



Our Ref: CTS 18129/24

Department of  
**Environment, Science  
and Innovation**

3 October 2024

Dr Coral Rowston  
Director  
Environmental Advocacy in Central Queensland Inc.  
EnvA.CQ@outlook.com

Dear Dr Rowston

Thank you for your email of 19 September 2024 to the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Innovation regarding the Queensland Coking Coal Pty Ltd (QCC) Vulcan North Bulk Sample Project.

As you may be aware a state election has been called for 26 October 2024 and the Government is now in a caretaker period until the outcome of the election is known. I have been requested to reply on behalf of the Office of the Minister.

Firstly, I would like to thank you for bringing this matter to the attention of the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation (the department).

The department understands that you have the following concerns regarding the above project –

1. Land clearing has been carried out in an area that is currently being assessed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act); and
2. The activities relating to the project do not appear to form part of the current EPBC referral process; and
3. A Direction Notice issued by this department appears to have not been complied with.

With regards to concerns 1 and 2 listed above, I can confirm that the department has informed the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) of these matters as appropriate. As the DCCEEW administers the EPBC Act, it is recommended that you contact them if you require any further information.

The department confirmed during a site inspection on 24 June 2024, that activities in the unauthorised disturbance area had ceased as required by the Direction Notice issued on 17 June 2024. Subsequent monitoring by the department including an aerial survey on 25 June 2024 and a further site inspection on 18 September 2024 has confirmed that rehabilitation required by the Direction Notice has progressed, the department is of the view that this is consistent with the images provided with your email.

The department will continue to monitor the activities being undertaken by QCC to ensure that rehabilitation is achieved by the date specified in the Direction Notice or other alternative steps listed in the Direction Notice are completed in compliance with the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

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Should you require any further information, please contact the department via Tony Baker, Director, Coal and Central Compliance on (07) 4999 6861 or by email at [tony.baker@des.qld.gov.au](mailto:tony.baker@des.qld.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Lawrence', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rob Lawrence  
**Deputy Director-General**  
**Environmental Services and Regulation**