

Wyloo North Iron Ore Mine

Application Number: **03294**

Commencement Date:
12/01/2026

Status: **Locked**

1. About the project

1.1 Project details

1.1.1 Project title *

Wyloo North Iron Ore Mine

1.1.2 Project industry type *

Mining

1.1.3 Project industry sub-type

Iron ore mine

1.1.4 Estimated start date *

01/03/2029

1.1.4 Estimated end date *

30/06/2042

1.2 Proposed Action details

1.2.1 Provide an overview of the proposed action, including all proposed activities. *

Fortescue Ltd (Fortescue) (the Proponent), proposes to develop the Wyloo North Iron Ore Mine (the Proposed Action) in the Pilbara region of Western Australia (WA). The Proposed Action is located approximately 110 km west of Tom Price in the Hamersley Range. Ore will be transported by road train via a transport corridor to Fortescue's existing Eliwana Mine for processing.

The Proposed Action will facilitate a 12 million tonne per annum (mtpa) operation over an approximate 13-year Life of Mine (LoM). The regional location of the Proposed Action is shown in **Attachment 1, Figure 1-1 (Project Location), p. 3**.

The Proposed Action is located within a 21,910.1 ha Proposed Action Area and its implementation will require clearing of up to 4,954.5 hectare (ha) of native vegetation.

Refer to **Attachment 1, Section 2 Proposal Description, p. 4** for a summary of the Wyloo North Proposed Action.

The Proposed Action Area illustrated in **Attachment 1, Figure 2-1 (Project Location) p. 8**, mirrors the Mine Development Envelope (MDE) defined for the referral of the Proposal under Western Australian Part IV *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.

The Proposed Action includes:

- The development of above and below water table open cut pits.
- Crushing and screening plant, including several mobile crushing and screening plants, and supporting infrastructure.
- Infrastructure corridor including but not limited to power generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure, haul roads, water management infrastructure, borrow pits, laydowns and workshops.
- Groundwater abstraction for water supply and dewatering to facilitate mining below the water table.
- Water management infrastructure for the purposes of abstraction, conveyance, reinjection, water treatment and storage, including but not limited to, pumps, pipelines, bores, ponds, turkey nests, levees, diversions, culverts, drains, floodways, sediment control and other water quality management structures.
- Surplus water management, including but not limited to aquifer reinjection, infiltration or evaporation using in-pit disposal or ponds, or use by third party receivers or other mining operations.
- Mine waste management including, but not limited to, waste rock landforms, in-pit storage and low-grade ore stockpiles.
- Ore, topsoil and subsoil stockpiles.
- Linear and ancillary infrastructure to support mining, including but not limited to an accommodation camp, offices, workshops, roads, powerlines, water pipelines, borrow pits and laydown areas.

Post-construction, the Proposed Action's power supply will align with Fortescue's decarbonisation goals, 'real zero by 2030' and be provided by a solar and renewable mix and batteries via an overhead power line connecting to Fortescue's Pilbara Transmission Network.

To elaborate on the above description of the Proposed Action, the main types of proposed disturbance activities that will be required to undertake the Proposed Action include those such as:

- Vegetation clearing for the construction of mine pits and various types of infrastructure (water management, mine waste management, transport, linear and ancillary infrastructure)
- Excavation and earthworks for the construction of mine pits and the various types of infrastructure as described above. Excavation and earthworks are also required to undertake the activity of mining the ore.
- Groundwater abstraction and dewatering will be undertaken as required to provide water supply for the mine and enable below water table mining.
- Surplus water will be managed through methods such as aquifer reinjection, infiltration or evaporation.
- Transportation of ore via road trains along the proposed transport corridor to the Eliwana Mine for processing.

A short summary of how the above-described activities may potentially impact the environment is provided below. For more detail on the potential impacts to the environment from the Proposed Action, refer to **Attachment 1, Sections 7.3, 8.3, 9.3, 10.3, 11.3 and 13**.

- Vegetation clearing may cause the loss or disturbance of individuals or populations of conservation significant or culturally significant flora species or vegetation, as well as terrestrial fauna habitat.

- The development of infrastructure may fragment large tracts of vegetation, reducing connectivity and ecosystem resilience.
- Dust is generated during the process of mining and may cover plants and affect overall health of vegetation, as well as affect the amenity at cultural and/or recreation places.
- Noise and vibration caused from blasting, machinery or heavy vehicles could reduce amenity of pastoralists or Traditional Owners or affect the behaviour of terrestrial fauna.
- The process of constructing and operating a mine may cause the spread of invasive species through the movement of vehicles and equipment, which may degrade native vegetation communities.
- Fauna mortality may occur due to strike/collision from vehicle and equipment movement during the construction and operation of the mine.
- Loss of subterranean fauna individuals and/or loss of potential subterranean fauna habitat through the process of mining.
- Modification of groundwater levels or quality may occur due to abstraction for mining or water supply which could impact on pools, groundwater dependent vegetation and terrestrial, aquatic and subterranean fauna habitat.
- Modification of surface water regimes or quality due to catchment reduction, placement of infrastructure and changes to creek alignments (due to diversions being established), may impact on pools, significant flora/vegetation and terrestrial and aquatic fauna habitat.
- The development of the mine and related infrastructure may cause the loss of cultural heritage places or loss and/or restricted access to culturally important locations/hunting grounds.

Note that a full reference list is provided for sources cited within this referral form, in **Attachment 1, Section 17 (References), p. 151**. Sources are generally not 'external sources' and predominantly comprise unpublished grey literature and therefore cannot be uploaded via the 'Attach Links' function.

