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EIS consultation report

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Consultation Report Jilalan Rail Yard Upgrade Project Queensland Rail

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1. Introduction

The Jilalan Rail Yards were built in the 1970s when the port of Dalrymple Bay first opened. To keep pace with industry growth in the coal export market, the Goonyella system requires significant infrastructure investment. Queensland Rail Limited (QR) plans to match industry growth by implementing a series of incremental capacity enhancements matched to the forecast tonnage demands of mines. As a result QR is seeking to undertake significant works at the QR yards at Jilalan, approximately 20 km south of the Port of Hay Point.

Rail works include:

- Two bypass tracks and a possible third bypass.
- Two tracks and provisioning facilities to allow for provisioning and holding trains in both empty and loaded direction.
- Six wagon maintenance/storage tracks, wagon maintenance facilities and realignment of tracks and associated signalling, overhead and power upgrades.
- Three adjacent road and rail crossing upgrades.

The yard investments at Jilalan will ensure the system has the ability to cater for this expected increased number of trains, the expected viability in the system's operations, and the staged presentation of trains to the Port of Hay Point.

This consultation report presents the findings of the consultation process undertaken for the Jilalan Rail Yard Upgrade Project (JYRUP) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This report also provides an outline of the consultation strategy employed, key stakeholders, government agencies and community groups, the EIS consultation activities conducted and a summary of issues presented to date.

2. Consultation strategy

As part of the EIS consultation process, QR has developed an EIS Communication Plan (Plan). The purpose of developing the Plan is to effectively capture and manage all communication during the important development stages of the Project. The Plan facilitates clear and unambiguous communication between the diverse stakeholder groups during the consultation process, defining roles and objectives that are specific to individual stakeholder groups.

The objectives of the Plan are:

- The inclusion of all relevant stakeholders, government agencies and community groups during the EIS and approval process.
- The maximisation of stakeholder and community involvement, including consultation at key stages of the EIS process.
- To address and include, where feasible, stakeholder and community raised issues into concept design and EIS process.
- To identify social impacts and develop appropriate mitigation and management measures for those impacts.
- Building and maintaining positive relationships between the Project proponent and all stakeholders.
- To develop community confidence in the Project through awareness and understanding of project objectives, including the nature and extent of proposed works.

Stakeholder groups have been categorised according to the level of input into various stages of development. The stakeholder groups identified are:

- National, State and Local Government agencies
- Local community and industry
- Traditional Owners

2.1 Government consultation

Consultation with government agencies has been via formal and informal communication tools, continually improving the EIS process and defining project planning. Initial government agency consultation was conducted either over the telephone or in meetings to discuss the project description, the Terms of Reference (ToR) requirements, infrastructure and services and introducing the project team.

Formal project consultation with government agencies will continuously occur over the course of the EIS process via telephone discussions or agency briefings in both Mackay and Brisbane.

Government agencies consulted were:

- Coordinator-General
- Department of Infrastructure
- Department of Natural Resources and Water (DNRW)
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries
- Sarina Shire Council (SCC)
- Department of Communities
- Department of Local Government Planning, Sport and Recreation
- Department of State Development
- Department of Housing

2.2 Community consultation

Cane farms are a prominent feature surrounding the JYRUP site. Previous developments by QR of the Goonyella system and Jilalan operations have established QR's relationships with local businesses, canegrowers, residents, landowners and the SSC.

Consultation with the community is an important part of the EIS process. Implementation of the Plan during all stages of the Project will ensure that feedback received from the local community will be sufficiently, where practicable, evaluated and responded to by QR.

Community consultation and dissemination of information will be carried out utilising various methods of communication, including distributing information via posting of newsletters through SSC and local resources, uploading information on the QR website, displaying posters at SSC, QR and Connell Wagner/Connell Hatch offices in Mackay and authorised media releases.

2.3 Traditional Owner consultation

The cultural heritage component of the EIS will largely involve consultation and liaison with identified Traditional Owner groups (Yuibera and Wiri #2 People) within and adjacent of the project area. Consultation activities will be in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*.

Proposed consultation with Traditional Owners' regarding Aboriginal cultural heritage for the EIS is as follows:

- Confirm Native Title Claimants and Traditional Owners for the project area.
- Telephone discussions to brief Traditional Owners on the Project.
- Send letters ("written notice") which provide project introduction and invites Aboriginal Parties to be involved in a cultural heritage study and development of the Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP).
- Onsite meetings and/or walk through of the project area with Traditional Owners representatives.
- Cultural heritage survey of the project area.
- Develop the draft CHMP.
- CHMP assessment and approval by DNRW.

