



Appendix A

Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements checklist



A.1 Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements

Table A.1 identifies where the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) issues on 3 April 2020 (SSD-10417) have been addressed in the EIS.

Table A.1 SEARs requirements

SEARs requirements	Addressed in EIS
General requirements	
The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the development must comply with the requirements in Clauses 6 and 7 of Schedule 2 of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000</i> .	
In particular, the EIS must include:	
• a stand-alone executive summary;	Refer to the executive summary of this EIS
• a full description of the development, including:	Refer to Chapter 2
– the resources to be extracted, including the amount, type and composition;	Refer to Section 2.3.1 and Section 2.3.2
– the site layout and extraction plan, including cross-sectional plans;	Refer to Figure 2.1
– the production process and processing activities, including the in-flow and out-flow of materials and points of discharge to the environment;	Refer to Section 2.3.3
– surface infrastructure and facilities (including any infrastructure that would be required for the development, but the subject of a separate approvals process);	Refer to Chapter 2
– a waste (overburden, rejects, tailings etc) management strategy;	Refer to Section 2.3.4(ii)
– a waste management strategy;	Refer to Section 2.3.9
– a rehabilitation strategy to apply during, and after completion of, extraction operations, and proposed final use of site; and	Refer to Section 2.3.14 and Section 6.10
– the likely interactions between the development and any existing, approved or proposed development in the vicinity of the site;	Refer to Chapter 6
• a strategic justification of the development focusing on site selection and the suitability of the proposed site;	Refer to Section 7.3
• a list of any approvals that must be obtained before the development may commence;	Refer to Section 4.4
• an assessment of the likely impacts of the development on the environment, focusing on the key issues identified below, including:	Refer to Chapter 6
– a description of the existing environment likely to be affected by the development, using sufficient baseline data;	Refer to Section 1.4
– an assessment of the likely impacts of all stages of the development, including any cumulative impacts, taking into consideration any relevant laws, environmental planning instruments, guidelines, policies, plans and industry codes of practice;	Refer to Chapter 6
– an assessment of any potential land use conflicts, particularly with regard to land use zones in the <i>Dubbo Local Environmental Plan 2011</i> and how these interactions could be managed;	Refer to Section 6.9.4(ii)
– a description of the measures that would be implemented to avoid, minimise, mitigate and/or offset the likely impacts of the development, and an assessment of:	Refer to Chapter 6 and Appendix C

Table A.1 SEARs requirements

SEARs requirements	Addressed in EIS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ whether these measures are consistent with industry best practice, and represent the full range of reasonable and feasible mitigation measures that could be implemented; ○ the likely effectiveness of these measures; and ○ whether contingency measures would be necessary to manage any residual risks; and 	Refer to Chapter 6 and Appendix C
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● description of the measures that would be implemented to monitor and report on the environmental performance of the development; 	Refer to Chapter 6 and Appendix C
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● a consolidated summary of all the proposed environmental management and monitoring measures, identifying all the commitments in the EIS; 	Refer to Chapter 6 and Appendix C
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● consideration of the development against all relevant environmental planning instruments (including Part 3 of the <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007</i>); 	Refer to Section 6.9.4(ii)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the reasons why the development should be approved, having regard to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – relevant matters for consideration under the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>, including the objects of the Act; 	Refer to Section 4.2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the biophysical, economic and social impacts of the development, including the principles of ecologically sustainable development; 	Refer to Chapter 3 and Chapter 7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the suitability of the site with respect to potential land use conflicts with existing land use zones under the <i>Dubbo Local Environmental Plan 2011</i>; 	Refer to Section 6.9.4(ii)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – feasible alternatives to the development (and its key components); including the consequences of not carrying out the development; 	Refer Section 1.6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● a signed declaration from the author of the EIS, certifying that the information contained within the document is neither false or misleading. 	Refer to the signed declaration at the beginning of this EIS
While not exhaustive, Attachment 1 contains a list of some of the environmental planning instruments, guidelines, policies, and plans that may be relevant to the environmental assessment of this development.	Refer Chapter 6
In addition to the matters set out in Schedule 1 of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000</i> , the development application must be accompanied by a signed report from a suitably qualified expert that includes an accurate estimate of the capital investment value (as defined in Clause 3 of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000</i>) of the development, including details of all the assumptions and components from which the capital investment value calculation is derived.	Refer to the signed declaration at the beginning of this EIS Refer Section 6.13.4(iii)
Key issues	
The EIS must address the following key issues:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● noise and blasting – including: 	

