

Notice

Environmental Protection Act 1994

Information request

This information request is issued by the administering authority under section 140 of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 to request further information needed to assess an amendment application for a site-specific environmental authority.

To: NC Coal Company Pty Limited
Level 44 Gateway Building, 1 Macquarie Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Via email transmission only
Hamish.Cato@glencore.com.au

ATTN: Hamish Cato – Environment & Community Manager

Our reference: EMPL00332013; A-EA-AMD-101123001

Further information is required to assess an amendment application for an environmental authority

1 Application details

The amendment application for a site-specific environmental authority was received by the administering authority on **12 June 2026**.

The application reference number is: **A-EA-AMD-101123001**

Land description: ML1005, ML1006, ML1007, ML1008, ML1009, ML1015, ML1037, ML1064, ML10111, ML10250, ML10333.

2 Information request

The administering authority has considered the abovementioned application and is writing to inform you that further information is required to assess the application (an information request).

The information requested is provided in **Attachment 1 – Additional information required to decide the amendment application for EA EPML00332013**.

3 Actions

The abovementioned application will lapse unless you respond by giving the administering authority -

- (a) all of the information requested; or
- (b) part of the information requested together with a written notice asking the authority to proceed with the assessment of the application; or
- (c) a written notice –

- i. stating that you do not intend to supply any of the information requested; and
- ii. asking the administering authority to proceed with the assessment of the application.

A response to the information requested must be provided by **22 January 2027** (the information response period). If you wish to extend the information response period, a request to extend the period must be made at least 10 business days before the last day of the information response period.

The response to this information request or a request to extend the information response period can be submitted to the administering authority by email to CRMining@des.qld.gov.au.

If the information provided in response to this information request is still not adequate for the administering authority to make a decision, your application may be refused as a result of section 176 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, where the administering authority must have regard to any response given for an information request.

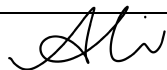
4 Human rights

A human rights assessment was carried out in relation to this decision/action and it was determined that the decision/action is compatible with human rights.

5 Review and appeal rights

You may apply to the administering authority for a review of this decision within 10 business days after receiving this notice. Information about your review rights is attached to this notice or search 'DETSI Internal review and appeals' at business.qld.gov.au. This information is guidance only and you may have other legal rights and obligations.

Should you have any questions about the notice, please contact Business Centre Coal using the details provided below.



Signature

22 July 2026

Date

Alison Cummings

Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation
Delegate of the administering authority
Environmental Protection Act 1994

Enquiries:

Business Centre Coal
PO Box 3028, Emerald QLD 4720
Phone: (07) 4987 9320
Email: CRMining@detsi.qld.gov.au

Attachments

Attachment 1 - Additional information required to decide the amendment application for EA EPML00332013

Attachment 2 - [Information sheet: Internal review and appeals](#) (ESR/2015/1742)

Item	Matter	Information Requested
1	Spatial data The mapping included in the application provides useful contextual information, however, the department requires the associated spatial data to enable a more detailed assessment of the area the subject of the proposed amendment and associated environmental values. In particular, the provision of spatial datasets will allow the department to accurately interrogate and zoom into areas that are not clearly discernible within the PDF maps and to undertake spatial analysis relevant to the assessment of the application.	The spatial information should be submitted in the prescribed format outlined in the department's Spatial Information Submission Guideline (ESR/2018/4337), including appropriate projection information and metadata where applicable. Provide coordinates (in Lat/Long. [GDA2020] format) of all monitoring locations. Provide a figure depicting all monitoring locations (surface water, groundwater, sediment, and soil).
2	Source of contamination Figure 2 of the Environmental Legacy Identification Plan (2024) (ELIP) identifies additional disturbance areas (i.e., Domain 2 – Open Cut Areas) upstream of the Kerale Dam. Figure 13 of the ELIP also identified mine affected water draining into the clean water catchment of Kerale Dam. Figure 4 of Appendix C Kerale Dam Hydraulic Assessment identifies rehabilitated spoil adjacent to the Kerale Dam. Figure 2-4 of the supporting document identifies surface water flow from the rehabilitated spoil towards the Kerale Dam. Appendix C Kerale Dam Hydraulic Assessment indicates that surface water flow from the lime dosing pond does not appear to flow to areas of high metal concentrations depicted in Appendix D Geochemical Investigation of Kerale Area Factual Report. Additionally, Appendix C Kerale Dam Hydraulic Assessment indicates surface water flow from the spoil adjacent to the Kerale Dam downstream of the dam embankment, via the eastern diversion. Section 5.2 of Appendix E Geochemical Investigation of Kerale Area Interpretive Report states that in addition to the secondary sulfate minerals at the location of the lime dosing pond, soils along the drainage pathway extending from the former lime dosing pond toward the Kerale Dam embankment (e.g. KTP16, KTP19, KTP20 and	Provide an assessment of all possible sources of contamination to the Kerale Area Domain.

