

# VALERIA PROJECT NEWSLETTER

Edition One - November 2021

## WELCOME

Welcome to the first edition of the Valeria Project Newsletter. This newsletter provides information about the Valeria Project including proposed mining activities, community engagement and regulatory approvals. This newsletter will be published on a project milestone basis and distributed throughout the community and also posted on the Valeria Project website.

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

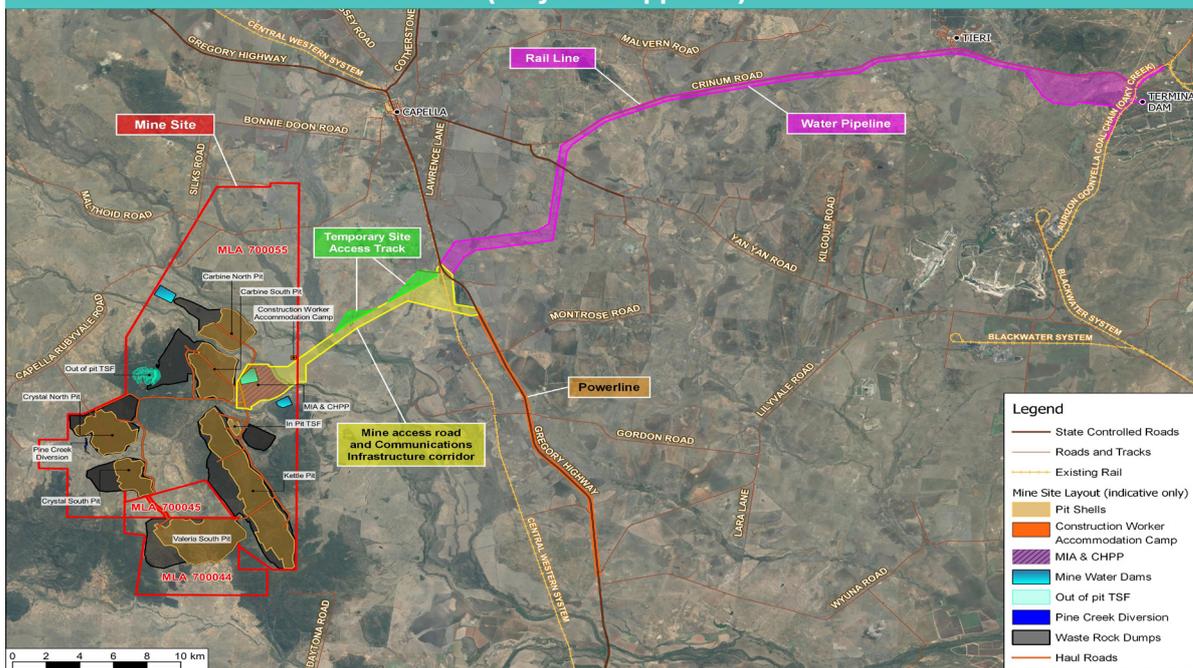
The Valeria Project (the Project) is an open cut greenfield metallurgical and thermal coal mine development located 27 km northwest of Emerald and 8 km southwest of Capella. Since acquiring the tenements from Rio Tinto Coal in 2018, the Project has been developed by the Blair Athol Joint Venture (Blair Athol JV), a subsidiary of Glencore Coal Pty Ltd (Glencore). Blair Athol JV manages the mining tenement and Project development on behalf of four Joint Venture partners: Valeria Coal Holdings (VCH), Leichhardt Coal, J-Power Australia and J.C.D. Australia. VCH, a 100%-owned subsidiary of Glencore, is the proponent for the Project.

The Project will include open cut pits and overburden dumps, a coal handling and preparation plant, mine infrastructure area, tailings storage facility, internal haul roads and water management dams. To support the mining operations, the Project also includes:

- Mine access road connecting the Mine Site with the Gregory Highway.
- Rail line from the Mine Site to the Aurizon Goonyella Coal Chain (Oak Creek) to transport the coal product to a port.
- Water pipeline from the Mine Site to the Oak Creek Coal Mine.
- Powerline from the Mine Site to existing power infrastructure in the area.
- Communications infrastructure from the Mine Site to the Gregory Highway.

An overview map of the Project including Mine Site and infrastructure corridors (subject to approval) is shown below.

### Mine site and infrastructure corridors (subject to approval)



### Valeria at a glance

<b>2024</b>	Construction planned to commence
<b>1,400</b>	Estimated construction workforce
<b>\$1.5b</b>	Estimated expenditure to production
<b>20mtpa</b>	Run of Mine coal
<b>2027</b>	Operations planned to commence
<b>1,250</b>	Estimated operational workforce
<b>35years</b>	Life of mine expectancy

