7 June 2018

Mr Ben Byrd
Principal Mining Registrar (Assessment)
Coal Assessment Hub, Minerals & Energy Resources
Department of Natural Resources and Mines
PO Box 3679, Red Hill
ROCKHAMPTON QLD 4701

By email: Ben.Byrd@des.qld.gov.au

Dear Ben,

Mining Lease Application 700024 – Information request response

We refer to the Mining Lease Application No 700024 for the Ironbark No.1 Project submitted on October 26, 2017 (the Application) and your subsequent request that we provide information to demonstrate that the Minister can be satisfied that the public interest would not be prejudiced by granting the Application.

Prior to submitting the Application an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was conducted for the project which amongst other studies included a Social Impact Statement Report and Economic Impact Report. These reports assessed the economic and social impact of the project on the local community, Mackay region and the State and Federal Governments. The EIS was placed on public notification and extensive consultation was undertaken. The EIS process is now concluded with State and Commonwealth approvals being finalised.

The Application submitted by the proponents seeks to address each of the requirements of the Mineral Resources Act 1989 and includes the Initial Development Plan (IDP), which outlines the location and scale of the project, the workforce requirements during construction and operation phases, the projected output and life of the project. Specifically, section 17 and section 12 of the IDP demonstrate that the Project satisfies a public interest test by having a positive impact overall in terms of government policy, value of commodity production, employment creation, total return to the State and Australia, and social benefits.

The proposed project will create employment for 160 contractors during the construction phase and an average of 271 full time equivalent roles (peaking at 350) during the operational phase of the mine life. The Ironbark No. 1 project will produce export coking and thermal coals over a projected 20-year period with the revenue generated from the project producing significant coal royalties and payroll taxes for the State as well as economic activity in the Moranbah and Mackay regions.

The project is to be constructed in the established coal mining region of Moranbah in Central Queensland as an underground longwall mine. The raw coal produced from Ironbark No.1 mine will be transported via private mine haul roads to the proponents’ existing Carborough Downs mine where it will be processed through existing facilities. There will be limited surface disturbance from the development as the proponents will seek to utilise existing infrastructure where possible.
The proponents have a demonstrated track record of environmental and safety compliance at their Carborough Downs and Broadlea mines and submit that approval of the Application will create further employment in the local region without any prejudice to the public interest.

Should you seek any further information or clarification please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Anne McIntyre
Director