

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Wednesday, 22 September 2021 5:20 PM
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: Central Qld Coal project - EPBC 2016/7851 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Legend thanks s. 22(1)(a)(ii). If you don't hear from him by tomorrow arvo, would you mind chasing him by phone?

s. 47F(1)

Environment Planning & Strategic Partnerships
Directorate of Environmental Planning Assessment & Compliance (DEPAC)
Infrastructure Division
Estate and Infrastructure Group
Department of Defence
Ph: s. 47F(1) | E: s. 47F(1) [@defence.gov.au](mailto:s.47F(1)@defence.gov.au)

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@environment.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 22 September 2021 5:15 PM
To: s. 47F(1) <s. 47F(1)@defence.gov.au>
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@environment.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Central Qld Coal project - EPBC 2016/7851 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s. 47F(1)

I've attached a figure of the Central Queensland Coal project site boundaries and surrounds for your information. Let me know if there's any other figures of the project site you think might be useful for considering in relation to defence activities in the area and I'll look to see if there's anything we can provide.

Thanks

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Assessment Officer | Queensland North Assessments | s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
Environment Assessments Queensland and Sea Dumping Branch | Environment Approvals Division
[s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@awe.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@awe.gov.au)
Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
John Gorton Building, King Edward Terrace (GPO Box 858)
CANBERRA ACT 2600



The department acknowledges the traditional custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea, environment, water and community. We pay our respect to the traditional custodians, their culture, and elders both past and present.

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@environment.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 22 September 2021 4:53 PM
To: s. 47F(1) <s. 47F(1)@defence.gov.au>
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@environment.gov.au>
Subject: Central Qld Coal project - EPBC 2016/7851 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

G'day s. 47F(1)

I hope you're doing well?

I wanted to touch base re the proposed Central Qld Coal Project (s. 47F(1)) that has attracted significant media attention recently.

We sought comment at the referral stage and Defence responded stating that defence did not foresee the project having any adverse impacts on defence land or activities.

The project is located in the Styx Catchment. I understand Defence's Shoalwater Bay training area has recently expanded and may now be quite close to the proposed mine.

s. 22(1)(a)(ii) would you mind sending s. 47F(1) some info on the location boundary of the proposed mine?

I wanted to check with you s. 47F(1) whether this is a project Defence would like to be consulted on in relation to the decision on whether or not to approve the mine.

Also more than happy to have some discussions before that to give you more background on the project and the timing / next steps for the proposed decision.

Cheers

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director, Queensland North Assessments
Environment Assessments Queensland and Sea Dumping Branch
Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
t: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | m: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | a: GPO Box 858 CANBERRA ACT 2600
e: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@awe.gov.au

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s. 47F(1) <s. 47F(1)@defence.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 24 September 2021 6:10 PM
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii), s. 47F(1), s. 47F(1), s. 47F(1)
Subject: RE: Central Qld Coal project - EPBC 2016/7851 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks s. 22(1)(a)(ii) & s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
I'll review these docos' & thanks for the background info too
Kind regards
& have a safe weekend

s. 47F(1)
Environment Planning & Strategic Partnerships
Directorate of Environmental Planning Assessment & Compliance (DEPAC)
Infrastructure Division
Estate and Infrastructure Group
Department of Defence
Ph: s. 47F(1) | E: s. 47F(1) @defence.gov.au

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@awe.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 24 September 2021 5:53 PM
To: s. 47F(1) <s. 47F(1)@defence.gov.au>
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@environment.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Central Qld Coal project - EPBC 2016/7851 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s. 47F(1)

Thanks for your time on the phone earlier. As discussed the statutory clock on the Central Queensland Coal Project is currently stopped as the proponent is yet to pay a fee for a section 132 (EPBC Act) request for further information regarding their environmental history. While this is the case the Minister can still make the proposed decision on the project, which is currently dependent on her visit to the project site. The timing of the site visit is currently unknown because of the Covid travel restrictions from NSW to Qld. I've attached the Queensland State Assessment Report for the project to the email for your information, which provides the Queensland Delegate's recommendations to the Commonwealth in regards to the impacts of the action and whether or not it is suitable to proceed. I've also provided the link to the Central Queensland Coal website [here](#), which has links to their EIS documents.

Please feel free to get in touch with me if you have any further questions regarding the project. Otherwise I look forward to hearing back from you next week about any concerns you may have in relation to this project on the Shoalwater Bay Defence Training Area.

Kind regards,

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Assessment Officer | Queensland North Assessments | s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
Environment Assessments Queensland and Sea Dumping Branch | Environment Approvals Division
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@awe.gov.au
Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
John Gorton Building, King Edward Terrace (GPO Box 858)
CANBERRA ACT 2600



From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@environment.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 22 September 2021 5:15 PM
To: s. 47F(1) <s. 47F(1)@defence.gov.au>
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@environment.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Central Qld Coal project - EPBC 2016/7851 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s. 47F(1)

I've attached a figure of the Central Queensland Coal project site boundaries and surrounds for your information. Let me know if there's any other figures of the project site you think might be useful for considering in relation to defence activities in the area and I'll look to see if there's anything we can provide.

Thanks

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Assessment Officer | Queensland North Assessments | s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
Environment Assessments Queensland and Sea Dumping Branch | Environment Approvals Division
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@awe.gov.au
Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
John Gorton Building, King Edward Terrace (GPO Box 858)
CANBERRA ACT 2600



From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@environment.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 22 September 2021 4:53 PM
To: s. 47F(1) <s. 47F(1)@defence.gov.au>
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@environment.gov.au>
Subject: Central Qld Coal project - EPBC 2016/7851 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

G'day s. 47F(1)

I hope you're doing well?

I wanted to touch base re the proposed Central Qld Coal Project (s. 47F(1)) that has attracted significant media attention recently.

We sought comment at the referral stage and Defence responded stating that defence did not foresee the project having any adverse impacts on defence land or activities.

The project is located in the Styx Catchment. I understand Defence's Shoalwater Bay training area has recently expanded and may now be quite close to the proposed mine.

s. 22(1)(a)(ii) would you mind sending s. 47F(1) some info on the location boundary of the proposed mine?

I wanted to check with you s. 47F(1) whether this is a project Defence would like to be consulted on in relation to the decision on whether or not to approve the mine.

Also more than happy to have some discussions before that to give you more background on the project and the timing / next steps for the proposed decision.

Cheers

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director, Queensland North Assessments

Environment Assessments Queensland and Sea Dumping Branch

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

t: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | m: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | a: GPO Box 858 CANBERRA ACT 2600

e: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@awe.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@awe.gov.au)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Document 3

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Tuesday, 19 October 2021 3:04 PM
To: Andrew McNee
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; s. 22(1)(a)(ii); s. 22(1)(a)(ii); s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FW: Defence response to Invitation to comment on the proposed EPBC Act action : Central Qld Coal project - EPBC 2016/7851 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: Shoalwater Bay Expansion Area1.pdf; CQC footprint - revised EIS.PNG

Hi Andrew

s. 22(1)(a)(ii) has thoughtfully prepared the attached map overlaying the CQC proposed site with Defence's areas of interest.

As you can see the proposed site overlaps with the Australia-Singapore Military Training Initiative (ASMTI) Expansion Footprint, which is essentially an expansion to the Shoalwater Bay Training Area under the ASMTI. It will allow up to 14,000 Singapore armed forces to conduct unilateral training in Central and North Queensland for up to 18 weeks a year for the next 25 years.

I'll raise at our next discussion.

Cheers

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @environment.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 October 2021 11:20 AM
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @environment.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @environment.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @environment.gov.au>
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @environment.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Defence response to Invitation to comment on the proposed EPBC Act action : Central Qld Coal project - EPBC 2016/7851 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s. 22(1)(a)(ii),

Please find attached the map of the Central QLD Coal project area and the Shoalwater Bay Training area (including the proposed expansion).

s. 22(1)(a)(ii) noted that the Central QLD Coal project area has been updated in that the south-east area of the project has been modified (attachment two). This part of the project area doesn't overlay with the SWBTA expansion but am happy to amend the project area if needed.

Thanks s. 22(1)(a)(ii),
 s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

P.s Spring returned yesterday and has disappeared today 😞 it's now raining at mine!!

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @environment.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 18 October 2021 4:23 PM
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @environment.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @environment.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @environment.gov.au>
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @environment.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Defence response to Invitation to comment on the proposed EPBC Act action : Central Qld Coal project - EPBC 2016/7851 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Likewise ^{s. 22(1)(a)(i)} – I'm glad spring has decided to return today!

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @environment.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 18 October 2021 4:12 PM

To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @environment.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @environment.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @environment.gov.au>

Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @environment.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Defence response to Invitation to comment on the proposed EPBC Act action : Central Qld Coal project - EPBC 2016/7851 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

No worries at all 😊

Have a nice afternoon!

^{s. 22(1)(a)(i)}

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @environment.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 18 October 2021 4:08 PM

To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @environment.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @environment.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @environment.gov.au>

Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @environment.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Defence response to Invitation to comment on the proposed EPBC Act action : Central Qld Coal project - EPBC 2016/7851 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thanks heaps ^{s. 22(1)(a)(i)}. Good question, glad you asked. Happy with either option, whichever is easier for you guys.

And anytime tomorrow is fine.

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @environment.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 18 October 2021 4:04 PM

To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @environment.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @environment.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @environment.gov.au>

Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @environment.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Defence response to Invitation to comment on the proposed EPBC Act action : Central Qld Coal project - EPBC 2016/7851 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi ^{s. 22(1)(a)(ii)}

Yeah that should be fine, I can start working on that tomorrow morning with s. 22(1)(a)(ii) and ^{s. 22(1)(a)(ii)}. Do you want the Central Queensland Coal project area added to that exact map? Or can we create a new map that contains both the Defence's Shoalwater Bay Training Area and the Central Queensland Coal project area?

Is there a particular time you would like this by?

Cheers,

^{s. 22(1)(a)(i)}

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @environment.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 18 October 2021 3:58 PM

To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @environment.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @environment.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @environment.gov.au>

Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @environment.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Defence response to Invitation to comment on the proposed EPBC Act action : Central Qld Coal project - EPBC 2016/7851 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi ^{s. 22(1)(a)(ii)}

Happy to help with this. I'm just finishing off the draft Callide Wind Farm referral package this afternoon. I will get in touch with ^{s. 22(1)(a)(ii)} and ^{s. 22(1)(a)(ii)} tomorrow to discuss mapping of the CQC project site in relation to the Defence training area.