QR will ensure that pertinent information and all relevant issues will be conveyed to the EIS project team and Traditional Owners throughout the EIS process.

3. EIS consultation activities

A Communication Activity Plan forms part of this Plan and provides an overview of the active consultation strategy clearly defining the activity/purpose, the timing and target dates, the target audience for delivery, the party responsible for delivering the activity, the communication method and any QR approval requirements. The Communication Activity Plan was developed in accordance with recommendations presented in the ToR for the Project.

A range of submissions were received in the form of telephone calls, faxes, emails and other written communication during consultation. Throughout the EIS process, informal and formal meetings were held with key stakeholders such as government agencies, SSC, Traditional Owners, residents, canegrowers and local businesses to discuss details of the Project and any issues or concerns relating to the JYRUP. Meetings will continue to be held throughout the approval process.

Table 3.1 summarises the stakeholder group, the issue/topic and the consultation activity undertaken to facilitate project communication and consultation objectives. The Jilalan Project Update newsletters are provided in Appendix B.

Table 3.1 EIS consultation activities

Date	Consultation activity	Stakeholder	Issue/Topic
14 November 2006	Traffic Study meeting	Council Canegrowers Association Main Roads CSR – Mill and Fertiliser Plant Connell Hatch	To discuss Council's request regarding the proposed traffic study of the occupational and public level crossing from the ports to south of Yukon
22 November 2006	Landowner meeting	Ron & Lester Gurnett Mervyn and Kevin Keating Don Breen	Land requirements for the Project
23 November 2006	Landowner meeting	Sammut family Ray Keating	Land requirements for the Project
6 February 2007	Traffic Study meeting	Council Canegrowers Association Main Roads CSR – Mill & Fertiliser Plant Connell Hatch	Issue the draft copy of the traffic study with comments required back to Connell Hatch by the close of business 14 February 2007
26 February 2007	Traffic Study	Council Canegrowers Association Main Roads CSR – Mill & Fertiliser Plant Connell Hatch	Issue the final copy of the traffic report that addressed the comments received from the stakeholders post the issue of the draft traffic report on the 6 February 2007
15 March 2007	Progress meeting	Canegrowers Association	Update on the Project
23 April 2007	Landowner meeting	Sammut family Gurnett family Baillie family	Project update and discuss land requirements for the current concept and to instruct them to carry out valuations on their land
24 April 2007	Landowner meeting	Keating family	Project update and discuss land requirements for the current concept and to instruct them to carry out valuations on their land

Date	Consultation activity	Stakeholder	Issue/Topic
28 May 2007	500, A4 printed, Jilalan Project Update, newsletter	Distribution to: Sarina Shire Council – Annette Harbron CSR – Brett Jurd Local landholders through Canegrowers: Gurnett's, Sammut's, Keating's, Schmidtke and Baillie QR Staff onsite through Jilalan Yard Manager (Ian Boles) Canegrowers Association Connell Hatch (Mackay Office)	Introduction of the Project and the EIS process
29 May 2007	A4 printed Jilalan Project Update newsletters	Distribution to: Connell Hatch, (Brisbane) The Mackay Conservation Group – The Environment Centre	Project update
12 June 2007	EIS meeting	Sarina Shire Council	To outline the EIS process to the Council followed by an government agency briefing
12 June 2007	Letter	Traditional Owner groups: Yuibera People Wiri #2 People	"Written Notice"- invitation to Traditional Owners to participate in the development of proposed CHMP as part of the JYRUP EIS
20 June 2007	Meeting	Sarina Shire Council	Meeting with the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer regarding the draft ToR and the proposed accommodation village for the construction of the JYRUP
4 July 2007	Project Update	CSR – Mill & Fertiliser Plant	To outline the proposed options for the JYRUP and the effects to the CSR operation
4 July 2007	Project Update	CSR – Mill & Fertiliser Plant Baillie family	To outline the proposed options for the JYRUP and the effects to the CSR operation and the land requirements from the Baillie's
17 July 2007	Meeting	Environmental Protection Agency – Mackay Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries – Mackay DNRW – Mackay	To discuss the Plane Creek Crossing option. Outline of option details given, including other waterway works that may be required