1.2.2 Is the project action part of a staged development or related to other actions or proposals in the region?

No

1.2.6 What Commonwealth or state legislation, planning frameworks or policy documents are relevant to the proposed action, and how are they relevant? *

The following Commonwealth and State legislation, regulations and policies apply to the Proposed Action. Further information in relation to relevant state and federal legislation, processes and policy is provided in **Attachment 1, Section 3 Legislative Framework, p. 16.**

Commonwealth Legislation:

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)

The EPBC Act is the primary Commonwealth legislation directed to protecting the environment in relation to Commonwealth land and controlling significant impacts on MNES. The EPBC Act is administered by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) and requires assessment and approval of actions that are likely to have a significant impact on a MNES. The EPBC Act also protects a range of shorebirds listed under the Japan Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (JAMBA) and China Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (CAMBA) Migratory Bird Agreements.

Native Title Act 1993 (Cwth)

The Proposed Action Area is located within the Puutu Kunti Kurrama and Pinikura (PKKP) #1 and #2 Native Title Determination (WCD2015/003) and is the traditional lands of the Puutu Kunti Kurrama (Kurrama) and Pinikura people.

Guidelines and Guidance - EPBC Listed Threatened Species Management / Recovery Plans and Conservation Advice

Recovery plans are enacted under the EPBC Act and remain in force until the species is removed from the threatened species list. Conservation advice provides guidance on immediate recovery and threat abatement activities that can be undertaken to facilitate the conservation of a listed species or ecological community. The following documents were considered through the impact assessment and proposed mitigation actions of this Proposed Action:

- National Recovery Plan for the Northern Quoll, *Dasyurus hallucatus* (Hill and Ward 2010)
- Commonwealth Listing Advice on Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*) (TSSC 2005)
- Conservation Advice *Macroderma gigas* ghost bat (TSSC 2016a)
- Conservation Advice *Rhinionictis aurantia* (Pilbara form) (Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat) (TSSC 2016b)
- Conservation Advice *Falco hypoleucos* Grey Falcon (TSSC 2020)
- Conservation Advice for *Liasis olivaceus barroni* (Olive Python-Pilbara subspecies) (DEWHA 2008)

State Legislation:

Environmental Protection Act 1986 (WA) (EP Act)

The EP Act is the primary State legislation that governs environmental impact assessment and environmental protection in Western Australia. Significant proposals require referral to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) under Division 1, Part IV, s38 of the EP Act. The Proposed Action has the potential to result in significant impacts to the environment due to the clearing of native vegetation which supports State-listed species and communities and impacts associated with mine dewatering, water supply and changed surface hydrology. The Proposed Action has been referred to the EPA under s38 of the EP Act and is currently under assessment.

Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (WA) (BC Act)

The BC Act provides for the conservation and protection of biodiversity in WA, including Threatened flora, fauna and ecological communities. Additionally, the BC Act covers important matters including habitats, communities, threatening processes, environmental pests and weeds. The Proposed Action will impact threatened flora and fauna species protected under the BC Act.

Mining Act 1978 (WA) (Mining Act)

The Mining Act is the principle Western Australian legislation governing mining in the State. As the Proposed Action will be developed and regulated under a State Agreement, limited provisions of the Mining Act will apply, principally those related to the grant of mining tenure and tenure administration.

Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914 (WA) (RIWI Act)

The RIWI Act, administered by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) authorises and regulates dewatering and water supply. Groundwater Abstraction Licenses under Section 5C of the RIWI Act require a Groundwater Operating Strategy (GOS) for large volumes of groundwater. The GOS will outline how groundwater will be abstracted, which users are impacted, including environmental values, and how these impacts are managed. DWER endorse the GOS as a condition of the 5C license. A Bed and Banks permit is required if work is being undertaken that obstructs, interferes, diverts or destroys the bed or banks of a watercourse or wetland.

Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (WA) (AH Act)

The AH Act provides provisions for the preservation on behalf of the community of places and objects customarily used by or traditional to, the original inhabitants of Australia or their descendants, or associated therewith, and for other purposes incidental thereto. Where the Proposal cannot avoid impacts to heritage places, applications will be made under s.18 of the AH Act or Cultural Heritage Management Plan under the ACH Act, as relevant in consultation with the Puutu Kunti Kurrama (Kurrama) and Pinikura People.

1.2.7 Describe any public consultation that has been, is being or will be undertaken regarding the project area, including with Indigenous stakeholders. Attach any completed consultation documentations, if relevant. *

Fortescue has identified relevant government, Aboriginal Traditional Owners, pastoral / mining and community stakeholders with an interest in the Proposed Action and has commenced engagement with key stakeholders. Consultation with stakeholders will continue as the Proposed Action is developed and implemented. Consultation with Traditional Owners to date has been undertaken in the form of on-country visits and regular formal meetings.

The following Aboriginal Traditional Owners have been identified:

- Puutu Kunti Kurrama People
- Pinikura People

The Proposed Action Area is located within the Puutu Kunti Kurrama and Pinikura #1 and #2 Native Title Determination (WCD2015/003) and is the traditional lands of the Puutu Kunti Kurrama (Kurrama) people and the Pinikura people. Kurrama and Pinikura are two separate but related language groups that speak for their own Country within the shared PKKP native Title determination area. The Puutu Kunti Kurrama and Pinikura Aboriginal Corporation (PKKP AC) is the Prescribed Body Corporate (PBC) representing both Kurrama and Pinikura.

Attachment 1, Section 5 Stakeholder Engagement), p. 21 and Table 5-1 (Key stakeholders identified in relation to the Proposed Action), p. 22-24, provides further details of relevant stakeholders. A summary of stakeholder consultation undertaken to date is provided in **Attachment 1, Section 5.2 (Stakeholder engagement process) and Table 5-2 (Summary of stakeholder consultation), pp. 26-29**.

