



CAPABILITY STATEMENT

2025

ecodrillingsolutions.com.au



Company Overview

Eco Drilling Solutions is a proudly Indigenous-owned contractor delivering both Downhole and Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) services across Australia.

From our key locations in Brisbane, Hervey Bay, Emerald and Kenwick, we service all of Australia. Our work includes partnerships with clients in mining, infrastructure, civil and telecommunications sectors. Our business is defined by trusted leadership, deep expertise and a commitment to delivering results where others can't.

It's the skill and lived experience that deliver. Our team gets the job done right, every time, across every type of terrain.

Acknowledgement of Country:

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we operate and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.



Company Details

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(A Mirning-Ngadju-Wongatha-Yamatji woman)

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Brisbane, QLD | Hervey Bay, QLD | Emerald, QLD | Kenwick, WA

Our Purpose

Our company exists to deliver high-performance drilling with cultural integrity, safety and pride.

We've learned our trade in the field—not just the office. With decades of experience, we understand the high-risk, high tolerance demands of mineral and civil drilling. We work as one team. We solve problems. And we don't just win contracts because of who we are—we win because our experience demonstrates a duty of care that clients trust and value on every job.

Purpose Pillars:

- Growth through Reputation
- Cultural Ownership, Commercial Outcomes
- National Footprint, Local Relationships
- Safety and Standards, Every Day

We bring decades of field-tested experience, driven by respect and cultural purpose, to every job, delivering value beyond the drilling itself.



Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD)

Division Lead: Rick Walda

Focus: Civil, NBN, Optic Fibre, Utilities, Trenchless Installations

Our HDD division delivers trenchless drilling with a focus on accuracy, minimal disruption and civil integration. With over a decade of NBN expertise, we install conduits under roads, and communities—safely and efficiently.

We deliver precision trenchless drilling backed by real-world experience, civil integration and a proven record of safe, on-spec installations.



Telecommunications (NBN):

Installation of underground communications networks, including NBN fibre-optic systems, with minimal surface disruption and high-precision alignments.

Road Underbores:

Expert boring beneath active transport infrastructure to facilitate infrastructure growth without interrupting daily operations.

Expertise Statement

Horizontal directional drilling is a high-risk, high-precision discipline—and we treat it with the care it demands. Every bore path we drill is the product of detailed planning, skilled execution and constant attention to underground conditions. Our team understands how critical it is to avoid strikes, protect existing utilities and complete every install with zero harm and maximum control.

Downhole Drilling

Division Leads: Shane and Daniel Bentley

Focus: Mining, Exploration, Geotechnical, Coal, Hard Rock

Our downhole team brings exacting skill to high-stakes environments. We specialise in exploration and geotechnical drilling where tolerances are minimal, samples must be lab-ready and drilling errors are costly. Whether it's coal, precious metals or mineral sands—we drill smart, safe and on-spec. Our rigs are capable of vertical and angled drilling at 45 degrees or less, enabling flexible access to complex formations and precise targeting of strata.

We specialise in drilling where millimetres matter—where precision, tolerance and sampling integrity make or break a mine plan.



Reverse Circulation (RC) Drilling:

Ideal for hard rock exploration, RC drilling provides fast, cost-effective recovery of high-quality samples with minimal contamination.

Conventional Coring (4C, 6C & 8C):

Supports geotechnical assessments, producing various core sizes for diverse engineering applications.

Rotary Air Blast (RAB)

RAB drilling is a fast, cost-effective exploration method used for shallow sampling. It delivers preliminary geological data and is ideal for first-pass drilling in unconsolidated or weathered ground.

Geotechnical Drilling:

Assesses subsurface conditions for civil and infrastructure planning, including soil and rock characterisation.

Mud Rotary Drilling:

Used in unconsolidated formations, this method stabilises boreholes with drilling fluid—ideal for water bores and environmental sampling.

Installation of Piezometers & Inclinometers:

Supports groundwater monitoring and structural stability assessments in sensitive environments.

Diamond Coring:

Delivers continuous, intact core samples for geological, structural and metallurgical analysis in deep, hard rock and coal projects.

Pressure Grouting:

Strengthens and seals subsurface structures by injecting grout to stabilise ground and reduce permeability.



We hold the certifications—but it's our **over five decades** of high-pressure delivery in Australia and abroad that sets us apart.

Our systems process and methodologies meet the following standards:

- ISO 9001:2015 – Quality (Pending)
- ISO 14001:2015 – Environmental (Pending)
- ISO 45001:2018 – Health & Safety (Pending)

Accreditations

- Certificate in Drilling Operations
- Water Bore Construction Licence
- Supply Nation Certified

Expertise

We've drilled in Australia and abroad—across goldfields, deserts, mountains and built-up cities. Our team brings more than three decades of hands-on experience, having worked in some of the harshest terrains across Australia and the Middle East. We understand that success and safety go hand in glove. In our line of work, the safety of every job depends on collaboration, real-time judgment and thoughtful deliberation among the people on the ground. We bring experience, systems and an instinct for what makes or breaks a job.