Date	Consultation activity	Stakeholder	Issue/Topic
13 August 2007	Meeting	Yuibera People QR Connell Hatch	Meeting with Traditional Owners group. Discussion regarding the development of the CHMP and survey of the project area
23 August 2007	Mackay Information Day	Mackay and Sarina community	Public information display (refer Table 4.1)
24 August 2007	Meeting	Wiri #2 People QR Connell Hatch	Meeting with Traditional Owners group. Discussion regarding the development of the CHMP and survey of the project area
27 August 2007	Site visit	Wiri #2 People QR Connell Hatch	Site visit with Traditional Owners to conduct Cultural Heritage assessment over the project area
28 August 2007	Site visit	Yuibera People QR Connell Hatch	Site visit with Traditional Owners group to conduct Cultural Heritage assessment over the project area
23 August 2007	A4 printed Jilalan Project Update newsletters	Distribution to: Sarina Shire Council CSR Local landholders through Canegrowers: Gurnett's, Sammut's, Keating's, Schmidtke and Baillie QR Staff on site through Jilalan Yard Manager Canegrowers Association Connell Hatch (Mackay Office)	Project update

4. Issues summary

This section summarises the key issues raised by the key stakeholders and agencies during the consultation process.

4.1 Key community and stakeholder Issues

A range of concerns or issues were raised by community and stakeholder groups during the early development of the Project EIS. These issues are discussed further below and are to be supplemented with information collected during the EIS public display period.

The main issues or concerns were as follows:

- Construction impacts (weed management, noise and dust)
- Traffic and road safety
- Drainage issues
- Cultural Heritage
- Socio-economic impacts (local businesses, accommodation and land use)
- Property (land acquisition)

A summary of the issues raised by community members, stakeholders and agencies during consultation for this Project is provided below. Appendix A provides further details on the issues raised.

4.1.1 Traffic and road safety

- Traffic and safety at the Oonooie access road was an issue in addition to traffic impacts in the peak cane season (mid August).
- The SSC noted issues regarding access for cane traffic (time to mill issue).
- Concern over the heights of underpasses (for farm equipment and machinery) and level crossings within and adjacent to the project area.
- Road closures and associated timing issues.

4.1.2 Drainage

- Drainage issues relating to construction and operation of the Project were raised by the SSC and canegrowers.
- They would like to see further liaison with the local canegrowers in relation to this matter.

4.1.3 Construction impacts

- Weed issues adjacent to existing corridor during construction and operations were raised, as was the suggestion for the need for the implementation of a Weed Management Plan.
- The SSC noted issues regarding noise (buffers to existing dwellings and landowners). A statement on buffer distance to the nearest future residential development was requested for inclusion in the EIS.
- Dust management was of concern.

4.1.4 Socio-economic

- Accommodation issues, particularly during construction, are of a major concern for the SSC. Impacts relating from this issue focus on tourism, local housing, social behaviour and project workforce segregation, availability of adequate amenities, socio-economic impacts and future property development.
- The existences of three community/local newspapers were also identified as being potentially affected by the Project.

- There were development concerns for local businesses (eg golf course, canegrowers).
- CSR/canegrowers were looking at avenues to develop the local cane industry further within the project area.

4.1.5 Property impacts

- The canegrowers consulted were concerned about the loss of cane land.

4.1.6 Cultural heritage

- The existence of a Memorial site near Smyths Road was noted.

4.1.7 Other

- CSR has commissioned an independent EIS to be undertaken on property east of the Oonooie access road.

Table 4.1 presents the comments or queries from various stakeholders that were received during the Jilalan EIS Information Day held in the Sarina Leagues Club on 23 August 2007. The purpose of the information day was to display current project information and address, where possible, any queries that arose during the event from interested parties and stakeholders.

Table 4.1 Jilalan EIS Information Day – Summary of stakeholder comments/queries

Stakeholder	Comment/Query
Former QR Jilalan worker and resident on Armstrong Beach Road	Access concerns during construction and operation, emergency exits inside the sheds and a general interest of the Project
Sarina resident	General interest in the Project
Merv Keating	Concerns with noise and coal dust: shunting noise can be heard from his property – how are QR going to manage it
Lester Gurnett	Concerned with noise, dust and vibration of trains. Wants Gurnett Road sealed and was concerned about traffic issues at Armstrong Beach Road in addition to concerns regarding cane farm acquisition.
QR Gang, employee	General interest from track system. QR Gang employee currently participating in work within the Goonyella system, but is more interested in Missing Link Programme
Annette Harbron (SSC)	Concerns with wording on Newsletter #2 regarding SSC involvement in accommodation village. Wanted updates on the Project
Alan Kotchevaitkin	Raised the 'Grand Canyon' issue on his property
Willy Creek east resident	Significant concerns with noise and dust, wants Gurnett Road sealed. Happy that Armstrong Beach Road is being upgraded (not currently safe). Raised coal dust issues at HPSC and DBCT
Sarina resident (east of Tony Sammut)	Happy about the Armstrong Beach Road upgrade and the roundabouts. Concerned about vibration
Canegrowers Association	Interested in any project updates. Continually raised importance of loss of cane land. General interest in environmental findings of EIS

