

SECTION 6

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6 Draft Statement of Commitments

6.1 Introduction

HEM intends to construct and operate the project in an environmentally responsible manner. During the preceding sections of this Environmental Assessment Report, project impacts have been identified, together with mitigation measures to lessen the impact of the rehabilitation project on the environment.

To ensure that the project operates with environmental safeguards in place during its life cycle, HEM are committed to the development and implementation of an Environmental Management System. The Environmental Management System will be supported by a raft of Environmental Management Plans, a Mine Operations Plan, environmental monitoring and reporting of its performance.

6.1.1 Environmental Monitoring and Management

HEM will be required to present results of environmental monitoring to regulatory authorities and the Cessnock City Council. HEM propose to establish comprehensive environmental reporting procedures which includes the principles of operating the rehabilitation project in an efficient, profitable and environmentally responsible manner.

Prior to the start of operations HEM is required to seek a Mining Lease under the Mining Act 1992, and an Environmental Protection Licence (EPL) under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997.

The mining lease and EPL must be supported by a raft of environmental management plans listed below.

- Air pollution
- Erosion and sediment
- Surface water pollution
- Ground water pollution
- Contaminated polluted land
- Threatened flora
- Threatened fauna
- Weeds
- Operational noise
- Visual, stray light
- Aboriginal heritage
- Natural heritage
- Spontaneous combustion
- Bushfire
- Hydrocarbon contamination
- Public safety
- Other issues and risks

It is a condition of all mining leases that an Annual or Quarterly Environmental Monitoring Report (AEMR or QEMR) is prepared and submitted to the regulatory authorities. The report must specify details of environmental monitoring and management undertaken during the reporting period and be in accordance with the DPI's document "Guidelines to the Mining, Rehabilitation and Environmental Management Process". The report must specify monitoring and management undertaken in association with each of the above management plans.

It is a condition of all EPL's that environmental monitoring is undertaken and reported to the regulatory authorities on an annual basis. The EPL will specify goals and criteria for numerous items, the monitoring undertaken must be reported against this criteria, failure to undertake monitoring or breaching of the conditions of the EPL and set criteria can result in substantial penalties, with legal obligation by the licence holder to rectify environmental degradation caused by breaching the set licence criteria.

6.2 Draft Statement of Commitments

Table 6.1 provides a list of items to be developed, together with associated timing. HEM is committed to operating the project in accordance with the requirements of each of the documents.

Table 6.1: Draft Statement of Commitments

Item	Commitment	Timing
1. Environmental Assessment.	Carry out the rehabilitation project at the three sites generally in accordance with the project description in the Environmental Assessment Report dated 1 December 2006.	During construction, operation and closure of the project.
2. Appointment of suitably qualified site manager	HEM will employ a suitably qualified and experienced site manager to be responsible for the environmental management of the project.	Prior to project construction and for the duration of operations up until final closure.
3. Environmental Management Strategy and associated plans.	Prepare and implement an Environmental Management Strategy which will provide a strategic overview of the project and context for Environmental Management Plans for the project. The Management Plans will be generally consistent with the mitigation measures and safeguards detailed within the Environmental Assessment Report dated December 2006.	Prior to and during construction, operation and closure of the project.
4. Environmental Management Plans Construction.	Undertake the construction activities in accordance with the operational management plans	
5. Mine Operations Plan.	HEM will prepare and operate the project in accordance with an approved Mine Operation Plan.	Prior to commencement of mining.

Item	Commitment	Timing
6. Licences, permits and Approvals.	HEM will obtain all necessary licences, permits and approvals for the project and ensure they are kept up to date.	Obtain in advance of operations at each site.
7. Roads.	HEM will develop, in consultation with Cessnock City Council, a Voluntary Planning Agreement to detail the process for the reinstatement or repair of haul roads impacted as a consequence of.	As per Planning Agreement with Cessnock City Council.
8. Independent Environmental Audits.	HEM will commission and fund the cost of an Independent Environmental Audit of the project.	12 months from the commencement of operations.
9. Security Bond for National Park.	HEM will supply a negotiated security bond to the DEC for repatriation of damage to the National Park as a result of haulage operations.	Prior to the start of fire trail improvement, subject to DEC approval of the use of these roads.