Cheers

^{s. 22(1)(a)(ii)}

From: ^{s. 22(1)(a)(ii)} <^{s. 22(1)(a)(ii)} @environment.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 18 October 2021 3:52 PM

To: ^{s. 22(1)(a)(ii)} <^{s. 22(1)(a)(ii)} @environment.gov.au>; ^{s. 22(1)(a)(ii)} <^{s. 22(1)(a)(ii)} @environment.gov.au>

Cc: ^{s. 22(1)(a)(ii)} <^{s. 22(1)(a)(ii)} @environment.gov.au>; ^{s. 22(1)(a)(ii)} <^{s. 22(1)(a)(ii)} @environment.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Defence response to Invitation to comment on the proposed EPBC Act action : Central Qld Coal project - EPBC 2016/7851 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi ^{s. 22(1)(a)(ii)} and ^{s. 22(1)(a)(ii)}

I hope your week is off to a great start 😊

I was wondering if I could ask for your help with a mapping task: I was hoping you might be able to map the Central Queensland Coal proposed action onto the JGP attached which outlines Defence's Shoalwater Bay Training Area?

Attached is a PDF of the mining leases for the project. ^{s. 22(1)(a)(ii)} do you know whether there are any other better maps of the proposed project that could help ^{s. 22(1)(a)(ii)} and ^{s. 22(1)(a)(ii)}? And do you know if there are any parts of the project outside of the two ML identified?

Doesn't need to happen today, but would be great to have something to put to Andrew tomorrow.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Many thanks!

^{s. 22(1)(a)(ii)}

From: ^{s. 47F(1)} <^{s. 47F(1)} @defence.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 18 October 2021 10:30 AM

To: ^{s. 22(1)(a)(ii)} @awe.gov.au; ^{s. 22(1)(a)(ii)} <^{s. 22(1)(a)(ii)} @environment.gov.au>

Cc: ^{s. 47F(1)} <^{s. 47F(1)} @defence.gov.au>; ^{s. 47F(1)} <^{s. 47F(1)} @defence.gov.au>

Subject: Defence response to Invitation to comment on the proposed EPBC Act action : Central Qld Coal project - EPBC 2016/7851 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Hi ^{s. 22(1)(a)(ii)}

Defence appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed action, the **Central Qld Coal project - EPBC 2016/7851**, that is currently being assessed by the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) in accordance with *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) requirements.

The Department of Defence has a **significant interest** in this proposed action, as the proposal:

- Is immediately adjacent to, and overlaps a portion of Defence's Shoalwater Bay Extension Area (SWBEA) properties (acquired since the proposed projects' initial EPBC Act referral in 2016)
- Lies approximately 40km west of the Shoalwater Bay Training Area (SWBTA), and

To illustrate this fact Defence colleagues have provided a jpg ([Attachment 1](#) above), which illustrates that the SWBEA both overlaps the project (e.g. at Strathmuir south of the rail line), and is immediately adjacent the project, such as east of Ogmoo. This jpg map also illustrates the proximity of SWBTA.

Also attached is a EIA map, which illustrates where the project's mineral leases lie in context to two close SWBEA properties ([Attachment 2](#) above).

Defence **formally requests** to be consulted on the project to ensure that Defence interests during the project's assessment and impact mitigation process are addressed, prior to the proposed project's potential EPBC Act approval, including the proposed decision.

Defence seeks to understand the potential impact of the proposed project, and understands the EPBC Act assessment process was conducted by Queensland under a bilateral agreement, and did not consider Defence (Commonwealth) lands. Defence therefore needs to be consulted to address Defences areas of interest and potential concern, to ensure the coal mine project does not significantly impact the SWNTA and SWBEA properties and deleteriously impact Defence's operational capability and training activity needs, noting the proposed mine may operate for 25+ years (being the expected life of the mine).

Key Defence areas of interest, and potential concern, include:

Environmental:

Defence requested to be consulted regarding any potential impacts on any resources, ground water or otherwise on Defence lands that may impact on development activities or the ongoing Defence use of the SWBEA and the SWBTA (including exercises, training etc.).

Defence notes the projects' local and regional impacts to Defence's SWBEA and the SWBTA properties' groundwater resources, geography and vibration impacts are unclear at this time.

Deleterious impacts upon groundwater resource may significantly impact the sustainability of large-scale activities such as major exercises and training.

Defence notes the IESC (Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development) advises surface water and/or groundwater contamination issues. Defence understands publicised IESC studies regarding the project raised concerns about the impacts of the project upon local water resources (IESC link - <https://iesc.environment.gov.au/advice/scientific-advice>).

Defence requests that DAWE advise Defence what these studies details regarding upon SWBEA and SWBTA groundwater aquifers and water resources.

Vibrations and other activities inherent with large mining operations have the capability to change the geography of the immediate region, and therefore may impact the suitability of the area, particularly the SWBEA, for certain exercises.

In summary Defence needs to understand the potential indirect and offset impacts (defined in EPBC Act Significant Impact Guidelines as downstream, downwind, upstream and facilitated impacts) of the large coal mine and train transport upon SWBEA (and SWBTA) properties including, but not limited to, potential impacts to water resources located on, under, or near proximal Defence land, noise, erosion, run off, and water and air quality impacts

Access (Land and Air) and Security:

It is unclear what security implications would exist around the coal mine proposal bordering a major exercise area. It is foreseeable that SWBTA would be a major rehearsal/training area, and a better understanding would enable a more informed Defence opinion. More information would need to be provided around the following areas:

- Impacts upon Defence airspace use
- Access and control, of rail and road. For example ascertaining what impacts will there be for Defence moving off the Bruce Highway on to Kooltandra and Stoodliegh Roads, the primary access to SWBEA.
- The need to de-conflict relevant future ADF exercises and staging during the projects construction and operation/delivery.
- Mitigation of monitoring of ADF activities (due to the proximity and line of sight issues).
- Any impact to safety and communication networks, from mine operations.
- If encroachment degrades training/preparedness in the following ways, including (but not limited to):
 - creates avoidance/'no-go' areas (constrains manoeuvre);
 - reduces usage days;
 - prohibits certain training events;
 - reduces TA and range access during construction/maintenance;
 - restricts flight paths and altitudes; and
 - complicates night and all-weather training.

Defence seeks to support safe operations in the abutting land and air spaces to mutual benefit by understanding each other's expectations, limits and requirements that avoid incompatible outcomes and this should endure throughout the project's life cycle

Defence's ongoing point of contact on this EPBC Act advice is the DEPAC Director, [s. 47F\(1\) @defence.gov.au](#). Please ensure that [s. 47F\(1\) @defence.gov.au](#) (myself) is also CC'd in correspondence, to assist [s. 47F\(1\)](#) in his role as 'the delegated contact for the Minister for Defence, The Hon Peter Dutton MP, in relation to consultation on actions being assessed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act)'.

Most happy to discuss, and thanks again for the opportunity for Defence to comment

Kind regards

[s. 47F\(1\)](#)
 Director (DEPAC)
 Environment Planning Assessment and Compliance
 Environment & Engineering Branch
 Infrastructure Division
 Ph [s. 47F\(1\)](#)

From: [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(iii\) <s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(iii\)@awe.gov.au>](#)
Sent: Wednesday, 22 September 2021 4:53 PM
To: [s. 47F\(1\) <s. 47F\(1\) @defence.gov.au>](#)
Cc: [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\) <s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@environment.gov.au>](#)
Subject: Central Qld Coal project - EPBC 2016/7851 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

G'day [s. 47F\(1\)](#)

I wanted to touch base re the proposed Central Qld Coal Project that has attracted significant media attention recently.

We sought comment at the referral stage and Defence responded stating that defence did not foresee the project having any adverse impacts on defence land or activities.

The project is located in the Styx Catchment. I understand Defence's Shoalwater Bay training area has recently expanded and may now be quite close to the proposed mine.

The location boundary of the proposed mine is in the attached jpg.

I wanted to check if this is a project Defence would like to be consulted on.

Also more than happy to have some discussions before that to give you more background on the project and the timing / next steps for the proposed decision.

Cheers

s. 22(1)(a)(i)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director, Queensland North Assessments

Environment Assessments Queensland and Sea Dumping Branch Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | m: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | a: GPO Box 858 CANBERRA ACT 2600

e: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@awe.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@awe.gov.au)