4.2 Key agency issues

Comments received from key agencies and regulators indicate support for the Project and proposed works. Initial contact with government agencies identified issues and concerns that will require further discussion during the detailed design phase to develop practicable outcomes.

The main comments received were in relation to the following issues:

- Water and groundwater
- Vegetation clearing – weed management
- Flood management
- Erosion and sediment controls
- Dust and noise controls
- Coastal management of tidal areas
- Land resource use and acid sulphate soils (ASS)
- Traffic
- Flora and fauna management
- Landowners

4.2.1 Water and groundwater

- Define watercourses clearly, including flood management.
- Water permits may be required (for dust suppression) if water from creeks and/or groundwater is used.
- Undefined creek near Oonooie access road.
- Stream diversion licence for Elizabeth Creek under the *Water Act 2000*. Approval may take up to six months..
- Flood management will need to include communication with SSC, Department of Emergency Services and DNRW.
- Use of groundwater will require a permit.

4.2.2 Flora and fauna

- Regional Ecosystems (REs) are to be preserved where possible. A clear definition of project footprint is required for vegetation assessment.
- Weed management.
- Critical habitat mapping of the northern section is needed.
- Squirrel gliders are known in the northern section.
- Opposite Armstrong Beach Road there is Essential Habitat Area.

4.2.3 Coast management

- Coastal areas need to be identified. Tidal plains/marine plant limit information through desktop and survey work.
- Northern section: False water rat and crabs would be of concern considering the existing environment. Stormwater management is highly important.
- Location of Great Barrier Reef Marine Park boundary to be confirmed.

4.2.4 Land resource use

- Loss of Good Quality Agricultural Land (GOAL) will need to be justified for the Project.
- ASS – filling component and methodology require particular attention using the State Planning Policy (SPP2/02).
- Landowner near Willy Creek has undergone revegetation adjacent to Willy Creek. There are local benefits to preserving and enhancing this riparian vegetation.

5. EIS public display activities

The EIS public display and comment period will be from 24 September to 22 October 2007 (ie four weeks). Further input and information from the public and stakeholders will be encouraged during this activity. Any feedback received during this period will be reviewed, assessed and incorporated into relevant sections of the Supplementary EIS report, if required, in due course.

Information about the EIS findings will be on public display at key locations within the area. Project team members will be available at the information display booths to answer queries relating to the Project and collect feedback from the community. Details of the public display will be advertised in local newspapers, the project website and via direct mail to those registered on the project database.

6. Conclusion

From the EIS consultation process to date, it appears that feedback has been generally positive. Comments and/or feedback received from key community, stakeholder groups and government agencies focus on potential environmental and socio-economic impacts resulting from the Project.

Community and stakeholder groups were primarily concerned about environmental impacts such as noise, dust and loss of vegetation. The potential influence that the Project may have on the local economy through businesses, tourism and land uses, such as cane growing, was of particular concern.

The government agency comments were mostly in relation to potential environmental impacts and design requirements of the Project.

The consultation activities have allowed any issues or concerns to be raised, whilst informing the community/stakeholders at an early stage of the planning process. These issues will be incorporated into the Project design requirements and into the relevant parts of the EIS through the development of appropriate mitigation strategies that address environmental and socio-economic impacts.

