

Boggabri Modification 8

Community Newsletter No.2 | August 2021

INTRODUCTION

This newsletter is the second in a series first released January 2021, designed to provide the local community with updates on a proposed modification to the planning approval for the Boggabri Coal Mine (BCM) (MOD 8). It provides an outline of MOD 8, detail of the approval pathway for MOD 8 and provides further information on the Department of Planning Industry and Environment's (DPIE) public exhibition and assessment process.

The Modification application and supporting Modification Report were submitted to the DPIE on 22 July 2021. DPIE has accepted the application and has advised that it will be placed on public exhibition from Thursday, 12 August until Thursday, 9 September 2021.

THE PROJECT

Background

Mining authorities for BCM were granted in the 1980s in accordance with Development Consent (DA 36/88), although coal production at BCM did not commence until 2006. In July 2012, Boggabri Coal was granted approval (SSD 09_0182) which enables the continuation of mining at BCM until the end of December 2033.

Project Description

MOD 8 will see an increase to the depth of approved mining operations to recover an additional 61.6 Million tonnes (Mt) of Run of Mine (ROM) coal within the currently approved Mine Disturbance Boundary. The mining of this additional coal will extend the life of BCM for a further six years until the end of 2039.

MOD 8 seeks approval for a fauna movement crossing over the existing haul road between the rehabilitated overburden emplacement area and the western side of the regional biodiversity corridor. The establishment of the fauna movement crossing is proposed to improve the movement of fauna from the Leard State Forest through the Southern Rehabilitation Area.

A general layout of MOD 8 is provided in Figure 1.

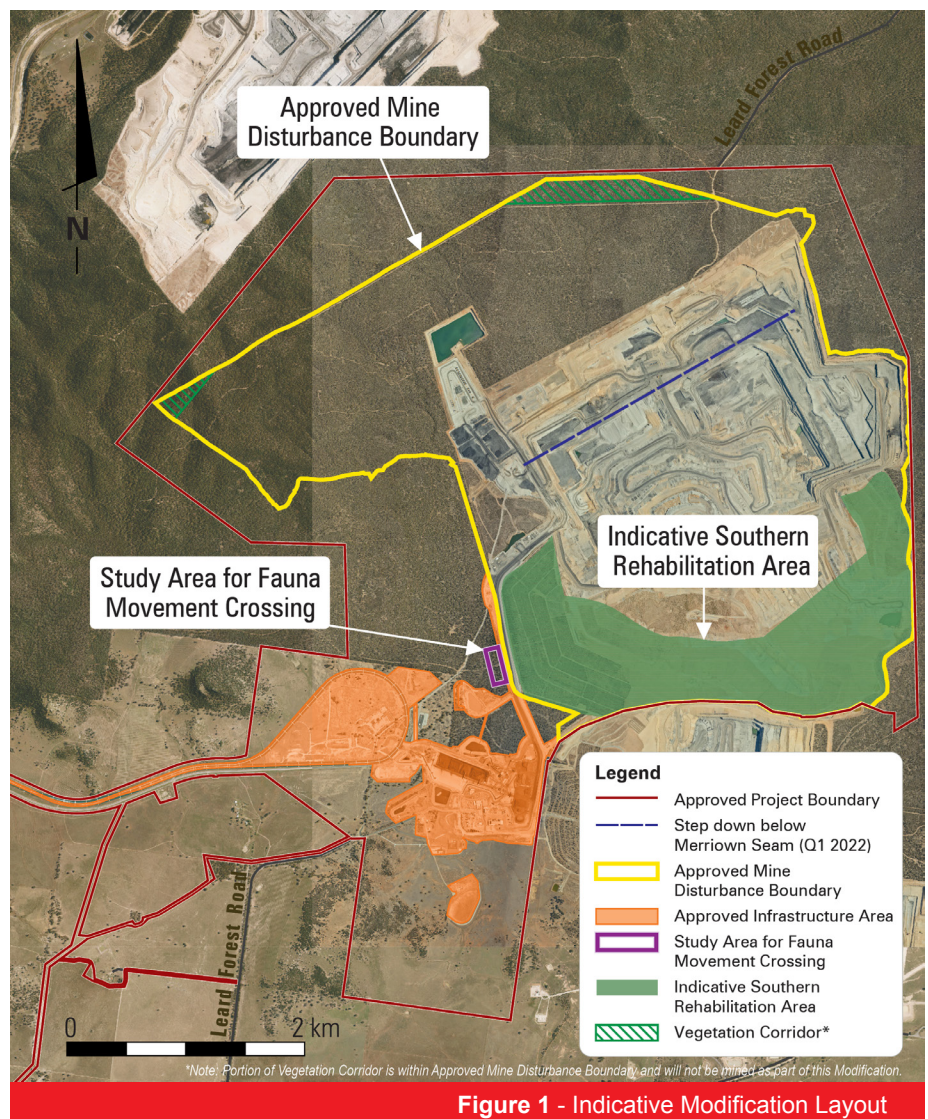


Figure 1 - Indicative Modification Layout

APPROVALS PATHWAY

On 15 February 2021, DPIE confirmed that the appropriate approval pathway for MOD 8 was under Section 4.55(2) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). DPIE also identified matters which should be addressed within the Modification Report.

A summary of the proposed approvals pathway for MOD 8 is provided in Figure 2 (over page).

