



Plan for Ensham reduces footprint

ENSHAM Resources has altered its plans for the gigantic Ensham Central Project which will reduce the environmental impact of the mine and help ensure jobs in the region.

The mine, near Emerald, south-west of Mackay, will now also have an expanded open-cut operation while also using underground mining techniques.

Ensham chief executive officer Peter Westerhuis said a number of factors led senior management to review the development and make changes to the mining methodologies outlined in the environmental impact statement the company lodged in 2007.

"In response to the impacts of market conditions, lessons we learnt from the flood event in 2008 and feedback from the community we made the decision to revise our mining methodol-

ogy and transition the mine to a primarily underground operation," he said.

"The key change to the plan is our decision not to access the coal beneath the central floodplain north of the Nogoia River through open-cut mining.

"The decision results in a reduction in the total area of open-cut mining of 830 hectares compared to the original proposal.

"Our revised mining methodology also has positive implications for the local community.

"It means we will help secure the long-term future of around 3000 direct and indirect jobs and support ongoing investment in the region."

The Supplementary Report will go on public display for a period of 20 business days.

Copies are available at the DERM Emerald office and on the Ensham website.