

About the Project approval process



Wandoan Coal Project Fact Sheet



In March 2011, Xstrata Coal's Wandoan Coal Project received conditional environmental approval from the Commonwealth Government. The environmental approval follows consideration of the project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Supplementary EIS, and the Queensland Coordinator-General's report for the Wandoan Coal Project by the Commonwealth Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities.

The approval covers the construction and operation of an open-cut coal mine and supporting infrastructure in the Mining Lease Application areas immediately west of Wandoan; construction and operation of an underground water supply pipeline; raising of the existing Glebe Weir and construction of an associated pipeline to transport water from the Dawson River to the proposed Wandoan Coal Mine.

Commonwealth Government approval is conditional on Xstrata Coal implementing measures to protect biodiversity and allows Xstrata Coal to proceed with the final stage of the Mining Lease Application.

The Wandoan Coal Project received environmental approval from the Queensland Government in accordance with the conditions in the Coordinator-General's Report for the Project in November 2010.

What has occurred?

- Terms of Reference for the EIS were approved by the Queensland Government.
- The EIS was released for public comment in December 2008, and submissions closed on 2 February 2009.
- Submissions were considered by the Queensland Coordinator-General and communicated with the Wandoan Coal project team.
- The project team developed a Supplementary EIS to address issues raised in the public submissions.
- The Supplementary EIS was submitted in November 2009 to the Queensland Coordinator-General for evaluation.



The Wandoan Coal Project has been established to undertake feasibility studies for an open-cut thermal coal mine.

Where are we now?

- The Supplementary EIS was evaluated by the Coordinator-General who published an evaluation report, which recommended approval and stated conditions of approval.
- The Coordinator-General's evaluation report was submitted to the Commonwealth Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities for approval under the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999*.
- The Project gained conditional environmental approval from the Commonwealth Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities in March 2011.

What happens now?

- The Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management processes the Environmental Authority application based on the Coordinator-General's report and publicly advertises the draft Environmental Authority and Environmental Management Plan.
- The Queensland Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation processes the Mining Lease Application.
- Objections to the Environmental Authority and mining lease are heard in the Land Court, which may recommend the application be granted or refused.

