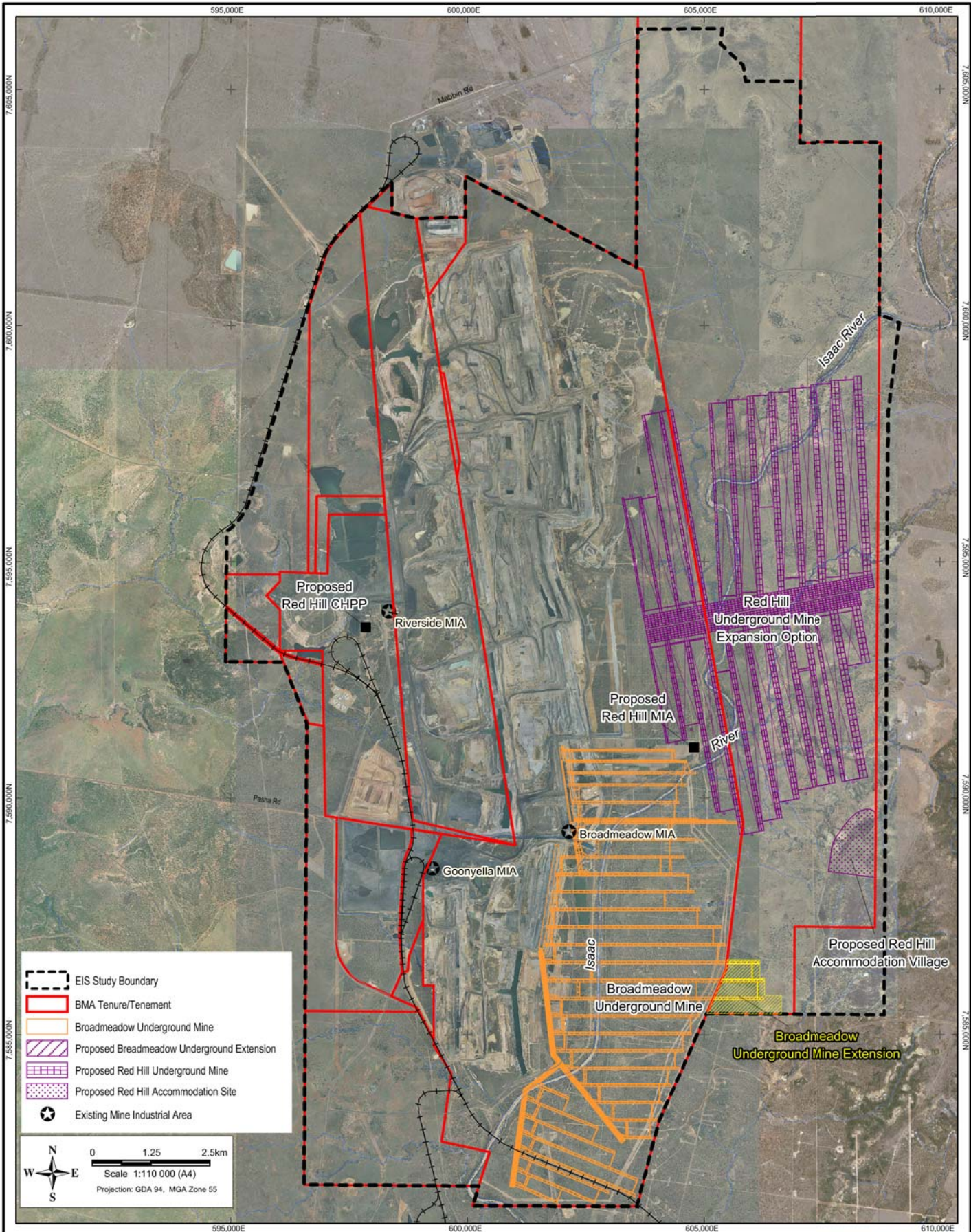
Date: 26-11-2013

Figure: 1-1



Rev.C

A4



This drawing is subject to COPYRIGHT. BNE

Source: © Mapinfo Australia Pty Ltd and PSM Australia Ltd., © Copyright Commonwealth of Australia (Geoscience Australia) 2006, © Copyright The State of Queensland (Department of Natural Resources and Water) 2008, © The State of Queensland (Department of Mines and Energy) 2008-2008, © The State of Queensland (Department of Environment and Resource Management) 2010, Bing Maps © Microsoft Corporation and its data suppliers, Images from Client Oct 2011

Whilst every care is taken by URS to ensure the accuracy of the digital data, URS makes no representation or warranties about its accuracy, reliability, completeness, suitability for any particular purpose and disclaims all responsibility and liability (including without limitation, liability in negligence) for any expenses, losses, damages (including indirect or consequential damage) and costs which may be incurred as a result of data being inaccurate in any way for any reason. Electronic files are provided for information only. The data in these files is not controlled or subject to automatic updates for users outside of URS.



**RED HILL MINING LEASE  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**PROJECT SITE**

## 1.2 Existing Mine Complex

The GRM is the northernmost of the open-cut coal mines operated by BMA in the Bowen Basin (**Figure 1-1**). Originally, the operation consisted of two separate mines:

- Goonyella Mine, owned by the Central Queensland Coal Associates (CQCA), which commenced operations in 1971 with capacity to produce greater than 10 mtpa of coking coal; and
- Riverside Mine, owned by BHP Mitsui Coal Pty Ltd (BMC), which commenced operations in 1983 with capacity to produce approximately 4 mtpa of coking coal.

In 1989, CQCA acquired the Riverside Mine leases and the combined operation became known as GRM.

The BRM (a punch longwall underground mine) was developed on the Goonyella lease and was approved for development in 2003.

## 1.3 The Proponent

BMA was formed in 2001 as a 50:50 unincorporated joint venture between BHP Billiton and Mitsubishi Corporation. The joint venture is known as the Central Queensland Coal Associates (CQCA) Joint Venture. BM Alliance Coal Operations Pty Ltd operates as the duly appointed constituted attorney for the CQCA Joint Venture Agreement and a Strategic Alliance Agreement dated 28 June 2001.

BMA's operational mines are Blackwater, Broadmeadow, Goonyella Riverside, Peak Downs, Saraji, Crinum and Daunia. The Norwich Park and Gregory Open Cut Mines ceased production in May and October 2012 respectively, and as of the date of publication of this document remain in care and maintenance. BMA also owns and operates the Hay Point coal export terminal near Mackay.

BMA's seven operational mines have a combined approved production capacity of up to 68 mtpa. The Caval Ridge Mine is currently under construction and will become operational in 2014. The Caval Ridge Mine has the potential to produce an additional 5.5 mtpa.

BMA supplies high quality coking coals, pulverized coal injection coals and thermal coals to domestic and international customers.

BMA is committed to the communities in which it operates.

In 2013, BMA invested around \$27.5 million across the Bowen Basin townships to support local services and community development programs.

BMA is a significant contributor to the State and National economy, contributing an estimated \$9.3 billion in direct spending during FY13 including:

- wages and salaries: \$924 million;
- central Queensland business: \$1.3 billion;
- Queensland business: \$5.6 billion; and
- Australian business: \$1.5 billion.

In addition, BMA contributed approximately \$560 million in royalties, taxes and levies to the Government.

BMA invested over \$100 million in the Bowen Basin over the last two years in regional infrastructure and community partnerships, including:

- Subsidised housing and support for key community service providers.
- Partnerships with local schools to support educational programs, including curriculum enhancement and workplace training, trainee and apprenticeship programs, and university scholarships.
- A \$46 million upgrade to the Moranbah Airport.
- Provision of water to Moranbah and Dysart townships, and support for other key local government services and infrastructure through special rates and charges.
- \$5 million towards the Isaac Affordable Housing Trust to support the delivery of 16 new homes in Moranbah and Dysart.
- Partnerships with Moranbah and District Support Services and Dysart Community Support Group to help provide community programs and events, including the BMA Settlement Program for new residents.

BMA has an excellent record of responsible environmental management and a strong commitment to continual improvement of environmental performance.

All existing BMA mine sites operate under an ISO14001 certified Environmental Management System.

BMA strives to achieve the efficient use of resources, including reducing and preventing pollution, and enhancing biodiversity protection by assessing ecological values and land use in our activities. Our stewardship approach is designed to ensure that the lifecycle health, safety, environment and community impacts associated with resources, materials, processes and products related to our businesses are minimised and managed.

BMA has not been subject to any environmental related proceedings in any of the following Courts - High Court, Federal Court, Supreme Court, District Court, and Planning and Environment Court.

The project will be conducted in accordance with an Environmental Management System, the BHP Billiton Charter, and internal governance processes and standards (e.g. Code of Conduct, BHP Sustainable Development Policy).

BHP Billiton's approach to environmental management is incorporated in the Charter, which outlines 'an overriding commitment to health, safety, environmental responsibility and sustainable development'.

## 1.4 Project Outline

The project includes the following components:

- The extension of BRM longwall panels 14, 15, and 16 into MLA70421. Key elements include:
  - No new mining infrastructure is proposed other than infrastructure required for gas drainage to enable safe and efficient mining.
  - Management of waste and water produced from drainage of incidental mine gas (IMG) will be integrated with the existing BRM waste and water management systems.

- The mining of the Broadmeadow extension is to sustain existing production rates of the BRM and will extend the life of mine by approximately one year.
- The existing BRM workforce will complete all work associated with the Broadmeadow extension.
- The incremental expansion of the GRM including:
  - underground mining associated with the RHM underground expansion option to target the Goonyella Middle Seam (GMS);
  - a new mine industrial area (MIA);
  - a coal handling and preparation plant (CHPP) adjacent to the Riverside MIA on MLA1764 and mining lease (ML) 1900 – the Red Hill CHPP will consist of up to three 1,200 tonne per hour modules;
  - construction of a drift for mine access;
  - a conveyor system linking RHM to the Red Hill CHPP;
  - associated coal handling infrastructure and stockpiles;
  - a new conveyor linking product coal stockpiles to a new rail load-out facility located on ML1900; and
  - means for providing flood protection to the mine access and MIA, potentially requiring a levee along the west bank of the Isaac River.
- A potential new Red Hill underground mine expansion option to the east of the GRB mine complex, to target the GMS on MLA70421. Key aspects include:
  - the proposed mine layout consists of a main drive extending approximately west to east with longwall panels ranging to the north and south;
  - a network of bores and associated surface infrastructure over the underground mine footprint for mine gas pre-drainage (IMG) and management of goaf methane drainage to enable the safe extraction of coal;
  - a ventilation system for the underground workings;
  - a bridge across the Isaac River for all-weather access. This will be located above the main headings, and will also provide a crossing point for other mine related infrastructure including water pipelines and power supply;
  - a new accommodation village (Red Hill accommodation village) for the up to 100 per cent remote construction and operational workforces with capacity for up to 3,000 workers; and
  - potential production capacity of 14 mtpa of high quality hard coking coal over a life of 20 to 25 years.