As part of ongoing consultation with Traditional Owners, content provided in Attachment 1 (referral supporting document), was subject to a detailed review period by PKKP AC in late 2025, with the understanding that the purpose of the document was to support referral of the Proposed Action under the EPBC Act. PKKP AC has requested that certain sensitive cultural information was redacted prior to publishing. Therefore, a redacted version of the supporting document has been provided to DCCEE for publishing.

1.3.1 Identity: Referring party

Privacy Notice:

Personal information means information or an opinion about an identified individual, or an individual who is reasonably identifiable.

By completing and submitting this form, you consent to the collection of all personal information contained in this form. If you are providing the personal information of other individuals in this form, please ensure you have their consent before doing so.

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (the department) collects your personal information (as defined by the Privacy Act 1988) through this platform for the purposes of enabling the department to consider your submission and contact you in relation to your submission. If you fail to provide some or all of the personal information requested on this platform (name and email address), the department will be unable to contact you to seek further information (if required) and subsequently may impact the consideration given to your submission.

Personal information may be disclosed to other Australian government agencies, persons or organisations where necessary for the above purposes, provided the disclosure is consistent with relevant laws, in particular the Privacy Act 1988 (Privacy Act). Your personal information will be used and stored in accordance with the Australian Privacy Principles.

See our Privacy Policy to learn more about accessing or correcting personal information or making a complaint.

Alternatively, email us at privacy@dceew.gov.au.

Confirm that you have read and understand this Privacy Notice *

1.3.1.1 Is Referring party an organisation or business? *

Yes

Referring party organisation details

ABN/ACN 57002594872
Organisation name FORTESCUE LTD
Organisation address 6000 WA

Referring party details

Name Amy Imbergamo
Job title Senior Environmental Advisor
Phone +61 8 9230 1708
Email amy.imbergamo@fortescue.com
Address 256 St Georges Terrace, Perth WA 6000

1.3.2 Identity: Person proposing to take the action

1.3.2.1 Are the Person proposing to take the action details the same as the Referring party details? *

No

1.3.2.2 Is Person proposing to take the action an organisation or business? *

Yes

Person proposing to take the action organisation details

ABN/ACN 57002594872
Organisation name FORTESCUE LTD
Organisation address 6000 WA

Person proposing to take the action details

Name Jarrod Pittson
Job title Group Manager Environment and Closure
Phone 08 6218 8888
Email jarrod.pittson@fortescue.com
Address Ground Floor 256 St Georges Tce, Perth WA 6000

1.3.2.14 Are you proposing the action as part of a Joint Venture? *

No

1.3.2.15 Are you proposing the action as part of a Trust? *

No

1.3.2.17 Describe the Person proposing the action's history of responsible environmental management including details of any proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources against the Person proposing to take the action. *

Fortescue has a demonstrated satisfactory public record of responsible environmental management. The company has met statutory requirements for environmental management and compliance reporting for mining and infrastructure projects it has implemented to date. Fortescue has a significant presence in the Pilbara, where it owns and operates the Eliwana, Cloudbreak, Christmas Creek and Solomon Iron Ore Mines, as well as large-scale dedicated Port and rail infrastructure.

Fortescue has not been subject to any convictions or proceedings under Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. It will also hold, via various wholly owned subsidiaries, a 100% interest in the mining tenements upon which the Proposed Action will be implemented.

The Proposed Action will be implemented in accordance with Fortescue's ISO14001-aligned Environmental Management System (EMS) and Environment Policy. **The Fortescue Environment Policy is provided as Attachment 2, as well as being Appendix C in Attachment 1 Referral supporting document.**

1.3.2.18 If the person proposing to take the action is a corporation, provide details of the corporation's environmental policy and planning framework

Fortescue implements and maintains an Environmental Management System (EMS) that aligns with the principles of ISO14001 International Standard for Environmental Management Systems. Fortescue also maintains an Environment Policy that is publicly available on the Fortescue website (refer to Attachment 2). The Policy is endorsed by the Chief Executive Officer and the Board, stating that compliance with environmental laws and obligations is the minimum standard to which Fortescue will operate. It is the responsibility of all Fortescue employees and contractors to comply with the Environment Policy.

A schematic illustrating the 12 key elements and Plan–Do–Check–Act continuous improvement cycle underpinning Fortescue's Environmental Management System is provided in **Attachment 1, Section 4 and Schematic 4-1, p. 20**.

The Fortescue environmental management framework is managed by environmental personnel, within corporate, site operations and projects. Position descriptions for relevant environmental personnel outlines the requirements to manage and implement Fortescue's EMS sitewide. Fortescue identifies the environmental aspects of its projects and operations through a systematic risk assessment process. Environmental risks are reviewed and updated annually with Environmental Improvement Plans (EIPs) established for high risk environmental aspects.

Operational controls (management plans, procedures, guidelines and work instructions) will be identified and developed for each environmental risk. Environmental management programs established at Operational and Project sites detail the implementation of operational controls and monitoring of its effectiveness. Effectiveness of critical environmental controls implemented for high risk environmental aspects are audited annually to identify improvement opportunities that may reduce the consequence or likelihood of occurrence of environmental risks or gaps.

All Fortescue employees, including supervisors, receive training during inductions outlining their responsibilities in relation to complying with the Environment Policy. Environmental personnel at Operational Sites and Projects deliver targeted training on specific regulatory requirements, site specific approval conditions and use of Fortescue management plans and procedures to ensure that personnel understand their environmental responsibilities when undertaking their day to day work.