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

LEX-25518

12

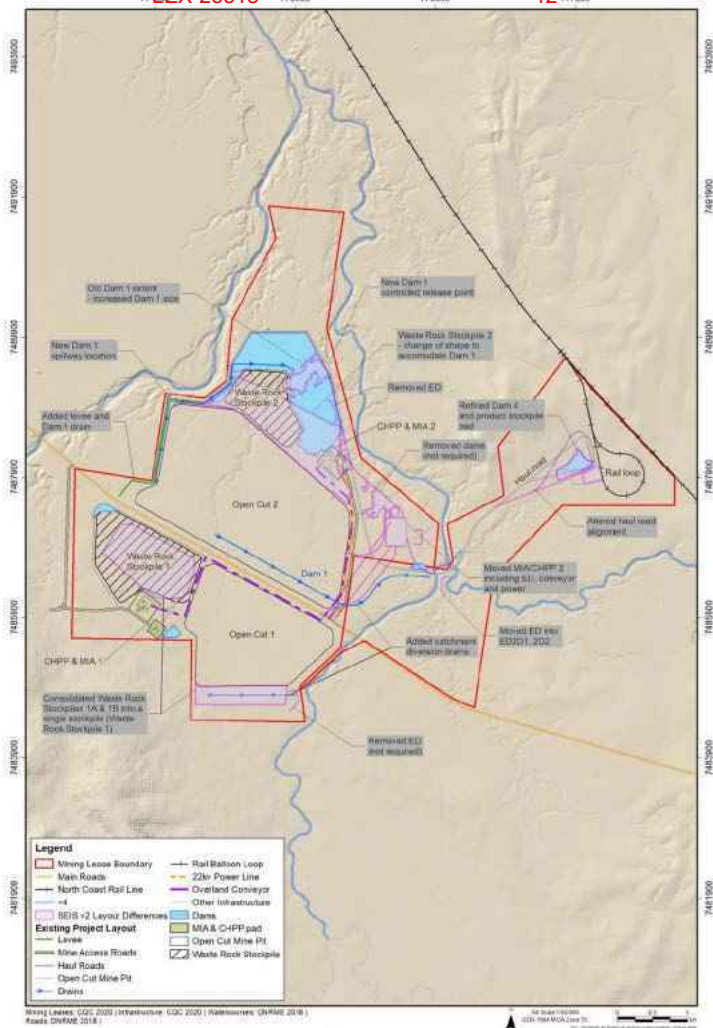


Figure 1-3: Project layout changes between SEIS v2 and SEIS v3

Shoalwater Bay Expansion Area

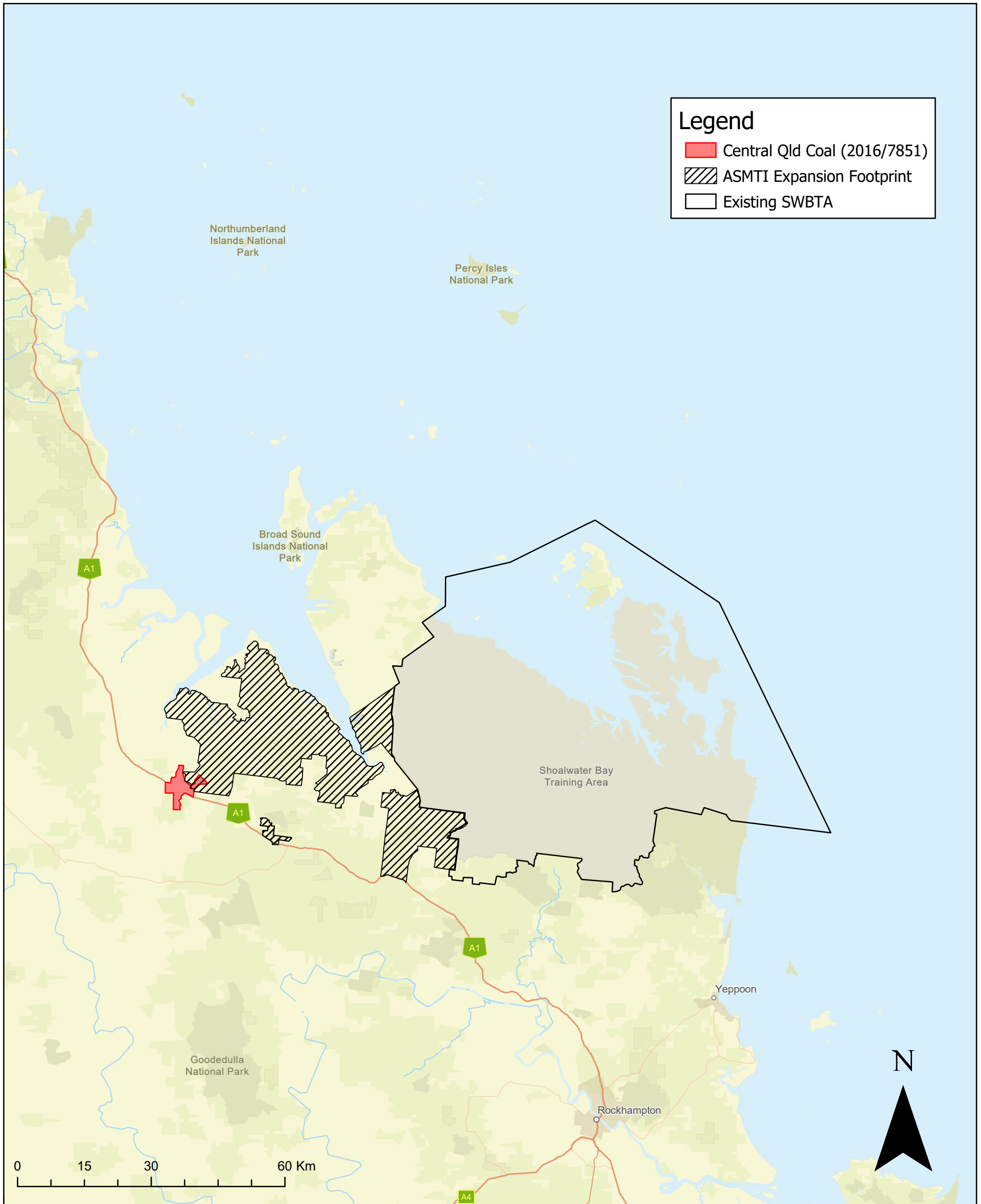
Queensland North Assessments
Environmental Approvals Division



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

INTERNAL USE ONLY¹³



Coordinate System: GCS GDA94

Datum: GDA94

Date created: 19 October 2021

Data Source: Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (2021), Department of Defence (2021)

Disclaimer:

The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Australian Government or the Minister for Agriculture, Water and the Environment. While reasonable efforts have been made to ensure that the contents of this publication are factually correct, the Commonwealth does not accept responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of the contents and shall not be liable for any loss or damage that may be occasioned directly or indirectly through the use of, or reliance on, the contents of this publication. Produced by the Queensland North Assessments, Australian Government Department Agriculture, Water and the Environment, 2021.

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Thursday, 21 October 2021 5:47 PM
To: s. 47F(1)
Cc: s. 47F(1) ; s. 47F(1) s. 22(1)(a)(ii); Andrew McNee
Subject: RE: Potential meeting timeslots for next week : Defence response to Invitation to comment on the proposed EPBC Act action : Central Qld Coal project - EPBC 2016/7851 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s. 47F(1) – the Wed looks great from our perspective.

Cheers

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s. 47F(1) <s. 47F(1)@defence.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 21 October 2021 3:05 PM
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@awe.gov.au>
Cc: s. 47F(1) <s. 47F(1)@defence.gov.au>; s. 47F(1) s. 47F(1)@defence.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@environment.gov.au>; Andrew McNee <Andrew.McNee@environment.gov.au>
Subject: Potential meeting timeslots for next week : Defence response to Invitation to comment on the proposed EPBC Act action : Central Qld Coal project - EPBC 2016/7851 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

As promised we've three potential timeslots for a virtual meeting discussion next week:

- Mon. 25/10 3:15 – 4PM
- Wed. 27/10 3:30 – 4:15PM
- Thurs. 28/10 2:30 – 3:15PM

Let us know if/which suits and an allied Outlook meeting invite with Teams link details – hopefully this works for DAWE.

If not I'll look at the week following. Happy to discuss.

Kind regards

s. 47F(1)

Environment Planning & Strategic Partnerships
Directorate of Environmental Planning Assessment & Compliance (DEPAC)
Infrastructure Division
Estate and Infrastructure Group
Department of Defence
Ph: s. 47F(1) | E: s. 47F(1) @defence.gov.au

For

s. 47F(1)

DEPAC Director

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@awe.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 21 October 2021 1:22 PM

To: s. 47F(1) <s. 47F(1)@defence.gov.au>

Cc: s. 47F(1) <s. 47F(1)@defence.gov.au>; s. 47F(1) <s. 47F(1)@defence.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@environment.gov.au>; Andrew McNee <Andrew.McNee@environment.gov.au>

Subject: RE: proposed meeting - yes please : Defence response to Invitation to comment on the proposed EPBC Act action : Central Qld Coal project - EPBC 2016/7851 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

That sounds great s. 47F(1) Look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director, Queensland North Assessments

Environment Assessments Queensland and Sea Dumping Branch

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

t: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | m: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | a: GPO Box 858 CANBERRA ACT 2600

e: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@awe.gov.au

From: s. 47F(1) <s. 47F(1)@defence.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 21 October 2021 11:47 AM

To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@awe.gov.au>

Cc: s. 47F(1) <s. 47F(1)@defence.gov.au>; s. 47F(1) <s. 47F(1)@defence.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@environment.gov.au>

Subject: RE: proposed meeting - yes please : Defence response to Invitation to comment on the proposed EPBC Act action : Central Qld Coal project - EPBC 2016/7851 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

An initial meeting would be great soon – probably next week, I'll look at the availability of s. 47F(1) and myself (DEPAC) in the instance in Outlook and let you know when we're free on a few alternate timeslots. I'll then send an invite and let you confirm what suits. I'm thinking a virtual meeting for now too, we're still predominately working from home with the odd workplace cameo appearance.

We may bring in a few key Defence stakeholders too – I've established the key POC stakeholders for our various areas with an interest. I'll confirm this, as we may bring them in after our initial meeting which may set the best way forwards.

The meeting media format needs to be confirmed, Skypes works for us but does not function with DAWE, so once we've established a do-able timeslot in might be best DAWE send us a Microsoft Teams meeting invite. We did this with Dawe's s. 22(1)(a)(ii) and Kylie Calhoun for some WA EPBC Act projects and this meeting format worked well with, with all of us still working from home.

Kind regards

s. 47F(1)

Environment Planning & Strategic Partnerships
 Directorate of Environmental Planning Assessment & Compliance (DEPAC)
 Infrastructure Division
 Estate and Infrastructure Group
 Department of Defence
 Ph: **s. 47F(1)** | E: **s. 47F(1)** [@defence.gov.au](mailto:s.47F(1)@defence.gov.au)

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)** <**s. 22(1)(a)(ii)** [@awe.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@awe.gov.au)>

Sent: Monday, 18 October 2021 3:58 PM

To: **s. 47F(1)** <**s. 47F(1)** [@defence.gov.au](mailto:s.47F(1)@defence.gov.au)>; **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)** [@awe.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@awe.gov.au); **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)** <**s. 22(1)(a)(ii)** [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@environment.gov.au)>

Cc: **s. 47F(1)** <**s. 47F(1)** [@defence.gov.au](mailto:s.47F(1)@defence.gov.au)>; **s. 47F(1)** **s. 47F(1)** [@defence.gov.au](mailto:s.47F(1)@defence.gov.au)>

Subject: RE: Defence response to Invitation to comment on the proposed EPBC Act action : Central Qld Coal project - EPBC 2016/7851 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi **s. 47F(1)**

Thanks very much for your advice in relation to the Central Qld Coal project. It's very helpful to understand Defence's interests in this region and we're keen to discuss.

Perhaps in the first instance we could set up a 30 minute chat later in the week / next week to discuss next steps?

Kind regards

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director, Queensland North Assessments
 Environment Assessments Queensland and Sea Dumping Branch
 Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
t: **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)** | **m:** **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)** | **a:** GPO Box 858 CANBERRA ACT 2600
e: **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)** [@awe.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@awe.gov.au)

From: **s. 47F(1)** <**s. 47F(1)** [@defence.gov.au](mailto:s.47F(1)@defence.gov.au)>

Sent: Monday, 18 October 2021 10:30 AM

To: **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)** [@awe.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@awe.gov.au); **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)** <**s. 22(1)(a)(ii)** [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@environment.gov.au)>

Cc: **s. 47F(1)** <**s. 47F(1)** [@defence.gov.au](mailto:s.47F(1)@defence.gov.au)>; **s. 47F(1)** **s. 47F(1)** [@defence.gov.au](mailto:s.47F(1)@defence.gov.au)>

Subject: Defence response to Invitation to comment on the proposed EPBC Act action : Central Qld Coal project - EPBC 2016/7851 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi ^{s. 22(1)(a)(ii)}

Defence appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed action, the **Central Qld Coal project - EPBC 2016/7851**, that is currently being assessed by the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) in accordance with *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) requirements.