## 1.5 Project Rationale

While BMA has access to a number of existing and prospective coal resources in the Bowen Basin, the Red Hill Mining Lease Project resource has been identified for future development on the basis that:

- Broadmeadow panels are to extend into MLA70421. High quality product coking coal exists within the proposed panel extensions. Without the statutory approvals and conversion of tenure, mining cannot commence or extend across into MLA70421.
- The resource is a high quality resource that will meet current and expected future market demand.
- The extent and nature of the resource is quite well understood due to extensive exploration and hence BMA can bring this project into production reasonably quickly compared to less well known resources.
- Concurrent mining of different quality coals from the adjacent mines provides a high level of flexibility in terms of product mixes which is not readily achievable where mines are located further away.
- The resource is adjacent to an existing operation, being the GRB mine complex. This provides a number of synergies in terms of water management, water and power supply, ability to share rejects and mine waste disposal facilities and ability to share rail infrastructure, particularly rail loops.

Details of the project's needs and costs as well as detailed consideration of alternatives to the project are presented in **Section 2**.

## 1.6 Relationship to Other Projects

### 1.6.1 Goonyella, Riverside and Broadmeadow Mines

Substantial infrastructure exists to support the GRB mine complex operations and which will significantly reduce the development requirements for the project elements compared to what would be needed for a stand-alone greenfield mine development.

There are significant synergies including opportunities to utilise existing or already approved infrastructure. The Broadmeadow extension will sustain existing operations and will not require any additional infrastructure. The proposed GRM incremental expansion and RHM underground expansion option will interface with the existing GRB mine complex in the following areas:

- Water for processing RHM coal will be sourced from the GRB mine complex and mine water generated from the RHM will be transferred to the GRB mine water management network. This interface will provide greater efficiency, maximise reuse, ensure mine water releases are managed holistically and reduce water related risks.
- CHPP, stockpiles and train load-out facilities will be co-located with the existing Riverside Mine coal handling facilities.
- Waste from coal processing will be dewatered and disposed of in mine waste disposal facilities established for the GRB mine complex.

- Access to existing infrastructure for the supply of raw water, power and communications.

The proposed project will be of benefit to Queensland's economy by sustaining existing operations at GRB mine complex and potentially contributing directly to the employment of up to 2,000 construction workers and up to 1,500 operations workers associated with the GRM incremental expansion and RHM underground expansion option. The project also has the potential to contribute to the local and regional economies through sustaining and creating direct and indirect employment and investment expenditure.

### 1.6.2 Coal Export Terminals

BMA owns and operates the Hay Point Coal Terminal (HPCT), which is located approximately 40 kilometres south of Mackay (**Figure 1-1**). BMA has obtained approval and is currently undertaking an expansion of the HPCT facilities in order to increase handling capability from 44 to 55 mtpa. The HPCT Expansion Project Stage 3 (HPX3) involves the construction of a third berth. Existing trestle conveyors and surge bins will be replaced, overland conveyors will be constructed to transfer coal from the stockpiles to the jetty, and a shiploader will be constructed on the new third berth.

The timing of any potential port development beyond the current expansion of the Hay Point Coal Terminal will be linked to the company's future growth plans.

## 1.7 Nearby Coal Mines and Projects

### 1.7.1 Grosvenor Coal Mine Project

The Grosvenor Coal Mine, proposed by Anglo Coal, will be a greenfield underground coal mine producing 5 mtpa of coking coal for export. The town of Moranbah is immediately to the south of the proposed mining lease and its north-western boundary will adjoin the Moranbah North Mine, which is to the south of the GRM.

Coal is to be mined by the longwall method. It is proposed that a new overland conveyor will transport coal to the existing CHPP on the adjacent Moranbah North Mine, where it will be crushed, sized and washed. Product coal from the Grosvenor Mine will be transported by rail from the existing Moranbah North Mine rail load-out facilities to the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal for export.

A new mining lease was granted in early June 2012, allowing construction of the mine to commence.

### 1.7.2 North Goonyella and Eaglefield Expansion Project

The North Goonyella Mine is an existing underground longwall coal mine located immediately north of the GRM. The Eaglefield Mine is an open-cut mine adjacent to the North Goonyella Mine and GRM. Both mines are operated by Peabody Energy and share a CHPP, tailings co-disposal storage, rail loop and rail load-out facility, and an integrated water management system.

Peabody Energy is proposing to extend its current Eaglefield open-cut mining operations and increase the existing run-of-mine extraction rate from 5 to 10.2 mtpa. This estimated increase would extend the current mine life for a further 22 years. Product coal will continue to be transported to the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal located south of Mackay.

It is BMA's understanding that the *Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) approval process has not yet been completed.

### **1.7.3 Integrated Isaac Plains Project**

The current Isaac Plains Mine, which is operated by Aquila Resources, is located north of the Peak Downs Highway, and approximately seven kilometres to the east of Moranbah. It currently has approval to mine at a rate of 2 mtpa. Additional mining operations have been proposed for the southern side of the Peak Downs Highway. This would increase the mine's overall capacity to 4 mtpa. The combined mining operation will be known as the Integrated Isaac Plains Mine. Processed and washed coal from the Integrated Isaac Plains Project will be railed to the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal.

The EIS for the Integrated Isaac Plains Project was approved by the Queensland Government in March 2009. The project was not a controlled action under the EPBC Act.

### **1.7.4 Moranbah South Project**

The Moranbah South Coal Mine, proposed by Anglo Coal, will be a greenfield underground coal mine producing 14 mtpa of coking coal for export. The town of Moranbah is immediately to the north of the proposed mining lease. The project proponent is a 50:50 unincorporated Joint Venture between Anglo Coal (Grosvenor) Pty Ltd and Exxaro Australia Pty Ltd.

The project is a proposed underground mine, using longwall and bord and pillar mining methods. Coal will be washed and processed on site, and product coal will be transported from site by rail. Abbot Point is the preferred Coal Terminal for export, with Dalrymple Bay and Dudgeon Point being alternatives.

It is anticipated that construction activities will commence in 2015. First longwall coal production will commence in 2018, following the construction of underground mine access and initial development works. The mine life will be in excess of 30 years. Mining will be followed by a decommissioning and rehabilitation period.

The Initial Advice Statement for the Moranbah South mine was issued in May 2012. The EIS for the project has been lodged and was publicly notified between 29 July and 9 September 2013.

## **1.8 The Environmental Impact Assessment Process**

### **1.8.1 Commonwealth Government Process**

The project has been referred to the Commonwealth Minister (the Minister) for the Department of Environment (formerly Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (DSEWPaC)). On 20 June 2013, The Minister determined that the project is a 'controlled action' under the EPBC Act due to the likely potential impacts on a matter of national environmental significance. The controlling provision under the EPBC Act is sections 18 and 18A (listed threatened species and communities).

On the 21 June 2013, the EPBC Act was amended to include an additional controlling provision relating to 'protection of water resources'. On 17 October 2013, the Minister determined that the

project has also triggered controlling provisions 24D and 24E of the EPBC Act as the proposed action is likely to have a significant impact on a water resource. As a consequence, the project requires further assessment and approval under the EPBC Act. The Commonwealth Government has accredited the EIS process, to be conducted under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* (SDPWO Act), under a bilateral agreement between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments. This will enable the EIS to meet the impact assessment requirements under both Commonwealth and Queensland legislation. The terms of reference (TOR) reflect issues that the Minister would expect to be addressed as part of an EIS process under the EPBC Act.

The project will require approval from the Minister under Part 9 of the EPBC Act, before it can proceed. The Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (DSDIP) has invited relevant commonwealth, state and local government representatives, and other relevant authorities, to participate in the impact assessment process as advisory agencies.

### 1.8.2 Queensland Government Process

On 17 June 2013 the Queensland Government Coordinator-General declared the project to be a 'coordinated project' under section 26 of the SDPWO Act. This declaration initiated the statutory environmental impact assessment procedure of Part 4 of the SDPWO Act, which requires the proponent to prepare an EIS for the project.

The declaration of the project as a 'coordinated project' does not indicate support for or approval of the project by the Coordinator-General or the Queensland Government. Rather, it triggers a requirement for the project to undergo a rigorous and comprehensive EIS process. The DSDIP TOR for the project were issued on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2013 following public notification of the Draft TOR and consideration of submissions made.

The impact assessment process, through which this EIS has been prepared, is managed by the Office of the Coordinator General on behalf of the Queensland Coordinator-General. The EIS process aims to ensure the project's environmental, social and economic impacts are appropriately assessed and considered prior to determining whether the project should be allowed to proceed.

The EIS process under the SDPWO Act requirements are shown on **Figure 1-3**.

The EIS will be made available for public and advisory agency review, and submissions sought from individuals and organisations (**Section 1.12**). After consideration of the EIS and submissions received, The Office of the Coordinator-General will identify issues to which a response is required as well as any further information requirements. A supplementary EIS may be required to cover any additional matters or requests for clarification.

The Coordinator-General will then consider the EIS, the public and advisory agency submissions, the supplementary EIS (if applicable), and any other material considered relevant, and prepare a report evaluating the EIS. In the report, the Coordinator-General may also impose conditions on the project, state conditions for other project approvals, or make certain recommendations.

## 1.9 EIS Objectives

This EIS has been prepared to address the requirements of the TOR (**Appendix A**). It considers the entire life of the project including its construction, operation and decommissioning phases. The EIS enables reasonable, cost effective and technically achievable mitigation measures to be developed to ensure that any adverse social and environmental impacts of the project are reduced to acceptable levels and benefits enhanced. The degree of analysis and detail in the EIS reflects the environmental risks and level of significance of particular impacts.