Fortescue maintains a database that is accessible to all Fortescue personnel to capture, maintain and report details of non-compliances and corrective actions. Performance against compliance targets are monitored and internally reported to management on a monthly basis, ensuring that non-compliance triggers and adverse environmental trends are identified and appropriate corrective and remedial actions can be implemented. Monthly analysis and reporting to Senior Managers are undertaken for environmental incidents and actions completed. Regular biennial reporting of environmental performance to regulators is undertaken in accordance with the Statutory Reporting Schedule.

Environmental personnel at Operational and Project sites undertake monthly auditing against high risk environmental obligations (those obligations where non-compliance could potentially lead to environmental harm). Results of audits are internally reported to Senior Managers, with corrective actions arising from non-compliance captured, reviewed and reported.

Records relating to environmental management (including compliance, monitoring and reporting) are maintained within Fortescue in accordance with Fortescue's Record Keeping Policy.

Continuous improvement of Fortescue EMS and environmental performance is driven through the environmental governance processes within the business, including monthly reporting to Senior Managers, quarterly reporting to the Board and quarterly environmental management review meetings with Site and Head Office management. Improvement actions identified on Fortescue EMS effectiveness and environmental performance are identified through the Senior Environmental Management team.

1.3.3 Identity: Proposed designated proponent

1.3.3.1 Are the Proposed designated proponent details the same as the Person proposing to take the action? *

Yes

Proposed designated proponent organisation details

ABN/ACN	57002594872
Organisation name	FORTESCUE LTD
Organisation address	6000 WA

Proposed designated proponent details

Name	Jarrold Pittson
Job title	Group Manager Environment and Closure
Phone	08 6218 8888
Email	jarrod.pittson@fortescue.com
Address	Ground Floor 256 St Georges Tce, Perth WA 6000

1.3.4 Identity: Summary of allocation

✔ Confirmed Referring party's identity

The Referring party is the person preparing the information in this referral.

ABN/ACN	57002594872
Organisation name	FORTESCUE LTD
Organisation address	6000 WA
Representative's name	Amy Imbergamo
Representative's job title	Senior Environmental Advisor
Phone	+61 8 9230 1708
Email	amy.imbergamo@fortescue.com
Address	256 St Georges Terrace, Perth WA 6000

✔ Confirmed Person proposing to take the action's identity

The Person proposing to take the action is the individual, business, government agency or trustee that will be responsible for the proposed action.

ABN/ACN	57002594872
Organisation name	FORTESCUE LTD
Organisation address	6000 WA
Representative's name	Jarrod Pittson
Representative's job title	Group Manager Environment and Closure
Phone	08 6218 8888
Email	jarrod.pittson@fortescue.com
Address	Ground Floor 256 St Georges Tce, Perth WA 6000

✔ Confirmed Proposed designated proponent's identity

The Person proposing to take the action is the individual or organisation proposed to be responsible for meeting the requirements of the EPBC Act during the assessment process, if the Minister decides that this project is a controlled action.

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

1.4 Payment details: Payment exemption and fee waiver

1.4.1 Do you qualify for an exemption from fees under EPBC Regulation 5.23 (1) (a)? *

No

1.4.3 Have you applied for or been granted a waiver for full or partial fees under Regulation 5.21A? *

No

1.4.5 Are you going to apply for a waiver of full or partial fees under EPBC Regulation 5.21A?

No

1.4.7 Has the department issued you with a credit note? *

No

1.4.9 Would you like to add a purchase order number to your invoice? *

No

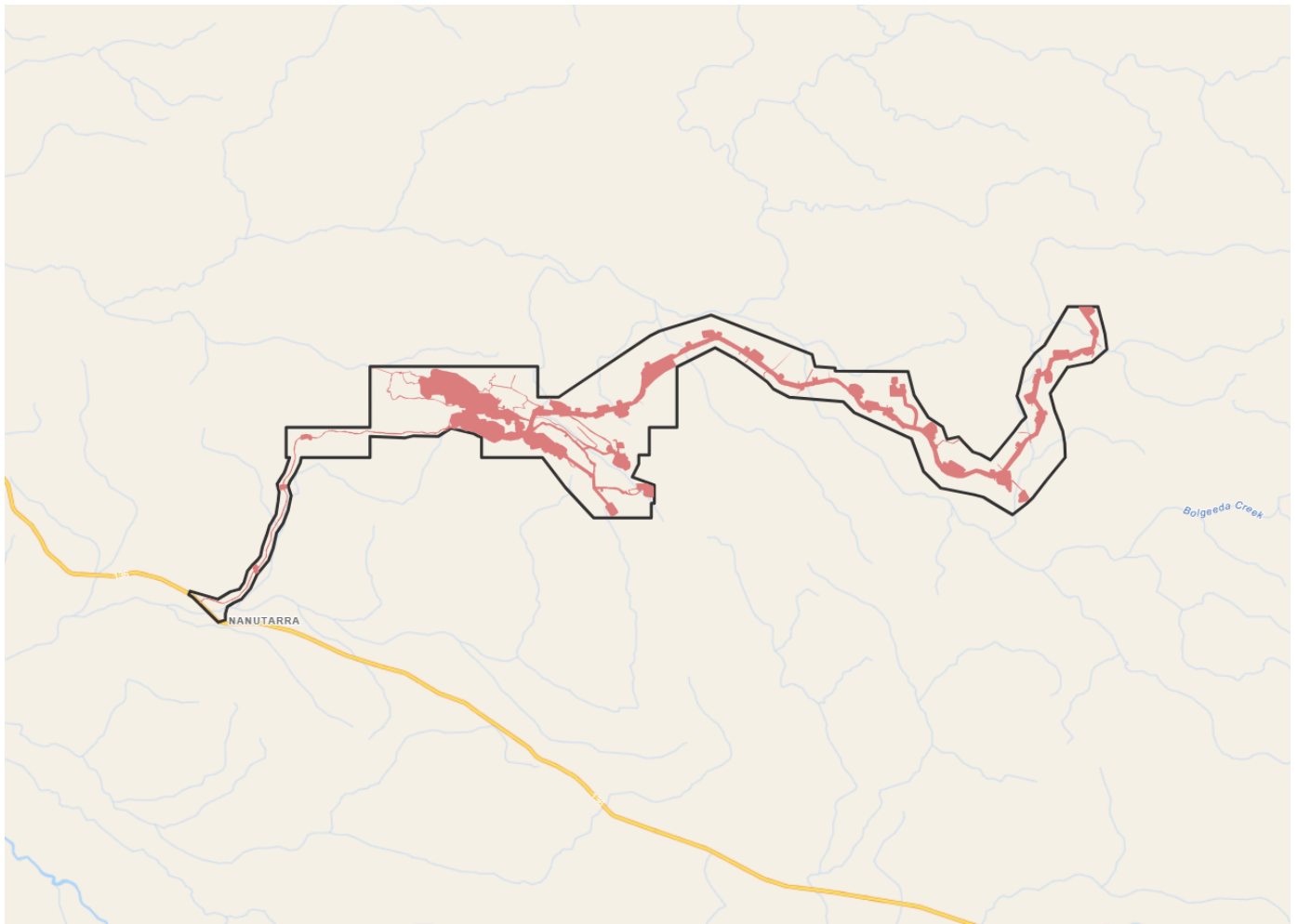
1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

