

Boggabri Modification 8

Community Newsletter No.3 | August 2022

INTRODUCTION

This newsletter is designed to provide the local community with updates on a proposed modification to the planning approval for the Boggabri Coal Mine (BCM) (MOD 8), including detail of the approval pathway and information on an amended mine plan for MOD 8.

The amendment for MOD 8 has been developed following feedback from the submissions received through the public exhibition period and further detailed mine planning.

The Modification application and supporting Modification Report were submitted on 22 July 2021 and the application placed on public exhibition between 12 August 2021 and 9 September 2021. A total of 60 submissions were received from both government agencies and the general public during this period.

A Draft Submissions Report has been prepared to respond to issues raised during the exhibition period. This report will be updated to take into account the amendment to the MOD 8 application.

THE PROJECT

Background

Boggabri Coal was granted approval (SSD 09_0182) enabling the continuation of mining at BCM until the end of December 2033.

Project Description

MOD 8 as described within the 2021 Modification Report proposed an increase to the depth of approved mining operations within the currently approved Mine Disturbance Boundary and to construct a fauna movement crossing over the existing haul road between the rehabilitated overburden emplacement area and the western side of the regional biodiversity corridor.

Whilst these general components of MOD 8 remain, internal mine planning investigations has revised the mine scheduling and resource evaluation.

Mine parameter	July 2021 MOD 8 Application	2022 MOD 8 Amendment
Disturbance footprint	Mining operations to remain within the currently approved Mine Disturbance Boundary	No change
Duration of proposed extension	An increase in the life of BCM by 6 years	An increase in the life of BCM beyond current approvals by 3 years
Additional coal recovery from the extension	An additional 61.6 Million tonnes (Mt) of ROM coal will be recovered from mining below the currently approved depth (2022-2039).	An increase in the ROM coal to be recovered at BCM beyond current approvals by 28.1 Million tonnes (Mt) (i.e. coal below the Merriown Coal Seam) which will be mined from 2025.
Annual coal production	An increase in the peak annual ROM coal production rates from a maximum of 8.6 Mtpa up to a maximum of 9.1 Mtpa to achieve mining efficiencies, noting that an average of up to 8.6 Mtpa of ROM coal will still be maintained.	No increase to the approved peak annual coal production rate of 8.6 Mtpa of ROM coal.
Construction of a fauna movement crossing over the existing haul road to improve the biodiversity values of mine rehabilitation at BCM.	A small area outside the currently approved Mine Disturbance Boundary of approximately 1.21 ha will be disturbed to facilitate the construction of the fauna crossing. This will be immediately rehabilitated as part of the fauna crossing construction program and overall, there will be a net decrease in disturbance at the BCM by approximately 2.15 ha due to the dragline option being surrendered.	No change
Final landform	No change to rehabilitation objectives outlined within Schedule 3, Condition 69 of SSD 09_0182. Minor increase to maximum height of Overburden Emplacement Area (OEA) from 395 to 400 m RL.	No proposed change to rehabilitation criteria. Conceptual Final Landform Design for the Amendment will be assessed as part of the Amendment Report. Less overburden materials being mined by the Amendment is expected to result in a smaller OEA than previously proposed for MOD 8.

The MOD 8 Amendment is summarised in the high level mine parameters table above.

Other aspects of the proposed mining operations will generally result in equivalent reductions, which will be further detailed within the Amendment Report.

A general layout of MOD 8 as now proposed to be amended is provided in Figure 1.

APPROVALS PATHWAY

BCM can seek an amendment of the Modification Application at any time before the Modification is granted by the consent authority.

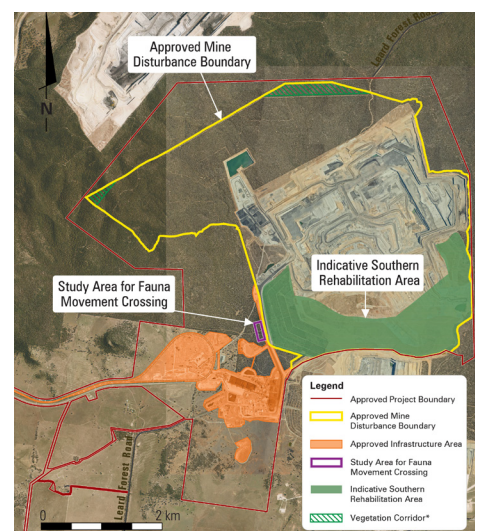


Figure 1 - Indicative Modification Layout

DPE confirmed in April 2022 that this process is appropriate to facilitate the changes to the mine planning information previously presented as part of the MOD 8 Modification Report.

An Amendment application will be supported by an Amendment Report which is to be prepared to detail the proposed changes to the Modification Description and to provide a revised environmental assessment and justification for the Modification Application.

A summary of the approvals pathway for MOD 8, including the amendment process is provided in Figure 2.

