



Office of the  
Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef  
Minister for Science and Innovation

Our reference: CTS 07526/24

1 William Street Brisbane Qld 4000  
GPO Box 5078 Brisbane  
Queensland 4001 Australia  
Telephone +61 7 3719 7330  
Email [environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au)

14 MAY 2024

Mr Ben Pennings  
Coal and Gas Campaigner  
Queensland Conservation Council  
1/377 Montague Road  
WEST END QLD 4101

Dear Mr Pennings

Thank you for your email of 19 April 2024 enclosing a letter jointly signed by key industry and environmental groups regarding a recent application by Glencore to extend operations at the Hail Creek coal mine. The Honourable Leanne Linard MP, Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Innovation has asked me to respond on her behalf.

As Queensland's environmental regulator, the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation (the department) undertakes the assessment of mining activities independently under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (the EP Act). I am advised that an application to amend an existing environmental authority (EA) can be made at any time and the department will assess it against the requirements of the EP Act. Any decision by the department to approve or refuse an application is made once all other steps in the assessment process have been completed.

This application for the Hail Creek coal mine will be subject to a thorough assessment by the department including both the information and notification stages, before proceeding to the decision stage. The department has already issued an extensive information request notice on 15 March 2024, which is available for public access on the department's website at <https://environment.desi.qld.gov.au/management/activities/non-mining/regulation/environmental-authority/current-ea-applications>. As you will see from the notice, the department has requested further information about the matters you raise as concerns.

The department has made improvements to the accessibility of public notification for resource activities through the creation of a new public notices and consultations page on its website at [www.desi.qld.gov.au/our-department/public-notices](http://www.desi.qld.gov.au/our-department/public-notices). Members of the public can use the subscription services on this webpage to be informed when the application is public notified and open for submissions.

The department also carefully considers the *Human Rights Act 2019* as part of its assessment process, including consideration of cultural rights of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

I am advised that the department is currently finalising a greenhouse gas emissions guideline to ensure applications clearly outline greenhouse gas emissions and require an abatement plan for medium and high emitters. The greenhouse gas emissions guideline will support appropriate consideration of the Government's new climate targets recently passed in the Legislative Assembly in the Clean Economy Jobs Bill 2024.

It would be appreciated if you could arrange for this letter to be shared with the joint signatories.

If you or the joint signatories require any further information or assistance in relation to this matter, Juliana McCosker, Acting Director - Coal and Central Compliance, Environmental Services and Regulation of the department can be contacted on (07) 4987 9320 or by email at [juliana.mccosker@des.qld.gov.au](mailto:juliana.mccosker@des.qld.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



**Sonja Litz**  
**Chief of Staff**  
**Office of the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef**  
**Minister for Science and Innovation**