

## Public Notice

### *Environmental Protection Act 1994 (EP Act) – Section 42*

# Draft terms of reference for an environmental impact statement (EIS) – Proposed Ensham Life of Mine Extension Project

Idemitsu Australia Resources Pty Ltd (Idemitsu), Bligh Coal Limited and Bowen Investment (Australia) Pty Ltd known as the Ensham Joint Venture proposes to develop the Ensham Life of Mine Extension Project. The proposed project would be located approximately 35km east of Emerald and 49km north-west of Blackwater in Central Queensland. The project site is approximately 2737 hectares covered by parts of mining leases (ML) 7459, ML 70326, ML 70365 and ML 70366 and a portion of Mineral Development Licence (MDL) 217.

The project would involve the extension of underground mining operations at the existing Ensham mine to approximately the year 2037. Thermal coal would be extracted from a single-seam using bord and pillar operations at the current planned production rate of 4.5 million tonnes per annum within existing mining lease areas and a new mining lease within a portion of MDL 217. Existing underground and surface infrastructure including road, rail and mine infrastructure equipment would be utilised. No additional surface infrastructure or surface disturbance is proposed within the new mining lease area.

On 24 April 2020, Ensham Joint Venture submitted a voluntary EIS application, which was approved by the Department of Environment and Science (the department) on 4 June 2020.

The project is a controlled action (EPBC/2020/8669) under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The controlling provisions are sections 18 and 18A (listed threatened species and communities) and sections 24D and 24E (a water resource, in relation to coal seam gas development and large coal mining development) of the EPBC Act. The EIS process will assess the potential impacts of the project on the controlling provisions consistent with the bilateral agreement (section 45 of the EPBC Act) between the Commonwealth and Queensland governments for the purposes of the Commonwealth Government's assessment under part 8 of the EPBC Act.

Ensham Joint Venture submitted the draft terms of reference (TOR) for an EIS for the proposal to the department on 13 July 2020.

The draft TOR, this public notice and a description of the project is available on the department's website at [www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au) (search for Ensham EIS), by contacting Idemitsu on 07 3222 5600, or by emailing [enquiries@idemitsu.com.au](mailto:enquiries@idemitsu.com.au).

#### Written comments

The department's chief executive invites written comments from any person in relation to the draft TOR, within the comment period from 3 August 2020 to close of business 15 September 2020. Please address written comments to:

The Chief Executive  
Department of Environment and Science  
Attention: The EIS Coordinator (Ensham Life of Mine Extension Project)  
GPO Box 2454  
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Written comments can also be emailed to [eis@des.qld.gov.au](mailto:eis@des.qld.gov.au)

#### Privacy statement

The department is collecting the information provided in comments for consideration in the EIS process. All comments (including names and addresses) will be provided to the proponent as required under section 44 of the EP Act, so that they may consider them and provide a response to the department. This consultation is a public process, and any comments you provide may be published (including online) and may be transmitted outside of Australia. You may wish to bear this in mind when providing your comments. Your information will not be disclosed by the department to any other parties unless authorised or required by law.

When the EIS is released, public submissions will be invited. For further information about the EIS process for this proposal, contact the EIS coordinator on 13 QGOV (13 74 68) or email [eis@des.qld.gov.au](mailto:eis@des.qld.gov.au).



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Government