Appendix A

Summary of Key Issues

Appendix A

#	Date	Agency/ Stakeholder	Purpose	Summary of Issues - noted	Addressed in EIS Chapter
1	25 May 2007	Canegrowers (Mackay)		Loss of cane land	4. Land use, planning and approvals
				CSR/Canegrowers looking to develop local cane industry within area	15. Socio-economic environment 4. Land use, planning and approvals
				Traffic and safety at Oonooie access Road	12. Transport 16. Hazard and risk
				Traffic count in peak cane season (mid August). Two weeks notice required of CSR/Canegrowers are to recalculate traffic numbers.	12. Transport
				Drainage issues (construction and operation). Liaise with local canegrowers.	7. Hydrology/hydraulics and surface water quality 2. Description of the project
				Weed issues adjacent to existing corridor (construction and operation). Weed management will be implemented.	6. Nature Conservation 17. Environmental Management Plan
				Statement on buffer distance to nearest future residential development needed in EIS (Land Use and EMP).	5. Land use, planning and approvals 17. Environmental Management Plan
				Memorial site near Smyths Road	13. Cultural heritage
				CSR has commissioned an independent EIS to be undertaken on property east of the Oonooie access road	Noted
2	25 May 2007	Department of Natural Resources and Water (Mackay)	Introductory meeting	Road closures and associated timing issues	12. Transport
				Stream diversion licence for Elizabeth Creek under the Water Act 2000. Approval may take up to 6months.	7. Hydrology/hydraulics and surface water quality

#	Date	Agency/ Stakeholder	Purpose	Summary of Issues - noted	Addressed in EIS Chapter
				Undefined creek near Oonooie Road. DNRW to confirm after a site visit.	7. Hydrology/hydraulics and surface water quality 2. Description of the project
				Vegetation Clearing – Regional Ecosystems to be preserved where possible. Project to provide clear definition of footprint for vegetation assessment by Grant Paterson (Senior Vegetation Officer).	6. Nature Conservation
				Water quality – define water courses clearly, including flood management. Water permits will be required for dust suppression if water from creeks and/or groundwater is used.	7. Hydrology/hydraulics and surface water quality 8. Groundwater
				Riverine Protection Permits are self accessible by QR.	Noted
				Groundwater – use of groundwater will require a permit.	8. Groundwater
				Land resource – GOAL removal will need to be justified for the project. ASS – filling component and methodology require particular attention using the State Planning Policy. (Peter Muller, Senior Soils Officer, can assist soils/mapping/ASS)	4. Land use, planning and approvals 5. Topography, geology and soils
				Flood management will need to include communication with SSC, Department of Emergency Services and DNRW.	16. Hazard and risk
				Cultural Heritage officer (Isabelle Tarago) is located in Rockhampton office	Noted
				Source of fill will need to be included in EIS	2. Description of the project
				DPIF respond to pest/weed management issues	6. Nature conservation
				Michael Fowke/Tony Lill (Senior Land Officers) will assist with road closures and property issues	Noted

#	Date	Agency/ Stakeholder	Purpose	Summary of Issues - noted	Addressed in EIS Chapter
3	25 May 2007	EPA (Mackay)	Project introduction	EPA air, noise and water specialists are Brisbane based	Noted
				Richard Stewart (DPIF) will assess approvals regarding fisheries and marine plants	Noted
				EPA needs clear understanding of design to appreciate construction/operation issues. Appropriate erosion and sediment controls and dust and noise controls will be necessary.	9. Air Environment 10. Noise and vibration 5. Topography, geology and soils
				Coastal Management Areas need to be identified. Tidal plains/marine plant limit information through desktop and survey work.	Noted
				EPA Guidelines on engineering works for working in tidal areas. Located on web.	1. Introduction
				North section, false water rat and crabs would be of concern considering the existing environment; as a result stormwater management is highly important. Critical habitat mapping is needed also.	2. Description of the project
				Squirrel gliders are also known to occur in this area.	9. Nature conservation
				Landowner near Willy Creek is very pro-environmental. Landowner has undergone revegetation adjacent to Willy Creek, where there is significant vegetation. There are local benefits with preserving and enhancing this riparian vegetation.	9. Nature conservation
				Connectivity is important issue	Noted
				Opposite Armstrong Beach Road there is Essential Habitat Area	9. Nature conservation
ID to confirm location of Marine Park boundary	2. Description of the project				

#	Date	Agency/ Stakeholder	Purpose	Summary of Issues - noted	Addressed in EIS Chapter
4	25 May 2007	Sarina Shire Council (Mackay)		Drainage	2. Description of the project
				Access for cane traffic (time to mill issue)	12. Transport
				Loss of sugar cane is major concern in community	15. Socio-economic environment
				Noise (buffers to existing dwellings) and dust issue management	10. Noise and vibration
				Heights of underpasses (for farm equipment and machinery)	16. Hazard and risk
				Level crossings within and adjacent project area	16. Hazard and risk
				Buffers for landowners	10. Noise and vibration
				Golf course has approached SSC to develop residential properties within their property boundary. Impact concerns (visual etc.) of Jilalan on adjoining properties. Explore development requirements to not develop within xx metres of JRY.	4. Land use, planning and approvals 15. Socio-economic environment
			Construction accommodation is a major issue and will need to be dealt with separately.	300-400 construction staff is expected for the upgrade	15. Socio-economic environment
				Approximately 18 months for construction, for December 2009 completion.	2. Description of the project