The Department of Defence has a **significant interest** in this proposed action, as the proposal:

- Is immediately adjacent to, and overlaps a portion of Defence's Shoalwater Bay Extension Area (SWBEA) properties (acquired since the proposed projects' initial EPBC Act referral in 2016)
- Lies approximately 40km west of the Shoalwater Bay Training Area (SWBTA), and

To illustrate this fact Defence colleagues have provided a jpg ([Attachment 1](#) above), which illustrates that the SWBEA both overlaps the project (e.g. at Strathmuir south of the rail line), and is immediately adjacent the project, such as east of Ogmoo. This jpg map also illustrates the proximity of SWBTA.

Also attached is a EIA map, which illustrates where the project's mineral leases lie in context to two close SWBEA properties ([Attachment 2](#) above).

Defence **formally requests** to be consulted on the project to ensure that Defence interests during the project's assessment and impact mitigation process are addressed, prior to the proposed project's potential EPBC Act approval, including the proposed decision.

Defence seeks to understand the potential impact of the proposed project, and understands the EPBC Act assessment process was conducted by Queensland under a bilateral agreement, and did not consider Defence (Commonwealth) lands. Defence therefore needs to be consulted to address Defences areas of interest and potential concern, to ensure the coal mine project does not significantly impact the SWNTA and SWBEA properties and deleteriously impact Defence's operational capability and training activity needs, noting the proposed mine may operate for 25+ years (being the expected life of the mine).

Key Defence areas of interest, and potential concern, include:

Environmental:

Defence requested to be consulted regarding any potential impacts on any resources, ground water or otherwise on Defence lands that may impact on development activities or the ongoing Defence use of the SWBEA and the SWBTA (including exercises, training etc.).

Defence notes the projects' local and regional impacts to Defence's SWBEA and the SWBTA properties' groundwater resources, geography and vibration impacts are unclear at this time.

Deleterious impacts upon groundwater resource may significantly impact the sustainability of large-scale activities such as major exercises and training.

Defence notes the IESC (Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development) advises surface water and/or groundwater contamination issues. Defence understands publicised IESC studies regarding the project raised concerns about the impacts of the project upon local water resources (IESC link - <https://iesc.environment.gov.au/advice/scientific-advice>).

Defence requests that DAWE advise Defence what these studies details regarding upon SWBEA and SWBTA groundwater aquifers and water resources.

Vibrations and other activities inherent with large mining operations have the capability to change the geography of the immediate region, and therefore may impact the suitability of the area, particularly the SWBEA, for certain exercises.

In summary Defence needs to understand the potential indirect and offset impacts (defined in EPBC Act Significant Impact Guidelines as downstream, downwind, upstream and facilitated impacts) of the large coal mine and train transport upon SWBEA (and SWBTA) properties including, but not limited to, potential impacts to water resources located on, under, or near proximal Defence land, noise, erosion, run off, and water and air quality impacts

Access (Land and Air) and Security:

It is unclear what security implications would exist around the coal mine proposal bordering a major exercise area. It is foreseeable that SWBTA would be a major rehearsal/training area, and a better understanding would enable a more informed Defence opinion. More information would need to be provided around the following areas:

- Impacts upon Defence airspace use
- Access and control, of rail and road. For example ascertaining what impacts will there be for Defence moving off the Bruce Highway on to Kooltandra and Stoodliegh Roads, the primary access to SWBEA.
- The need to de-conflict relevant future ADF exercises and staging during the projects construction and operation/delivery.
- Mitigation of monitoring of ADF activities (due to the proximity and line of sight issues).
- Any impact to safety and communication networks, from mine operations.
- If encroachment degrades training/preparedness in the following ways, including (but not limited to):
 - creates avoidance/'no-go' areas (constrains manoeuvre);
 - reduces usage days;
 - prohibits certain training events;
 - reduces TA and range access during construction/maintenance;
 - restricts flight paths and altitudes; and
 - complicates night and all-weather training.

Defence seeks to support safe operations in the abutting land and air spaces to mutual benefit by understanding each other's expectations, limits and requirements that avoid incompatible outcomes and this should endure throughout the project's life cycle

Defence's ongoing point of contact on this EPBC Act advice is the DEPAC Director, [s. 47F\(1\)](#) [@defence.gov.au](#). Please ensure that [s. 47F\(1\)](#) [s. 47F\(1\)](#) [@defence.gov.au](#) (myself) is also CC'd in correspondence, to assist [s. 47F\(1\)](#) in his role as 'the delegated contact for the Minister for Defence, The Hon Peter Dutton MP, in relation to consultation on actions being assessed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act)'.

Most happy to discuss, and thanks again for the opportunity for Defence to comment

Kind regards

[s. 47F\(1\)](#)

Director (DEPAC)

Environment Planning Assessment and Compliance

Environment & Engineering Branch

Infrastructure Division

Ph [s. 47F\(1\)](#)

From: [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) <[s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) [@awe.gov.au](#)>

Sent: Wednesday, 22 September 2021 4:53 PM

To: [s. 47F\(1\)](#) <[s. 47F\(1\)](#) [@defence.gov.au](#)>

Cc: [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) <[s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) [@environment.gov.au](#)>

Subject: Central Qld Coal project - EPBC 2016/7851 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

G'day s. 47F(1)

I wanted to touch base re the proposed Central Qld Coal Project that has attracted significant media attention recently.

We sought comment at the referral stage and Defence responded stating that defence did not foresee the project having any adverse impacts on defence land or activities.

The project is located in the Styx Catchment. I understand Defence's Shoalwater Bay training area has recently expanded and may now be quite close to the proposed mine.

The location boundary of the proposed mine is in the attached jpg.

I wanted to check if this is a project Defence would like to be consulted on.

Also more than happy to have some discussions before that to give you more background on the project and the timing / next steps for the proposed decision.

Cheers

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director, Queensland North Assessments

Environment Assessments Queensland and Sea Dumping Branch Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | m: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | a: GPO Box 858 CANBERRA ACT 2600

e: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @awe.gov.au

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s. 47F(1) <s. 47F(1) @defence.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 27 October 2021 12:34 PM
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii); s. 47F(1)
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 47F(1)
Subject: FW: Draft AGENDA - Defence-DAWE meeting today : Defence response to Invitation to comment on the proposed EPBC Act action : Central Qld Coal project - EPBC 2016/7851 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: SWBTA_Publicv8.jpg; Strathmuir_ML700022.pdf
Importance: High
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

OFFICIAL**OFFICIAL**

Hi ^{s. 22(1)(a)(ii)}, DAWE team-mates and Defence colleagues

As promised here's the proposed meeting agenda items that DEPAC would like to discuss, to address the advice DEPAC sent through on the 18/10/21 (email below).

Topics for discussion:

- Assurance that a DAWE's assessments officers, and EPBC Act decision delegates, would hold appropriate security clearances and to ensure discussions are held in-confidence.
- How DAWE will address the detailed issues raised in our submission email below, i.e. the likely impacts of the proposed coal project by appropriate assessments, which will inform any likely mitigation measures / approval conditions. This is asked in the context that the Defence's Shoalwater extension properties, that abut the proposed coal mine, have been acquired after the project was made a controlled action (CA), and Qld's bilateral assessment did not consider C'wlth/Defence lands.
- To map out a process to address these assessment matters, to ensure this occurs prior to the Environment Minister making a proposed decision, and provide for follow up meeting(s) that will bring relevant internal Defence stakeholders into discussion, and the provision of assessments for their comment.
- DAWE to provide proposed dates for future meetings with Defence stakeholders.

Happy to discuss

Kind regards

s. 47F(1)

Environment Planning & Strategic Partnerships
Directorate of Environmental Planning Assessment & Compliance (DEPAC)
Infrastructure Division
Estate and Infrastructure Group
Department of Defence
Ph: s. 47F(1) | E: s. 47F(1) [@defence.gov.au](mailto:s. 47F(1)@defence.gov.au)

For

s. 47F(1)

DEPAC Director

From: s. 47F(1) <s. 47F(1) @defence.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 18 October 2021 10:30 AM
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @awe.gov.au; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @environment.gov.au
Cc: Ls. 47F(1) <s. 47F(1) @defence.gov.au>; s. 47F(1) s. 47F(1) @defence.gov.au
Subject: Defence response to Invitation to comment on the proposed EPBC Act action : Central Qld Coal project - EPBC 2016/7851 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Defence appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed action, the **Central Qld Coal project - EPBC 2016/7851**, that is currently being assessed by the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) in accordance with *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) requirements.

The Department of Defence has a **significant interest** in this proposed action, as the proposal:

- Is immediately adjacent to, and overlaps a portion of Defence's Shoalwater Bay Extension Area (SWBEA) properties (acquired since the proposed projects' initial EPBC Act referral in 2016)
- Lies approximately 40km west of the Shoalwater Bay Training Area (SWBTA), and

To illustrate this fact Defence colleagues have provided a jpg (Attachment 1 above), which illustrates that the SWBEA both overlaps the project (e.g. at Strathmuir south of the rail line), and is immediately adjacent the project, such as east of Ogmire. This jpg map also illustrates the proximity of SWBTA.

Also attached is a EIA map, which illustrates where the project's mineral leases lie in context to two close SWBEA properties (Attachment 2 above).

Defence **formally requests** to be consulted on the project to ensure that Defence interests during the project's assessment and impact mitigation process are addressed, prior to the proposed project's potential EPBC Act approval, including the proposed decision.

Defence seeks to understand the potential impact of the proposed project, and understands the EPBC Act assessment process was conducted by Queensland under a bilateral agreement, and did not consider Defence (Commonwealth) lands. Defence therefore needs to be consulted to address Defences areas of interest and potential concern, to ensure the coal mine project does not significantly impact the SWNTA and SWBEA properties and deleteriously impact Defence's operational capability and training activity needs, noting the proposed mine may operate for 25+ years (being the expected life of the mine).

Key Defence areas of interest, and potential concern, include:

Environmental:

Defence requested to be consulted regarding any potential impacts on any resources, ground water or otherwise on Defence lands that may impact on development activities or the ongoing Defence use of the SWBEA and the SWBTA (including exercises, training etc.).

Defence notes the projects' local and regional impacts to Defence's SWBEA and the SWBTA properties' groundwater resources, geography and vibration impacts are unclear at this time.

Deleterious impacts upon groundwater resource may significantly impact the sustainability of large-scale activities such as major exercises and training.

Defence notes the IESC (Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development) advises surface water and/or groundwater contamination issues. Defence understands publicised IESC studies regarding the project raised concerns about the impacts of the project upon local water resources (IESC link - <https://iesc.environment.gov.au/advice/scientific-advice>).

Defence requests that DAWE advise Defence what these studies details regarding upon SWBEA and SWBTA groundwater aquifers and water resources.

Vibrations and other activities inherent with large mining operations have the capability to change the geography of the immediate region, and therefore may impact the suitability of the area, particularly the SWBEA, for certain exercises.

