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## Glossary

# 7 GLOSSARY

The following terms are commonly used throughout this EPBC Act Environmental Assessment Report. Further explanation or description may be provided in the main report or appendices.

TERM	DEFINITION
Alluvium	Sediment deposited by a flowing stream, consisting of unconsolidated materials including gravel, clay, silt and sand.
Aquifer	Rock or sediment in a formation, group of formations or part of a formation that is saturated and sufficiently permeable to transmit economic quantities of water to wells and springs.
Aquitard	Rock or sediment in a formation, group of formations or part of a formation that is solid and low to impermeable and hinders the transport of water.
Basalt	A common type of extrusive volcanic rock.
Biodiversity	The diversity of different species of plants, animals and micro-organisms, including the genes they contain.
Box cut	A small excavated area created to provide a secure and safe portal / adit to access the underground mine.
Catchment	The surface drainage area from which a river, stream or reservoir receives its water.
Coal Seam Gas	An odourless, colourless natural gas created over millions of years as a by-product while organic matter is turned into coal. It mainly comprises methane, and is trapped on the surface of the coal.
Coking coal	Coal used in coking ovens for steel production.
Coarse rejects	Coal material between 50 mm and 4 mm in size.
Decommission	Safe removal of plant and equipment following the completion of mining operations.
Dewater	To drain or remove water.
Dragline	A piece of mining equipment used in open cut mining to remove large quantities of overburden. Includes a large bucket pulled by a cable.
Easement	A registrable instrument that traditionally burdens one lot and benefits another. The terms of the easement instrument will determine the rights that are given under the easement.
Ecosystem	An interacting system of animals, plants, other organisms and non-living parts of the environment.
Ephemeral	A watercourse, with defined bed and banks, which flows only intermittently after rain.
Erosion	The wearing away of land surface by wind or water, intensified by land clearing practices related to farming, residential or industrial development, road building, or logging.

TERM	DEFINITION
Fault	A geological feature in which a geological formation is broken.
Fine rejects	Coal material between 4 mm and 0.3 mm in size.
Freeboard	The difference in height between the adopted flood planning level and the flood level used to determine the flood planning level. It provides a factor of safety to compensate for uncertainties in the estimation of flood level across a floodplain.
Geochemical	Chemical compositions related to the geology of an area or sample.
Geological	Relating to the earth, the rocks of which it is composed, and the changes which it has undergone or is undergoing.
Geomorphology	The study of the characteristics, origin, and development of landforms.
Groundwater	Water found beneath the surface of the ground.
Habitat	The native environment where a given animal or plant lives or grows, often described in terms of geography, climate and vegetation.
Haul Road	A major road formation designed for large haul trucks and other mining equipment that are not allowed on public roads unless under escort conditions.
Land suitability	Land attributes based on the requirements of a specified land use using current technology and management.
Macroinvertebrates	Invertebrates that are big enough to be seen with the naked eye.
Macrophyte	An aquatic plant that is large enough to be visible to the naked eye.
Mitigation	The act of lessening in intensity, to prevent or make less severe.
Open Cut Mining	Process used to remove minerals found over a large area, close to the surface. The mine is dug downward in benches or steps which slope towards the centre of the pit.
Overburden	The surface soil and rock that must be moved away to access coal seams and mineral deposits below.
Paleochannel	A remnant of an inactive river or stream channel that has been either filled or buried by younger sediment.
Permeability	The capacity of a material to transmit fluid.
Permian	The period of geological time beginning from 280 million to 230 million years ago.
pH	A measure of acidity or alkalinity on a scale of 0-14. Neutral solutions have a value of 7, while acidic solutions have values less than 7, and alkaline solutions have values above 7.
Product coal	Coal that has been processed in a Coal Processing Plant, ready for export to market.
Quaternary	The period of geological time beginning two to three million years ago and extending to the present.
Rainfed broadacre cropping	Rainfed broadacre cropping utilises large tracts of land for crops such as sorghum, sunflower, wheat, safflower, cotton, chick peas, millet and oats. These crops are often grown in sequence, with the actual crops planted being dependent upon rainfall.

TERM	DEFINITION
Raw water	External raw water supply likely to be provided by a piped water supply. This water is suitable for use in the mine but would require treatment prior to use as potable water.
Regional ecosystem	A vegetation community in a bioregion that is consistently associated with a particular combination of geology, landform and soil.
Rehabilitation	Reshaping of a disturbed area to a geotechnically and geochemically stable condition, followed by revegetation.
Reject material	Coal materials between 50 mm and 0.3 mm in size (comprising coarse and fine reject materials), and non-coal materials rejected from the coal preparation plant.
Remnant vegetation	Native vegetation remaining after an area has otherwise been cleared: consisting of more than 50% of the undisturbed predominant canopy; averaging more than 70% of the vegetation's undisturbed height; and composed of species characteristic of the vegetation's undisturbed predominant canopy.
Run of Mine Coal	Newly mined coal that has not undergone processing.
Runoff	The portion of rainfall that is not infiltrated or evaporated, and flows along the ground surface.
Seam	A thin layer or stratum of coal or rock.
Sediment	Solid particles which tend to settle in a liquid.
Sensitive receptors	Locations which may be sensitive to the impacts of the project, such as residences, commercial or industrial facilities, accommodation villages.
Socio-economic	Of, or relating to, both social and economic considerations.
Spotter Catcher	An individual or corporation, as licensed by the Department of Environment and Heritage, who holds a current Rehabilitation Permit under the Queensland <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> , to remove, relocate, or rehabilitate protected animals whose habitat will be destroyed or impacted by human activity.
Strata	Layers of rock or soil with internally consistent characteristics that distinguish it from contiguous layers.
Stygofauna	Aquatic invertebrates that live within groundwater systems.
Tailings	Tailings are reject coal and non-coal materials that are less than 0.3 mm in size, and that will be subject to dewatering.
Taxonomy	The classification of living things, grouped by similarity, i.e. species are grouped into genera, genera into families, families into orders, orders into classes, classes into phyla, and phyla with similar characteristics at the top level of the classification system the kingdom.
Tertiary	The period of geological time from 63 million to 2 million years ago.
Topography	The surface features of an area of land.
Topsoil	The upper most layer of soil where the highest concentration of organic matter and micro-organisms are found. Often referred to as the "A" horizon.
Triassic	The period of geological time beginning from 250 million to 200 million years ago.

TERM	DEFINITION
Tuff (Tuffaceous)	Type of rock consisting of consolidated volcanic ash ejected from vents during a volcanic eruption.
Void / final void	Residual open cut pit left in perpetuity post mining.
Waste	An unwanted by-product or surplus product, including a gas, liquid, solid or energy, from an industrial, commercial, domestic or other activity.
Watercourse	<p>Under the <i>Water Act 2000</i>, a watercourse is defined as <i>a river, creek or other stream, including a stream in the form of an anabranch or a tributary, in which water flows permanently or intermittently, regardless of the frequency of flow events—</i></p> <p><i>(a) in a natural channel, whether artificially modified or not; or</i></p> <p><i>(b) in an artificial channel that has changed the course of the stream.</i></p>