



BASELINE STUDY UPDATE

Terrestrial Flora

- Wet and dry season flora surveys were conducted in 2009.
- One Commonwealth listed Threatened Ecological Community (a Brigalow community) has been recorded within the SGCP area, although no areas of this community are proposed for direct disturbance.
- 24 Regional Ecosystems listed under the Vegetation Management Act 1999 have been recorded within the SGCP area. Four of these are classified as being 'Endangered' or 'Of Concern'.
- Two Regional Ecosystems with a DERM biodiversity status of 'Endangered' were identified within the SGCP area.
- No flora species listed as threatened under the EPBC Act were recorded in the SGCP area.
- Impacts to threatened flora species are considered to be minimal because the majority of habitat likely to contain these species is not within the proposed operational area.

Terrestrial Fauna

- Dry and wet season surveys were conducted in October 2009 and April 2010, respectively.
- One Commonwealth listed species (Brigalow Scaly-foot) was found within the SGCP area, with six additional listed fauna species classed as 'potentially' occurring within the SGCP.
- Two migratory bird species (Rainbow Bee-eater and Eastern Great Egret) were recorded within the SGCP area, with an additional six species classed as 'potentially' occurring within the SGCP.
- The SGCP is not expected to have any significant impacts on populations of the Brigalow Scaly-foot or the migratory species because the proposed activities generally occur outside the species' habitat, or due to the abundance of appropriate habitat for the species.

Groundwater

- A bore census has been conducted to identify current groundwater bore locations and usage in the area.
- Groundwater monitoring bores are currently being installed within the SGCP area. These bores will monitor groundwater quality and standing water levels.
- Detailed groundwater modelling will be undertaken once mine operational details have been confirmed.

Surface Water

- Surface water flow and quality sensors have been installed in Alpha Creek and Sapling Creek to monitor creek flows and water quality.
- 3D aerial photography has been flown over the SGCP area to enable a detailed ground topography model to be generated.
- Detailed surface water modelling will be undertaken once mine operational details have been confirmed.

Social

- A SGCP Community Survey was distributed at the Community Information Day held at the Alpha Show in May 2010.
- A desktop study has commenced to characterise the baseline demographic characteristics of the region, using statistical data and other government and regional information.

Mine Planning

- Pre-feasibility studies are currently being conducted to characterise the coal resource and define the preliminary design criteria for the SGCP. This process will result in the preparation of preferred mine plans and schedules to assist with determination of detailed investigations required to be carried out as part of a definitive feasibility study in 2011-12.

Other

- Detailed studies on a range of other environmental aspects (e.g. air, noise, soils, land use, traffic and transport) will be undertaken once mine operational details have been confirmed.

Contact us:

Please contact us if you have any queries/concerns or would like to discuss any aspect of the SGCP:

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SouthGalilee
COAL PROJECT

July 2010

Joint venture participants AMCI (Alpha) Pty Ltd (AMCI) and Alpha Coal Pty Ltd (Bandanna Energy) propose to establish a new coal mine in the Galilee Basin to the south-west of the township of Alpha. The project is referred to as the South Galilee Coal Project (SGCP).

The SGCP is currently in the assessment stage as AMCI and Bandanna Energy address the requirements of the Commonwealth and State approvals processes.



APPROVALS PROCESS UPDATE

Commonwealth Approval Process

The SGCP was referred to the Commonwealth Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) on 17 May 2010 under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act).

DEWHA determined the SGCP to be a controlled action on 16 June 2010, due to the potential impacts on the following matters of national environmental significance under the EPBC Act:

- listed threatened species and ecological communities (Section 18 and 18A); and
- listed migratory species (Section 20 and 20A).

As a controlled action, the SGCP will be assessed under the bilateral agreement between the Commonwealth and the State, whereby DEWHA has accredited the Queensland Environmental Impact Assessment process.

The SGCP will require approval from the Commonwealth Minister for Environment Protection, Heritage and the Arts before it can proceed.

State Environmental Impact Assessment Process

AMCI lodged an Initial Advice Statement and applied for significant project status from the Coordinator General under the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971 on 11 March 2010.

On 26 May 2010, the Coordinator-General declared the SGCP to be a significant project for which an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required. The declaration of the project as significant does not indicate support for, or approval of, the project by the Coordinator-General or the Queensland Government. Rather it is a requirement for the project to undergo a rigorous EIS process.

As part of the EIS process, the Department of Infrastructure and Planning (DIP) released the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for public exhibition and comment. The draft ToR detail the information and specific criteria that need to be addressed by the Proponent in the EIS document. The DIP will release the final ToR following their consideration and incorporation of relevant written submissions made by stakeholders.

Further information on this process can be found on the DIP website (www.dip.qld.gov.au).

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

If you are interested in making a submission on the draft ToR, copies are available as follows:

Electronic copies are available at the following websites:

- <http://www.dip.qld.gov.au/projects/mining-and-mineral-processing/coal/south-galilee-coal-mine.html>
- <http://www.southgalilee.com.au/>

Hard copies of the draft ToR are available for inspection at:

- Barcaldine Regional Council Office (71 Ash Street, Barcaldine);
- Barcaldine Regional Council (Alpha) Office (43 Dryden Street, Alpha); and
- Central Highlands Regional Council Office (corner of Egerton and Borilla Streets, Emerald).

Public Submissions on Draft ToRs

Members of the public are invited to make submissions on the draft ToRs. Further information on how to make a submission and deadlines for submissions is available on the DIP website (<http://www.dip.qld.gov.au>).

The Coordinator-General will consider all properly made submissions in finalising the ToR for the EIS. Comments raised in submissions to the draft ToR must relate to the draft ToRs and must not make an assessment of the merits of the project, nor argue a position on particular impacts.

It is important that the submission process, as explained on the DIP website, is followed correctly to ensure your concerns are properly addressed.

A properly made submission is one that is:

- made in writing to the Coordinator-General;
- received on or before the last day of the period of time allowed for submissions;
- signed by each person who made the submission;
- states the name and address of each person who made the submission;
- states the grounds of the submission and the facts and circumstances relied on in support of the grounds.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION UPDATE

Community Information Day

A Community Information Day for the SGCP was held during the Alpha Show on 19 May 2010, where a booth was set up to display maps and enable the community to find out more about the project. Approximately 80 people attended the display and spoke with SGCP representatives. Issues of interest included employment opportunities, potential environmental impacts and proposed timing for the SGCP.

Community Reference Group

A Community Reference Group (CRG) has been established for the SGCP, to provide a formal communications process to represent the local community interests. The first CRG meeting has been scheduled for August 2010. The CRG is expected to meet at appropriate stages during the EIS process, then as mutually agreed following an approval decision for the SGCP. Notes from the CRG meetings will be made available on the SGCP website.

Technical Reference Group

A Technical Reference Group (TRG) for the SGCP will be established in the near future, to provide a formal communications process for government advisory agencies and specific interest groups. Further details of the TRG will be provided on the SGCP website and in future newsletters.

Traditional Owners

We recognise indigenous Traditional Owner groups as key stakeholders in the proposed SGCP area. We aim to work collaboratively with these groups to jointly agree on a Cultural Heritage Management Plan about how the project is to be managed so as to avoid or minimise harm to cultural heritage. Cultural heritage surveys will be conducted with Traditional Owners as part of the EIS process to identify indigenous cultural heritage values relating to the project area.