The EIS has been prepared to inform regulatory agencies, affected parties, interest groups and the public about potential environmental issues relating to the development and operation of the project, and how these issues will be managed. The purpose of the EIS is to:

- provide public information on the likely impacts of the project;
- set out acceptable standards for and levels of impacts (both beneficial and adverse) on environmental and social values;
- demonstrate how environmental and social impacts will be mitigated, managed and monitored to protect or enhance the environmental values; and
- discuss alternatives considered in relation to the project and project components.

The objective of the EIS process is to ensure that all potential environmental, social and economic impacts of the project are identified and addressed including direct, indirect and cumulative impacts. The EIS aims to be a self-contained and comprehensive document that provides for:

- interested persons and bodies: a basis for understanding the project, prudent and feasible alternatives, affected environmental values, potential impacts that may occur and measures to be taken to mitigate potential adverse impacts;
- groups or persons with rights or interests in the land: an outline of the potential effects of the project on that land including access arrangements;
- Government agencies: a framework for decision-makers to assess the environmental aspects of the project with respect to legislative and policy provisions and based on that information to make an informed decision on whether the project should proceed or not and if so, on what conditions, if any; and
- the proponent: a mechanism by which the potential environmental impacts of the project are identified and understood, and mitigations factored into the design and operation of the project.

The EIS includes commitments in relation to the avoidance, management and mitigation of potential impacts identified in the technical studies. **Appendix S** sets out an overview of commitments made by BMA with cross references to details on commitments and mitigation measures throughout the EIS which are designed to address potential impacts and meet agreed performance criteria.

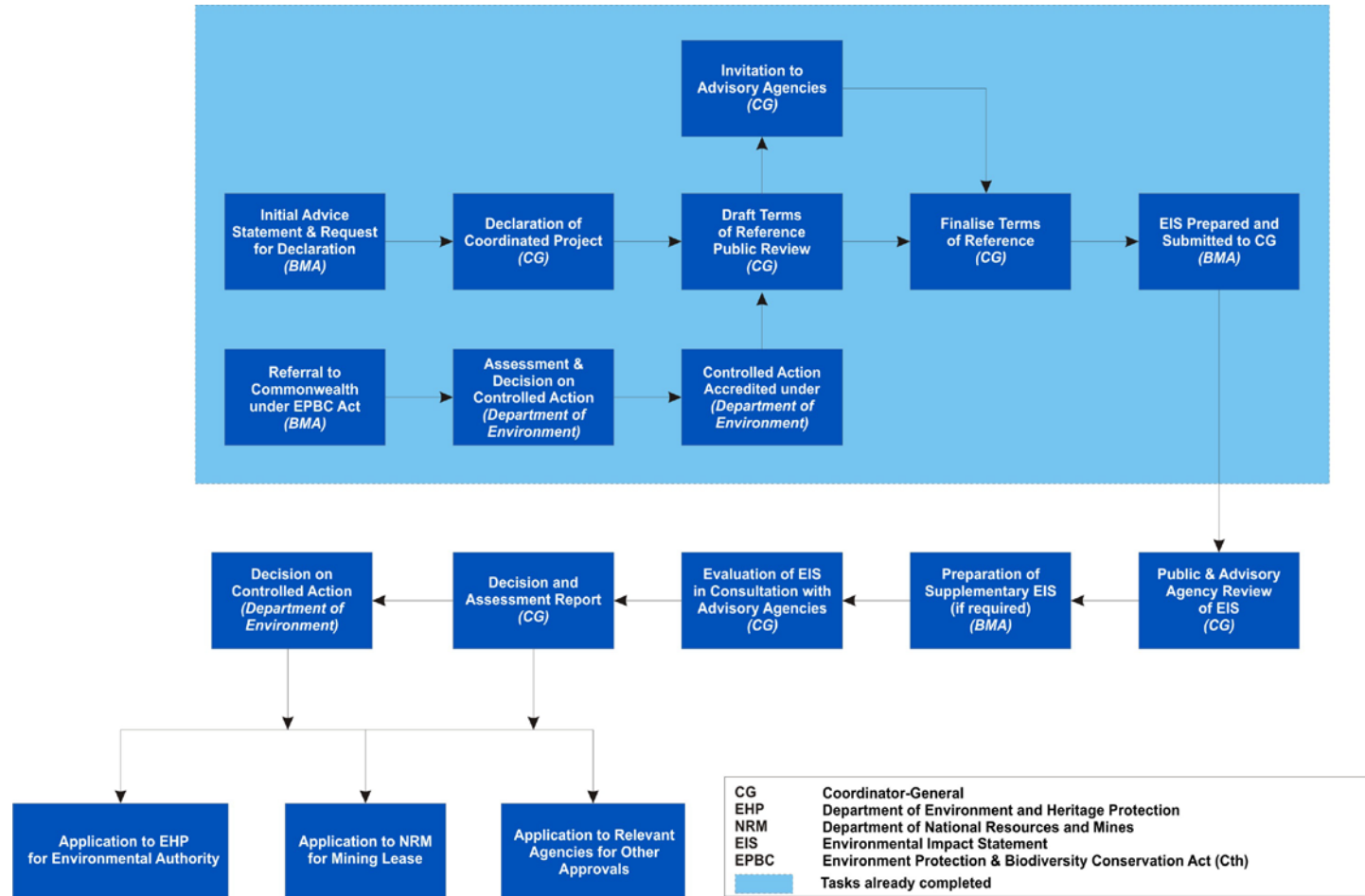
The EIS is sufficiently detailed to support development and approval of new and amended environmental authorities (EA's) under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (EP Act) and for a mining lease under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (MR Act).

The new and amended EA's sought are described as follows:

- A new environmental authority (EA) for MLA 70421 (Red Hill Mining Lease) giving authority to all activities associated with the Broadmeadow panel extensions and the RHM underground expansion option including:
  - underground mining associated with the Red Hill underground expansion option and the Broadmeadow panel extensions;
  - the development of all infrastructure associated with the accommodation village, bridge, services and gas drainage activities;
  - transfer of all water and waste to the existing GRM management systems; and
  - assessed impacts on environmental values.
- An amended EA for the existing Goonyella Riverside Broadmeadow complex (EA (EPML00853413) giving authority for all activities associated with the GRM incremental expansion including:
  - underground mining associated with the Red Hill underground expansion option;
  - new CHPP, MIA, mine access and ROM stockpiles associated with the Red Hill underground expansion option;
  - processing of coal from the proposed RHM underground expansion option and Broadmeadow extension (increased overall site tonnage capacity to 32.5 mtpa);
  - disposing of rejects and dewatered tailings at the GRB mine complex;
  - integration of all water management associated the Broadmeadow extension, the GRM incremental expansion option and the RHM underground expansion option; and
  - assessed impacts on environmental values.



Figure 1-3 Queensland EIS Process



## 1.10 EIS Methodology

The existing biophysical and social environmental values of each component of the environment within the EIS study area and surrounds have been determined through a combination of literature review, database searches and field surveys where appropriate. Descriptions of identified environmental values are provided in the main body of the EIS and associated appendices.

Potential beneficial and adverse impacts of the project on the identified environmental values were assessed. This assessment considered potential direct, indirect, cumulative and short and long-term impacts of the proposed project on the identified environmental values.

Management procedures and measures to mitigate and/or manage the potential adverse impacts have been developed and recommended in the EIS and residual impacts quantified. An extensive community engagement and consultation process has been undertaken, of which this EIS forms a part, and is described in **Section 17**. This process aims to ensure that the impact assessment process addresses project-related issues of concern to the community, interested and affected parties, and identified stakeholders.

In preparing the EIS submission, studies, surveys and assessments have been undertaken as set out in **Table 1-1**.

Details of methodologies used in each of these studies are presented in the relevant sections of the EIS.

## 1.11 EIS Structure

The EIS comprises three main parts:

- the Executive Summary;
- the main text of the document, including:
  - **Sections 1 to 3** provide general information about the project and proponent;
  - **Sections 4 to 20** focus on the individual areas of study undertaken for the EIS and describe the environmental values of the EIS study area and surrounds, potential impacts, and proposed mitigation and management measures; and
  - **Section 21** identifies the cumulative impacts of the project in relation to other nearby mine sites;
- a volume of appendices containing detailed technical information and project commitments.

The EIS content is summarised in **Table 1-1**.

Table 1-1 EIS Structure, Content Overview

EIS Section	Title	Content Overview
<b>Main Document</b>		
1	Introduction	Provides a general description of the project, the proponent, and relationship of the proposed project to other mine related developments in the Bowen Basin. Summarises applicable legislation, approvals and the EIS objectives.



EIS Section	Title	Content Overview
2	Project Rationale and Alternatives	Discusses the need for the project and presents the project's technical feasibility and commercial viability. Alternatives to the project, as well as socio-economic issues and benefits are further discussed along with sustainability principles of the project.
3	Description of Project	Provides a detailed description of the project including information on location, key project elements, mining tenures, mine design, mine facilities and infrastructure, coal handling and preparation, water management, coal transport, power supply and other infrastructure, waste management, construction, and rehabilitation and decommissioning.
4	Climate, Natural Hazards and Climate Change	Describes rainfall patterns, humidity, air temperature, wind, stability class, mixing height and temperature inversions within the region of the project. Also discussed is the potential for extreme weather events such as floods or bushfires and an assessment of the project's vulnerability to climate change.
5	Land Resources:	
5.1	Land Use and Tenure	Assessment of historic and current land uses. An assessment of potential impacts to infrastructure is also included in <b>Section 5.1</b> .
5.2	Scenic Amenity and Lighting	Describes in general terms the existing landscape character of the EIS study area and surrounding areas. The study also provides a description of existing landscape features that are considered most likely to be valued by sectors of the local and broader community.
5.3	Topography, Geology, Soil	Describes the topographic and geomorphological features of the EIS study area. Describes the regional and site geology, coal resources, sterilisation, and the economic coal seams information. Soil classifications, soil profile types, topsoil material suitability, and identification of potentially hostile soil material within the EIS study area.
5.4	Land Contamination	Information on potential for contamination to be present within the EIS study area as well as possible contamination issues arising from disturbance of existing contaminated areas and contamination arising from the proposed mining activity.
5.5	Rehabilitation and Decommissioning	Describes the rehabilitation strategy and decommissioning procedures suitable for the project.
6	Mineral Waste	Describes the geochemical assessment of mine wastes to determine the potential for acid and metalliferous drainage, the concentrations and mobility potential of trace metals in the spoil, and the feasibility of using the spoil material for site rehabilitation.
7	Surface Water	Description of the surface water resources on and adjacent to the project, including regional stream flows, existing drainage conditions, and existing water quality. Potential impacts of the project on the surface water resources are considered and water management measures are identified.
8	Groundwater	The groundwater study describes the groundwater resources within the EIS study area in terms of occurrence, groundwater levels (vulnerability), flow patterns, groundwater use, and quality. Includes an assessment of the potential impacts of the project on groundwater quality and regional groundwater levels.

