GLOBAL COST CURVES FOR QUEENSLAND COMMODITIES

THERMAL COAL:
22 QLD OPERATIONS

METALLURGICAL COAL:
37 QLD OPERATIONS

Source: Wood Mackenzie, GlobalCoal
• The El Niño has assisted the mature operations with large footprints and water inventories breathing space to manage inventories.

• Smaller footprint sites e.g. stand alone underground operations have been utilising their external water supplies (net importers of water)
Mine Site Water Management

• Continuous Improvement Focus
  • Monitor water transfers and inventories
  • Conduct predictive water balance modelling

• Many companies report performance using the MCA’s Water Accounting Framework

• Significant funds invested into water management & infrastructure
• The majority of mining companies operating in the Basin remain Partners

• Partnership must continue to demonstrate the business case for ongoing membership

• Ownership changes present challenges – more companies to engage often without corporate history of operating in Fitzroy
Ongoing Research $2.7M
Through ACARP and the Coal Minesite Rehabilitation Fund

• Metal dynamics in the Mackenzie River
• Macroinvertebrate responses to river health
• Tool to Assess Mining Impacts on River Condition
• Macroinvertebrate and water quality surveys
• Ecosystem health indicators for fish
• Development of a Toolbox for Fish Health Assessment in Aquatic Ecosystems Associated With Coal Industries
• Guidelines for Establishing Ecologically Sustainable Discharge Criteria in Seasonally Flowing Streams
• Assessing The Ecotoxicology Of Salinity On Organisms In Seasonally Flowing Streams In The Fitzroy Catchment
• Development Of Ecosystem Protection Trigger Values For Sodium Sulfate In Seasonally Flowing Streams Of The Fitzroy River Basin
• Understanding water and salt dynamics to facilitate mine water management
• Reducing Analytical and Water Quality Monitoring Costs Using Diffusive Gradients in Thin Film Technique
• Incorporating Salinity into the Source Catchments Model for the Fitzroy Basin Long Term Salt Generation from Coal Spoils

Research often filling knowledge gaps identified by FPRH