	KTP35) represent secondary source zones where stored acidity and metals are mobilised and transported under surface water and shallow subsurface flow conditions. The above findings identify that the lime dosing pond may not be the only source of contamination to the Kerale Area Domain.	
3	Figure 2-3 of the supporting document depicts a cross-sectional profile through Kerale Dam impoundment. It is unclear if there is potential for seepage from the rehabilitated spoil to the Kerale Dam through the diversion drains.	Provide information on the potential for seepage from the rehabilitated spoil to the Kerale Dam through the diversion drains.
4	Appendix A Kerale Dam Seepage Assessment does not assess the potential for seepage from the open cut areas and mine affected waters draining into clean catchments.	Provide an assessment of the potential for seepage from the open cut areas and mine affected waters draining into clean catchments in relation to the Kerale Area.
5	The link between the contaminant source and the receiving surface water and groundwater environments is not clear from the application. Detailed discussion on the link between the lime dosing pond, surface water, groundwater, and soil is required to better understand the overall risk posed by the contamination source to the receiving environment.	Provide information on the relationship between the lime dosing pond, surface water, groundwater, and soil.
6	Data It is noted that the application analyses and interprets each data domain (surface water, groundwater, sediment, soil, and seepage) separately. All data (surface water, groundwater, sediment, soil and seepage) should be integrated and interpreted to ensure a holistic understanding of the processes occurring on site.	Provide an assessment and interpretation of integrated data that includes surface water, groundwater, sediment, soil and seepage. Provide an assessment and interpretation of the ionic composition between surface water, groundwater, seepage, and pits in the vicinity of the Kerale Area Domain.
7	Diversion landforms Figure 2-3 of the supporting document depicts a cross-sectional profile through Kerale Dam impoundment. It is unclear when the western and eastern diversion landforms were constructed.	Provide the date of construction of the western and eastern diversion landforms.
8	Conceptual site model Section 5 of Appendix E Geochemical Investigation of Kerale Area Interpretive Report details the conceptual site model of the Kerale area. It is unclear if the conceptual model incorporates all relevant reaction mechanisms (e.g., attenuation of contaminants	Provide information on the mechanisms incorporated into the conceptual site model. Provide an updated conceptual site model that incorporates all relevant mechanisms, including, but not limited to, ion exchange, ion adsorption,

	can occur via ion exchange, ion adsorption, precipitation, dissolution, dilution, microbial uptake, plant root uptake, etc.). It is noted that desorption and dissolution can release contaminants back into the water/soil solution if the chemical conditions of the soil system change. Additionally, it is noted that dilution can reduce contaminant concentrations, however, mass loading should be considered in relation to long-term contaminant concentrations, particularly at water discharge areas which may experience elevated concentrations due to accumulation and/or evaporation.	precipitation, dissolution, dilution, microbial uptake, plant root uptake, desorption, mass loading.
9	Surface water Figure 2-3 of Appendix E Geochemical Investigation of Kerale Area Interpretive Report depicts water quality monitoring locations near the Kerale Area Domain. An additional surface water quality monitoring location is required downstream of the Kerale Dam, prior to the drainage feature leaving the mining tenure.	Propose an additional surface water quality monitoring location downstream of the Kerale Dam, prior to the drainage feature leaving the mining tenure.
10	Groundwater Figure 2-3 of Appendix E Geochemical Investigation of Kerale Area Interpretive Report depicts water quality monitoring locations near the Kerale Area Domain. Section 7.1.3 of the supporting document states that the solute is predicted to be around 10-30% of the concentration at the embankment, 500m downstream of the embankment. Additional shallow groundwater bores are required further downstream of the Kerale Dam embankment to demonstrate that the solute 500m downstream of the embankment will be 10-30% of the concentration at the embankment.	Propose additional groundwater quality monitoring locations downstream of the Kerale Dam embankment.
11	Section 4.1.2 of the supporting document states acidic conditions have been observed in the surficial alluvial groundwater system which follows the ephemeral tributary of Pelican Creek downgradient of Kerale Dam. This is indicated by monitoring data collected at two groundwater bores downgradient of the Kerale Dam embankment. There appears to be no groundwater level or quality data from the groundwater monitoring bores downstream of the Kerale Dam embankment included in the application.	Provide all groundwater data for all groundwater bores associated with the Kerale Area.