1.4.11 Who would you like to allocate as the entity responsible for payment? *

Proposed designated proponent

2. Location

2.1 Project footprint



Project Area: 21981.85 Ha Disturbance Footprint: 4970.68 Ha

2.2 Footprint details

2.2.1 What is the address of the proposed action? *

Nanutarra Road, Hamersley Ranges, Nanutarra WA 6751

2.2.2 Where is the primary jurisdiction of the proposed action? *

Western Australia

2.2.3 Is there a secondary jurisdiction for this proposed action? *

No

2.2.5 What is the tenure of the action area relevant to the project area? *

The Proposed Action intersects mining tenure held by Fortescue.

Fortescue holds mining leases and exploration licences, issued pursuant to the Western Australian *Mining Act 1978*, across the majority of the Proposed Action Area. Fortescue has applied for miscellaneous licences for an infrastructure corridor and is in the process of applying for additional miscellaneous licences for construction access. Additional mining tenure will be sought for remaining areas of the Proposed Action Area as required.

Attachment 1, Section 3.1.2 and Table 3-1 (Tenement details), pp. 16-17, summarises the relevant mining tenements (applied for or granted pursuant to the *Mining Act 1978*) upon which the Proposed Action will be undertaken. The Proposed Action Area also partially intersects Mt Stuart Pastoral Station and Wyloo Pastoral Station. These pastoral leases are administered under the *WA Land Administration Act 1997*.

3. Existing environment

3.1 Physical description

3.1.1 Describe the current condition of the project area's environment.

The Proposed Action is located in a remote area within the Shire of Ashburton in WA. The closest towns are Tom Price and Paraburdoo, approximately 110 km west and 120 km southwest of the Proposed Action Area respectively.

Road access to the Proposed Action will be provided through two main options. Fortescue proposes to partially realign and upgrade an existing pastoral access track into Wyloo North which connects to Nanutarra Road. Mine access will also be provided by the proposed infrastructure and transport corridor to Eliwana Mine proposed to be built as part of this Proposed Action.

The Wyloo North Proposed Action Area intersects portions of both the Mt Stuart and Wyloo pastoral leases, both of which with cattle grazing currently being undertaken.

Vegetation condition within the Proposed Action Area ranges from Excellent to Degraded. The majority of the vegetation condition is Excellent (78%) primarily comprising undisturbed rocky hills and undulating plains, with no obvious signs of disturbance or only very minor weed presence and grazing. The more significant creeks and associated floodplains (i.e. Duck Creek and Boolgeeda Creek) are in some cases comparatively degraded owing to weed infestation and heavy grazing in some areas. Smaller rocky creeks and other drainage features are in general less degraded.

Fire is also a regular occurrence in the Pilbara with large tracts of vegetation burning, particularly during the late dry season, start of the wet season. As per **Figure 13-1 in Attachment 1 (p. 122)**, the majority of the Proposed Action Area has had fires in the last 6 years with most recent fires in 2024, although this did not pose limitation to flora and fauna surveys.

Fourteen introduced flora were recorded in the Proposed Action Area. All of the species are widely naturalised across the Pilbara region and their presence within the Proposed Action Area is not considered unusual. There were no Declared Pests or Weeds of National Significance (WONS) recorded. The most significant infestations of introduced species were within creeks and associated floodplains, especially in and around Duck Creek, in which dense buffel grass and Birdwood grass infestations were present, and heavy grazing by cattle was apparent. Introduced fauna recorded in the Proposed Action Area in recent surveys include cats and cattle.

3.1.2 Describe any existing or proposed uses for the project area.

The Proposed Action is located within the Shire of Ashburton in WA. The closest towns are Tom Price and Paraburdoo, approximately 110 km west and 120 km southwest of the Proposed Action Area respectively.

The Wyloo and the Mt Stuart Pastoral Leases extend over a large portion of the Wyloo North Proposed Action Area with cattle grazing currently being undertaken.