On 28 May 2021, the Department of Agriculture Water and the Environment (DAWE) confirmed that MOD 8 was a Controlled Action requiring approval under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act). The assessment of MOD 8 under the EPBC Act will be undertaken by DPIE in accordance with the existing Bilateral Agreement.

On 8 June 2021, DPIE provided the EPBC Act environmental assessment requirements to be addressed within the Modification Report.

A Joint Request for Advice from the Independent Expert Scientific Committee for Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development (IESC) is required for MOD 8.

The Modification Report has been prepared to address the EPBC Act environmental assessment requirements and is consistent with consultations with DPIE. The Modification Report includes a detailed description of MOD 8, a comprehensive assessment of the potential environmental and social impacts and identifies additional environmental management and mitigation measures to be implemented where appropriate.

The Modification Report concludes that MOD 8 will not result in material environmental impacts beyond those currently approved and will result in the delivery of very material direct and indirect economic activity to the local, State and National economies.

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

The stakeholder consultation program for MOD 8 has included engagement with the BCM Community Consultative Committee, Indigenous stakeholders, near neighbours and the broader community, regulatory authorities, industry stakeholders and others.

Consultations with stakeholders generally entailed the provision of an overview of MOD 8, details on the environmental assessment methodologies and discussions over identified stakeholder issues and concerns in relation to MOD 8. Feedback from consultations has been considered within the Modification Report.

Boggabri Coal will continue to engage with stakeholders throughout the public exhibition period and DPIE's assessment of MOD 8. This ongoing engagement will be to brief stakeholders on the key findings of the Modification Report and provide further supporting information (through the response to submissions process) to ensure a robust environmental assessment.

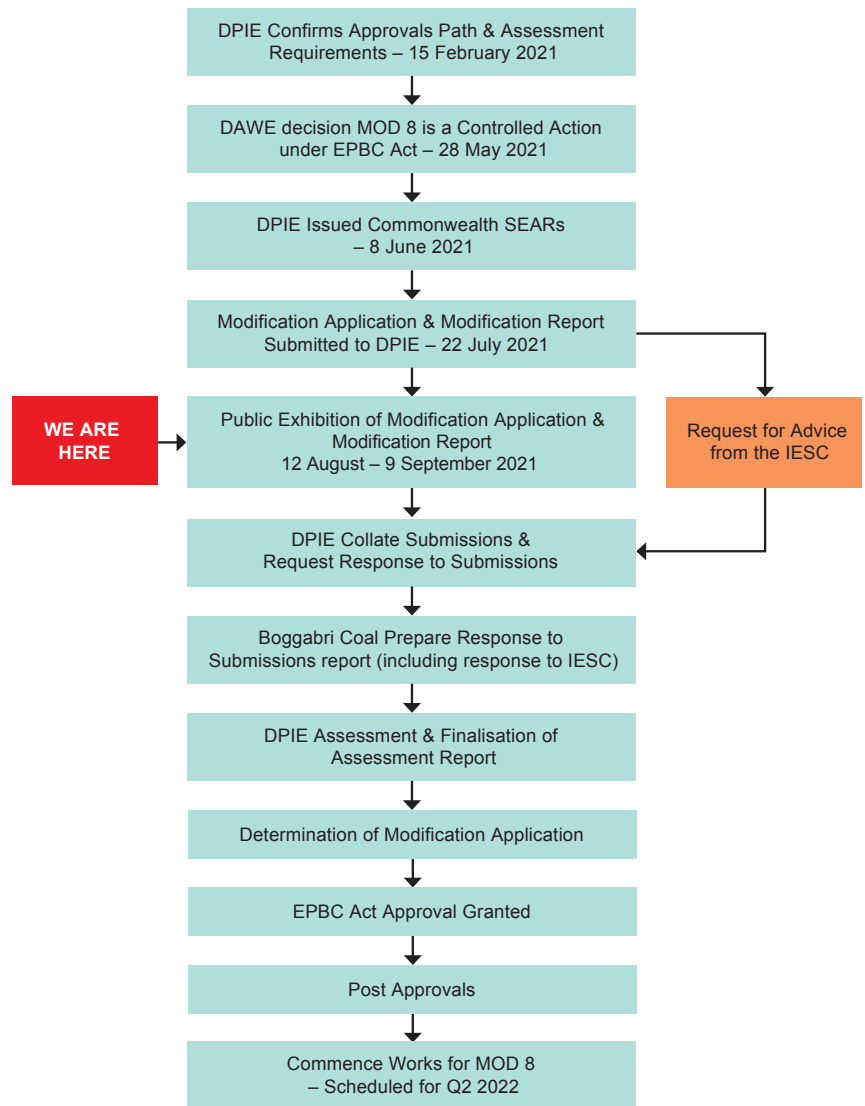


Figure 2 – Indicative Approvals Pathway for MOD 8

WHERE TO FROM HERE?

DPIE has indicated that the Modification Report will be placed on public exhibition on its website between Thursday, 12 August until Thursday, 9 September 2021.

If you wish to comment on the Modification Report, please provide a submission via the DPIE's Planning Portal before Thursday, 9 September 2021 as per their website instructions.

www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/41131

It is anticipated that DPIE will require Boggabri Coal to respond to submissions received during the public exhibition process.

Boggabri Coal will then prepare a Response to Submissions report which will address the issues raised during public exhibition through the provision of additional information and / or clarification of various aspects of the Modification Report.

Following the submission of the Response to Submissions report, DPIE will finalise its assessment over the application for MOD 8.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding MOD 8, please do not hesitate to contact:

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