

CALLIDE MINE

BOUNDARY HILL SOUTH LEASE EXTENSION (BHSLE),
(EPBC 2012/6324)

Condition 16 Annual Report

18/10/2022

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1. Introductions

For the decision made on the 24 March 2017 under section 130(1) and 133 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, approval was granted to Batchfire (Callide Management) Pty Ltd. The approval covers the following proposed actions only.

“To expand an existing open cut coal mine pit and additional infrastructure (in ML 80186) as part of the Callide mines 20 km north of Biloela, central OLD, see [EPBC Act referral 2012/6324 and variations to the action dated 20 November 2012 and 17 October 2013].”

Approved Decisions and Controlling Provisions

Controlling Provisions	Decision
Listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 & 18A)	Approved
Listed migratory species (sections 20 & 20A)	Approved
Water resources (section 240 & 24E)	Approved

The approval is based on the provisions that the considerations are met as detailed in subsequent sections of this report. The Approval has effect until the 30 June 2050.

1.1. Background of Callide Mine

Callide Mine is located approximately 20 km north of Biloela in Central Queensland (Figure 1). Callide Mine is an open cut coal mine with an annual production rate of approximately 10 million tonnes per annum of product coal. Mining commenced at Callide Mine in 1944. The mine produces low-sulphur, sub-bituminous thermal coal that is used to supply the adjacent Callide Power Station and for export to overseas customers. Callide Mine involves open cut mining in four discrete mining areas including Dunn Creek, Trap Gully, The Hut and Boundary Hill.