EIS Section	Title	Content Overview
9	Terrestrial Ecology	The terrestrial ecology of the EIS study area is described in terms of environmental values and potential impacts and mitigation measures. The status of terrestrial flora and fauna species and communities was assessed. Sensitive environmental areas were identified within the EIS study area and surrounds including areas that are either subject to treaties, are protected estates or parks, declared fish habitats, heritage or cultural areas, or are under world heritage listings.
10	Aquatic Ecology	The aquatic ecology of the EIS study area is described in terms of environmental values and potential impact and mitigation measures.
11	Air Quality	This assessment considers the potential impacts from the project on the existing air quality. The assessment evaluates the emission sources and proposed mitigation measures to determine the potential impacts at possible receptors.
12	Greenhouse Gas	This section describes and quantifies the project's greenhouse gas emissions in the context of national directives and the project's contribution to state and national emissions targets. It also discusses the project's proposed greenhouse gas reduction measures.
13	Noise and Vibration	The noise and vibration study describes the existing background noise within the EIS study area and surrounds, and identifies the potential construction and operational noise and vibration impacts associated with the project.
14	Transport	A traffic assessment was undertaken to account for the different traffic demand characteristics of both the construction and operation phases. Traffic impacts, pavement impacts, and required intersection and pavement upgrades are identified in the study.
15	Waste Management	This section describes the types and volume of general wastes predicted to be generated during the construction and operation of the project and identifies disposal options in the context of regulations.
16	Cultural Heritage	Non-Indigenous and Aboriginal cultural heritage places and values have been recorded as part of cultural heritage investigations. The study presents a description of the process for identification and management of non-Indigenous and Aboriginal cultural heritage associated with the project.
17	Stakeholder and Community Consultation	An extensive program of stakeholder and community consultation carried out to issues and concerns regarding the project. The program aims to ensure relevant and timely information is available to all stakeholders, provide stakeholders opportunities to participate in project assessment and planning processes, develop baseline assessments, impact assessments and proposed mitigation options, and build on established relationships with stakeholders in Bowen Basin communities.
18	Social Impacts	A social impact assessment was conducted to help understand the potential impacts and benefits that the project may have on the local community. A baseline study of the community's existing social environment was developed by analysing demographic characteristics, social infrastructure, social values and lifestyles. Potential social impacts on the community or changes that may occur to the existing social environment as a result of the project were identified. It also discusses the project's proposed strategy, timing and methodology for developing mitigation strategies.

EIS Section	Title	Content Overview
19	Economic Assessment	Potential direct and indirect impacts on the local, regional and national economies as a result of the project have been identified and quantified. Strategies have been provided to mitigate potential negative economic impacts and maximise the potential economic benefits.
20	Health, Safety and Risk	Potential health, safety, and environmental hazards associated with the project's construction, operation and decommissioning phases are assessed and mitigation strategies outlined where appropriate. The hazards have been analysed to identify any significant residual risks to human health (workforce and community), safety or natural ecosystems.
21	Cumulative Impacts	This section summarises the cumulative impacts for the project. Three separate levels of cumulative impacts have been considered: EIS study area localised cumulative impacts; regional cumulative impacts; and global cumulative impacts.
22	References	The details of information sources used in the above studies are compiled as a reference list.
<b>Appendices</b>		
A	Final TOR	The final TOR as issued by The Coordinator-General.
B	TOR cross-reference	The final TOR is detailed along with the corresponding section number of the EIS where each item is addressed.
C	Approvals	A list of the development approvals required by the project.
D	Study Team	Listing of the key personnel contributing to the EIS.
E	Consultation Supporting Documents	Stakeholders consulted, project overview fact sheet, sample of advertisement and growth projects newsletter.
F	Land Resources	
F1	Land Use and Tenure	Land use and tenure supporting documentation including details of tenements and easements.
F2	Soils	Detailed soils technical report containing all background data to support EIS <b>Section 5.3.3</b> .
G	Land Contamination	Detailed land contamination technical report containing all background data to support EIS <b>Section 5.4</b> .
H	Mineral Waste	Detailed mineral waste technical report containing all background data to support EIS <b>Section 6</b> .
I	Surface Water	
I1	Subsidence Prediction	An assessment of the predicted subsidence due to underground longwall coal and longwall top coal caving mining at the proposed RHM.
I2	Mine Water Management	Technical report detailing the existing GRB mine complex water management plan and the proposed integration of the mine water management for the project.
I3	Water Balance Model	Report detailing the water balance modelling carried out for the EIS.
I4	Hydraulics	A study of the hydraulic conditions within the watercourses traversing the EIS study area to assess the flooding impacts of the project.
I5	Hydrology	A hydrologic assessment of the defined watercourses traversing the existing GRB mine complex and EIS study area was undertaken to estimate design flood flows for the watercourses in the area.

EIS Section	Title	Content Overview
I6	Geomorphology	A geomorphic assessment of the waterways over the proposed RHM footprint. This report provides an assessment of the existing physical condition, character and behaviour of the Isaac River and tributaries and the potential impacts of the proposed RHM on those attributes of the waterways.
I6	Subsidence Hydrology	Assessment to determine the subsidence from the project mining activities and the potential for impact on the broader catchment hydrology and water resources availability in the Isaac River downstream of the mine.
I7	Surface Water Quality	An assessment of the surface water resources for the project, in the context of environmental values defined by the <i>Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 2009</i> (EPP (Water)).
J	Groundwater	Detailed groundwater technical report containing all background data and predictive groundwater modelling to support EIS <b>Section 8</b> .
K	Ecology	
K1	Flora	Detailed flora technical report containing all background data to support EIS <b>Section 9</b> .
K2	Fauna	Detailed fauna technical report containing all background data to support EIS <b>Section 9</b> .
K3	Aquatic	Detailed aquatic ecology technical report containing all background data to support EIS <b>Section 10</b> .
K4	Stygofauna	Detailed stygofauna technical report containing all background data to support EIS <b>Section 10</b> .
L	Air Quality	Detailed air quality technical report containing all background data to support EIS <b>Section 11</b> .
M	Noise and Vibration	Detailed noise and vibration technical report containing all background data to support EIS <b>Section 13</b> .
N	Transport	Detailed traffic assessment report containing all background data to support EIS <b>Section 14</b> .
O	Non-Indigenous Cultural Heritage	Detailed non-Indigenous cultural heritage technical report containing all background data to support EIS <b>Section 16.2</b> .
P	Social Impact Assessment	Social Impact Assessment Report.
Q	EPBC/IESC	
Q1	EPBC Protected Matters Search	EPBC Protected Matters Search results.
Q2	EPBC Report	Description and assessment of potential project impacts on Commonwealth-related matters and mitigation measures proposed to reduce these impacts.
Q3	IESC Report	Report to the Independent Expert Scientific Committee outlining the project's potential impact on water resources.
R	BMA Charter	BMA corporate document.
S	BMA Commitments	A summary of commitments that will be implemented for the project, with cross references to implementation details in the EIS.

## 1.12 Public Consultation Process and Submissions

### 1.12.1 EIS Consultation

BMA is committed to minimising impacts and maximising benefits to local communities and stakeholders through the development of the project, and is working with government agencies, landholders, traditional owners, key stakeholders and communities to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes and relationships.

An ongoing consultation program commenced at the project's inception to assist with the preparation of the EIS.

The consultation program aims to:

- ensure relevant and timely information is available to all stakeholders;
- provide stakeholders with the opportunity to participate in the assessment and planning of the project;
- develop baseline assessments, impact assessments and proposed mitigation options; and
- build on established relationships and networks with stakeholders in Bowen Basin communities.

Between November 2011 and March 2012, 560 people representing stakeholder groups potentially impacted by the project were consulted. This involved consulting with elected and agency representatives of various levels of government, local and regional non-government organisations (including business and community groups), landholders adjacent to the project, traditional owners and interested parties. Consultation methods varied and included targeted consultation with individuals and small groups, BMA community network (BCN) briefings and public information displays. This was supported by communication tools including an email address for inquiries, reply-paid mail address, free-call number, stakeholder letters, public notices and advertising, employee communication, fact sheets and website information.

BMA regularly consults with stakeholders and community groups in Moranbah and surrounding communities. In particular, the BCN provides a forum for regular planning, consultation and feedback from community groups on the effectiveness of existing BMA strategies being implemented in the Bowen Basin and the impact of existing and proposed project activities, including the proposed project. Consultation activities have specifically included presentation and discussion of the project and enabled a forum for feedback on the project and gauging the status of existing and emerging issues that have arisen since completion of formal pre lodgement consultation in 2012. The project team will continue to engage with the BCN through the project EIS period to help inform and complement further consultation activities.

Details of the project's community consultation program and relevant stakeholders are provided in **Section 17**.

### 1.12.2 Further Information about the Project and EIS

The EIS will be submitted to DSDIP, who in turn will distribute hard and soft copies to the relevant advisory agencies for review and comment. The EIS will also be placed on public display at various locations at the direction of DSDIP and copies can be made available to interested persons. Copies can be requested through the following options:

- email – [metcoalinfo@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:metcoalinfo@bhpbilliton.com);
- post – reply-paid mail address:  
BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance, Reply Paid 1430, Brisbane QLD 4001; and
- telephone - free-call number (1800 078 797).