#	Date	Agency/ Stakeholder	Purpose	Summary of Issues - noted	Addressed in EIS Chapter
				Concerns over work camp behaviour, previously this style accommodation creates anti-social behaviour (dry camps may be required).	2. Description of the project
				SSC prefer to retain camps in Sarina and do not recommend Mackay.	2. Description of the project
				Accommodation needs to be integrated into existing community – SSC has not decided what is preferred.	2. Description of the project
				Short term construction work accommodation is ok but long term strategies need to be explored, ie holiday parks (tourism benefits).	2. Description of the project 15. Socio-economic environment
				Alligator Creek or Lot 10 Cemetery Road (near Showgrounds) is a potential work camp location (approx. 250 lots, and 79 lots in Stages 1 and 2). Self contained facilities. Need to consider car park issues, family lodgement of works, etc.	2. Description of the project
				Construction camps are absorbing all rental properties in community which is a concern.	2. Description of the project 15. Socio-economic environment
				Councillors to advice on the type and form that they prefer	2. Description of the project
				Minimal areas left in the shire to redevelop	2. Description of the project
				COG/Old State direction on work camp solutions? DLGP draft report on impact of mining camps (field survey).	Noted
				CH/QR need to speak with Councillors, SSC executive management team re work camps (SSC meeting 12/6/07 possible).	Noted
				QR will need to identify potential numbers, location and style of accommodation to discuss with Council	2. Description of the project
				Mackay Show Day 21/6/07. Sarina Festival will occur for the next two weeks.	Noted

#	Date	Agency/ Stakeholder	Purpose	Summary of Issues - noted	Addressed in EIS Chapter
				Agency, SSC, QR and CH meeting locations – Salonika Beach or Golf Course (preferred option).	Noted
				Library may be ideal location for static display or vacant shop fronts possibility (near IGA).	Noted
				SSC recommend information day/evening. Evening session would likely attract more stakeholders.	Noted
			Local Newspapers	The Siren: independent newspaper, issued once a month, available Sarina wide.	15. Socio-economic environment
				The Daily Mercury	
				Sarina Mid Week – delivered free to residence	
				Two planners in SSC, including Annette. SSC will assess Development Applications and not outsource them.	
5	12 June 2007	Sarina Shire Council (Sarina)	Work camp discussion input from SSC for Jilalan upgrade project.	Report outlining SSC preferred options for Jilalan work camps will be provided 25 June 2007.	Noted
			Annette Harbron provided SSC initial concerns and comments regarding work camps for Jilalan	Local dust and noise issues	9. Air environment 10. Noise and vibration
				Impacts on cane land – minimise	2. Description of the project 4. Land use, planning and approvals
				Impact on surrounding land/buffer issues	4. Land use, planning and approvals
				Donger style camp is not preferred	Noted

#	Date	Agency/ Stakeholder	Purpose	Summary of Issues - noted	Addressed in EIS Chapter
				Community benefits from camp, ie local employment, local businesses etc.	15. Socio-economic environment
				Tourism facility is an option, ie upgrade existing caravan park	15. Socio-economic environment
				Preferred locality not yet identified	Noted
				Retain facilities above and below ground	Noted
				Workers will have access to local shops and not be isolated	15. Socio-economic environment
				Social impacts – integrate workers but have minimal impact on community, ie traffic impacts, avoid anti-social behaviour, involve local police in early stages.	15. Socio-economic environment
				Traffic impact assessment must be captured in the EIS (SSC have maintenance concerns).	12. Transport
				Bailey property owner concerns regarding traffic options.	12. Transport
				Land purchasing involvement with SSC (give SSC the QR website specifically for the current footprint).	2. Description of the project
				Underpass on Smyths Road – traffic concerns. New machinery heights must be taken into account.	16. Hazard and risk
<p>Advisory agencies: DNRW – Department of Natural Resources and Water COG – Co-ordinator General EPA – Environmental Protection Agency</p> <p>Community Stakeholders: Canegrowers</p> <p>Local government: SSC - Sarina Shire Council</p>					

Appendix B

Jilalan Project Update Newsletters



Project Update

Number 1

Jilalan Rail Yard Upgrade

June 2007

As part of a significant infrastructure program to improve the Goonyella Rail System, QR will be making a significant investment in the upgrade of the existing Jilalan Rail Yard. These works will enhance the capacity of the coal rail network and allow the further growth of coal exports from the Bowen Basin.