The Proposed Action is located within the Puutu Kunti Kurrama and Pinikura #1 and #2 Native Title Determination (WCD2015/003) and is the traditional lands of the Puutu Kunti Kurrama (Kurrama) and Pinikura people (**Attachment 1, Figure 2-3, p. 15**). The Puutu Kunti Kurrama and Pinikura Aboriginal Corporation (PKKP AC) is the Prescribed Body Corporate (PBC) representing the Kurrama and Pinikura people.

The *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act) provides for the use, protection, and management of identified Crown and public land parcels for conservation. The Proposed Action Area does not intersect with any lands or waters vested under the CALM Act managed by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA).

There are no reserves or conservation areas within or adjacent to the Proposed Action Area. The closest conservation areas are the Cane River Conservation Park and the ex Nanutarra former leasehold both located 48 km to the northwest. The Barlee Range Nature Reserve is located 58 km to the southwest. The nearest Nationally Important Wetland is Kookhabinna Gorge (WA031) located approximately 45 km southwest of the DE.

Major mining projects located in the surrounding area include the following in order of closest proximity to the Proposed Action Area:

- Eliwana Iron Ore Mine (operated by Fortescue) located approximately 3 km northeast.
- Paulsens East Iron Ore Mine (operated by Miracle Iron Holdings Pty Ltd and currently in Care and Maintenance) located approximately 3 km west.
- Paulsens Gold Mine (operated by Black Cat Syndicate) located approximately 12 km west.
- West Pilbara Iron Ore Mine (operated by API Management Pty Ltd and its JV partners), closest mining areas located approximately 20 km northwest and extending further northwest.
- The Brockman Hub, consisting of Brockman 2, Brockman 4 and Nammuldi-Silvergrass iron ore mines (operated by Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd, subsidiary of Rio Tinto), located approximately 50 to 60 km to the east.

Figure 2-3 in Attachment 1 (p. 15) presents an overview of the regional context and existing land uses in relation to the Proposed Action Area.

3.1.3 Describe any outstanding natural features and/or any other important or unique values that applies to the project area.

The Proposed Action Area does not intersect with any lands or waters vested under the CALM Act managed by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA). The closest conservation areas are the Cane River Conservation Park and the ex Nanutarra former leasehold both located 48 km to the northwest. The Barlee Range Nature Reserve is located 58 km to the southwest. The nearest Nationally Important Wetland is Kookhabinna Gorge (WA031) located approximately 45 km southwest of the DE.

The majority landform unit in Wyloo North based on preliminary desktop assessment is plateaux, mesas, ridges, mountains and upper slopes. Although this landform unit is not unique to the Proposed Action Area and is well represented locally and regionally, there is the potential for individual landforms such as mesas, banded iron formations, buttes and caves to be significant. For example, the Department of Conservation, Biodiversity and Attractions (DBCA) listed Priority Ecological Community (PEC) (Priority 3), *Triodia pisolitica* (previously *Triodia* sp. Robe River) assemblages of mesas of the West Pilbara, is present within the Proposed Action Area. This PEC is associated with mesas. The community is a combination of *Triodia pisolitica* with *Acacia pruinocarpa*, *A. citrinoviridis* on slopes or peaks of mesas. These two acacias are generally found associated with Pilbara creek lines, and their occurrence is probably indicative of the genesis of the mesa surfaces in wetlands, then erosion of the landscape and 'inversion of the landscape' such that the mesa slopes and peaks that were previously low in the landscape become high points. In the soil and landforms desktop assessment, a single butte has also been identified, which also coincides with a registered Aboriginal heritage site, which appears to be unique to the local area. However, it is noted that the butte is located 3 km outside the Proposed Action Area. A soil and landforms assessment is currently underway which will further identify and characterise any potentially significant landforms. Landforms are discussed in **Attachment 1, Section 12, Table 12-1, pp. 110-12**. The PEC is discussed in **Attachment 1, Section 7.2.4.2, pp. 47-48** as well in **Attachment 3** (current Wyloo North flora and vegetation survey report, *ecologia* 2025a).

3.1.4 Describe the gradient (or depth range if action is to be taken in a marine area) relevant to the project area.

The Proposed Action Area is located within the Hamersley Ranges. There is considerable variation in topography across the Proposed Action Area from the low drainage floors and channels to the high ridges and plateaux. The topography of the Wyloo North deposit in the western section of the Proposed Action Area is steep with undulations and deeply dissected drainage and hydraulic controls imposed by topographic features. The topography ranges from 300 mAHD to 450 mAHD. Creeklines run adjacent to steep cliff faces along structural trends with elevation changes greater than 20 m. The topography in the eastern section of the Proposed Action Area, where an infrastructure and transport corridor is proposed to be constructed, can range upwards of approximately 660m AHD.

3.2 Flora and fauna

3.2.1 Describe the flora and fauna within the affected area and attach any investigations of surveys if applicable.

Flora

Multiple detailed flora and vegetation surveys have been undertaken between 2021 and 2024 to support the Proposed Action. Additional surveys are currently being undertaken and continuing into early 2026 to include additional areas in the Proposed Action Area that were not included in the previous survey boundary (proposed mine access road and other small areas), as well as undertake targeted work. Findings will be incorporated into a Wyloo North consolidated flora and vegetation survey report to support environmental impact assessment.

A total of 482 vascular plant taxa from 60 families and 184 genera were recorded within the *ecologia* (2025a) survey area from quadrats, relevés, vegetation description sites, and opportunistic observations. Of these, 14 taxa (2.5%) could not be identified to species level due to a lack of reproductive material.