In summary Defence needs to understand the potential indirect and offset impacts (defined in EPBC Act Significant Impact Guidelines as downstream, downwind, upstream and facilitated impacts) of the large coal mine and train transport upon SWBEA (and SWBTA) properties including, but not limited to, potential impacts to water resources located on, under, or near proximal Defence land, noise, erosion, run off, and water and air quality impacts

Access (Land and Air) and Security:

It is unclear what security implications would exist around the coal mine proposal bordering a major exercise area. It is foreseeable that SWBTA would be a major rehearsal/training area, and a better understanding would enable a more informed Defence opinion. More information would need to be provided around the following areas:

- Impacts upon Defence airspace use
- Access and control, of rail and road. For example ascertaining what impacts will there be for Defence moving off the Bruce Highway on to Kooltandra and Stoodliegh Roads, the primary access to SWBEA.
- The need to de-conflict relevant future ADF exercises and staging during the projects construction and operation/delivery.
- Mitigation of monitoring of ADF activities (due to the proximity and line of sight issues).
- Any impact to safety and communication networks, from mine operations.
- If encroachment degrades training/preparedness in the following ways, including (but not limited to):
 - creates avoidance/'no-go' areas (constrains manoeuvre);
 - reduces usage days;
 - prohibits certain training events;
 - reduces TA and range access during construction/maintenance;
 - restricts flight paths and altitudes; and
 - complicates night and all-weather training.

Defence seeks to support safe operations in the abutting land and air spaces to mutual benefit by understanding each other's expectations, limits and requirements that avoid incompatible outcomes and this should endure throughout the project's life cycle

Defence's ongoing point of contact on this EPBC Act advice is the DEPAC Director, [s. 47F\(1\) @defence.gov.au](mailto:s.47F(1)@defence.gov.au). Please ensure that [s. 47F\(1\) @defence.gov.au](mailto:s.47F(1)@defence.gov.au) (myself) is also CC'd in correspondence, to assist [s. 47F\(1\) @defence.gov.au](mailto:s.47F(1)@defence.gov.au) in his role as 'the delegated contact for the Minister for Defence, The Hon Peter Dutton MP, in relation to consultation on actions being assessed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act)'.

Most happy to discuss, and thanks again for the opportunity for Defence to comment

Kind regards

[s. 47F\(1\) @defence.gov.au](mailto:s.47F(1)@defence.gov.au)

Director (DEPAC)

Environment Planning Assessment and Compliance

Environment & Engineering Branch

Infrastructure Division

Ph **s. 47F(1)**

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@awe.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 22 September 2021 4:53 PM
To: s. 47F(1) <s. 47F(1)@defence.gov.au>
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@environment.gov.au>
Subject: Central Qld Coal project - EPBC 2016/7851 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

G'day s. 47F(1)

I wanted to touch base re the proposed Central Qld Coal Project that has attracted significant media attention recently.

We sought comment at the referral stage and Defence responded stating that defence did not foresee the project having any adverse impacts on defence land or activities.

The project is located in the Styx Catchment. I understand Defence's Shoalwater Bay training area has recently expanded and may now be quite close to the proposed mine.

The location boundary of the proposed mine is in the attached jpg.

I wanted to check if this is a project Defence would like to be consulted on.

Also more than happy to have some discussions before that to give you more background on the project and the timing / next steps for the proposed decision.

Cheers

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

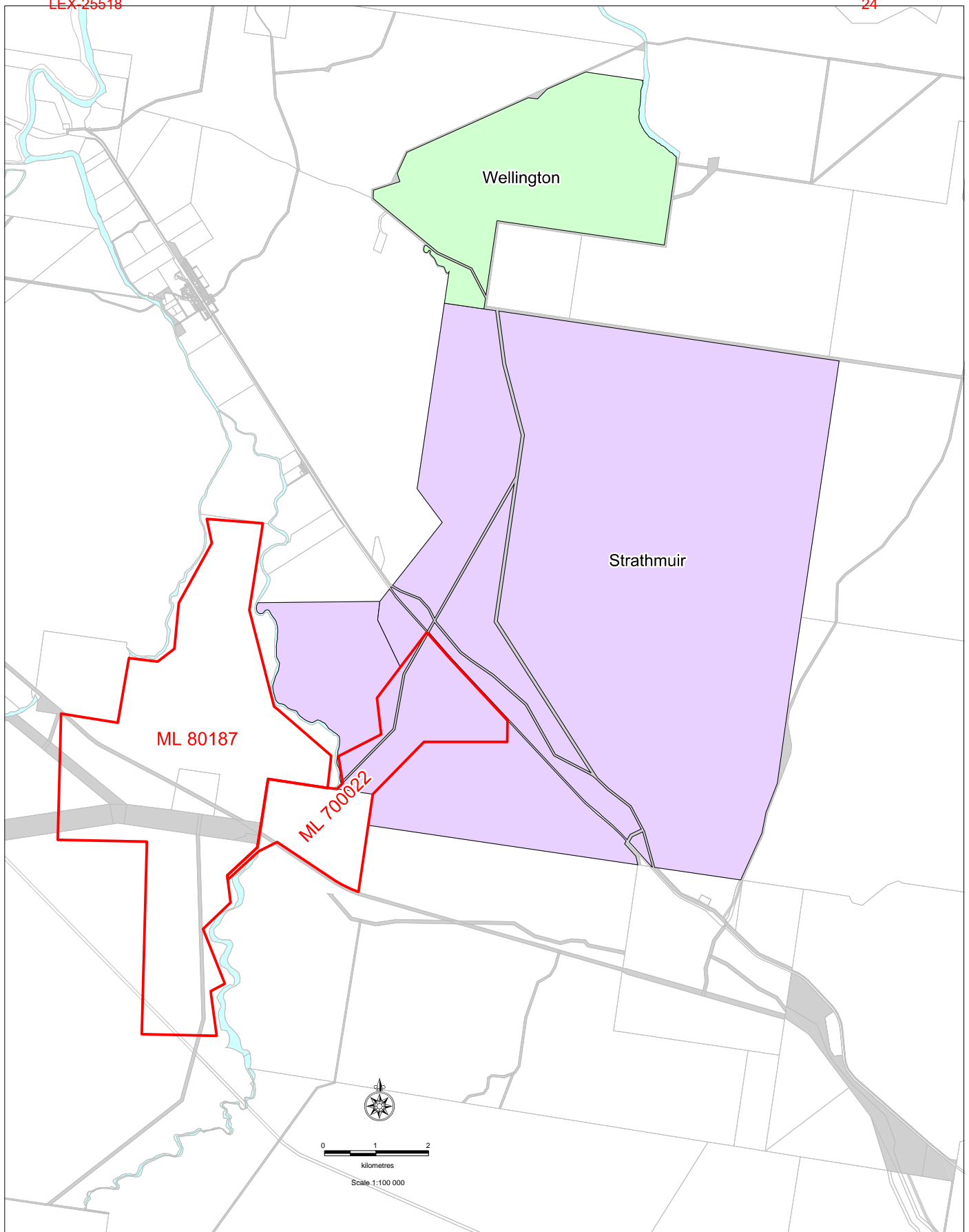
Director, Queensland North Assessments
Environment Assessments Queensland and Sea Dumping Branch Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | m: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | a: GPO Box 858 CANBERRA ACT 2600
e: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@awe.gov.au

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

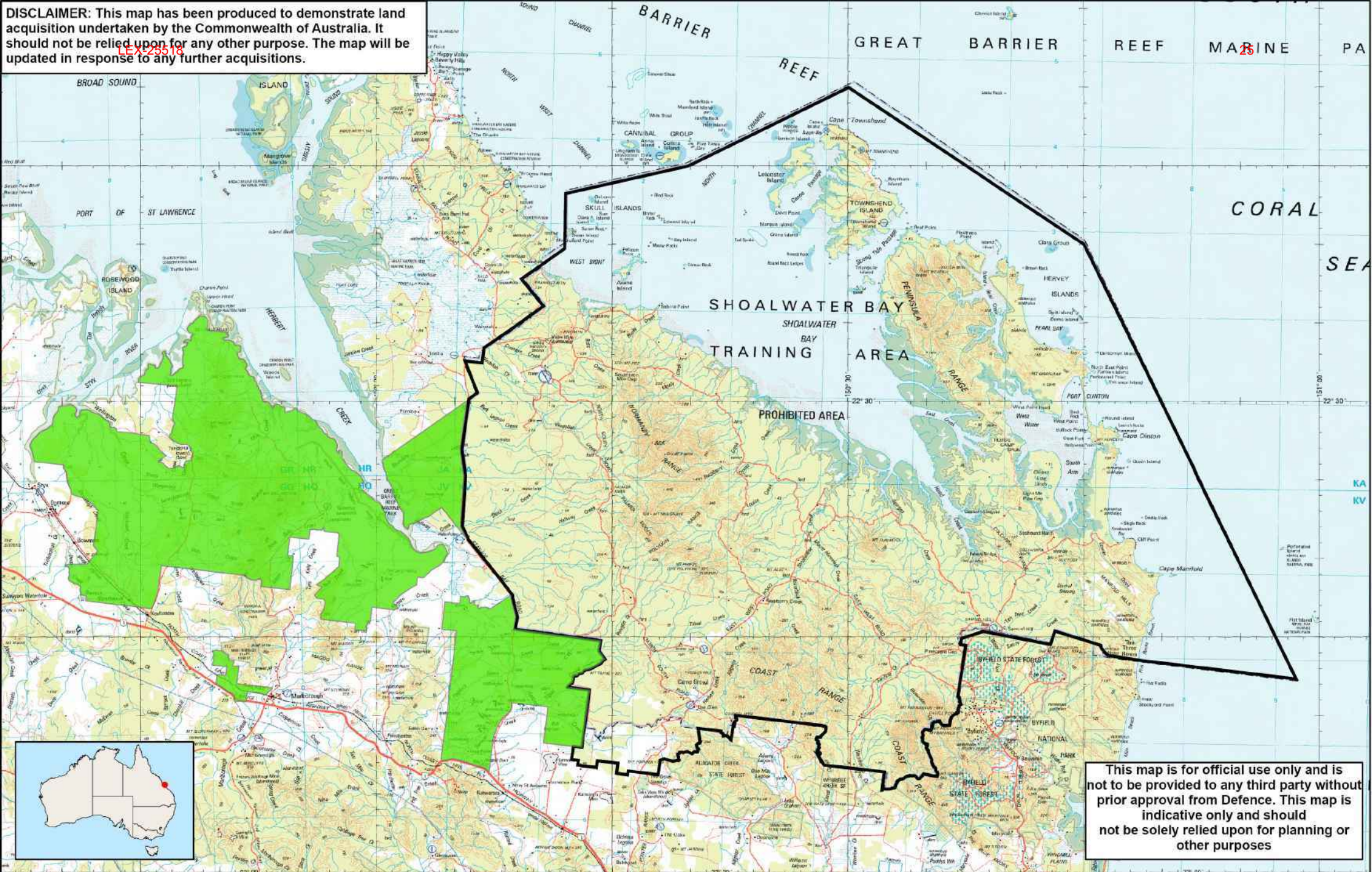
**Legend**

-  Strathmuir
-  Wellington
-  Gazetted Roads
-  Mining Lease Applications

Central Queensland Coal Pty Ltd
Mining Lease Applications
(MLA) 700022 and 80187

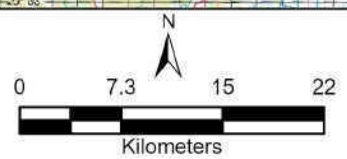
Strathmuir

DISCLAIMER: This map has been produced to demonstrate land acquisition undertaken by the Commonwealth of Australia. It should not be relied upon for any other purpose. The map will be updated in response to any further acquisitions.