A Project of State Significance

On 13 May 2007 Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Infrastructure Anna Bligh, announced the Coordinator-General's declaration of the proposed Jilalan Rail Yard Upgrade as a 'project of state significance' for Queensland.

Owned and operated by QR, the Jilalan Rail Yard Upgrade Project will require an independently researched Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as part of its state significance status under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*.

The study was recently commissioned and has been awarded to environmental and planning consultants, Connell Hatch.

Environmental Impact Study

As part of the EIS Connell Hatch will identify potential environmental, social and economic impacts associated with the upgrade.

They will investigate the potential impacts on the environment previously outlined in the Initial Advice Statement. These potential impacts include:

- clearing of vegetation within the area of the rail yard

- remnant regional ecosystem areas adjoining the proposed construction area
- water quality of creeks crossed by rail lines within the rail yard
- air and noise quality from rail operations and construction activities taking into account impacts of adjacent industry and road traffic
- traffic effects on local roads from the new development
- visual amenity

Connell Hatch will also be addressing the Aboriginal and cultural heritage impacts.



Aerial view Jilalan Rail Yards



The Jilalan Yard Upgrade

The Jilalan Rail Yard Upgrade Project is designed to improve the throughput in the Goonyella Rail System and to match the capacity provided by other partners in the coal supply chain.

As a joint above and below rail initiative, the proposed upgrades include:

- provision of new mainline tracks
- extending the length of the existing rail yard tracks to handle longer trains
- extending the capacity of maintenance and provisioning facilities in the yard

The upgrade will provide the ability to handle up to 584 trains movements per week compared to fewer than 390 currently.

The proposed expansion of the yard will incorporate:

- two new bypass tracks with provision for a third
- two new provisioning tracks
- a new provisioning facility
- a new wagon maintenance facility
- modifications to the existing yard and maintenance tracks

The works will also include upgrades to the local road system around Jilalan, including the road crossings of the existing yard.

EIS Timelines

Over the next few months the Connell Hatch EIS project team will be assessing the existing environment and the potential impacts of the proposed works and will provide appropriate mitigation measures.

The study is currently underway and is scheduled for completion in the last quarter of 2007.

We anticipate that the EIS will be available for public display and comment in late September 2007.

Further Project Development

QR is continuing with the next stage of the project development. This will be done in parallel with and incorporating the EIS findings.

QR is presently undertaking a selection process for the designer and constructor to participate in the upgrade alliance and we expect to appoint and announce the alliance team in August 2007.

This project is yet to be fully scoped and gain final approval from QR's Board and Shareholding Ministers.

Depending on the outcomes of the next stages of project development, including the EIS, QR anticipates that construction will commence March 2008 and is scheduled for completion in December 2009.



QR coal trains at Jilalan Rail Yards

Contact Us

QR is committed to keeping the local community informed of our progress on this important project through regular updates.

For EIS enquiries and issues: Contact the Connell Hatch Mackay Office (Alissa Roxburgh) on (07) 4951 3500.

For project development enquiries: Contact Kevyn Neale, QR Project Manager on (07) 3235 5033 or by email: coalrailinfo@qr.com.au





Project Update

Number 2

Jilalan Rail Yard Upgrade

August 2007

As part of a significant infrastructure program to improve the Goonyella Rail System, QR will be making a significant investment in the upgrade of the existing Jilalan Rail Yard. These works will enhance the capacity of the coal rail network and allow the further growth of coal exports from the Bowen Basin.

Environmental Impact Study (EIS)

As a declared project of State Significance, the Jilalan Rail Yard Upgrade Project's EIS assessment has been underway since April 2007.

Environmental consultants Connell Hatch, has identified a range of environmental, social and safety factors and the potential impacts of the proposed Jilalan Rail Yard Upgrade.

Connell Hatch has consulted with local landholders, Indigenous groups, industry and government regulatory agencies to identify issues and assess the impacts.