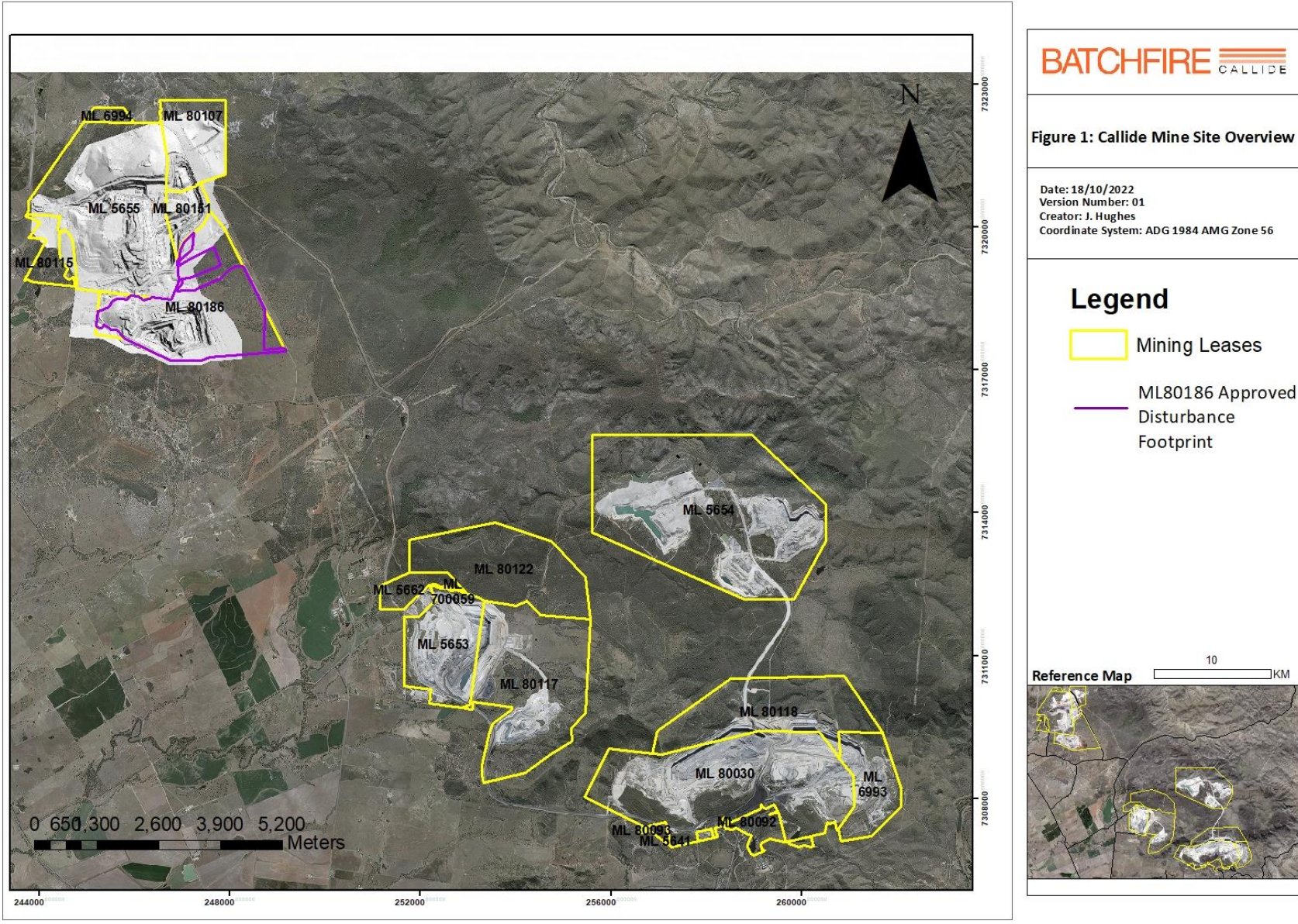


Figure 1. Callide Mine Site Overview Map

2. Conditions attached to the approval

Please note the following section details the current conditions of approval, as well as Batchfire's commentary and evidence of compliance.

2.1. Project Area

1. For the purpose of the action, the approval holder must not take any action outside the areas identified as the Boundary Hill South disturbance boundary within ML 80186.

Condition No	Description of Compliance / Non-Compliance	Actions / Initiatives Taken
1	Compliant	No action required. All clearing has occurred inside the disturbance footprint (See Figure 1).

2.2. Pre-clearance surveys

2. The approval holder must undertake a harp trap survey for the South-eastern Long-eared bat (*Nyctophilus corbem*) prior to commencement of the action. The harp trapping must be done in accordance with harp trapping requirements of the EPBC Act survey guidelines.
3. If the harp trap survey determines the presence of a South-eastern Long-eared Bat on the project site, the approval holder must provide an offset for the loss of its habitat on the project site.

Condition No	Description of Compliance / Non-Compliance	Actions / Initiatives Taken
2	Compliant	No action required. Harp trap survey works completed for South-eastern Long-eared bat prior to commencement of the action April 2018 (See Appendix 4.1).
3	Complaint	No action required. There was no presence of the South-eastern Long-eared Bat in the project area.

2.3. Offsets

4. The approval holder must submit an Offset Management Strategy for the Minister's written approval for the loss of the following:
 - 266 hectares of Squatter Pigeon habitat;
 - 257 hectares of Koala habitat; and

- 224 hectares of South-eastern Long-eared Bat habitat if the harp trap survey required at conditions 2 and 3 determines the species is present in the project site.
5. The Offset Management Strategy must include, but not be limited to:
 - a) The proposed timeline and legal mechanism for securing the offset areas or offset outcomes;
 - b) Details of minimum offset area/s;
 - c) Evidence that the offset/s are in accordance with the EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy (2012).
 6. The approval holder must not commence the action unless the Offset Management Strategy has been approved by the Minister in writing. The approved Offset Management Strategy must be implemented.
 7. The approval holder must submit for the Minister's written approval an Offset Management Plan. The Offset Management Plan must include:
 - a) Details of the offset areas required to address the loss of habitat for EPBC Act listed threatened species at condition 4;
 - b) Justification for how the offset areas provide long-term functional habitat for the identified species, connectivity with other relevant habitats, conservation areas and functional biodiversity corridors, including a map depicting the offset areas in relation to other habitats and biodiversity corridors;
 - c) A survey and description of the current condition (prior to any management activities) of the offset area proposed, including existing vegetation (the baseline condition);
 - d) Performance and completion criteria for evaluating the management of the offset area, and criteria for triggering remedial action (if necessary);
 - e) A description of the management measures that will be implemented for the protection of EPBC Act listed threatened species, including a discussion of how measures outlined take into account relevant conservation advice and are consistent with the measures in relevant recovery plans and threat abatement plans;
 - f) A program to monitor and report on the effectiveness of these measures, and progress against the performance and completion criteria;
 - g) The proposed legal mechanism for securing the offset within 5 years from the date of the Minister's approval of the Offset Management Strategy required at condition 4; and
 - h) Evidence that the offsets are in accordance with the EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy.