The Amendment Report and a Submissions Report is scheduled to be submitted to DPE in late 2022.

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

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

Consultations with stakeholders has generally included provision of an overview of MOD 8, details on the environmental assessment methodologies and discussion over any stakeholder issues and concerns. Consultation has been ongoing with interested parties following the exhibition of the Modification Report in late 2021 and will continue throughout DPE's assessment and determination of MOD 8.

WHERE TO FROM HERE?

The Submissions Report and Amendment Report are scheduled to be lodged with DPE in late 2022 as part of its assessment of MOD 8. These reports will be placed on the DPE Planning Portal website for stakeholder information.

DPE will finalise its assessment over the application for MOD 8 (including the application for Amendment) and make its determination in due course.

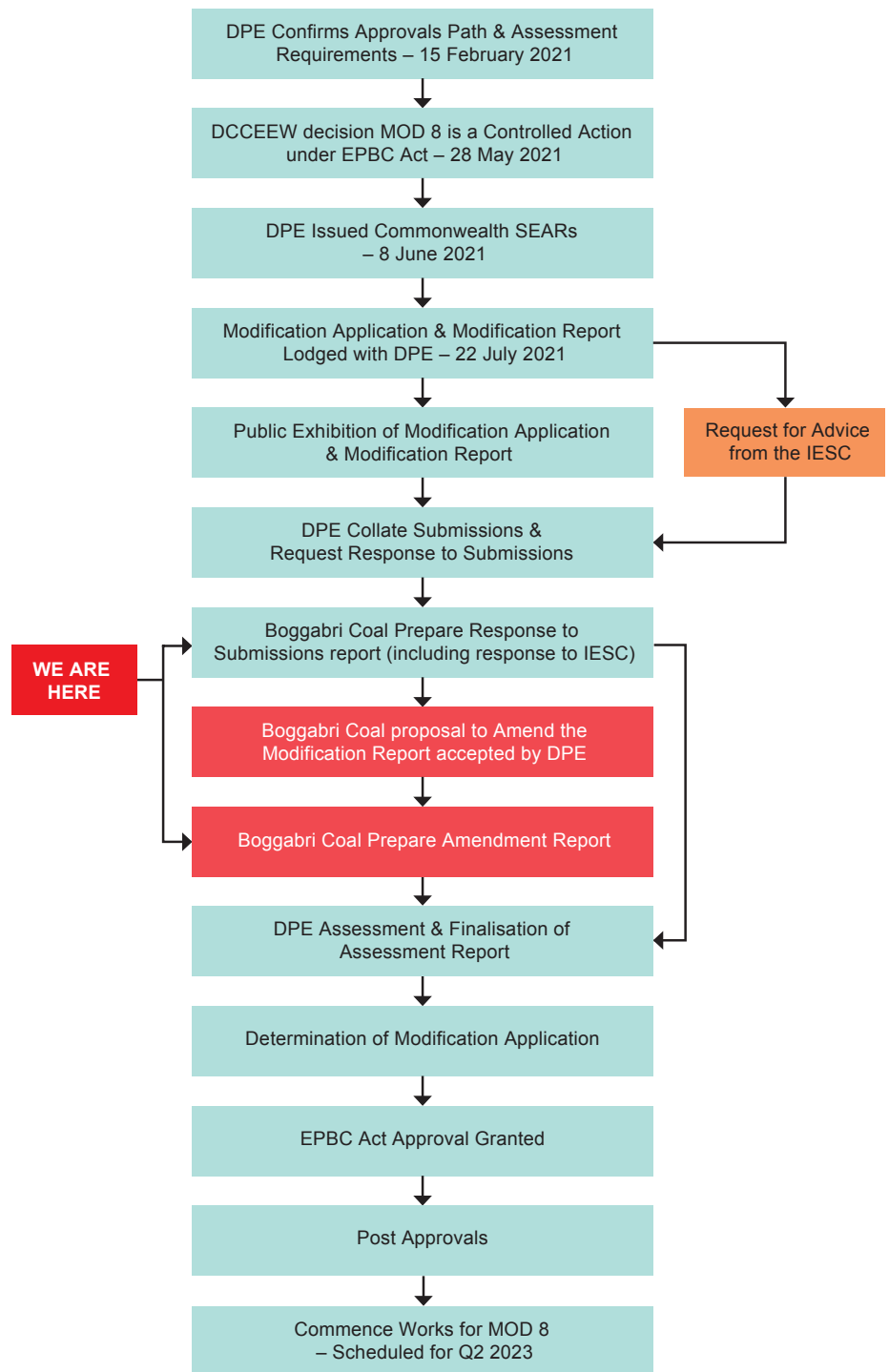


Figure 2 – Indicative Approvals Pathway for MOD 8, Including Amendment Application



FURTHER INFORMATION

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

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