

Mining and Key Resource Areas

Introduction

This Fact Sheet is one of a series which have been prepared to inform Council and the public on a number of land use related issues. Fact Sheet 1 deals with the issues associated with mining within Ipswich.

Historical Context

From the discovery of coal deposits on the Brisbane River, Ipswich has a strong history of mining activities. Mining in Ipswich has grown from initial limestone and coal mining to include the extraction of clay and hard rock resources.

Historical mining consisted of predominantly sub-surface activities, leaving a legacy of past and possible future subsidence as a result of these activities.

In more recent times the advent of open cut mining activities (particularly for coal) led to an expansion of mining activities. A number of these resources is of regional/state significance.

Ipswich Planning Scheme

The Ipswich Planning Scheme recognises the constraints to development from previous, existing and future mining activities, including regionally significant key resource areas.

These issues are reflected in Part 1.10 and Part 11.4.5 of the Ipswich Planning Scheme as follows—

Part 1-10 Key Resources Areas

- (1) The Key Resources Area data contained on the Strategic Plan Map includes known Key Resource Areas, Underground Key Resource Areas and associated buffers and haul routes to major roads.
- (2) This data is shown as an overlay with other land use activities.
- (3) The intent of the land use allocation is to protect important coal, clay, dolomite, quarry rock, sand and gravel resources from incompatible development and to conserve their use for mining and extractive industry purposes.
- (4) Land use allocation as a Key Resource Area does not, however, guarantee approval for mining or extractive industry.
- (5) In a number of instances there are important issues which need to be resolved prior to the commencement of mining or extractive industry activities.
- (6) These issues include—

- (a) impact on conservation and environmental values, particularly areas designated as principal conservation areas on the Strategic Plan Map;
- (b) impact on Good Quality Agricultural Land;
- (c) residential amenity impacts, including those associated with haul routes;
- (d) visual amenity impacts, particularly on prominent hill sides and ridgelines;
- (e) impacts on public utilities and community infrastructure, particularly the impact of haul routes on the road network in terms of traffic, safety and 'wear and tear';
- (f) impacts on surface waters and ground water;
- (g) impacts on places of cultural heritage significance; and
- (h) ownership of the resource and associated surface areas and buffer areas and compensation for diminished property values and land use rights.

- (7) In some instances, as a result of further detailed investigation of the above issues, it may be necessary to curtail or limit the extent of mining activities.
- (8) In situations where either the same or adjoining lands are allocated for both future urban and mining or extractive industry purposes it is imperative that a coordinated, sequenced approach occurs whereby the resource extraction and subsequent rehabilitation precedes urban development, in order to avoid serious residential amenity impacts.

11.4.5 Land Affected by Key Resource Areas, Haul Routes and Existing Mines

- (1) The provisions of this section apply to land affected by Key Resources Areas, Haul Routes and Existing Mines as identified on maps OV2 and OV3.
- (2) The mapping identifies—
 - (a) Key Resource Areas (KRA's) and buffers, and associated haul routes; and
 - (b) existing mined areas (i.e. open cut mines or disturbed ground and underground mines) and areas within the 'influence area' (i.e. draw angle) of a mine.
- (3) In some cases, further information will need to be submitted to the local government, such as a site



specific geotechnical assessment, for consideration as part of the development assessment process.

- (4) The specific site assessment should be used to determine the level of intensity of development and where development is appropriate on the site.
- (5) The design and location of buildings and infrastructure on the site should have regard to the findings and recommendations of the specific site assessment.
- (6) Further information on the requirements for the specific technical assessments are contained in Planning Scheme Policy 2 - Information Local Government May Request.
- (7) Applicants submitting development applications within these areas are encouraged to liaise with the relevant mining company and the Department of Natural Resources and Mines.
- (8) The owner/applicant for a new dwelling is to provide a written acknowledgement of the likely impacts on residential amenity at the time of lodging a development application.

This section refers only to those areas affected by the relevant Planning Scheme Overlays. **Areas outside of these areas are not subject to these requirements.**

However, where applications for development are Impact Assessable, submissions may be received in relation to perceived or possible impacts on the proposal from nearby mining activities. Such submissions would be assessed having regard to the relevant provisions of the Planning Scheme and the need to maintain an appropriate balance between competing land uses.

State Government Issues

In addition to the Key Resource Areas included in the Ipswich Planning Scheme, a number of other State issues exists. These issues include current mining leases and Mineral Development Licences. These issues are dealt with by relevant State Government Agencies (i.e. the Department of Natural Resources and Mines and the Environmental Protection Agency).

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines provides a lead role in protecting mineral resources. **The Environmental Protection Agency is the lead agency for regulating and monitoring environmental compliance by mining activities.**