An electronic copy of the EIS will be available for download from DSDIP and BHP Billiton websites:

- [www.dsdip.qld.gov.au/redhill](http://www.dsdip.qld.gov.au/redhill); and
- <http://www.bhpbilliton.com/home/aboutus/regulatory/Pages/default.aspx>.

Any individual, group, or organisation is invited to make a written submission concerning the EIS to DSDIP. Such submissions do not have to relate to the whole of the EIS and thus may relate to any aspect detailed within the EIS. Persons making a submission do not have to be an expert in any of the issues assessed in the EIS.

### 1.12.3 Making an EIS Submission

EIS comments and submissions must be made in writing and sent to DSDIP within the comment period, as advertised in the public notice regarding the EIS. As per the DSDIP guidance, the EIS submission will be most effective if the following guidelines are considered:

- clearly state the matter(s) of concern or interest;
- reference the relevant section(s) of the EIS;
- provide factual information relied upon and its source;
- suggest measures deemed appropriate to improve the proposal;
- provide what measures you consider would be appropriate to improve the proposal;
- provide sketches or diagrams if they assist to clarify the submission; and
- ensure the submission is legible.

For a submission to be considered a properly made submission, the submission must:

- be made to the Coordinator-General (DSDIP) in writing and be received on or before the last day of the submission period;
- be signed by each person who makes the submission;
- state the name and address of each person who makes the submission; and
- state the grounds of the submission and facts and circumstances relied on.

All submissions, comments and enquiries regarding this EIS should be addressed to:

The Coordinator-General  
c/-EIS Project Manager - Red Hill Mining Lease  
Coordinated Project Delivery  
Office of Coordinator-General  
PO Box 15517  
CITY EAST QLD 4002  
email: [RHML@coordinatorgeneral.qld.gov.au](mailto:RHML@coordinatorgeneral.qld.gov.au)

DSDIP and advisory agencies will consider all public submissions when making decisions in relation to the project. DSDIP can facilitate the consultation process where required between BMA, the advisory agencies and the public, and will collate and review all comments received on the EIS.

#### 1.12.4 Ongoing Consultation and Social Monitoring

BMA acknowledges the value of ongoing consultation and management of impacts as a component of achieving good environmental and social performance.

BMA will continue to provide the community with opportunities to comment on and learn about the project, tailored to suit stakeholders and maximise participation in the consultation program. Stakeholder and community consultation will continue up to and including the draft EIS public comment period in the latter part of 2013.

The social impact assessment (SIA) details potential management strategies, and timing for ongoing consultation and communication and social impact monitoring during the construction, operation and de-commissioning phases. The finalisation and implementation of these activities will occur closer to execution of the project alongside business and government approvals.

### 1.13 Project Approvals

#### 1.13.1 Overview of Relevant Legislation and Policy Requirements

The key legislation and approvals required for the project are summarised in **Table 1-2** and discussed below. Individual sections also identify specific legislative and policy requirements as relevant to the subject matter.

Table 1-2 Legislation Potentially Relevant to the Project

Legislation	Relevant Authority	Relevance to Project
<b>Commonwealth Legislative Requirements</b>		
EPBC Act	Department of the Environment (formerly DSEWPaC)	Approval required to carry out a 'controlled action' and to authorise the environmental impacts of the project on matters of national environmental significance.
<i>Native Title Act 1993</i>	Commonwealth Attorney General	Compliance with this Act is required over land where native title may exist. The right to negotiate process is required for granting mining lease applications.

Legislation	Relevant Authority	Relevance to Project
<i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984</i>	Department of the Environment (formerly DSEWPaC)	This Act allows for the protection of significant Aboriginal areas and objects declared as such under the Act. The Act also requires the discovery of Aboriginal remains to be reported to the relevant minister for heritage.
<b>Queensland Legislative Requirements</b>		
SDPWO Act	DSDIP	Among other things, this Act includes provisions relating to preparation and assessment of EISs for declared coordinated projects.
EP Act	Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP)	Among other things, environmental approval and management of mining activities falls under the EP Act. On completion of the EIS process under the SDPWO Act, approval of EAs and proposed plans for environmental impacts will be required for the project.  Some additional approvals under this Act may be required in relation to movement of contaminated soils.
MR Act	EHP Department of Natural Resources and Mines (NRM)	Grant of a mining lease over the following areas which are covered under the existing MLA70241: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• exploration permit (coal) (EPC) 554; and</li> <li>• MDL307 and MDL358.</li> </ul>
<i>Sustainable Planning Act 2009 (SP Act)</i>	Isaac Regional Council	The planning and development assessment provisions of the SP Act do not apply to development carried out on a mining lease.  Development permits would be required if any project infrastructure and associated development was located off a mining lease or for operational works in relation to dewatering bores.  Building approval requirements are also triggered by the SP Act.
<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992 (NC Act)</i>	EHP Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing	Interference with species listed under the Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 1994 requires a permit.
<i>Water Act 2000</i>	EHP NRM Department of Energy and Water Supply	The following activities are subject to approval requirements under the Water Act: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• water course diversions (not including subsidence);</li> <li>• taking and interfering with groundwater;</li> <li>• taking or interfering with surface water; and</li> <li>• destroying vegetation, excavating or placing fill in a watercourse (except when those activities are carried out under an EA for mining activities).</li> </ul>
<i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003 (ACH Act)</i>	Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs	Agreement and registration of a cultural heritage management plan over the EIS study area.
<i>Queensland Heritage Act 1992</i>	EHP	Approval is required to enter or interfere with a protected area or item listed on the Queensland Heritage Register.



Legislation	Relevant Authority	Relevance to Project
<i>Transport Infrastructure Act 1994</i>	Department of Transport and Main Roads	The construction, maintenance, operation or conduct of ancillary works and encroachment on a State Controlled Road requires approval by the Chief Executive of the Department of Transport and Main Roads. This may include traffic management measures associated with large loads or other unusual traffic.
<i>Strategic Cropping Land Act 2011</i>	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) NRM	A strategic cropping land (SCL) validation application may be submitted to NRM to confirm whether an area of land identified as potential SCL is or is not SCL. Where the project will impact on validated SCL or potential SCL, a compliance certificate and/or protection decision will be required before the resource authority and EA can be issued.
<i>Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004</i>	NRM	Approval, licences and/or consents may be required to obtain, or to utilise gas collected as part of the project.
<i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i>	NRM	A development permit may be required to clear native vegetation on land of relevant tenure where that clearance is not subject to any exemptions. Where the clearing forms part of the authorised activities for the mining lease, a development permit will not be required (MR Act, section 4 A).
<i>Land Act 1994</i>	NRM	Approval (or other arrangements) is required for the creation, temporary or permanent closure of roads, stock routes or public utility easements. Permits are required for the occupation of a reserve, road or unallocated state land.
<i>Explosives Act 1999</i>	NRM	A licence is required to use, possess, store and transport explosives.
<i>Fire and Rescue Services Act 1990</i>	Department of Community Safety Fire Service Authority	Among other things, this Act sets out a number of requirements for buildings and storage of dangerous goods in relation to fire safety. A certificate of compliance is required if a workplace is located more than one floor above ground level.
<i>Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002</i>	DAFF	Approval (or other arrangements) will be required for temporary or permanent closure of roads and stock routes where required on-tenure. Management of declared weeds is also required.
<i>Electricity Act 1994</i>	Department of Energy and Water Supply Relevant electricity entity (e.g. Powerlink or Ergon Energy) Relevant public entity Relevant road authority	Approval / notice may be required for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• construction and operation of an internal distribution network to supply electricity generated;</li> <li>• work likely to come into contact or disturb overhead powerlines, soil or other material supporting or covering the entities work; and</li> <li>• electricity works if that work is likely to interfere with soil, vegetation, sewer, drain or tunnel, temporarily stop or divert traffic or interfere with a publicly controlled place.</li> </ul>

Legislation	Relevant Authority	Relevance to Project
<i>Local Government Act 2009</i>	Department of Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience Isaac Regional Council	Approval will be required where works are to be undertaken on a local government road or reserve.
<i>Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995</i>	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Approval is required if a road is temporarily or permanently closed. Approval may also be required for the transportation of dangerous goods.
<i>Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002</i>	Department of Housing and Public Works Isaac Regional Council	Approval will be required for installation of on site sewerage systems, toilet and shower facilities.
<i>Building Act 1975</i>	Isaac Regional Council	A development permit for building work is required for 'assessable development', where the structure or building work is of a fixed nature (as defined under the <i>Building Act 1975</i> ).
<i>Food Act 2006</i>	Isaac Regional Council Queensland Health	A licence is required to carry on a licensable food business. However, a licence will not be required where a third party operates the food business.
<i>Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999 (CMSH Act)</i>	NRM	The CMSH Act requires operators of coal mines to undertake a range of measures in relation to risk identification, planning and management to ensure safety of workers.

## 1.13.2 Commonwealth Legislative and Policy Requirements

### 1.13.2.1 Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

The EPBC Act prescribes the Commonwealth Government's role in environmental assessment, biodiversity conservation and the management of protected areas. The EPBC Act requires assessment and approval for any activity that has, or is likely to have, a significant impact on any of the nine matters of national environmental significance. Such an activity is deemed to be a controlled action. It is an offence to undertake a controlled action without the approval of the Commonwealth Minister.

The project will require approval from the Commonwealth Government Minister for the Environment under Part 9 of the EPBC Act. The Commonwealth Government has accredited the EIS process, to be conducted under the SDPWO Act, under a bilateral agreement between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments. This will enable the EIS to meet the impact assessment requirements under both Commonwealth and Queensland legislation.

### 1.13.2.2 Native Title Act 1993

Native title is the recognition by Australian law that Indigenous people have rights and interests to their land that come from their traditional laws and customs. The native title rights and interests held by particular Indigenous people will depend on both traditional laws and customs and also interests that may be legitimately held by other individuals or organisations. Generally speaking, native title is considered to have been extinguished by legitimate granting of a freehold interest in land and by some

other tenure decisions. The *Native Title Act 1993* was amended in 1998 and 2007 and allows for the coexistence of rights and the creation of Indigenous land use agreements (ILUAs).

The following groups of Aboriginal people have native title claims over the EIS study area:

- Barada Barna People QC08/11;
- Wiri People Core Country Claim QC06/14; and
- Wiri People 2.