This map is for official use only and is not to be provided to any third party without prior approval from Defence. This map is indicative only and should not be solely relied upon for planning or other purposes

Existing SWBTA
ASMTI Expansion Footprint as at 1 October 2021



Australian Government
Department of Defence

Shoalwater Bay
Expansion Area

Produced by
EIG/ID/PM/SAPI
on 1/10/2021

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Wednesday, 27 October 2021 4:17 PM
To: s. 47F(1) ; s. 47F(1) ; s. 47F(1)
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Availability for potential follow-on meeting [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi s. 47F(1) s. 47F(1) and s. 47F(1)

Thanks again for your time just now.

In terms of availability, Andrew McNee and I are free Wed 17th 12-2pm, 4-5pm and Thurs 18th 9.00-10.30, 11.30-1pm, 3-5pm. As a backup, Tue 16th 12-3, and 4-5pm are also available but not preferred.

Look forward to speaking with you again.

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director, Queensland North Assessments
Environment Assessments Queensland and Sea Dumping Branch
Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
t: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | m: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | a: GPO Box 858 CANBERRA ACT 2600
e: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@awe.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@awe.gov.au)

Meeting with Department of Defence – Central Queensland Coal (EPBC 2016/7851) – 27 October 2021

Attendees:

Department of Defence

- s. 47F(1)
- s. 47F(1)
- s. 47F(1)

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

- s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
- s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
- s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Department of Defence comments:

- Members of the Department of Defence thanked the department for our cooperation in facilitating their comment on the Central Queensland Coal Project (CQCP).
- Defence will be trying to get some insightful Defence stakeholders to provide comment on their concerns regarding the CQCP and its impacts to the Shoalwater Bay Expansion Area (SWEA) at the next meeting with the department.
- Defence mentioned these stakeholders might be nervous about security clearance of the department's assessment officers who attend the future meeting.
- Defence is starting to ramp up in terms of capability within the SWEA – conducting more joint training exercises.
 - Proponent looking to purchase a section of the SWEA that is partly within the project area for the CQCP
- Defence considered it would be good to have a meeting with the key stakeholders before the proposed decision is made
 - Hard to organise everyone near Christmas
 - So would like to have a meeting with key stakeholders as soon as possible
 - Provide available dates for meeting with Defence stakeholders
- Defence were open to options around meetings and how engagements are to proceed
 - Interest was expressed to arrange meeting sometime mid-November
 - Defence to check whether a meeting will be needed prior to the proposed decision and let the department know

- Members of Defence asked
 - What are the key impacts of the project being considered by the Department?
 - Can the department provide potential conditions to Defence?

Department comments:

- The department advised members of Defence that we could not provide an indication of potential conditions at this time.
- This is because the assessment material is currently with the department and has not yet been considered by the Minister.
- Minister will visit the project site before she makes her proposed decision on the project.
- The department will not finalise our advice until the Minister has the opportunity to view the project site.
- The Minister is currently planning her site visit when the Queensland boarder restrictions lift around the 19th/20th of December
- The Minister will be looking to make her proposed decision as soon as possible once the site visit is complete.
- The department cannot comment on what the outcome of her decision will be at this time.
- The department will make sure that the right security clearances are obtained by assessment officer staff prior to future meetings with Defence stakeholders
 - Information from the meeting may not be shared with all members from the department working on the project
 - Proponent looking to purchase a section of the SWEA
- The department will send Defence links to IESC reports, DES assessment reports, EIS report
 - Highlight the key areas
- The department advised we would let the Minister for Defence know when Minister Ley is undertaking her site visit.
- The department advised that any information that Defence provides us would be included in the briefing package that goes to the Minister.
- The department also advised that we should be notified if any sensitive Defence information needs to go to the Minister for consideration.

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s. 47F(1) <s. 47F(1) @defence.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 28 October 2021 9:24 AM
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s. 47F(1) ; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: Assessment documentation for Central Queensland Coal [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
I'll review this with interest
Thanks again
s. 47F(1)

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@awe.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 28 October 2021 8:42 AM
To: s. 47F(1) s. 47F(1) @defence.gov.au>
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @environment.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@environment.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Assessment documentation for Central Queensland Coal [SEC=OFFICIAL]

No problems s. 47F(1)

Please see attached copies of the IESC reports (relating to each review of the proponent's EIS) and the Queensland State Assessment Report for your information. I've also provided a link to the Central Queensland Coal webpage [here](#) where the EIS documents can be found.

The latest IESC report (2020) is fairly short (~6 pages) and details the key risks the project poses to water resources and the Great Barrier Reef (GBR). The previous IESC reports are also attached, but if you are short for time it's worth focussing on the 2020 document as it provides comment on the most recent version of the EIS.

The Queensland State Assessment Report discusses impacts to water resources within section 4.4 and also within the MNES chapter at section 4.16.6. Review of the impacts to the GBR is provided at 4.16.5. The recommendation on the overall suitability of the project is provided in section 5.

The EIS provides discussion and analyses of impacts to water resources within chapters 9 and 10 and also within the MNES chapter (chapter 16) at sections 16.10.1, 16.10.5, 16.10.6 and 16.10.7. The potential impacts to the GBR are discussed within section 16.10.4.

Happy to discuss if you have any questions.

Cheers

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Assessment Officer | Queensland North Assessments | s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
Environment Assessments Queensland and Sea Dumping Branch | Environment Approvals Division
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@awe.gov.au
Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

John Gorton Building, King Edward Terrace (GPO Box 858)
CANBERRA ACT 2600



From: s. 47F(1) <s. 47F(1) @defence.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 27 October 2021 5:40 PM
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@awe.gov.au>
Cc: s. 47F(1) <s. 47F(1) @defence.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Assessment documentation for Central Queensland Coal [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

This will be useful to informing our stakeholders what the likely implications of the proposal actually are, i.e. beginning to inform answers to their concerns – if there is an issue or not.
Hopefully the reports go a fair way to answering the queries. If they don't we'll need to discuss plan B.

I'll read all of this tomorrow with interest, after you send it through, & thanks for the update – appreciated.

Kind regards
s. 47F(1)

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@awe.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 27 October 2021 4:55 PM
To: s. 47F(1) <s. 47F(1) @defence.gov.au>
Subject: Assessment documentation for Central Queensland Coal [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s. 47F(1)

I didn't quite get around to getting those assessment documents together for you re the Central Queensland Coal Project this afternoon (had a couple of other things I needed to finish off). I will send them through to you first thing tomorrow and highlight the relevant sections with regards to the ground water and surface water impacts of the project to the receiving environment.

Thanks,

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Assessment Officer | Queensland North Assessments | s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
Environment Assessments Queensland and Sea Dumping Branch | Environment Approvals Division

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@awe.gov.au

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
John Gorton Building, King Edward Terrace (GPO Box 858)
CANBERRA ACT 2600



The department acknowledges the traditional custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea, environment, water and community. We pay our respect to the traditional custodians, their culture, and elders both past and present.

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s. 47F(1) <s. 47F(1) @defence.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 5 November 2021 1:42 PM
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: QUERY - RE: Qld Assessment documentation for Central Queensland Coal [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Can I confirm the Qld assessment report is in the public domain?

Regards

s. 47F(1)

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@awe.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 28 October 2021 8:42 AM
To: s. 47F(1) <s. 47F(1) @defence.gov.au>
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @environment.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@environment.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Assessment documentation for Central Queensland Coal [SEC=OFFICIAL]

No problems s. 47F(1)

Please see attached copies of the IESC reports (relating to each review of the proponent's EIS) and the Queensland State Assessment Report for your information. I've also provided a link to the Central Queensland Coal webpage [here](#) where the EIS documents can be found.

The latest IESC report (2020) is fairly short (~6 pages) and details the key risks the project poses to water resources and the Great Barrier Reef (GBR). The previous IESC reports are also attached, but if you are short for time it's worth focussing on the 2020 document as it provides comment on the most recent version of the EIS.

The Queensland State Assessment Report discusses impacts to water resources within section 4.4 and also within the MNES chapter at section 4.16.6. Review of the impacts to the GBR is provided at 4.16.5. The recommendation on the overall suitability of the project is provided in section 5.

The EIS provides discussion and analyses of impacts to water resources within chapters 9 and 10 and also within the MNES chapter (chapter 16) at sections 16.10.1, 16.10.5, 16.10.6 and 16.10.7. The potential impacts to the GBR are discussed within section 16.10.4.

Happy to discuss if you have any questions.

Cheers

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Assessment Officer | Queensland North Assessments | s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
Environment Assessments Queensland and Sea Dumping Branch | Environment Approvals Division
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@awe.gov.au

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
John Gorton Building, King Edward Terrace (GPO Box 858)
CANBERRA ACT 2600



From: s. 47F(1) <s. 47F(1) @defence.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 27 October 2021 5:40 PM
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@awe.gov.au>
Cc: s. 47F(1) <s. 47F(1) @defence.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Assessment documentation for Central Queensland Coal [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

This will be useful to informing our stakeholders what the likely implications of the proposal actually are, i.e. beginning to inform answers to their concerns – if there is an issue or not. Hopefully the reports go a fair way to answering the queries. If they don't we'll need to discuss plan B.

I'll read all of this tomorrow with interest, after you send it through, & thanks for the update – appreciated.

Kind regards
 s. 47F(1)

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@awe.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 27 October 2021 4:55 PM
To: s. 47F(1) <s. 47F(1) @defence.gov.au>
Subject: Assessment documentation for Central Queensland Coal [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s. 47F(1)

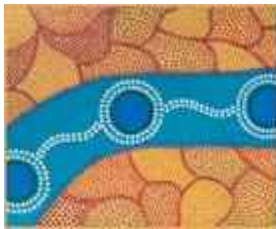
I didn't quite get around to getting those assessment documents together for you re the Central Queensland Coal Project this afternoon (had a couple of other things I needed to finish off). I will send them through to you first thing tomorrow and highlight the relevant sections with regards to the ground water and surface water impacts of the project to the receiving environment.