Condition No	Description of Compliance / Non-Compliance	Actions / Initiatives Taken
4	Compliant	No action Required. Offset Management Strategy was approved on the 15 June 2018 (See Appendix 4.1)
5	Compliant	No action Required. As per the approved Offset Management Strategy
6	Compliant	No action Required. Action did not commence until the Commencement Notification dated 4 August 2018. This was after the Offset Management approval dated 15 June 2018 (see Appendix 4.2).
7	Compliant	Ongoing action required Consistent with condition 7 of the EPBC Act approval (EPBC 2012/6324), additional field survey works were undertaken in September 2021 and further field surveys are scheduled for Q1 2023, the former which have been and the latter which will be documented in the proposed Offset Management Plan to be submitted to Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water for written approval.

2.4. Species Management Plan

8. The approval holder must submit a Species Management Plan for the Ministers written approval.
9. The Species Management Plan must include:
 - a) details of measures to avoid mitigate and manage impacts to EPBC Act listed threatened species and their habitat during construction, operation and decommissioning of the action;
 - b) measures to manage areas on the project site, that are not within the disturbance boundary, as habitat for EPBC Act listed threatened species;
 - c) details of weed control, stock exclusion and revegetation measures; and
 - d) a discussion of relevant conservation advice, recovery plans and threat abatement plans and how measures proposed in the Species Management Plan take into account relevant conservation advice and are consistent with the measures contained in relevant recovery plans and threat abatement plans.

10. The approval holder must not commence the action until the Species Management Plan is approved by the Minister in writing. The approved Species Management Plan must be implemented.

Condition No	Description of Compliance / Non-Compliance	Actions / Initiatives Taken
8	Compliant	No action required Species Management Plan submitted and then accepted on the 15 June 2018 (See Appendix 4.1)
9	Compliant	No action required Species Management Plan was accepted as having meet the criteria details in parts a). to d).
10	Compliant	No action Required. The Action did not commence until the Commencement Notification Letter dated 4 August 2018 (See Appendix 4.2)

2.5. Groundwater

11. The approval holder must undertake monitoring of groundwater as specified in the Environmental Authority (EA).
12. The approval holder must make the groundwater monitoring results, required under condition 11, publicly available on the approval holder's website for the life of the project within 3 months of collecting the data.
13. The approval holder must make groundwater monitoring results, required under condition 11, available to the Department and Queensland Government authorities (if requested) for inclusion in any cumulative impact assessment, regional water balance model, bioregional assessment or relevant research.

Condition No	Description of Compliance / Non-Compliance	Actions / Initiatives Taken
11	Compliant	No action Required Groundwater monitoring is in place and meeting requirements of Environmental Authority (EA) EPML00720413.
12	Compliant	No action Required. Groundwater results are publicly available on the Batchfire Callide Mine website
13	Compliant	No action Required No request has been made by DES for groundwater data during the reporting period.

2.6. General

14. Within 30 days after the commencement of the action, the approval holder must advise the Department in writing of the actual date of commencement.
15. The approval holder must maintain accurate records substantiating all activities associated with or relevant to the conditions of approval, including measures taken to implement the management plans required by this approval, and make them available upon request to the Department. Such records may be subject to audit by the Department or an independent auditor in accordance with section 458 of the EPBC Act or used to verify compliance with the conditions of approval. Summaries of audits will be posted on the Department's website. The results of audits may also be publicised through the general media.
16. Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister, within three months of every 12-month anniversary of the commencement of the action, the approval holder must publish a report on its website addressing compliance with each of the conditions of this approval over the previous 12 months, including implementation of any management plans as specified in the conditions. Documentary evidence providing proof of the date of publication and details of non-compliance with any of the conditions of this approval must be provided to the Department at the same time as the compliance report is published. Reports must remain published for the life of the approval. The person taking the action must continue to publish this report each year until such time as agreed to in writing by the Minister.
17. Upon the direction of the Minister, the approval holder must ensure that an independent audit of compliance with the conditions of approval is conducted and a report submitted to the Minister. The independent auditor and audit criteria must be approved by the Minister prior to the commencement of the audit. The audit report must address the approved criteria to the satisfaction of the Minister.
18. The approval holder may choose to revise a Plan approved by the Minister under condition 8 without submitting it for approval under section 143A of the EPBC Act, if the taking of the action in accordance with the revised plan would not be likely to have a new or increased impact. If the approval holder makes this choice, it must:
 - a) notify the Department in writing that the approved plan has been revised and provide the Department with an electronic copy of the revised plan or strategy;
 - b) implement the revised plan from the date that the revised plan or strategy is submitted to the Department; and