12	Section 4.2 of the supporting document states that the Kerale Area Domain encompasses the inferred extent of the alluvial system associated with the tributary of Pelican Creek, to a point approximately 750m downstream of the Kerale Dam embankment. It is further stated that the distance of 750m is based on an understanding of the seepage migration potential from Kerale Dam. It is assumed based on information provided in the application that contamination has occurred as far as downstream monitoring bores K01 and K02, although it is not clearly stated. Based on available mapping, K02 appears to be approximately 200m downstream of the Kerale Dam embankment. No additional information on drilling or monitoring that has occurred downstream of monitoring bore K02 to demonstrate the existing extent of contamination appears to be provided in the application.	Provide information on the additional drilling or monitoring of groundwater that has occurred in the tributary alluvium downstream of K02 to determine the extent of existing contamination. If no additional drilling or monitoring of groundwater has occurred in the tributary alluvium downstream of K02, provide justification to why it has not occurred.
13	Section 3.3 of Appendix A Kerale Dam Seepage Assessment describes monitoring bores in the immediate area and includes K01 (RN182622), K02 (RN182623), RN 182866, K03 (RN182624) and GLE01. It is noted that no historical water level or water quality data appears to have been provided for any of these bores. This information is important in understanding groundwater conditions including localised recharge downstream of the dam and existing levels of contamination. Additionally, there appears to be no information on any tests for hydraulic conductivity that may have been carried out on the downstream bores.	Provide historical water level and water quality data (hydrographs) for all monitoring bores downstream of the Kerale Dam and adjacent the Kerale Dam. Provide advice as to whether tests have been carried out on monitoring bores K01, K02 and RN182866 to determine hydraulic conductivity.
14	Section 3.5 of Appendix A Kerale Dam Seepage Assessment states that two VWP are located downgradient of Kerale Dam, however, data was not available during the writing of the report. No other information is provided on these VWPs. It is unclear if they are grouted VWPs to monitor groundwater or if they are VWP probes installed in K01 and K02.	Provide additional information in relation to the VWPs mentioned.
15	Section 3.5 of Appendix A Kerale Dam Seepage Assessment details what conditions in the ephemeral tributary downstream of the Kerale Dam might look like given varying storage conditions in the dam and rainfall conditions.	Provide information on what conditions have been occurring in the tributary downstream of the Kerale Dam historically.

	There does not appear to be any discussion of what conditions have been occurring in the tributary historically.	
16	Section 4.4 of Appendix A Kerale Dam Seepage Assessment it is noted that the water quality profile of the stored water in Kerale Dam is not yet defined. It is also noted that the seasonal depth of surface and subsurface water levels in the zone of interest in the ephemeral tributary below the dam is not well understood. Dedicated instruments to measure these levels have not yet been installed.	Provide information on how the limitations described in section 4.4 of Appendix A, including the lack of a water quality profile for stored water in Kerale Dam and the apparent limited understanding of historical downstream conditions in the ephemeral tributary below the dam, impact the predictions that are made in Appendix A.
17	Ecology Insufficient rationale has been provided in relation to why the Kerale Area non-dam area cannot achieve a grazing or native ecosystem post-mine land use (PMLU). It is noted that this area is currently grazed and that there is remnant RE 11.11.1/11.11.9 southwest of the Kerale Dam, suggesting that areas can support a grazing and/or a native ecosystem PMLU.	Provide justification that the Kerale Area non-dam area requires to be managed as a non-use management area (NUMA). Alternatively, submit a written request to change the EA amendment application currently under assessment to remove the Kerale Area non-dam area from the proposed NUMA footprint.
18	It is unclear from the application of the current condition of the Kerale Area non-dam area.	Provide photographs of the Kerale Area non-dam area, including the remnant vegetation that is proposed to be included in the Kerale Area Domain.
19	Management strategy The application provides little information on the management strategy that will be implemented to ensure there is no impact to the environment beyond the Kerale Area Domain and no movement of contaminants offsite post-closure.	Detail the management strategy that will be implemented to ensure there is no impact to the environment beyond the Kerale Area Domain and no movement of contaminants offsite post-closure. If vegetation is included within the management strategy to be implemented, provide information in relation to the following: (a) What species have been identified that are tolerant of the extreme/adverse soil conditions? (b) How will vegetation success and recruitment be demonstrated? (c) What impact will vegetation and/or microbial activity have on the contaminant availability and transport, and how will this be managed and demonstrated to be successful?

20	Alternative approach The application does not provide information on any alternative approaches (e.g., remediation, disposal in pit, etc.) considered in relation to the management of the contaminated area/material.	Provide an assessment of alternative approaches considered in relation to the management of the contaminated area/material. Alternatively, provide an assessment of approaches for the management of the Kerale Area Domain, including, but not limited to, remediation and disposal in pit. The assessment should include an analysis of the reaction chemistry expected to occur if the contaminated material is disposed in pit, including dissolution/precipitation reactions, redox, pH, geochemical speciation, and salinity; the relationship to surface water and groundwater flow paths and water chemistry; and the potential for contaminated water to move beyond the pit and/or offsite. Provide justification for the selection of the proposed approach of managing the Kerale Area Domain as a NUMA.
21	The application has provided data within the appendices; however, the department requires the data in an excel format to enable a more detailed assessment and interrogation of the data.	Provide all data (surface water, groundwater (quality and level), sediment, and soil quality) for all monitoring locations in excel format.