Thanks,

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Assessment Officer | Queensland North Assessments | s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
 Environment Assessments Queensland and Sea Dumping Branch | Environment Approvals Division
 s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@awe.gov.au
 Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
 John Gorton Building, King Edward Terrace (GPO Box 858)
 CANBERRA ACT 2600



The department acknowledges the traditional custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea, environment, water and community. We pay our respect to the traditional custodians, their culture, and elders both past and present.

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s. 47F(1) <s. 47F(1) @defence.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 17 November 2021 10:51 AM
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @awe.gov.au; s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s. 47F(1) ; s. 47F(1)
Subject: Defence response to provide further comment on the proposed EPBC Act action : Central Qld Coal project - EPBC 2016/7851 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: SWBTA_Publicv8.jpg

OFFICIAL

Hi ^{s. 22(1)(a)(ii)}

Many thanks again for our recent 27/10/21 meeting to discuss Defence's input into this proposed EPBC Act project, and also DAWE's offer to meet with relevant Defence stakeholders if this was sought by our various stakeholders.

DEPAC found the meeting productive, clarified this projects EPBC Act assessment process and provided a good overview the findings of the Queensland State Assessment Report (the Qld. bilateral EPBC Act assessment report) and IESC reports.

Meetings with Defence stakeholders regarding Defence interests:

At this stage, Defence stakeholders do not require meetings with DAWE. If matters change I would be grateful to be kept informed

DEPAC has liaised with our internal stakeholders and compiled the following consolidated response:

Defence comments:

The following highlighted portions of the Queensland State Assessment Report needs to be accurate, in the context of two key points:

"4.16.3.3 Cumulative impacts

An assessment of known potential future expansions or developments by the proponent and other proponents in the region and vicinity was undertaken. The expansion of the Shoalwater Bay Training Area (SWBTA) has seen one of the underlying properties for the project, Strathmuir, purchased by the Department of Defence. However, the proponent has agreed to purchase the land subject to the project and it is noted that the nearest use of the SWBTA would be approximately 50-100km from the project area." (2nd para, s.4.16.3.3, p.131)

"4.16.6.6 Cumulative impacts

An assessment of known potential future expansions or developments by the proponent and other proponents in the region and vicinity was undertaken. The expansion of the Shoalwater Bay Training Area (SWBTA) has seen one of the underlying properties for the project, Strathmuir, purchased by the Department of Defence. However, the proponent has agreed to purchase the land subject to the project and it is noted that the nearest use of the SWBTA would be approximately 50-100km from the project area." (2nd para, s.4.16.6.6, p.155)

Defence advises that these respective highlighted portions of the *Queensland State Assessment Report* (s.4.16.3.3 & s.4.16.6.6) should be corrected to accurately reflect that:

- I. Defence's Shoalwater Bay Extension Area (SWBEA) actually adjoins and in portions overlaps the proposed coal projects mine lease(s), and that the SWBTA is approximately 40km away from the proposed project - as illustrated in the attached maps. In the years ahead Defence plans to operate in the SWBEA in the future.

Note - the green portions in the SWBTA map are the new SWBEA properties, and that the southern portion of Strathmuir overlaps part of proposed mine (ML7000022 - south of the rail line).

- II. Any potential sale of the southern portion of the Defence (Commonwealth land) property *Strathmuir* would be need to be on the open market, as required by the [Commonwealth Property Disposal Policy](#). This policy specifies that any surplus Commonwealth property, with no alternate Government use, must be sold on the open market at full market value.

Defence provides this advice both to:

- ensure DAWE provides a decision package to the Environment Minister that has information that is accurate;
- reflects the close proximity of Defence lands in relation to the proposed coal mine project

Once again many thanks for your assistance in this matter.

Kind regards

s. 47F(1)

Director (DEPAC)

Environment Planning Assessment and Compliance

Environment & Engineering Branch

Infrastructure Division

Ph **s. 47F(1)**

From: **s. 47F(1)** <**s. 47F(1)** @defence.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 18 October 2021 10:30 AM

To: **s. 22(1)(a)(iii)** @awe.gov.au; **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)** @environment.gov.au

Cc: **s. 47F(1)** <**s. 47F(1)** @defence.gov.au>; **s. 47F(1)**

<**s. 47F(1)** @defence.gov.au>

Subject: Defence response to Invitation to comment on the proposed EPBC Act action : Central Qld Coal project - EPBC 2016/7851 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi **s. 22(1)(a)(i)**

Defence appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed action, the **Central Qld Coal project - EPBC 2016/7851**, that is currently being assessed by the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) in accordance with *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) requirements.

The Department of Defence has a **significant interest** in this proposed action, as the proposal:

- Is immediately adjacent to, and overlaps a portion of Defence's Shoalwater Bay Extension Area (SWBEA) properties (acquired since the proposed projects' initial EPBC Act referral in 2016)
- Lies approximately 40km west of the Shoalwater Bay Training Area (SWBTA), and

To illustrate this fact Defence colleagues have provided a jpg (Attachment 1 above), which illustrates that the SWBEA both overlaps the project (e.g. at Strathmuir south of the rail line), and is immediately adjacent the project, such as east of Ogmoo. This jpg map also illustrates the proximity of SWBTA.

Also attached is a EIA map, which illustrates where the project's mineral leases lie in context to two close SWBEA properties (Attachment 2 above).

Defence **formally requests** to be consulted on the project to ensure that Defence interests during the project's assessment and impact mitigation process are addressed, prior to the proposed project's potential EPBC Act approval, including the proposed decision.

Defence seeks to understand the potential impact of the proposed project, and understands the EPBC Act assessment process was conducted by Queensland under a bilateral agreement, and did not consider Defence (Commonwealth) lands. Defence therefore needs to be consulted to address Defences areas of interest and potential concern, to ensure the coal mine project does not significantly impact the SWNTA and SWBEA properties and deleteriously impact Defence's operational capability and training activity needs, noting the proposed mine may operate for 25+ years (being the expected life of the mine).

Key Defence areas of interest, and potential concern, include:

Environmental:

Defence requested to be consulted regarding any potential impacts on any resources, ground water or otherwise on Defence lands that may impact on development activities or the ongoing Defence use of the SWBEA and the SWBTA (including exercises, training etc.).

Defence notes the projects' local and regional impacts to Defence's SWBEA and the SWBTA properties' groundwater resources, geography and vibration impacts are unclear at this time.

Deleterious impacts upon groundwater resource may significantly impact the sustainability of large-scale activities such as major exercises and training.

Defence notes the IESC (Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development) advises surface water and/or groundwater contamination issues. Defence understands publicised IESC studies regarding the project raised concerns about the impacts of the project upon local water resources (IESC link - <https://iesc.environment.gov.au/advice/scientific-advice>).

Defence requests that DAWE advise Defence what these studies details regarding upon SWBEA and SWBTA groundwater aquifers and water resources.

Vibrations and other activities inherent with large mining operations have the capability to change the geography of the immediate region, and therefore may impact the suitability of the area, particularly the SWBEA, for certain exercises.

In summary Defence needs to understand the potential indirect and offset impacts (defined in EPBC Act Significant Impact Guidelines as downstream, downwind, upstream and facilitated impacts) of the large coal mine and train transport upon SWBEA (and SWBTA) properties including, but not limited to, potential impacts to water resources located on, under, or near proximal Defence land, noise, erosion, run off, and water and air quality impacts

Access (Land and Air) and Security:

It is unclear what security implications would exist around the coal mine proposal bordering a major exercise area. It is foreseeable that SWBTA would be a major rehearsal/training area, and a better understanding would enable a more informed Defence opinion. More information would need to be provided around the following areas:

- Impacts upon Defence airspace use
- Access and control, of rail and road. For example ascertaining what impacts will there be for Defence moving off the Bruce Highway on to Kooltandra and Stoodliegh Roads, the primary access to SWBEA.
- The need to de-conflict relevant future ADF exercises and staging during the projects construction and operation/delivery.

- Mitigation of monitoring of ADF activities (due to the proximity and line of sight issues).
- Any impact to safety and communication networks, from mine operations.
- If encroachment degrades training/preparedness in the following ways, including (but not limited to):
 - creates avoidance/'no-go' areas (constrains manoeuvre);
 - reduces usage days;
 - prohibits certain training events;
 - reduces TA and range access during construction/maintenance;
 - restricts flight paths and altitudes; and
 - complicates night and all-weather training.

Defence seeks to support safe operations in the abutting land and air spaces to mutual benefit by understanding each other's expectations, limits and requirements that avoid incompatible outcomes and this should endure throughout the project's life cycle

Defence's ongoing point of contact on this EPBC Act advice is the DEPAC Director, [s. 47F\(1\)](#) [@defence.gov.au](#). Please ensure that [s. 47F\(1\)](#) [@defence.gov.au](#) (myself) is also CC'd in correspondence, to assist [s. 47F\(1\)](#) in his role as 'the delegated contact for the Minister for Defence, The Hon Peter Dutton MP, in relation to consultation on actions being assessed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act)'.

Most happy to discuss, and thanks again for the opportunity for Defence to comment

Kind regards

[s. 47F\(1\)](#)

Director (DEPAC)
Environment Planning Assessment and Compliance
Environment & Engineering Branch
Infrastructure Division
Ph [s. 47F\(1\)](#)

From: [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) <[s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) [@awe.gov.au](#)>
Sent: Wednesday, 22 September 2021 4:53 PM
To: [s. 47F\(1\)](#) <[s. 47F\(1\)](#) [@defence.gov.au](#)>
Cc: [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) <[s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) [@environment.gov.au](#)>
Subject: Central Qld Coal project - EPBC 2016/7851 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

G'day [s. 47F\(1\)](#)

I wanted to touch base re the proposed Central Qld Coal Project that has attracted significant media attention recently.

We sought comment at the referral stage and Defence responded stating that defence did not foresee the project having any adverse impacts on defence land or activities.

The project is located in the Styx Catchment. I understand Defence's Shoalwater Bay training area has recently expanded and may now be quite close to the proposed mine.

The location boundary of the proposed mine is in the attached jpg.

I wanted to check if this is a project Defence would like to be consulted on.

Also more than happy to have some discussions before that to give you more background on the project and the timing / next steps for the proposed decision.

Cheers

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director, Queensland North Assessments

Environment Assessments Queensland and Sea Dumping Branch Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | m: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | a: GPO Box 858 CANBERRA ACT 2600

e: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@awe.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@awe.gov.au)

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@awe.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 18 November 2021 5:47 PM
To: s. 47F(1) ; s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s. 47F(1) ; s. 47F(1)
Subject: RE: Defence response to provide further comment on the proposed EPBC Act action : Central Qld Coal project - EPBC 2016/7851 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s. 47F(1)

I hope you're well.