No EPBC Act Threatened species were recorded by *ecologia* (2025a) except for *Seringia exastia* (EPBC Act, Critically Endangered). Binks, Wilkins, Markey, Lyons, and Byrne (2020) completed a revision of genomic and morphological characters in several *Seringia* taxa concluding that *Seringia elliptica*, a common species that is widespread throughout the Pilbara region, was a synonym of *S. exastia*. This species has been delisted in WA and is expected that it will be delisted by the Commonwealth. *Seringia exastia* has been added to the "Deletions and other changes list" as of 17 September 2025 for assessment by the Minister for potential deletion or other changes under the EPBC Act with an expected assessment completion time of 30 October 2026 (DCCEEW 2025a).

No Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) listed under the EPBC Act occur within the Proposed Action Area.

Further details of baseline flora survey effort both expended to date and planned is provided in **Attachment 1, Sections 7.2.1 and 7.2.2, pp. 37-38**. Baseline flora knowledge base is provided in **Attachment 1, Sections 7.2.3 to 7.2.5 (pp. 38-55) and Figures 7-1 to 7-7** further illustrate the survey findings. The current flora and vegetation survey report (*ecologia* 2025a) is also provided in **Attachment 3** if more information is required. As mentioned above, a consolidated flora and vegetation survey report is in progress of being prepared.

Fauna

Multiple detailed and targeted terrestrial fauna surveys have been undertaken between 2021 and 2024 to support the Proposed Action. Additional surveys are currently being undertaken and continuing into early 2026 to include additional areas in the Proposed Action Area that were not included in the previous survey boundary (proposed mine access road and other small areas), as well as undertake targeted work. Findings will be incorporated into a Wyloo North consolidated terrestrial fauna survey report to support environmental impact assessment. Fortescue is also in the progress of undertaking a targeted bat survey to determine the location, size and number of roosts used by conservation significant bat species within the MDE and in the surrounding region.

Of the 340 vertebrate fauna species identified by database searches as potentially occurring within the survey area, 157 (46.2%) were recorded by *ecologia* (2025b) including 26 mammals (14 native non-volant species, three introduced species and nine bats), 55 reptiles, 74 birds and two amphibians. An additional 26 birds, seven mammals, 20 reptiles, two amphibians and five fish have previously been recorded within the survey area for a combined total of 217 species recorded.

Five (5) threatened terrestrial fauna which have been recorded or have the potential to occur within the Proposed Action Area, are considered MNES under the EPBC Act. These include the following:

- Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*) – Recorded in the Proposed Action Area
- Ghost Bat (*Macroderma gigas*) – Recorded in the Proposed Action Area
- Pilbara Leaf-Nosed Bat (*Rhinonictis aurantia* Pilbara form) – Recorded in the Proposed Action Area
- Pilbara Olive Python (*Liasis olivaceus barroni*) - Recorded in the Proposed Action Area
- Grey Falcon (*Falco hypoleucos*) – High likelihood of occurrence. Not recorded in the Proposed Action Area.

Two (2) migratory species have been recorded or have the potential to be present within the Proposed Action Area. These include the following:

- Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus*) – Recorded flying over the Proposed Action Area
- Osprey (*Pandion cristatus*) – Recorded in the survey area, approximately 10 km north of the Proposed Action Area.

Nine (9) broad fauna habitat types have been defined within both the survey area and the Proposed Action Area by *ecologia* (2025b) as listed below:

- Plain (alluvial),
- Hills/Ranges/Plateaux,
- Gorge/Gully,
- Drainage Line/River/Creek (major),
- Drainage Line/River/Creek (minor),
- Lower Slopes/Hillslopes,
- Rocky Escarpments (Ridges/Mesa/Cliffs/Outcrops/Breakaways),
- Hummock Grassland and
- Shrubland (open).

Fauna habitat mapping has been mapped almost entirely across the Proposed Action Area with the exception of the access road into the Wyloo North Proposed Action Area and some additional areas in other parts of the Proposed Action Area. As previously mentioned, the access road and these additional areas are in progress of being surveyed and findings will be incorporated into a consolidated Wyloo North terrestrial fauna survey report to support environmental impact assessment.

Hills/Ranges/Plateaux is the dominant habitat type in the Proposed Action Area (6,884.9 ha, 31.4%) encompassing large ironstone and banded iron ranges with supporting hills, ranges and breakaways. Ridgelines, boulders, crevices and caves may provide shelter, denning and foraging and roosting habitat for significant fauna, such as the Northern Quoll, Pilbara leaf-nosed bat and Ghost Bat. The Gorge/Gully and Rocky Escarpments fauna and Drainage Line/River/Creek (major) fauna habitats also provide critical habitat for other MNES species.

Vegetation condition within the Proposed Action Area ranges from Excellent to Degraded. The majority of the vegetation condition is Excellent (78%) primarily comprising undisturbed rocky hills and undulating plains, with no obvious signs of disturbance or only very minor weed presence and grazing. The more significant creeks and associated floodplains (i.e. Duck Creek and Boolgeeda Creek) are in some cases comparatively degraded owing to weed infestation and heavy grazing in some areas. Smaller rocky creeks and other drainage features are in general less degraded.

Further details of baseline terrestrial fauna survey effort both expended to date and planned is provided in **Attachment 1, Section 8.2.1 and 8.2.2, pp. 60-61**. Baseline terrestrial fauna knowledge base is provided in **Attachment 1, Section 8.2.3 to 8.2.6 (pp. 62-75) and Figures 8-1 to 8-3** further illustrate the survey findings. The current terrestrial fauna survey report (*ecologia* 2025b) is also provided in **Attachment 4** if more information is required. As mentioned above, a consolidated terrestrial fauna survey report is in progress of being prepared.

