

Environmental Impact Statements – Waratah Coal’s China First Project



Aerial view of the location for the proposed Abbot Point Coal Terminal in the Abbot Point State Development Area

Client: Waratah Coal

Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) are critical documents for projects requiring government approval for major infrastructure. A well prepared EIS will highlight a project’s benefits and identify any potential impacts that may occur during construction, operation and decommissioning phases and how these impacts will be managed, allowing the approvals to be gained quicker through the assessment process. E3 Consult has highly experienced EIS reporting and project managers who are backed by a team of highly skilled technical specialists who undertake the studies required to meet the final Terms of Reference prepared by the Government.

E3 are currently undertaking a significant EIS for the Waratah Coal “China First” Coal Project in the Galilee Basin. Waratah intends to establish a new coal mine, railway, coal stockyards and port infrastructure to export high volatile, low sulphur steaming coal to international markets. The “China First” project incorporates a new coal mine located near Alpha in the Galilee Basin, Central Queensland; a rail network between the mine and the Abbot Point State Development Area (APSDA) and the Abbot Point Coal Terminal including; coal stockyards and port loading infrastructure. E3 undertook studies across the whole project area and wrote the EIS. E3 fast tracked data collection by using GIS enabled field data loggers to collect field information for downloading to GIS data management systems. E3 demonstrated key skills in:

- Baseline environmental assessment studies;
- Compilation of significant site data;
- Consultation with key community and project stakeholders; and
- Preparation of robust and defensible environmental documentation.

The EIS will be completed by late 2010 for submission to the Minister for Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts and Queensland Coordinator-General for approval.

Detail EIS components included:

- *Aquatic & Marine Ecological Studies;*
- *Acid Sulfate Soils;*
- *Cultural Heritage (Indigenous & European);*
- *EIS Report preparation;*
- *Environmental Management Plans;*
- *Geological and Soil Assessment;*
- *GIS data management;*
- *Hazard & Risk Identification;*
- *Land Use Assessment and Planning;*
- *Land Contamination;*
- *Stakeholder Negotiation;*
- *Surface water & Groundwater Characterisation;*
- *Terrain Analysis; and*
- *Waste Management.*