Additional details of the claims are presented in **Section 16.1**.

Compliance with the *Native Title Act 1993* is required for the creation of rights such as mining leases and other mining rights over land where native title may exist. The right to negotiate process is required for several areas affected by the project and an agreement was entered into between BMA and the Barada Barna people consenting to the grant of the mining lease for RHM.

### 1.13.3 Queensland Legislative Requirements

#### 1.13.3.1 State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971

The SDPWO Act is administered by the DSDIP and provides for state planning and development through a coordinated system of public works organisation, for environmental coordination, and related purposes. The SDPWO Act provides the head of power for the Coordinator-General, who is responsible for declaring large and complex private and public projects to be coordinated projects. In considering whether to declare a project to be a 'coordinated project' the Coordinator-General must have regard, and may give the weight the Coordinator-General considers appropriate, to the following criteria:

- detailed information about the project given by the proponent in an initial advice statement;
- relevant planning schemes or policy frameworks of a local government, the State or the Commonwealth;
- relevant State policies and Government priorities;
- a pre-feasibility assessment of the project, including how it satisfies an identified need or demand;
- the capacity of the proponent to undertake and complete the EIS for the project; and
- any other matter the Coordinator-General considers relevant.

Once a project is declared to be a coordinated project, an EIS is generally required under Section 26(1)(a); this process is facilitated by the DSDIP. A key outcome of the EIS facilitation process is that all relevant state and local government agencies provide input into decision making regarding environmental assessment for the project and conditions of approvals. The EIS facilitation process also provides a formal pathway for community stakeholders to make submissions on the project.

The process for EIS preparation and assessment is set out in detail in **Section 1.8.2**.

### 1.13.3.2 *Environmental Protection Act 1994*

The EP Act, administered by EHP, was established 'to protect Queensland's environment, while allowing for development that improves the total quality of life, both now and in the future, in a way that maintains the ecological processes on which life depends'.

The EP Act utilises a number of mechanisms to achieve its objectives. These include:

- assessment and issue of EAs for environmentally relevant activities (ERAs), including mining and petroleum activities and associated ERAs;
- issuing environmental protection policies (EPPs);
- setting regulations; and
- creating a general environmental duty which obliges all persons to take all reasonable and practicable measures to avoid and minimise environmental harm.

Consistency with environmental quality objectives and standards set in EPPs must be considered in any decision made under the EP Act, as must the principles of ecologically sustainable development (ESD) as set out in the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment. Compliance with EPPs is discussed in relevant sections of this EIS and an assessment against the principles of ESD is provided in **Section 2**.

#### **Notifiable Activities**

Activities that have been identified as likely to cause land contamination are listed in Schedule 3 of the EP Act. Landowners or occupiers must inform EHP that land has been or is being used for a notifiable activity and this is recorded on EHP's Environmental Management Register.

Notifiable activities relevant to the project are discussed further in **Section 5.4**.

#### **Environmentally Relevant Activities and Environmental Authority**

The project requires an EA to carry out certain ERAs, including the proposed mining activity. The term 'mining activity' is defined in Section 110 of the EP Act.

Pursuant to section 110 of the EP Act, the project will involve:

- mining the mineral(s) specified in the mining lease; and
- activities associated with, arising from or promoting the activity of mining (which may include activities that, if they were not mining activities, would be prescribed ERAs, such as chemical storage (ERA 8) and sewage treatment (ERA 63)).

Mineral processing (ERA 31) associated with the project will take place at the GRB mine complex, which is already authorised for this activity (EPML00853413 formerly MIN100921609).

The EA is required to authorise the environmental impacts of the mining activities and is requirement for grant of the ML.

### Environmental Protection (Waste Management) Regulation 2000

The Environmental Protection (Waste Management) Regulation 2000 includes:

- offences relating to storage and management of polychlorinated biphenals, and waste equipment and transport;
- a waste tracking system that tracks the movement of specific waste to ensure correct disposal;
- clinical and related waste management planning including segregation, storage and disposal;
- requirements for managing polychlorinated biphenyls; and
- design rules for waste equipment.

Relevant requirements of the Environmental Protection (Waste Management) Regulation 2000 are addressed in further detail in **Section 15** of this EIS.

### Environmental Protection Policies

EPPs are a means used by the Queensland Government to implement its objectives in relation to environmental protection (Section 26 EP Act).

As per Section 28 of the EP Act, EPPs must:

- state that the policy applies to the environment generally or to an aspect or part of the environment specified in the policy; and
- identify the environmental values to be enhanced or protected under the policy.

As per Section 28 of the EP Act, EPPs may:

- state the objectives to be achieved and maintained under the policy; or
- state indicators, parameters, factors or criteria to be used in measuring or deciding any quality or condition of the environment; or
- establish a program by which the stated objectives are to be achieved and maintained, including:
  - quantifying ambient conditions;
  - setting the qualities and maximum quantities of any contaminant permitted to be released into the environment;
  - setting the minimum standards to be complied with in the installation or operation of vehicles, plant or equipment for the control of contaminants or waste from stated sources or places; and
  - establishing measures designed to protect the environment or minimise the possibility of environmental harm; or
- provide for a program performance assessment procedure.

The EPPs provide a policy framework for the determination of appropriate conditions for development permits for material change of use and/or EAs. EPPs are legally enforceable (Section 33 EP Act). Where relevant to particular environmental impacts, matters that require consideration, or procedures which need to be followed under the EPPs have been addressed in this EIS.

The current EPPs are:

- *Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 2009* (EPP (Water));
- *Environmental Protection (Noise) Policy 2008* (EPP (Noise)); and
- *Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2008* (EPP (Air)).

#### **Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 2009**

The purpose of the EPP (Water) is to achieve ESD in relation to Queensland waters. It provides a framework for managing environmental impacts on water, guidelines needed to protect the water environment, and identifies environmental values. EHP has set water quality objectives and environmental values for the Isaac River and Fitzroy River sub-basin in Schedule 1 of the EPP (Water).

An assessment of the project's potential impacts on water resources is provided in **Section 7** and **Section 8**.

#### **Environmental Protection (Noise) Policy 2008**

The purpose of the EPP (Noise) is to achieve the object of the EP Act in relation to the acoustic environment by:

- identifying environmental values to be enhanced or protected;
- stating acoustic quality objectives for enhancing or protecting the environmental values; and
- providing a framework for making consistent, equitable and informed decisions about the acoustic environment.

The policy contains a table of acoustic quality objectives in Schedule 1.

An assessment of the project's potential noise impacts is given in **Section 13**.

#### **Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2008**

The purpose of the EPP (Air) is to achieve the objectives of the EP Act in relation to Queensland's air environment by:

- identifying environmental values that need to be enhanced or protected;
- specifying air quality indicators and air quality objectives for enhancing or protecting environmental values; and
- providing a framework for making consistent, equitable and informed decisions about the air environment.

An assessment of the project's air quality impacts is given in **Section 11** of this EIS. Mitigation measures will be implemented across the project where there is potential for air quality impacts to affect receptors. A complaints register for dust contamination will be maintained to ensure compliance with the EPP (Air).

### Dams Containing Hazardous Waste

Dams or levees that are constructed as part of an environmentally relevant activity, pursuant to the EP Act, are assessed in accordance with the *Manual for Assessing Hazard Categories and Hydraulic Performance of Dams* (EHP 2012b). This determines whether the dam or levee is to be a regulated structure and be licensed through the EA conditions that authorise the activity. The EA conditions, together with the manual and associated guidelines then stipulate conditions for the design, documentation, certification, construction, surveillance, operation and decommissioning of the dam or levee. The typical EA conditions for regulated dams and levees are described in the guideline for structures which are dams or levees constructed as part of environmentally relevant activities (EHP 2012a).

The project proposes development of new mine water storage dams that will be part of the mine water management system, including a dam at the proposed MIA and a small contingency dam to store water generated from management of IMG in the event that this cannot be transferred directly to the adjacent GRB mine complex. These are discussed in more detail in **Section 3.8**.

If required for flood mitigation, the proposed Red Hill MIA flood levee will also be a regulated structure as it contains the MIA and mine affected areas. There are no tailings dams proposed for the project. Further details on the role of dams are provided in **Section 3.9** and **Section 7.3.2** of this EIS.

### General Environmental Duty

Section 319 of the EP Act establishes environmental duties, including a duty for a person to take all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent or minimise environmental harm when carrying out any activity. The general environmental duty places a clear onus on operators of mines to develop and implement measures for preventing or minimising environmental harm in relation to all activities, not just those classified as ERAs.

The EIS process seeks to ensure all environmental matters relating to the project are adequately addressed to minimise environmental harm.

#### 1.13.3.3 Mineral Resources Act 1989

The MR Act provides for the assessment, development and utilisation of mineral resources to the maximum extent practicable, consistent with sound economic and land use management. It is administered through EHP and NRM. The principal objectives of the MR Act are to encourage and facilitate mining of minerals in an environmentally responsible manner.

The MR Act provides that the Governor in Council may grant a mining lease for all or any of the following purposes:

- to mine the mineral or minerals specified in the lease and for all purposes necessary to effectually carry on that mining; and
- such purposes, other than mining, as are specified in the mining lease and that are associated with, arising from or promoting the activity of mining.

The MR Act provides for the advertisement of applications for the grant of mining leases, and lodgement of any objections to the grant over a period of least 28 days. Properly made objections

may be heard in the Land Court. The MR Act also provides for the surrender of mining leases, and for the amendment of conditions of a mining lease.

BMA currently holds various mining tenures over the EIS study area including mining leases, mineral development licences and exploration permits. BMA's approach to formalising mining tenure for the project is set out in **Section 5.1**.

#### **1.13.3.4 Sustainable Planning Act 2009**

The SP Act is Queensland's principal piece of land use planning legislation and is administered through the DSDIP. Refer to **Section 1.12.4** for further details.

The aims of the SP Act are to achieve ecological sustainability by:

- managing the process by which development takes place;
- managing the effects of development on the environment; and
- continuing the coordination and integration of local, regional and state planning.

Most aspects of development in relation to a mining activity for which an EA applies are not assessable development under the SP Act. An operational works approval may be required if groundwater bores are installed for the purpose of dewatering the underground workings.

