



Ref CTS 08401/25

09 May 2025

Department of
**Natural Resources and Mines,
Manufacturing and Regional
and Rural Development**

Dr Coral Rowston
Director
Environmental Advocacy in Central Queensland Inc
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Dear Dr Rowston

Thank you for your letter of 14 April 2025 to the Honourable Dale Last MP, Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development, regarding the Callan Coking Coal Pty Ltd (Callan) bulk sample project. The Minister has asked me to respond on his behalf.

I can confirm the bulk sample proposal lodged by Callan is an application to vary the conditions of existing Mineral Development Licence (MDL) 454. There are no provisions within the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (MR Act) that allows for or requires public notification of variations to MDL's.

While a holder may apply for approval to undertake a bulk sample on an MDL, it also allows the resource authority holder to:

- conduct feasibility studies, geoscientific programs, metallurgical testing and environmental studies,
- carry out engineering design studies, and
- carry out marketing, environmental, engineering and design studies to evaluate the development potential of the defined resource.

Guidance on bulk sampling can be found in the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing, and Regional and Rural Development (the department)'s Operational Policy: [Applying for bulk sampling on a Mineral Development Licence or Exploration Permit](#).

Bulk sampling is a viable exploration activity which assists resource authority holders to make informed decisions on the economic viability of a resource. There is no guarantee that bulk sampling activities will confirm a feasible operation, nor lead to an application for the grant of a Mining Lease (ML).

Bulk sampling is considered to be an exploration activity and different to full-scale mining. A ML is the appropriate authority for full-scale mining activities and the MR Act requires the public notification of all ML applications, which provides an opportunity for any party to lodge an objection to the ML. This provides the necessary opportunity for interested parties to be heard at the appropriate stage of the project.

The department is assessing the Callan application to vary the MDL 454 work program, and a decision will be made in due course.

Should you have any further enquiries, please contact Ms Kelly Dobinson, Manager – Coal Assessment Hub, the department, on telephone (07) 4936 0169.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Grabski
A/Deputy Director General