



Australian Government

Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water

MC25-002530

Dr Coral Rowston
Director
Environmental Advocacy in Central Queensland

EnvA.CQ@outlook.com

Dear Dr Rowston

Thank you for your correspondence to the Minister for the Environment and Water, the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, concerning Vulcan South Coal alleged mine clearing and alleged activity outside approved disturbance area for EPBC 2023/09708. Minister Plibersek has asked me to thank you for your correspondence and to reply on her behalf.

As you are aware, the department is responsible for administering the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the Act), which provides a legal framework to protect and manage nationally protected matters such as threatened species and threatened ecological communities. Under the Act, actions that have, or are likely to have, a significant impact on a nationally protected matter requires approval from the Australian Government. Actions associated with a project referred for assessment by the department must not be taken prior to an EPBC approval being granted.

The department acknowledges your concerns and the potential impacts on Matters of National Environmental Significance associated with the alleged actions undertaken by Vitrinite Pty Ltd within the project footprint of EPBC 2023/09708.

The department takes all matters of this nature seriously and as you identify in your letter, has commenced an investigation. Information on the department's approach to managing compliance can be found in the published Compliance Policy at:
www.dcceew.gov.au/about/commitment/compliance-policy.

As these investigations are ongoing, and in accordance with the department's Compliance Policy, the department will not provide further comment at this time.

Should you wish to provide additional information or report further concerns or allegations of non-compliance, please contact the single point of entry for Compliance and Enforcement via email at: environment.compliance@dcceew.gov.au or by telephone on 1800 110 395. An assessment officer may contact you if further information is required.

Additional information about reporting breaches of the EPBC Act can be found at:
www.dcceew.gov.au/about/contact/report-environmental-incident.

DCCEEW.gov.au

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Thank you again for bringing your concerns to the government's attention.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Murray Fisher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Murray Fisher
A/g Director, Environmental Crime
Compliance & Enforcement Branch