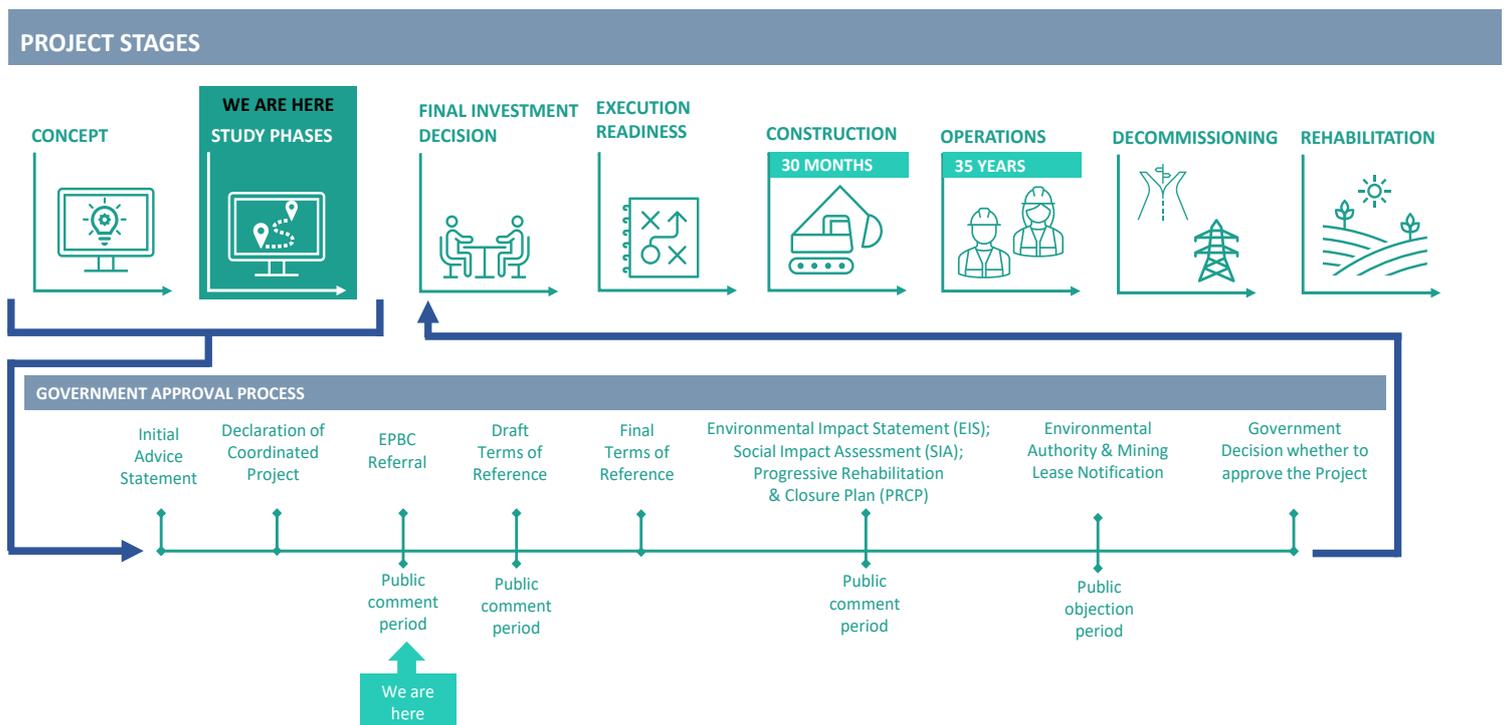
# PROJECT STAGES & APPROVAL PROCESS

The Project is currently in the study phase, where VCH undertakes early options assessment for the Project. Once studies are complete, the Final Investment Decision is made, where VCH will decide whether to proceed with construction of the Project. This decision will be subject to government approval of the Project.

A number of regulatory approval processes need to be followed prior to a decision by the Government as to whether the Project can proceed and will require the following approvals:

- A Mining Lease (ML);
- An Environmental Authority (EA);
- An approved Progressive Rehabilitation and Closure Plan (PRCP);
- Approval under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999 (EPBC Act) should the Project impact on Commonwealth protected matters; and
- A registered agreement with the Native Title Claimants and registered Cultural Heritage Management Plan over the Project area.

The Project stages and Government approval processes are shown below:



## ABOUT THE APPROVALS

### EPBC REFERRAL

EPBC Act Referrals were lodged to the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) in October to decide whether the Project constitutes a 'controlled action' and whether approval is required under the EPBC Act. Public comment on the EPBC Act Referrals can be made once they are made publicly available on DAWE's website.

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference (ToR) will be developed in consultation with Office of the Coordinator General, State Government departments and DAWE to define the content requirements for the EIS and other approval application material. Public comment on the Draft ToR can be made at this stage.

### NATIVE TITLE

The Project area is predominantly within the Western Kangoulu People's registered Native Title claim area (QC2013/002). Under the Native Title Act 1993, Blair Athol JV and its Joint Venture partners must negotiate and register a Native Title Agreement with the Western Kangoulu People prior to the MLs being granted.

### EIS, SIA and PRCP

The EIS will be submitted in accordance with the *State Development Public Works Organisation Act 1971* (SDPWO Act) providing information on the existing environmental, social and economic values of the Project area, potential impacts to these values that may result from the Project, and measures proposed to mitigate and manage those potential impacts.