- c) for the life of this approval, maintain a record of the reasons the approval holder considers that taking the action in accordance with the revised plan would not be likely to have a new or increased impact.
19. The approval holder may revoke its choice under condition 18 at any time by notice to the Department. If the approval holder revokes the choice to implement a revised plan, without approval under section 143A of the Act, the plan most recently approved by the Minister must be implemented.
20. If the Minister gives a notice to the approval holder that the Minister is satisfied that the taking of the action in accordance with the revised plan would be likely to have a new or increased impact, then:
- a) condition 18 does not apply, or ceases to apply, in relation to the revised plan; and
 - b) the approval holder must implement the plan most recently approved by the Minister.
- To avoid any doubt, this condition does not affect any operation of conditions 18 and 19 in the period before the day the notice is given.
- At the time of giving the notice the Minister may also notify that for a specified period of time that condition 18 does not apply for one or more specified plans required under the approval.
21. Conditions 18, 19 and 20 are not intended to limit the operation of section 143A of the EPBC Act which allows the approval holder to submit a revised plan or strategy to the Minister for approval.
22. If, at any time after 7 years from the date of this approval, the approval holder has not substantially commenced the action, then the approval holder must not substantially commence the action without the written agreement of the Minister.
23. Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister, the approval holder must publish all management plans, and reports, referred to in these conditions of approval on its website. Each management plan must be published on the website within one month of being approved by the Minister or submitted under condition 16a. All published reports must remain on website for the life of the approval.

Condition No	Description of Compliance / Non-Compliance	Actions / Initiatives Taken
14	Compliant	No action Required Notification of Commencement sent on the 4 August 2018 and acknowledged on the 15 August 2019 (See Appendix 4.2)
15	Compliant	No action Required Record keeping is in place.
16	Compliant	No action Required Publication of the Condition 16 Report will be made publicly available on or before the 4 November 2022 as per Condition 16 and the letter provided in Appendix 4.2.
17	Compliant	No action Required No audit requested or conducted in the reporting period.
18	Compliant	No action Required Revisions of the Offset Management Strategy publicly notified document was approved on the 29 August 2019.
19	Compliant	No action Required Batchfire has not made notice to revoke any plans namely the Offset Management Strategy.
20	Compliant	No action Required. A Minister Notice was not issued to the approval holder during the reporting period relating to approved plans.
21	Compliant	No action Required
22	Compliant	No action Required Action has commenced as per notification on the 4 August 2018 (Appendix 4.2)
23	Compliant	No action Required. Offset Management Strategy and Species Management Plan published on website.

3. Findings

All conditions are in accordance with the Boundary Hill South Lease Extension (EPBC 2012/6324) approval issued on the 24 March 2017.

Additional flora and fauna field surveys were undertaken in September 2021. Further flora and fauna field surveys are planned for Q1 2023 to augment the earlier surveys. All surveys will be documented under the proposed Offset Management Plan to be submitted to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water for written approval. This is in accordance with *Condition 7* of the EPBC Act approval (EPBC 2012/6324).

4. Appendices

4.1 Appendix – Offset Strategy and Offset Management Plan Approval Letter



Mr Jeff Beatty
Manager – Technical Services & Environment and Community
Batchfire (Callide Management) Pty Ltd
PO Box 144
BILOELA QLD 4715

EPBC 2012/6324 – Boundary Hill South Lease Extension, Biloela, Central Queensland - Offset Management Strategy and Species Management Plan

Dear Mr Beatty

Thank you for submitting for approval the Offset Management Strategy and Species Management Plan required under the conditions of *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) approval for EPBC 2012/6324.