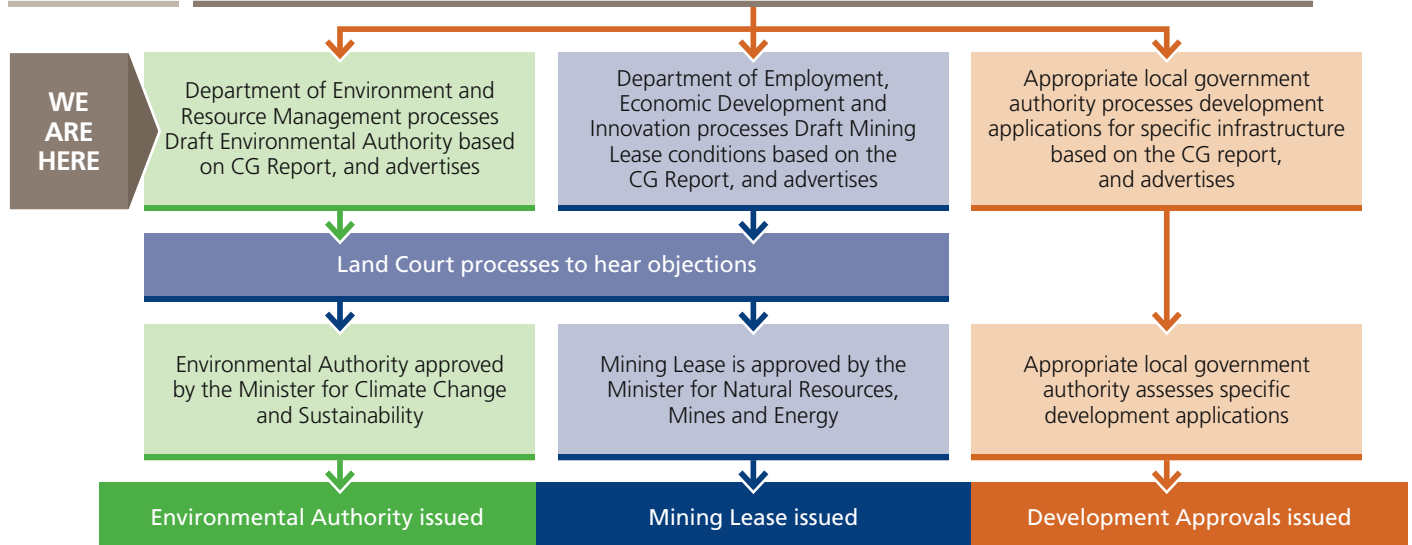
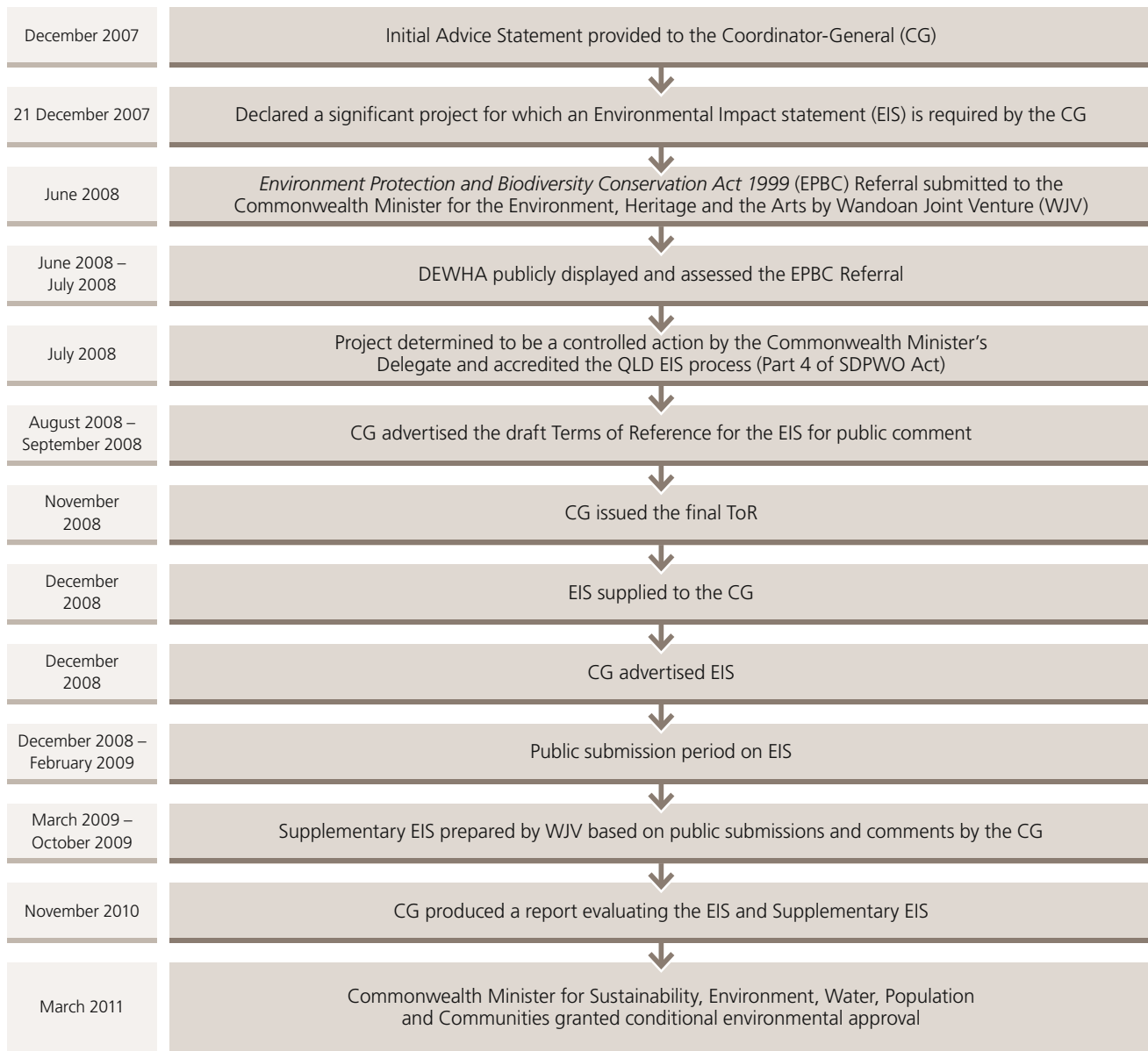
- The Queensland Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy determines the Mining Lease Application.
- The Western Downs Regional Council processes development applications for any specific infrastructure located outside the mining lease.
- Construction of the Project can commence once necessary approvals and mining lease have been granted.
- Critical rail and port infrastructure must also be in place.

Some of the key conditions for approval in the Coordinator-General's report

- Two kilometre High Management Zone between the mine and the Wandoan township where no open-cut mining will occur
- Social Impact Management Plan to monitor and manage social impacts and opportunities
- Road Use Management Plan to manage traffic issues and Road Impact Assessments developed
- Aquatic Ecosystems Monitoring Program to protect water environments
- Receiving Environment Monitoring Plan to track downstream water quality
- Groundwater Monitoring and Management to protect neighbouring water users
- Biodiversity offsets to compensate for vegetation clearing.

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To find out more:

Talk to a member of our project team, call our free-call information line **1800 052 797**. The EIS and the Coordinator General's Report are available online at www.wandoancoal.com.au and can be viewed at the Xstrata Coal Shopfront in Royd Street, Wandoan.

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