Research activities have included:

- terrestrial and aquatic flora and fauna surveys
- water quality assessment and sampling
- visual assessments
- social impact assessment
- traffic assessment
- waste management assessment
- background noise monitoring
- soil sampling and assessment
- air quality assessment

Ongoing consultation with traditional owners will help develop a Cultural Heritage Management Plan.

The final EIS is scheduled for public display at the Sarina Shire Library and at the Sarina Shopping Centre in early October for a period of four weeks.



Invertebrate sampling taken at Elizabeth Creek

The Coal Stream Alliance - Jilalan

QR has teamed up with construction and design partners to form a Jilalan delivery Alliance. The Alliance will ensure that the Jilalan Rail Yard

Upgrade is achieved within the tight timeframe and that the best construction and design solution for the community, environment and coal supply chain partners is delivered.

The Coal Stream Alliance – Jilalan comprises QR, Macmahon Holdings Limited, MVM Rail, Connell Wagner, Hatch and Parsons Brinckerhoff.

The Alliance is tasked with fully scoping the Jilalan Rail Yard Upgrade, including train maintenance.



Proposed Design

The new yard is designed to accommodate trains approximately 2km in length. The length of the yard is governed by the need to provision trains in both directions. This means that a full length of train needs to be allowed on each side of the provisioning shed.

As an above and below rail initiative, the proposed upgrade includes:

- provision of new mainline tracks
- expanding the capacity of maintenance facilities
- improving the capacity of provisioning facilities in the yard

The upgrade will provide the ability to handle up to 584 trains movements per week compared to fewer than 390 currently.

The proposed expansion of the yard will incorporate:

- two new bypass tracks with provision for a third
- two new provisioning tracks
- a new provisioning facility
- a new wagon maintenance facility
- a new station building
- three new train storage tracks
- modifications to the existing yard and maintenance tracks

The works will also include upgrades to the local road system around Jilalan, including road crossings over the existing yard.

Further Project Development

The Jilalan Rail Yard Upgrade is currently at the concept design stage. Over the next few months the Coal Stream Alliance - Jilalan will fully scope the project.

Important milestones and considerations to be resolved by the end of October include:

- Location of construction village accommodation
- EIS outcomes and mitigation strategies
- Land negotiations

Over the next few weeks Alliance staff will be undertaking geotechnical surveys along the proposed rail alignment.

Construction Village

The Sarina Shire Council, the Sarina Golf Club and the Coal Stream Alliance – Jilalan are currently discussing the location of the construction village on site at the Golf Club.

If successful, long-term upgrades of the Club will be made for the future enjoyment of the community when the project is completed.

Contact Us

QR encourages feedback from the community. If you would like to share your views, please fill out the feedback form below or contact us by telephone or email.

For EIS enquiries and issues: Contact the Connell Hatch Brisbane Office, Yvette Weber on (07) 3135 8036.

For project development enquiries: Contact QR on 1800 033 881 or email: coalrailinfo@qr.com.au

Have Your Say

Appendix C

Mackay Canegrowers Submission



CANEGROWERS
PLANE CREEK AREA

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**JILALAN RAIL YARD UPGRADE PROJECT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

Mr Kevyn Neale
Project Manager
COALRAIL
Infrastructure Program

Cc: Stephen Cole
coles@conwag.com

Mackay Canegrowers Ltd is aware of negotiations between a number of Plane Creek cane growers and Queensland Rail representatives which will result in a significant area of cane land being removed from production.

CANEGROWERS, in association with the Plane Creek Productivity Services Ltd and CSR Plane Creek Mill Management, is actively supportive of the further development of the cane land base supplying CSR Plane Creek Mill. This is essential to the sustainability of the sugar industry in the Plane Creek area.

The initial loss of approximately 100ha of prime agricultural land located in close proximity to CSR Plane Creek Mill will impact on the longer term viability of the mill area with an estimated 10,000 tonnes of cane per annum no longer being produced. This has major financial implications for the local industry. Additional pressure will also be placed on the mill transport system which will be forced to obtain cane supplies from distant areas thus increasing factory costs.

The viability of a number of farming parcels is also under threat with the impending construction of the QR line. This situation will have a more critical impact on some growers who will incur substantial losses in production and has the potential to remove the balance of their lands from cane production since the economic viability of their farming units will no longer be sustainable.

Harvesting operations will also face challenges with the reduced tonnage available for some harvesting contractors.

All cane production losses will be significant to the continued operation of the Plane Creek sugar industry and every effort should be made to ensure they are kept to the absolute minimum.

Mary Ann Neilsen
Manager / Industry Management

17 August 2007