Industries We serve

We know that drilling is a critical part of many important Australian industries and have created protocols to address the various needs of each:

- Mining (Coal, Precious Metals, Rare Earths)
- Civil Infrastructure (Road, Rail, Energy)
- Telecommunications (NBN)
- Agriculture (Water Access)

Some of Our Clients



GLENCORE



Safety Statement

Safety isn't a checkbox—it's our culture. We plan thoroughly, work methodically and empower every crew member to stop work if it's unsafe. Our approach to safety is proactive, documented and compliant with ISO 45001.

Initiatives:

- Daily pre-starts and toolbox talks
- Job Hazard Analysis and SWMS
- Zero-harm reporting culture
- Regular compliance auditing
- Client portal digital reporting system
- Rod handling systems

Our safety culture is lived, not laminated. We empower every crew member to act, assess and own safety in every environment.



Case Study

NBN Infrastructure – Horizontal Drilling in Urban QLD



Urban HDD is about more than just trenchless drilling –it's about planning, spatial control and collaboration that keeps cities moving while we work underneath them.

The Challenge

Eco Drilling Solutions was contracted to support the rollout of NBN infrastructure in a densely populated metropolitan area in Queensland. The scope required precision horizontal directional drilling beneath a complex array of urban elements—including sidewalks, street signage and driveways—without disturbing the surface or compromising safety. Adding to the complexity was the presence of existing underground services such as water mains, gas lines and telecommunication ducts, requiring careful navigation and strict spatial control.

Our Approach

Our HDD team led by Rick Walda employed trenchless directional boring methods to work safely within the tight urban corridor. We conducted detailed electronic locating and non-destructive potholing to visually locate and measure depths of existing underground services. We did this prior to mobilisation. Then we used electronic tracking to guide the drill head with millimetre accuracy. Our operators worked in active collaboration with utility locators, municipal engineers and NBN project leads to plot the safest path beneath infrastructure. The bore path was mapped to minimise disturbance and adhere to clearance tolerances.

Case Study

Downhole Drilling – Glencore’s Clermont Coal Project

The Challenge

Eco Drilling Solutions was engaged to support Glencore at the Clermont Coal Mine, a site well known for its extremely variable and unforgiving geology. Multiple contractors had previously failed to complete drilling scopes in this area, where ground conditions—marked by broken basalt, eluvials, sands and reactive clays—are inconsistent and difficult to predict. The geology inverts what appears in modelling, presenting a flipped stratigraphy that complicates both penetration and sample quality. Achieving depth and delivering wall-monitoring instrumentation in this type of ground had proven elusive for others.

Our Approach

Drawing on our prior experience at the site in 2019, we mobilised with the right methodology and crew. Our familiarity with these geological behaviours enabled us to modify our drilling approach on the fly—adapting rod handling, bit selection and mud programs to suit each shift in strata. We successfully deployed vertical inclinometers (VWP) and time domain reflectometry (TDR) cables used to monitor pit wall movement and geotechnical behaviour. This monitoring helps detect signs of wall slippage before failure, which is critical for site safety and operational planning.

The Result

Eco Drilling not only completed the new 2023 campaign successfully—we re-established our value as a long-term delivery partner. Our ability to drill through geology that had defeated others allowed Glencore to gather critical coal quality data and install the instrumentation required for ongoing pit wall monitoring. We were selected again based on performance, not price—because when the work is difficult, they call the crew who can deliver.



Where others stalled, we advanced. Our experience is what gets clients through Australia’s most difficult drilling conditions—safely, efficiently and on spec.

Case Study

Preferred Supplier Relationship with Boral

"Having reliable, skilled exploration drillers makes our work as resource geologists significantly easier. Eco Drilling consistently delivers high-quality results with a strong focus on safety and performance, making them an obvious choice as a preferred supplier."

Brendan Mitchell

Project Manager, Boral Geology and Resource Management



From overlooked to preferred—our results speak for themselves. When the ground gets tough, our experience and resolve deliver what others can't.

The Challenge

Eco Drilling Solutions entered a highly competitive market where few Aboriginal-owned businesses had penetrated the exploration drilling category at a national level. Early challenges included being knocked back from opportunities—including one project on Aboriginal land—despite local cultural ties and capability. In addition, the highly mobile nature of drilling made it difficult to attract and retain Indigenous employees, many of whom needed to travel away from family and community for long periods.

Our Approach

Eco Drilling tackled these systemic barriers head-on by fostering a family-oriented culture and creating employment pathways grounded in long-term engagement. We learned to adapt our operating model to respect the social and logistical realities of Indigenous workers—offering re-employment flexibility and building a workforce centred on trust, rather than turnover. Through steady performance and repeat delivery, we earned a place on Boral's preferred supplier list. Our work at Peats Ridge, NSW, is one standout example, where we successfully completed a complex scope through a rock unit previously deemed impassable by other contractors.

The Result

Since becoming an approved vendor, Boral continues to trust Eco Drilling Solutions to solve mission-critical projects on projects across QLD and NSW. Our professionalism, high-quality product and safety-first culture have made us a valued supplier. Today, Eco Drilling stands as one of only 50 Aboriginal-owned businesses on Boral's list -- and one of the few delivering exploration drilling to Tier-1 standards.



Get in touch

SCAN TO VISIT
OUR WEBSITE



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