Many thanks for your time last month. We found it to be a very useful discussion.

Thank you also for following up with these corrections and the outcomes of your further internal consultations. Much appreciated.

We keep you and your team updated of developments, particularly with regard to our recommendation to the Minister on whether or not she should propose to approve the project. The Minister is planning to visit the site on 20 and 21 December, and our recommendation is likely to follow after that. So I expect to have an update for you around this time.

If you have any questions or concerns please get in touch.

Kind regards

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director, Queensland North Assessments
 Environment Assessments Queensland and Sea Dumping Branch
 Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
t: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | **m:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | **a:** GPO Box 858 CANBERRA ACT 2600
e: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@awe.gov.au

From: s. 47F(1) <s. 47F(1)@defence.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 17 November 2021 10:51 AM
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@awe.gov.au; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@environment.gov.au>
Cc: s. 47F(1) <s. 47F(1)@defence.gov.au>; s. 47F(1) <s. 47F(1)@defence.gov.au>
Subject: Defence response to provide further comment on the proposed EPBC Act action : Central Qld Coal project - EPBC 2016/7851 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Many thanks again for our recent 27/10/21 meeting to discuss Defence's input into this proposed EPBC Act project, and also DAWE's offer to meet with relevant Defence stakeholders if this was sought by our various stakeholders.

DEPAC found the meeting productive, clarified this projects EPBC Act assessment process and provided a good overview the findings of the Queensland State Assessment Report (the Qld. bilateral EPBC Act assessment report) and IESC reports.

Meetings with Defence stakeholders regarding Defence interests:

At this stage, Defence stakeholders do not require meetings with DAWE. If matters change I would be grateful to be kept informed

DEPAC has liaised with our internal stakeholders and compiled the following consolidated response:

Defence comments:

The following highlighted portions of the Queensland State Assessment Report needs to be accurate, in the context of two key points:

"4.16.3.3 Cumulative impacts

An assessment of known potential future expansions or developments by the proponent and other proponents in the region and vicinity was undertaken. The expansion of the Shoalwater Bay Training Area (SWBTA) has seen one of the underlying properties for the project, Strathmuir, purchased by the Department of Defence. However, the proponent has agreed to purchase the land subject to the project and it is noted that the nearest use of the SWBTA would be approximately 50-100km from the project area." (2nd para, s.4.16.3.3, p.131)

"4.16.6.6 Cumulative impacts

An assessment of known potential future expansions or developments by the proponent and other proponents in the region and vicinity was undertaken. The expansion of the Shoalwater Bay Training Area (SWBTA) has seen one of the underlying properties for the project, Strathmuir, purchased by the Department of Defence. However, the proponent has agreed to purchase the land subject to the project and it is noted that the nearest use of the SWBTA would be approximately 50-100km from the project area." (2nd para, s.4.16.6.6, p.155)

Defence advises that these respective highlighted portions of the *Queensland State Assessment Report* (s.4.16.3.3 & s.4.16.6.6) should be corrected to accurately reflect that:

- I. Defence's Shoalwater Bay Extension Area (SWBEA) actually adjoins and in portions overlaps the proposed coal projects mine lease(s), and that the SWBTA is approximately 40km away from the proposed project - as illustrated in the attached maps. In the years ahead Defence plans to operate in the SWBEA in the future. *Note - the green portions in the SWBTA map are the new SWBEA properties, and that the southern portion of Strathmuir overlaps part of proposed mine (ML7000022 - south of the rail line).*
- II. Any potential sale of the southern portion of the Defence (Commonwealth land) property *Strathmuir* would be need to be on the open market, as required by the [Commonwealth Property Disposal Policy](#). This policy specifies that any surplus Commonwealth property, with no alternate Government use, must be sold on the open market at full market value.

Defence provides this advice both to:

- ensure DAWE provides a decision package to the Environment Minister that has information that is accurate;
- reflects the close proximity of Defence lands in relation to the proposed coal mine project

Once again many thanks for your assistance in this matter.

Kind regards

s. 47F(1)

Director (DEPAC)
 Environment Planning Assessment and Compliance
 Environment & Engineering Branch
 Infrastructure Division
 Ph **s. 47F(1)**

From: **s. 47F(1)** <**s. 47F(1)** @defence.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 18 October 2021 10:30 AM
To: **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)** @awe.gov.au; **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)** @environment.gov.au
Cc: **s. 47F(1)** <**s. 47F(1)** @defence.gov.au>; **s. 47F(1)** <**s. 47F(1)** @defence.gov.au>
Subject: Defence response to Invitation to comment on the proposed EPBC Act action : Central Qld Coal project - EPBC 2016/7851 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi **s. 22(1)(a)(i)**

Defence appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed action, the **Central Qld Coal project - EPBC 2016/7851**, that is currently being assessed by the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) in accordance with *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) requirements.

The Department of Defence has a **significant interest** in this proposed action, as the proposal:

- Is immediately adjacent to, and overlaps a portion of Defence's Shoalwater Bay Extension Area (SWBEA) properties (acquired since the proposed projects' initial EPBC Act referral in 2016)
- Lies approximately 40km west of the Shoalwater Bay Training Area (SWBTA), and

To illustrate this fact Defence colleagues have provided a jpg (Attachment 1 above), which illustrates that the SWBEA both overlaps the project (e.g. at Strathmuir south of the rail line), and is immediately adjacent the project, such as east of Ogmire. This jpg map also illustrates the proximity of SWBTA.

Also attached is a EIA map, which illustrates where the project's mineral leases lie in context to two close SWBEA properties (Attachment 2 above).

Defence **formally requests** to be consulted on the project to ensure that Defence interests during the project's assessment and impact mitigation process are addressed, prior to the proposed project's potential EPBC Act approval, including the proposed decision.

Defence seeks to understand the potential impact of the proposed project, and understands the EPBC Act assessment process was conducted by Queensland under a bilateral agreement, and did not consider Defence (Commonwealth) lands. Defence therefore needs to be consulted to address Defences areas of interest and potential concern, to ensure the coal mine project does not significantly impact the SWNTA and SWBEA properties and deleteriously impact Defence's operational capability and training activity needs, noting the proposed mine may operate for 25+ years (being the expected life of the mine).

Key Defence areas of interest, and potential concern, include:

Environmental:

Defence requested to be consulted regarding any potential impacts on any resources, ground water or otherwise on Defence lands that may impact on development activities or the ongoing Defence use of the SWBEA and the SWBTA (including exercises, training etc.).

Defence notes the projects' local and regional impacts to Defence's SWBEA and the SWBTA properties' groundwater resources, geography and vibration impacts are unclear at this time.

Deleterious impacts upon groundwater resource may significantly impact the sustainability of large-scale activities such as major exercises and training.

Defence notes the IESC (Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development) advises surface water and/or groundwater contamination issues. Defence understands publicised IESC studies regarding the project raised concerns about the impacts of the project upon local water resources (IESC link - <https://iesc.environment.gov.au/advice/scientific-advice>).

Defence requests that DAWE advise Defence what these studies details regarding upon SWBEA and SWBTA groundwater aquifers and water resources.

Vibrations and other activities inherent with large mining operations have the capability to change the geography of the immediate region, and therefore may impact the suitability of the area, particularly the SWBEA, for certain exercises.

In summary Defence needs to understand the potential indirect and offset impacts (defined in EPBC Act Significant Impact Guidelines as downstream, downwind, upstream and facilitated impacts) of the large coal mine and train transport upon SWBEA (and SWBTA) properties including, but not limited to, potential impacts to water resources located on, under, or near proximal Defence land, noise, erosion, run off, and water and air quality impacts

Access (Land and Air) and Security:

It is unclear what security implications would exist around the coal mine proposal bordering a major exercise area. It is foreseeable that SWBTA would be a major rehearsal/training area, and a better understanding would enable a more informed Defence opinion. More information would need to be provided around the following areas:

- Impacts upon Defence airspace use
- Access and control, of rail and road. For example ascertaining what impacts will there be for Defence moving off the Bruce Highway on to Kooltandra and Stoodliegh Roads, the primary access to SWBEA.
- The need to de-conflict relevant future ADF exercises and staging during the projects construction and operation/delivery.
- Mitigation of monitoring of ADF activities (due to the proximity and line of sight issues).
- Any impact to safety and communication networks, from mine operations.
- If encroachment degrades training/preparedness in the following ways, including (but not limited to):
 - creates avoidance/'no-go' areas (constrains manoeuvre);
 - reduces usage days;
 - prohibits certain training events;
 - reduces TA and range access during construction/maintenance;
 - restricts flight paths and altitudes; and
 - complicates night and all-weather training.

Defence seeks to support safe operations in the abutting land and air spaces to mutual benefit by understanding each other's expectations, limits and requirements that avoid incompatible outcomes and this should endure throughout the project's life cycle

Defence's ongoing point of contact on this EPBC Act advice is the DEPAC Director, **s. 47F(1)** **s. 47F(1)** @defence.gov.au. Please ensure that **s. 47F(1)** **s. 47F(1)** @defence.gov.au (myself) is also CC'd in correspondence, to assist **s. 47F(1)** in his role as 'the delegated contact for the Minister for Defence, The Hon Peter Dutton MP, in relation to consultation on actions being assessed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act)'.

Most happy to discuss, and thanks again for the opportunity for Defence to comment

Kind regards

s. 47F(1)

Director (DEPAC)

Environment Planning Assessment and Compliance

Environment & Engineering Branch

Infrastructure Division

Ph **s. 47F(1)**

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@awe.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 22 September 2021 4:53 PM

To: **s. 47F(1)** <**s. 47F(1)** @defence.gov.au>

Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@environment.gov.au>

Subject: Central Qld Coal project - EPBC 2016/7851 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

G'day ^{s. 47F(1)}

I wanted to touch base re the proposed Central Qld Coal Project that has attracted significant media attention recently.

We sought comment at the referral stage and Defence responded stating that defence did not foresee the project having any adverse impacts on defence land or activities.

The project is located in the Styx Catchment. I understand Defence's Shoalwater Bay training area has recently expanded and may now be quite close to the proposed mine.

The location boundary of the proposed mine is in the attached jpg.

I wanted to check if this is a project Defence would like to be consulted on.

Also more than happy to have some discussions before that to give you more background on the project and the timing / next steps for the proposed decision.

Cheers

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director, Queensland North Assessments

Environment Assessments Queensland and Sea Dumping Branch Department of Agriculture, Water and the

Environment: **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)** | **m:** **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)** | **a:** GPO Box 858 CANBERRA ACT 2600

e: **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)** @awe.gov.au

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.