

Submission on the environmental impact statement— Galilee Coal Project (Northern Export Facility)

Submissions close at 5pm on Monday 19 December 2011

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EIS Section	Describe the issue	Suggested solution
1.2.3.3	<u>Open Cut Mine-Final Voids</u> : It is proposed to leave final voids of up to 120 m depth. This would drastically change the landform, drainage patterns and consequent the future habitat/vegetation structure. The knowledge and success of coal mine rehabilitation (for production and biodiversity purposes) in the Bowen Basin remains primitive at best. The long term ecological recovery and river catchment health consequences of potentially over 100 final voids are not well understood despite many decades of attempts and trials. Allowing large final voids to be left in the currently unmined Galilee Basin will introduce the potential for permanent ecological harm to the Belyando/Burdekin catchment.	Final voids should not be approved in any environmental authorities for the Galilee Coal Project and rehabilitation must return the landform, drainage patterns and ecological profile to as near as possible to existing.
3.4	<u>"Sustainability"</u> –cannot in any true meaning of the word be applied to extractive industries. This is especially true in the case of fossil fuel mining and use.	Proponent should have regard to how project will contribute to ecological resilience, biodiversity protection for the mine site, rail corridors and ports. Included should be a risk assessment on the potential impacts on the Great Barrier Reef from increased shipping and threat of increased atmospheric CO ₂ from production and Scope 3

You must print, complete and sign this form and send it to one of the following:

Email GCP@cg.qld.gov.au

Post

The Coordinator-General
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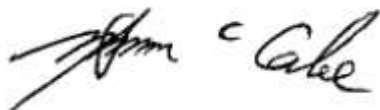
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		emissions raising oceanic pH above 400-450ppm threatening coral and other calcium carbonate dependant life forms.
3.5.2.4	<u>Biological Diversity</u> – There is scant attention applied to this matter. The importance of the area’s ecological values was recognised by both Commonwealth and Queensland Government by assisting with the acquisition and the declaration “in perpetuity” of the Bimblebox Nature Refuge.	The true value of the ecosystem services of the areas proposed for mining and infrastructure needs to be assessed. This assessment must include details of where and if substantial (>8000Ha) areas of equivalent intact biological communities exist and include proposals for long term studies of Desert Upland biota and rehabilitation and species recovery prospects.
3.5.4.1	<u>Mine Site Rehabilitation</u> : There has been little evidence and minimal research into restoring mine disturbed land in Queensland to “stable and non-polluting condition”	Evidence of successful rehabilitation of open cut coal mines needs to be evaluated and presented for peer review.
6.3.1.3, 6.3.2.3, 4.3.2	<u>Bimblebox Nature Refuge</u> this property was purchased in 2000 with assistance from a federal grant of over \$300,000 for the land to be protected under the National Reserve System. For this to occur the deed of grant required tree clearing permits to be relinquished and a Nature Refuge established and managed sustainably.	Explanation of how Waratah will manage the nature refuge on an ecologically basis is essential before any project is further considered. Please explain what discussion and negotiation has or will occur with the federal government to effectively breach the agreements for the natural systems and species to be protected. What financial recompense would be offered to Australian taxpayers for the contribution to the purchase for the express purpose of nature conservation?
6.3.1.3, 6.5.1, 6.6.3, App 27 p.29, p.39	<u>Environmental Offsets</u>	Explanation of how and where such a large high value intact ecosystem can be identified and rehabilitated.
Volume 2 Chapter 9 9.3.5	<u>River/Stream Monitoring</u> Paucity of rain gauges in the Belyando catchment may lead to under calculation of flood mitigation issues.	More modelling is needed and some modelling should be based on significant events such as the 2008 rainfall events. Since this event there has been considerable work done by government NRM groups and industry to begin to understand the interaction of mining and other land use in the Fitzroy Basin. (Ref: http://www.fitzroyriver.qld.gov.au/advisorygroup.html). Approval to for large scale mining should not be given until thorough scientific studies on the landscape, stream flows, water quality, potential for stream course changes induced by mine structure, voids, bunds, spoil, rail infrastructure. Climatic variability and the cumulative impact of all other Galilee Basin mini proposals on the Belyando/Burdekin catchment are fully assessed.

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Chapter 7 Aquatic Ecology Sections 7.4.2 to 7.4.10	<u>Seasonal variability – Predictability</u> - This section has not collected sufficient information across several seasons/wet/dry average above average	This section has not collected sufficient information across several seasons/wet/dry average/above average, so called 'extreme' events, (2011 saw record floods in the Dawson R. – some predictions are that while dry spells may be longer and average rainfall lower, severe storm and high category cyclonic events are more likely.
	<u>Wetlands</u> High Ecological Significant (HES) wetlands and Queensland Wetland Mapping. This needs field investigation and mapping at 1:25000 scale based on presence of wetland/riparian plant species. Due to the time of the study some information is admitted as not quantifiable.	Riparian (riverine) zones should be recognised and mapped even where this have not been picked up in the HES wetland mapping
	<u>External Aquatic Factors</u> The Galilee Basin has limited surface and ground water and high stream flow variability. Waratah and other proposed projects will seek water from the proposed Connors River dam. The Connors River is currently the only unimpeded 'wild' river in the Fitzroy Basin. The risk to aquatic species, stream health, flushing capacity for the Fitzroy (Following the 2011 wet season the Lower Fitzroy / Fitzroy Barrage has become highly saline and hardness has increased from dissolved solids from a combination of mine discharges, including from the abandoned Mt Morgan mine), and saturated aquifers. Until the 2008 flood event, Eden Bann Weir which supplies Stanwell Power station was below 13% capacity. A 'fresh' from the Connors river from localised storms in the catchment overtopped Eden Bann and flushed the Lower Fitzroy River dam will hinder the natural flushing capacity of the Lower Fitzroy.	Alternative water for mine operations and coal washing should be more thoroughly investigated. Options could include mine pit water and coal seam gas water. Cost/benefit (triple bottom line) analysis must consider the long term (i.e. beyond mine life) risks to Fitzroy and consequently the Great Barrier Reef.



If there is insufficient space in the table above, please attach additional pages.

Signature: (A submission by more than one person must be signed by *each* submitter.)