The project does not currently include any off-lease works. If off-lease works are required, BMA will submit development applications to the relevant authority for any off-lease activities requiring a development permit. The development applications will be supported by this EIS and such other information as is required to be provided.

Building approvals are also regulated under the SP Act and building certification will be required for buildings associated with the proposed project.

#### **1.13.3.5 Nature Conservation Act 1992**

The NC Act is administered by the EHP and the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing and is the principal legislation for the conservation and management of the state's native flora and fauna. The primary objective of the NC Act is the conservation of biodiversity, namely the preservation of endangered, vulnerable and rare species of flora and fauna as listed under the Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 2006 and declaration and management of protected areas.

Species identified during the EIS and relevant to the NC Act are discussed in **Section 9**.

#### **1.13.3.6 Water Act 2000**

The *Water Act 2000* is administered through EHP, NRM, and the Department of Energy and Water Supply. In Queensland, the *Water Act 2000* is the primary statutory document that establishes a system for the planning, allocating and use of non-tidal water. The *Water Act 2000* prescribes the process for preparing water resource plans and resource operation plans which are specific for catchments within Queensland. These establish environmental flow objectives that are of importance for waterway health and set water allocation security objectives which are important to maintain water availability for community needs. Further details are provided in **Section 7** and **Section 8** of this EIS.



The *Water Resource (Fitzroy Basin) Plan 2011* requires that a licence to take water be obtained under the *Water Act 2000* if groundwater is to be taken from sub-artesian aquifers other than for stock or domestic purposes. A water licence is required under the *Water Act 2000* for works that interfere with the flow of water, such as stream diversions, or for taking groundwater intersected during mining as part of mine dewatering. A water licence is also required for overland flow works with capacity exceeding 50 megalitres. BMA will apply for development permits and licenses for bores constructed for dewatering purposes.

#### **1.13.3.7 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003**

The *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* (ACH Act) aims to provide recognition and protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage. The ACH Act requires all persons to take reasonable and practical measures to avoid harming cultural heritage. The Act allows relevant Aboriginal parties to be directly involved in the assessment and management of their own cultural heritage. Relevant Aboriginal parties are able to register significant cultural heritage places, such as sacred sites, on a cultural heritage register administered by the Cultural Heritage Coordination Unit within EHP.

Major aspects of the ACH Act include:

- protection of areas and objects of traditional and customary significance, as well as areas of archaeological significance;
- recognition of the key role of Aboriginal people in cultural heritage matters;
- establishment of practical and flexible processes to address cultural heritage in a timely and cost efficient manner;
- establishment of a duty of care, cultural heritage management planning process and other agreement based mechanisms to manage potential impacts of activities on cultural heritage; and
- penalties for harming Aboriginal cultural heritage.

BMA will separately enter into cultural heritage management agreements with relevant Aboriginal parties.

Further details are provided in **Section 16.1** of this EIS.

#### **1.13.3.8 Queensland Heritage Act 1992**

The *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* provides for the conservation and protection of places and items of historical and/or non-Indigenous cultural heritage that derive from the post-settlement history of Queensland. Under this Act, places and items entered into a Queensland heritage register are protected. There are no sites on the Queensland heritage register located within or adjacent to the EIS study area.

Further details of sites of non-Indigenous heritage interest are provided in **Section 16.2** of this EIS.

#### **1.13.3.9 Transport Infrastructure Act 1994**

The *Transport Infrastructure Act 1994* provides for the planning and efficient management of systems of transport and infrastructure, including the national and state road network. A permit under the Act is required to work in, or interfere with, a state-controlled road. Details of the project's potential impacts on state transportation infrastructure are provided in **Section 14** of this EIS.

#### **1.13.3.10 Strategic Cropping Land Act 2011**

Strategic cropping land (SCL) is an important, finite resource that is subject to competing land uses from the agriculture, mining and urban development sectors. The *Strategic Cropping Land Act 2011* is designed to strike a balance between these sectors to help maintain the long-term viability of food and fibre industries, and support economic growth for regional communities. It is administered through the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and NRM.

The objectives of the Act are to:

- protect land that is highly suitable for cropping;
- manage the impacts of development on that land; and
- preserve the productive capacity of that land for future generations.

The Act will achieve these objectives by:

- identifying potential SCL;
- providing criteria to decide whether or not land is SCL;
- establishing protection and management areas;
- providing for development assessment;
- imposing conditions on development;
- preventing permanent impacts on SCL in protection areas (unless the development is in exceptional circumstances); and
- requiring mitigation to be paid by developers if SCL is permanently impacted in the management area, or by a development in exceptional circumstances.

Approval may be required where the project has a permanent or temporary impact on SCL.

An SCL validation application may be submitted to NRM to confirm whether an area of land identified as potential SCL is or is not SCL. Where the project will impact on validated SCL or potential SCL, a compliance certificate and/or protection decision will to be required.

The impacts of the project on potential SCL are discussed in **Section 5.1** and **Section 5.3** of this EIS.

#### **1.13.3.11 Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004**

The *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004* addresses the grant and management of petroleum tenure (including for the production and transportation of petroleum and coal seam gas), and safety and landholder issues.

The Act also incorporates provisions relating to the collection, transportation, storage and beneficial use of IMG intersected as a result of the coal mining activities. Approval under this Act may be required depending on how IMG is utilised. Additionally, there is existing petroleum related tenure under this Act over parts of the EIS study area.

#### **1.13.3.12 Vegetation Management Act 1999**

The purposes of the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* (VM Act) are to regulate the clearing of vegetation in a way that:

- conserves remnant vegetation and vegetation in declared areas;
- ensures that clearing does not cause land degradation;
- maintains or increases biodiversity;
- maintains ecological processes;
- reduces greenhouse gas emissions; and
- allow for ecologically sustainable land use.

The VM Act is administered by NRM. The VM Act regulates the clearing of native vegetation in Queensland, which is assessable development under the SP Act. As such, clearing of vegetation on mining tenure is not regulated as the SP Act does not apply. The VM Act establishes regional vegetation management codes that set out requirements in relation to clearing of vegetation. It regulates and provides approval for the clearing of remnant vegetation, and some non-remnant vegetation on freehold land and state tenures.

Approval may be required under the Act to clear native vegetation on land of relevant tenure where that clearance is not subject to any exemptions.

#### **1.13.3.13 Explosives Act 1999**

The *Explosives Act 1999* provides for the regulation of explosives, including approval to manufacture, possess, sell, store, transport or use explosives in order to ensure the safety of the community from all activities associated with explosives. Where explosives are required, a licence or approval under this act will be required for the purchase, transportation, storage and use of explosives.

#### **1.13.3.14 Fire and Rescue Service Act 1990**

The *Fire and Rescue Service Act 1990* and Fire and Rescue Service Regulation 2001 requires the proponent to establish effective relationships with the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service to provide for the prevention of and response to fires and certain other incidents endangering persons, property or the environment and/or for related purposes or activities. Permits and approvals may also be required in relation to fire safety aspects of buildings and chemical storage areas.

### 1.13.3.15 Other legislation

The following pieces of legislation are discussed as required within the EIS. If approvals are required under the following Acts, or other Acts not specified below, then applications will be lodged with the relevant administering authority:

- *Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999*;
- *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*;
- *Electricity Act 1994*;
- *Local Government Act 2009*;
- *Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995*;
- *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002*;
- *Building Act 1975*;
- *Food Act 2006*; and
- *Land Act 1994*.

### 1.13.4 Planning and Social Policy Framework

The SP Act establishes the framework for planning and development assessment in Queensland. However, pursuant to section 4A of the MR Act, the SP Act does not apply to development authorised under the MR Act. There are two exceptions to this general exemption:

- development involving a Queensland heritage place (in which case the SP Act requirements will still apply); and
- building work, which is taken to be self-assessable development.

This means that authorised activities under the project's mining lease will generally be exempt from the operation of the SP Act. However, should any development associated with the project be required outside of a mining lease, the requirements of the SP Act would apply.

#### 1.13.4.1 State Planning Policies (SPP)

State Planning Policies (SPP) are statutory planning instruments that relate to matters of state interest. These policies must be considered in the assessment of relevant development applications lodged under the SP Act. While not applicable to activities on mining tenure, the relevant SPPs, regional plan, planning scheme and associated planning policies provide a framework for recognising important values and features and an analysis of the project's effects is relevant to protecting these features from impacts.

The Queensland Government is currently developing a new single SPP to replace the various current SPPs. The 'draft SPP' sets out policies about matters of state interest in relation to planning and development, and is a key framework of the government's broader commitment to planning reform.

The implications of SPPs and draft SPP to the project are addressed in **Table 1-3**.

Table 1-3 Key State Planning Policies

State Planning Policy	Relevance to the Project
SPP 1/03 Mitigating the Adverse Impacts of Flood, Bushfire and Landslide	This SPP aims to minimise the potential adverse impacts of flood, bushfire and landslide on people, property, economic activity and the environment. The implications of natural hazards for the project are discussed in <b>Section 4</b> of this EIS. Management of surface water and relevant flooding issues are addressed in <b>Section 7</b> of this EIS.
SPP1/12 Protection of Queensland's SCL	This SPP is designed to ensure that planning and development assessment under local government planning schemes includes appropriate consideration of SCL. SPP 1/12 is part of the overall legislative and planning framework, established under the <i>Strategic Cropping Land Act 2011</i> , to protect SCL from developments that lead to permanent impacts or diminished productivity. SPP 1/12 will operate in tandem with SPP 1/92: Development and the Conservation of Agricultural Land, which applies to a broader range of agricultural lands. Further discussion of potential SCL in relation to the project is detailed in <b>Section 5.1</b> and <b>Section 5.3.3</b> .
SPP 1/02 Development in the Vicinity of Certain Airports and Aviation Facilities	This SPP sets out broad principles for protecting airports and aviation facilities considered essential for the state's transport infrastructure or the national defence system. Moranbah airport is not included in the list of airports and aviation facilities to which the SPP applies.
SPP 2/07 Protection of Extractive Resources	This SPP identifies extractive resources (sand, gravel, quarry rock, clay, and soil) of state or regional significance to ensure their protection from development. The project will not adversely impact on extractive resources.
State Planning Policy 4/11 Protecting Wetlands in Great Barrier Reef Catchments from Effects of Earthworks	State Planning Policy 4/11 aims to protect wetlands of high ecological significance (HES) within Great Barrier Reef catchments from inappropriate development that has the ability to damage or degrade the ecological significance of the identified wetland. While there are no HES wetlands within or downstream of the EIS study area, overarching consideration must be given to the requirements of the temporary SPP, as the EIS study area is located within a Great Barrier Reef catchment. The effects of the project on surface water are discussed in <b>Section 7</b> of this EIS. An assessment of the possible effect of the project on wetlands is described in <b>Section 9</b> and <b>Appendix C2</b> .