Table A.1 SEARs requirements

SEARs requirements	Addressed in EIS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – a detailed assessment of the likely construction, operational and off-site transport noise impacts of the development in accordance with the <i>Interim Construction Noise Guideline</i>, <i>NSW Noise Policy for Industry</i> and the <i>NSW Road Noise Policy</i> respectively, and having regard to the <i>Voluntary Land Acquisition and Mitigation Policy</i>; – proposed blasting hours, frequency and methods; – a detailed assessment of the likely blasting impacts of the development (including ground vibrations, overpressure, flyrock, visual and fumes/odour) on people, animals, buildings/structures, infrastructure and significant natural features, having regard to the relevant ANZEC guidelines; and – a detailed consideration of cumulative impacts of developments in the area, and having particular regard to potential impacts on sensitive receivers to the west; 	Refer to Section 6.2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • air quality – including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – a detailed assessment of potential construction and operational air quality impacts, in accordance with the <i>Approved Methods for the Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants in NSW</i>, and with a particular focus on dust emissions including PM2.5 and PM10, and having regards to the <i>Voluntary Land Acquisition and Mitigation Policy</i>; and – a detailed assessment of potential construction and operational air quality impacts, in accordance with the <i>Approved Methods for the Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants in NSW</i>, and with a particular focus on dust emissions including PM2.5 and PM10, and having regards to the <i>Voluntary Land Acquisition and Mitigation Policy</i>; and 	Refer to Section 6.3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – a detailed consideration of cumulative impacts of developments in the area, having particular regard to sensitive receivers to the west; 	Refer to Section 6.3.4(iii)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • water – including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – a detailed site water balance, including a description of site water demands, water disposal methods (inclusive of volume and frequency of any water discharges), water supply infrastructure and water storage structures; – identification of any licensing requirements or other approvals under the <i>Water Act 1912</i> and/or <i>Water Management Act 2000</i>; – demonstration that water for the construction and operation of the development can be obtained from an appropriately authorised and reliable supply in accordance with the operating rules of any relevant Water Sharing Plan (WSP); – a description of the measures proposed to ensure the development can operate in accordance with the requirements of any relevant WSP or water source embargo; – an assessment of any likely flooding impacts of the development; – an assessment of the likely impacts on the quality and quantity of existing surface and ground water resources, including a detailed assessment of proposed water discharge quantities and quality against receiving water quality and flow objectives; – an assessment of the likely impacts of the development on aquifers, watercourses, riparian land, water-related infrastructure, and other water users; and – a detailed description of the proposed water management system (including sewage), water monitoring program and other measures to mitigate surface and groundwater impacts; 	Refer to Section 6.7 for surface water Refer to Section 6.8 for groundwater
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • biodiversity – including: 	Refer to Section 6.4

Table A.1 SEARs requirements

SEARs requirements	Addressed in EIS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – accurate predictions of any vegetation clearing on site; – a detailed assessment of the likely biodiversity impacts of the development, paying particular attention to threatened species, populations and ecological communities and groundwater dependent ecosystems, undertaken in accordance with the <i>Biodiversity Assessment Methodology</i> and documented in a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report; and – a strategy to offset any residual impacts of the development in accordance with the <i>Biodiversity Offsets Scheme</i>; 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • heritage – including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – an assessment of the potential impacts on Aboriginal heritage (cultural and archaeological), including evidence of appropriate consultation with relevant Aboriginal communities/parties and documentation of the views of these stakeholders regarding the likely impact of the development on their cultural heritage; and – identification of historic heritage in the vicinity of the development and an assessment of the likelihood and significance of impacts on heritage items; 	<p>Refer to Section 6.5 for Aboriginal heritage</p> <p>Refer to Section 6.6 for historical heritage</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • traffic and transport – including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – accurate predictions of the road traffic generated by the construction and operation of the development, and any proposed traffic-generating developments in the area, including a description of the types of vehicles likely to be used for transportation of quarry products; – a detailed assessment of potential traffic impacts on the capacity, condition, safety and efficiency of the local and State road network (as identified above), including undertaking a road safety audit; – a detailed assessment of potential traffic impacts and interactions with nearby schools; and – a description of the measures that would be implemented to mitigate any impacts; 	<p>Refer to Section 6.11</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • land resources – including a detailed assessment of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – potential impacts on soils and land capability (including potential erosion and land contamination) and any proposed mitigation, management and remedial measures (as appropriate); – potential impacts on landforms (topography), paying particular attention to the long-term geotechnical stability of any new landforms (such as overburden dumps, bunds, etc); and – the compatibility of the development with other land uses in the vicinity of the development in accordance with the requirements in Clause 12 of <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007</i>, paying particular attention to the adjacent quarry and agricultural land use in the region; 	<p>Refer to Section 6.9</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • waste – including estimates of the quantity and nature of waste streams that would be generated or received by the development and any measures that would be implemented to minimise, manage or dispose of these waste streams; 	<p>Refer to Section 2.3.9</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hazards – including an assessment of the likely risks to public safety, paying particular attention to potential bushfire risks and the transport, handling and use of any hazardous or dangerous goods; 	<p>Refer to Section 6.14</p>