The Social Impact Assessment will be submitted in accordance with *Strong and Sustainable Resource Communities Act 2017* (SSRC Act).

The PRCP will be submitted under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (EP Act) and contains information about progressive rehabilitation, final landforms and final land use of the Project area.

The community, stakeholders and general public are invited to provide submissions on the EIS, PRCP and SIA. All submissions will be considered by the proponent and the State Government and amendments made to the submission by Blair Athol JV as required.

# STUDIES BEING UNDERTAKEN

---

Since 2019, VCH has been conducting environmental field surveys and exploration drilling on the Project area. Field surveys of the infrastructure investigation corridors commenced in late 2020. The data collected during field surveys is used to understand the existing environment and inform the layout of the mine and associated infrastructure. Exploration drilling data has been used in mine planning. The surveys currently underway are summarised below.

---

## Indigenous Cultural Heritage

The Western Kangoulu People have undertaken a number of Indigenous Cultural Heritage surveys across the Project area. Information on cultural heritage artefacts and sites identified during the surveys is recorded and incorporated into mining and infrastructure locations to minimise potential impacts of the Project on heritage.

---

## Terrestrial and aquatic ecology

Field surveys have been undertaken to determine the existing terrestrial and aquatic ecological values of the Project area and infrastructure investigation corridor. This data will be used in assessing the potential impacts of the Project on ecology and developing mitigation and management measures.



## Surface water assessments

A surface water monitoring programme has been implemented to collect baseline data (flow rates, velocity, quality) at a number of locations in the Project area. The data will also be used to develop flood and water balance models to predict potential impacts of the Project on the existing flood regime, water quality and quantity and, identify mitigation and management measures, and to understand how much water the Project will require.

---

## Groundwater assessments

A groundwater monitoring programme has been implemented to collect baseline data (flow rates, levels, quality) across the Project area. The data is used in modelling to predict any potential changes to groundwater levels that may result from the Project. The data is also used to develop a long term monitoring programme and identify suitable measures to minimise potential impacts.

---

## Air quality monitoring

Dust deposition gauges and air quality monitors have been installed in the Project area and along the infrastructure investigation corridor to understand existing air quality values. The data collected by this equipment will be used, along with emissions specifications of plant, machinery, equipment and vehicles, to predict potential Project impacts on air quality and identify appropriate mitigation and management measures.



## Noise and vibration monitoring

Noise loggers have been used to measure background noise and vibration levels at representative locations near the Project area and along the infrastructure investigation corridor. The equipment records the varying types of noise with a short duration of recorded sound to verify the frequencies. The data is used along with noise emission specifications of plant, machinery, equipment and vehicles to model the noise levels that may result from the Project and potential impacts on sensitive receptors (such as homesteads) and identify mitigation and management measures.

---

## Visual amenity assessment

Assessments have been undertaken at potential sensitive visual receptors (e.g., private residences, public roads and key public buildings) near the Project area to understand the current view experienced by people at those locations. The data will be used to assess the changes to views that may result at different stages of the mine construction and operations and identify mitigation and management measures.





### Soil assessments

Surveys have been undertaken to determine the soil types and physical and chemical characteristics across the Project area and infrastructure investigation corridors. This data is used to confirm soil suitability for cropping land and determine whether the Project will need a permit to impact this land. The soil survey data will also be used to determine how to manage potential impacts such as compaction and erosion, and the suitability of the soil for rehabilitation activities.

### Other Studies

Other studies that will be undertaken for the Project in early 2022 include non-Indigenous cultural heritage, traffic and transport, land use and planning, geology, topography, social impact assessment and waste management. The PRCP will be developed once mine planning studies have generated a final landform design.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Glencore seeks to build and maintain long-term sustainable partnerships with the community and stakeholders in the vicinity of its operations and the broader region. Community engagement is an important and ongoing activity throughout the life of the mine.

During the study phases of the Project, engagement has been undertaken with landowners, Traditional Owners, Central Highlands Regional Council and various Government Departments. During ongoing studies, the focus of community engagement will be the EIS and key approval milestones. This will include sharing the findings of technical assessment studies, as well as informing the community of the public comment periods for approval documents and how comments can be made. Community engagement activities will include further newsletters, drop-in sessions, and information posted on the Valeria Project website.

VCH has also established the Valeria Community Consultation Group (VCCG). The VCCG is made up of representatives of community-based groups from Capella, Tieri, Emerald and the Gemfields. Meetings will be notified on the Valeria Project website and through formal invitation to VCCG members. We are committed to working with the community in developing this Project.

### Have your say:

To have your say on the upcoming government project approvals, please visit the links below:

### EPBC Referral

EPBC Referrals were lodged in October 2021.

Once accepted, details on the referral will be included on the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment website:

<https://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/public-notice/assessment-help>



If you have any questions or wish to discuss the Valeria Project with a member of our team, please feel free to contact with us on 1800 512 100 or email [valeria@glencore.com.au](mailto:valeria@glencore.com.au)

Information can also be found on our website

<https://www.glencore.com.au/operations-and-projects/coal/projects/valeria-coal-project>