

SUBMITTER No.	1841	ISSUE REFERENCE:	21023
SUBMITTER TYPE	Government	TOR CATEGORY	Nature Conservation (Terrestrial Ecology) / Coastal Environment
NAME	Commonwealth DSEWPac	RELEVANT EIS SECTION	Volume 5C – Appendix 12A – Black-throated Finch and Water Mouse

DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

This report was undertaken by Waratah at the request of the department. Advice from the department indicated that previous reports had found suitable habitat along certain areas but that surveys had not yet been adequate to sufficiently rule out concerns regarding its presence. This advice reflected other advice coming from Qld State government agencies suggesting the same issue. As a result, the department requested that further surveys be undertaken for the Black-throated Finch and Water Mouse. It is concerning that Unidel did not look for the species, especially as there is a potential for indirect impacts. The department does not support the conclusions that as no mangrove communities would be directly affected indirect impacts could be adequately managed.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

Waratah Coal acknowledged the Department's concerns regarding *Xeromys myoides* by commissioning AustEcology to produce the report contained in Appendix 12A of the EIS. The report concluded that there would be no direct impacts as the nearest mangrove community is at least two kilometres north of the study site, and that potential indirect impacts associated with degradation of water quality and sedimentation could be managed through appropriate practices within the EMPs. Hence comments regarding Unidel's (earlier) work are addressed by the work presented in Appendix 12A.

In addition, as described in the EIS, Waratah Coal has removed port elements from the Project and will utilise facilities within the Port of Abbot Point and the APSDA that will be the subject of assessment by others. Waratah Coal's assessment stops at the boundary of the APSDA. Hence, now that port elements have been removed from the project, there is no potential for the project to impact upon Water Mouse.

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DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

Great Barrier Reef

The department considers that the potential risks and impacts from the proposed activity on the Great Barrier Reef still need to be clearly addressed in the draft EIS. In particular the draft EIS should consider the likely expected and potential impacts on each of the World Heritage Listed criterion (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) and the National Heritage List criterion (a), (b), (c) and (e). Impacts to be considered should include, but not be restricted to size and location of coal stockpiles, runoff sediment, fine coal particles, hydrocarbons and other potential pollutants from the stockpiles, stormwater flows, potential acid sulphate soils and infrastructure.

The above listed potential impacts can be discussed in the following ways:

1. identifying all water courses that enter the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (GBRMP) that intersect with the mine and rail
2. level of sedimentation expected from proposed activities and infrastructure, including risks posed during high rainfall events (include extent of sediment plumes)
3. downstream impacts of sediment plumes on the environment of the GBRMP, such as seagrassbeds and corals, and
4. release of contaminated water from mine site.

PROPONENT RESPONSE

1. All watercourses intersecting the mine and rail are either within the Burdekin River Basin or other coastal catchments (e.g. at Port end of railway) and eventually discharge to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.
2. This comment appears to relate to the works associated with the port, which has been removed from the EIS.
3. This comment appears to relate to the works associated with the port, which has been removed from the EIS.
4. The water within the mine site has been classified into the following four classes:
 - **Contaminated Water** – surface runoff from CHPP, ROM and stockpile areas and water contained within open-cut pits which could potentially contain hydrocarbons, saline and/or acidic or other chemical contaminants. These will be directed adequately sized dams to prevent discharge as well as meet on site demands
 - **Dirty Water** – surface runoff from spoil dumps and rehabilitated spoil areas that could contain sediments but typically not with elevated contaminant levels. This runoff will be directed to sediment containment dams for reuse onsite and limit discharge
 - **Clean Water** – Surface runoff from natural catchments or groundwater pumped from underground water dewatering and aquifer pre-drainage. Surface runoff from natural catchments will not be contained onsite and will pass through the site via the proposed creek diversions. Clean groundwater will be stored and reused in underground workings to prevent discharge offsite
 - **Raw Water** – Imported low-salinity water required for mine demands that require a high water quality specification (e.g. CHPP vacuum pumps, wash-down, drinking water supply).

A site water balance model has been developed (refer *Mine Site Water Management System Technical Report* in *Appendices – Volume 2* of this SEIS) using historic climate data to simulate realistic climatic conditions and hydrological processes, as well as assessing the performance of proposed dams and impacts to the hydrological regime. The results of the water balance modelling indicate all dams that will contain contaminated water have been adequately sized to prevent discharge over the entire modelling period while the sediment dams only discharge in high rainfall years.