Officers of the Department have advised me on the Offset Management Strategy and the Species Management Plan, and on the requirements of Conditions 2-5 and 9 of the EPBC Act approval for EPBC 2012/6324. On this basis, I am satisfied:

- the South-eastern Long-eared Bat is not present at the project site and that the Offset Management Strategy is not required to offset the loss of South-eastern Long-eared Bat habitat;
- the Offset Management Strategy meets the requirements of Conditions 4 and 5 of the approval. I have therefore, as a delegate of the Minister for the Environment and Energy, approved the *Boundary Hill South (EPBC 2012/6324) Offset Management Strategy*, dated 14 June 2018, in accordance with Condition 4 of the EPBC Act approval for EPBC 2012/6324. The Offset Management Strategy must now be implemented; and
- the Species Management Plan meets the requirements of Condition 9 of the approval. I have therefore, as a delegate of the Minister for the Environment and Energy, approved the *EPBC Act Species Management Plan, Version 6*, dated 8 June 2018, in accordance with section 8 of the EPBC Act approval for EPBC 2012/6324. The Species Management Plan must now be implemented.

Also, I note your letter of 14 June 2018 requesting delay to publication of the approved Offset Management Strategy until publication of the approved Offset Management Plan. I understand Department officials are seeking further information from you on this request, and therefore I hope to shortly advise you of my decision on this matter.

As you are aware, the Department has an active monitoring program which includes monitoring inspections, desk top document reviews and audits. Please ensure that you maintain accurate records of all activities associated with the conditions of approval, including implementation of the approved Offset Management Strategy and Species Management Plan, so that they can be made available to the Department on request.

Should you require any further information please contact Vaughn Cox on 02 6274 2005 or by email: post.approvals@environment.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Greg Manning
Assistant Secretary
Assessments (WA, SA, NT) and Post Approvals Branch
Environment Standards Division

15 June 2018

4.2 Appendix – Notification of Commencement of Action



Contact Officer: Keith Horwood
Telephone: (02) 6274 1933
Email: EPBCmonitoring@environment.gov.au

Mr Jeff Beatty
Manager – Technical Services & Environment and Community
Batchfire Callide
PO Box 144
BILOELA QLD 4715

Dear Mr Beatty

**Commencement of the Action, Boundary Hill South Lease Extension, north of Biloela,
Central Queensland EPBC 2012/6324**

Thank you for notifying the Department that the action commenced on the 4 August 2018 in accordance with condition 14 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) approval 2012/6324. Because the action commenced on this date, please complete the following tasks in accordance with the approval conditions by the mentioned due dates.

Condition 16 - Annual Compliance Report

The Annual Compliance Report for the period 4 August 2018 to 3 August 2019 must be published and submitted to the Department before 4 November 2019. The Annual Compliance Report must continue to be published and submitted to the Department until the expiry of the project 30 June 2050.

Please email the Annual Compliance Report, and the details of its publication, to
EPBCmonitoring@environment.gov.au

Please maintain accurate records of all activities associated with, or relevant to, the approval conditions so that they can be made available to the Department on request. These documents may be subject to audit and be used to verify compliance. Summaries of audits may be published by the Department.

For information about the Monitoring and Audit program, see the Department's website at
<http://www.environment.gov.au/topics/about-us/legislation/environment-protection-and-biodiversity-conservation-act-1999/complian-2>

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please contact Keith Horwood on (02) 6274 1933.

Yours sincerely

Valerie Hush
A/g Assistant Director
Environmental Audit Section
Office of Compliance

15 August 2018

Definitions

BFCM	Batchfire Resources (Callide Management) Pty Ltd
EA	Environmental Authority
DES	Department of Environment and Science - Queensland
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
SMP	Species Management Plan
OS	Offset Strategy
OMP	Offset Management Plan

Document Control

VERSION N°.	ISSUE DATE	REVIEWED TEAM MEMBERS	REVIEWED RELEVANT MANAGER	APPROVED	SIGNATURE
1	18/10/22	Joseph Hughes	Joseph Hughes (Environment & Community Manager)	Stuart Schmidt (General Manager – ESG & Development)	