Table A.1 SEARs requirements

SEARs requirements	Addressed in EIS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • visual – including a detailed assessment of the likely visual impacts of the development (before, during and post-mining) on private landowners in the vicinity of the development and key vantage points in the public domain, paying particular attention to any new landforms; and 	Refer to Section 6.16
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • social – including a detailed assessment of the potential social impacts of the development that builds on the findings of the Social Impact Assessment Scoping Report, in accordance with the <i>Social impact assessment guideline for State significant mining, petroleum production and extractive industry development</i>, paying particular consideration to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – how the development might affect people’s way of life, community, access to and use of infrastructure, services and facilities, culture, health and wellbeing, surroundings, personal and property rights, decision-making systems, and fears and aspirations; – the principles in Section 1.3 of the guideline; – the review questions in Appendix D of the guideline; and 	Refer to Section 6.12
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • economic – including a detailed assessment of the likely economic impacts of the development, paying particular attention to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the significance of the resource; – the costs and benefits of the project; identifying whether the development as a whole would result in a net benefit to NSW, including consideration of fluctuation in commodity markets and exchange rates; and – the demand on local infrastructure and services; and 	Refer to Section 6.13
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rehabilitation – including the proposed rehabilitation strategy for the site having regard to the key principles in the <i>Strategic Framework for Mine Closure</i>, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – rehabilitation objectives, methodology, monitoring programs, performance standards and proposed completion criteria; – nominated final land use, having regard to any relevant strategic land use planning or resource management plans or policies; and – the potential for integrating this strategy with any other rehabilitation and/or offset strategies in the region. 	Refer to Section 6.10
<hr/>	
Consultation	
<p>During the preparation of the EIS, you must consult with relevant local, State and Commonwealth Government authorities, service providers, Aboriginal stakeholders, community groups and affected landowners.</p> <p>In particular you must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consult with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – affected landowners; – community groups; – local schools; – Aboriginal stakeholders; – Dubbo Regional Council; – Biodiversity and Conservation Division within the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (the Department) (including the Heritage Branch); – Environment Protection Authority; – Division of Resources and Geoscience within the Department; 	Refer to Chapter 5

Table A.1 SEARs requirements

SEARs requirements	Addressed in EIS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Department of Primary Industries (including Agriculture and Fisheries) within the Department; – Crown Lands and Water Divisions within the Department; – Forestry Corporation of NSW; – Heritage NSW; – Central West Local Land Services; – NSW Department of Education; – NSW Health; – Water NSW; – NSW Rural Fire Service; and – Transport for NSW; and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establish a Community Consultative Committee for the project in accordance with the <i>Community Consultative Committee Guidelines for State Significant Projects</i>, and consult with the committee during the preparation of the EIS; and 	
<p>The EIS must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • describe the consultation process used and demonstrate that effective consultation has occurred; • describe the key issues raised; • identify where the design of the development has been amended and/or mitigation proposed to address issues raised; and • otherwise demonstrate that issues raised have been appropriately addressed in the assessment. 	Refer to Chapter 5
<p>Further consultation after 2 years</p> <p>If you do not lodge a Development Application and EIS for the development within 2 years of the issue date of these SEARs, you must consult further with the Planning Secretary in relation to the preparation of the EIS.</p>	Noted