#### 1.13.4.2 Social Impact Assessment Guideline (SDIP 2013)

The DSDIP *July 2013 Social Impact Assessment Guideline* provides direction for proponents to undertake a streamlined, risk-based approach to social impact assessment. The guideline represents a shift in focus from prescriptive action-based conditions, to preference an outcomes focused mitigation and monitoring framework and encourage innovative solution to capitalise on social opportunities and mitigate detrimental impacts.

The guideline also emphasises the value of building long-term relationships between proponents, stakeholders and communities of interest who are directly affected by the project. It aims to clarify the roles of key stakeholders in the development and implementation of a SIA.

The guideline complements the Queensland Government's draft regional development policy *Towards better community impact management for resource regions May 2013*. It recognises the benefits and mitigations addressed under the State's planning and policy framework, and through current Industry codes and tools.

#### 1.13.4.3 Local Industry Policy: A Fair Go for Local Industry

The Queensland Government's *Local Industry Policy: A Fair Go for Local Industry, Interim Update 2013* (DSDIP 2013a) states that the government has an obligation to ensure that local industry is given full, fair and reasonable opportunity to be considered for major work being undertaken in Queensland, in both the public and private sector. It also states that this opportunity can only be achieved through a proactive approach where local industry is utilised and assisted to become internationally competitive (DSDIP 2013a).

Under this policy, private sector project proponents who are not formally subject to the provisions of the policy are encouraged to apply its principles to their projects on a voluntary basis. The policy also places a responsibility on project proponents to provide local industry with tendering opportunities, and local suppliers to take steps to be internationally competitive (DSDIP 2013a).

Local industry participation plans developed by project proponents are designed to support the *Local Industry Policy, Interim Update 2013* (DSDIP 2013a). Plans are required to:

- ensure that local industry is provided with information in an equitable and timely manner;
- ensure appropriate design and procurement strategies to provide equitable access for local industry;
- provide local industry with the opportunity to supply under the same terms, standards and conditions as existing supply chain partners;
- award contracts on the basis of the most competitive proposal, which should include due consideration of direct and indirect cost factors such as reliability, maintainability, servicing and procurement administration costs; and
- include performance measurement, reporting and feedback mechanisms (DSDIP 2013a).

The preparation of local industry participation plans will be undertaken alongside the future development of the GRM incremental expansion and the Red Hill Underground expansion option and must be registered by project proponents with the chair of the local industry committee.

The Queensland Government encourages resource based project proponents to voluntarily apply the *Local Industry Policy* (DSDIP 2013a) to new projects and developments. The Queensland Government has released *Local Industry Policy: Guidelines* to provide assistance to project proponents implementing the policy (DSDIP 2013b). As a result, BMA will develop a local industry participation plan for the RHM underground expansion option in advance of the future project development in accordance with the provisions of this policy. The SIA further addresses this policy requirement.

#### 1.13.4.4 Work for Queensland: Resources Skills and Employment Plan

The Queensland Government initiated the *Work for Queensland initiative* in partnership with the resources industry to ensure all Queenslanders share the benefits of the resources boom, including engaging people to meet the labour demands of the industry. The *Resources Skills and Employment Plan* is a key element of the *Work for Queensland initiative* and builds on a broad range of workforce development activities across industry and government (Skills Queensland 2012b).

An initiative of the *Work for Queensland: Resources Skills and Employment Plan* is that all declared Significant Projects are required to develop a workforce management plan as a component of the SIA (Skills Queensland 2012a).

These workforce management plans should:

- support local skills and employment;
- support Work for Queensland priorities in connecting jobseekers from areas of high unemployment to job opportunities;
- identify other labour sources from around Queensland and Australia; and
- clearly quantify skills gaps that will need to be met through targeted migration strategies (Skills Queensland 2012b).

To fully capitalise on the opportunities that will be faced over the coming years, targeted and prioritised actions are required to ensure the resources sector can meet its projected skills needs, and mitigate any adverse impacts on national, state and regional economies (Skills Queensland 2012b).

The Coordinator-General has been tasked with strengthening the employment and skilling requirements of workforce strategies, and reviewing these requirements to ensure appropriate data are captured with the objective of achieving a better understanding of industry need (Skills Queensland 2012b).

This SIA outlines BMA's intention to develop a workforce management plan for the Red Hill underground expansion option in line with the requirements and guidelines of the *Work for Queensland: Resources Skills and Employment Plan*.

#### **1.13.4.5 Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland**

In recognition of the many challenges Queensland is facing now and into the future, the Queensland Government developed a government plan for 2020 entitled *Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland* (DoPC 2008). In this plan, a variety of long-term goals and objectives have been set, particularly to address key issues that have been identified as likely to become significant challenges in the future if not considered. The plan categorised these long-term goals and objectives into five ambitions for the state and its communities in regard to the economy, environment and lifestyles, education and training, health, and communities.

Toward Q2 is the overarching government policy that guides regional and community planning. The plan specifies that shared approaches are needed to ensure that targets will be achieved, and this includes developing strong alliances between the Queensland Government, industry, communities, families and individuals. The draft SIA has considered Toward Q2 when assessing impacts and determining appropriate mitigation.

#### 1.13.4.6 Solid Partners Solid Futures Plan 2013-2016

The Queensland Government's *Solid partners Solid futures* Plan 2013-16 calls for a partnership approach, administered through the Queensland Indigenous Education Consultative Committee, to improve early childhood, education and employment outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people at four critical phases:

1. ensuring children from 0 – 8 years of age make successful transitions from home to early childhood education and care and school;
2. ensuring school students are enrolled, engaged and achieving in school; and progressing at the same rate as non-Indigenous students;
3. ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students make a successful transition from school to training, further study or into employment; and
4. ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people make a successful transition from training or further study into employment.

BMA is working closely with government through the Queensland Resources Council to increase Indigenous participation in the work force through the Solid Partners Solid Futures initiative and the Bowen Basin Memorandum of Understanding and addressed further in **Section 17** of the EIS.

#### 1.13.4.7 Regional Plans and Strategies

##### Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday Regional Plan

The Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday Regional Plan (MIWRP) was issued in February 2012.

The plan will guide future planning decisions for the region over the next two decades and has statutory power under the SP Act. It provides a framework to guide the long term sustainability of the region's communities, strengthen its economy, inform the delivery of social services and infrastructure, and protect its environment.

The plan recognises that the resources sector operates within specific legislation and supports the development of mining projects within the region. The plan also identifies that the Bowen Basin as Australia's largest coal deposit and one of the nation's largest coal producers, with coal mining being the major industry in the region and the largest employer.

The plan establishes a vision and direction for the region to 2031. It provides certainty about where the region is heading and provides a framework to respond to challenges and opportunities that may arise. The regional plan outlines ten desired regional outcomes, supported by a range of policies and programs:

- sustainability, climate change and natural hazards;
- regional landscapes;
- environment;
- natural resource management;
- strong communities;



- strong economy;
- managing growth;
- urban form;
- infrastructure; and
- transport.

The sections of the MIWRP that are considered relevant in the assessment of the project are shown in **Section 5.1, Table 5.1-3**.

#### 1.13.4.8 Local Council Planning Schemes

The EIS study area is located in Isaac Regional Council local government area. The Isaac Regional Council was formed on 15 March 2008 following the amalgamation of the Belyando, Broadsound, and Nebo local governments. The former shire planning schemes continue in force for the area to which they previously applied, until such time as they are amended or amalgamated.

It is noted that the project does not currently include any off-lease works. If off-lease works are required, BMA will submit development applications to the relevant authority for any off-lease activities requiring a development permit. The development applications will be supported by this EIS and such other information as is required to be provided.

The entire project is located within the former Belyando Shire and, as such the majority of the EIS study area is within the former Belyando Shire area; however, a small section protrudes into the former Nebo Shire area (refer to **Figure 5.1-10**).

The part of the EIS study area located in the former Belyando Shire is zoned for 'rural' use under the Planning Scheme for Belyando Shire (2009). The desired environmental outcomes for the Planning Scheme for Belyando Shire recognise the coal mining industry as a key driver for economic development within the region and seek to protect the viability of the industry. The rural zone code within the Planning Scheme for Belyando Shire seeks to '*retains its viability as an area of primary production and natural resource use, including mining*'.

The part of the EIS study area located in the former Nebo Shire is also zoned for 'rural' use under the *Nebo Shire Plan (2008)*. As with the Belyando Shire Plan, the desired environmental outcomes for the *Nebo Shire Plan* recognise the coal mining industry as a key driver for economic development within the region. The intent of the rural zone is to '*protect primary production uses and associated infrastructure, land suitable for a primary production use, natural resources, natural environmental values and natural landscape values from incompatible uses or other development and from fragmentation, alienation or degradation*'.

**Section 5.1** of this EIS discusses in detail the relevance of the provisions of the Belyando and Nebo Shire planning schemes to the project.

#### 1.13.4.9 The Isaac Region 2020 Vision

In 2009, the Isaac Regional Council developed a community plan called *The Isaac Region 2020 Vision* (Isaac Regional Council Community Plan) to establish long-term planning goals and objectives for the region that could be validated by the community through community engagement and feedback. The objectives of the Isaac Regional Council Community Plan are categorised into 'diverse lifestyles', 'environment', 'economy', and 'essential services'. Of these objectives, those that are of particular relevance to Moranbah relate to the pressures and issues arising from the rapid and continuing growth in the resource and mining industries (IRC 2009).

The goals and aspirations of *The Isaac Regional Council Community Plan* establish a social context that seeks to support economic and regional development within the Isaac Regional Council local government area. This context and strategic direction has been considered during development of the draft SIA.