3.2.2 Describe the vegetation (including the status of native vegetation and soil) within the project area.

The entire Wyloo North Proposed Action Area is within the Hamersley subregion of the Pilbara bioregion as described by the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia. The Hamersley subregion is characterised by a mountainous area of Proterozoic sedimentary ranges and plateaux, dissected by gorges (basalt, shale and dolerite) with mulga low woodland over bunch grasses on fine textured soils in valley floors, and *Eucalyptus leucophloia* over *Triodia brizoides* on skeletal soils of the ranges (Kendrick 2002).

The Wyloo North Proposed Action Area intersects six land systems and the Newman land system comprises the majority of the Proposed Action Area. The land systems are described as follows:

- Boolgeeda: Stony lower slopes and plains below hill systems supporting hard and soft spinifex grasslands or mulga shrublands
- Capricorn: Rugged sandstone hills, ridges, stony footslopes and interfluves supporting low acacia shrublands or hard spinifex grasslands with scattered shrubs
- Newman: Rugged jaspilite plateaux, ridges and mountains supporting hard spinifex grasslands
- River: Narrow, seasonally active floodplains and major river channels supporting moderately close, tall shrublands or woodlands of acacias and fringing communities of eucalypts sometimes with tussock grasses or spinifex
- Robe: Low plateaux, mesas and buttes of limonite supporting soft spinifex and occasionally hard spinifex grasslands
- Rocklea: Basalt hills, plateaux, lower slopes and minor stony plains supporting hard spinifex and occasionally soft spinifex grasslands with scattered shrubs.

Regional scale vegetation has been mapped and described by Beard (1975) and refined by Shepherd et al. (2002). Beard's pre-European vegetation mapping aimed to represent the native vegetation of Western Australia as it was presumed to exist at the time of European settlement. Vegetation associations are broad scale and aligned with landform, soils and topography. Three Vegetation Associations intersect the Proposed Action Area. The majority (80.5%) of the Proposed Action Area intersects Vegetation Association 82. **Attachment 1, Section 7.2.3, Table 7-4, p. 38-40** provides further detail.

Vegetation mapping has been completed across most of the Proposed Action Area with the exception of the access road into the Wyloo North Proposed Action Area and some peripheral areas. The access road and additional areas are currently being surveyed and consolidated vegetation mapping will be undertaken to support environmental impact assessment.

ecologia (2025a) recorded 24 vegetation types within the survey area, 19 of these occur within the Proposed Action Area. The majority (52.9%, 11,583.7 ha) of the Proposed Action Area is mapped as EIApTw - *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* low open woodland; *Acacia pruinocarpa*, *Acacia arida* mid open shrubland; *Triodia wiseana*, ± *Triodia pisolitica* low tussock grassland. **Attachment 1, Section 7.2.4, Table 7-5, pp. 41-46** provides further detail.

No Commonwealth or State listed threatened ecological communities (TECs) have been recorded within the Proposed Action Area. However, the Proposed Action Area supports other vegetation defined by the EPA (2016a) as having significance as described below.

Priority Ecological Community

A DBCA listed PEC (Priority 3) '*Triodia pisolitica* (previously *Triodia* sp. Robe River) assemblages of mesas of the West Pilbara' occurs within Proposed Action Area, mainly in the eastern section in the vicinity of the transport route. Within the Proposed Action Area, there is a total of 229.1 ha of confirmed PEC and 413.1 ha of potential PEC, representing 2.9% of the Proposed Action Area, as surveyed by *ecologia* (2025a). Targeted surveys are being undertaken in the areas identified as potential PEC to confirm presence/absence. **Attachment 1, Section 7.2.4.2, pp. 47-48, and Figure 7-4** provides further detail.

Groundwater Dependent Vegetation

Parts of three vegetation types (EvAcCc, CfApEm, and AcTe) found in the Proposed Action Area represent either Groundwater Dependent Vegetation (GDV), Likely GDV (LGDV) or Potential GDV (PGDV). Vegetation containing *Melaleuca argentea* is treated as GDV, vegetation containing *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* is treated as LGDV, and vegetation containing only *Eucalyptus victrix*, or where the presence of *E. camaldulensis* or *M. argentea* cannot be

confirmed, is treated as PGDV. Of the GDV types, PGDV and LGDV represent the majority types within the Proposed Action Area. The presence (or absence) of GDV will be verified through an ecohydrology assessment. **Attachment 1, Section 7.2.4.2 and Table 7-8, p. 49-50, and Figure 7-5** provides further detail.

Potential Refugia

ecologia (2025a) identified three restricted landforms which support five distinct vegetation types as potential refugia: sheltered gorges (CfApEm and CfAcEm), basalt outcrops (ChTsTw), and calcrete hills (EIAbTw3 and EIAbTw4). These vegetation types are potentially restricted habitats in a regional context which support flora species (including some Priority flora) that survey, are mostly or entirely restricted to these habitats. However, only three (3) of these vegetation types (CfAcEm, CfApEm and EIAbTw3) occur within the Proposed Action Area and account for 353.2 ha and 1.6% of the Proposed Action Area. **Attachment 1, Section 7.2.4.2, p. 51, and Figure 7-6** provides further detail.

Potential Locally Restricted Vegetation

ecologia (2025a) identified sixteen (16) vegetation types that each accounted for less than 1% of the total survey area and were therefore considered to be restricted within the survey area. Eleven of these locally restricted vegetation types are present within the Proposed Action Area and account for 1,758.5 ha and 8% of the Proposed Action Area. **Attachment 1, Section 7.2.4.2, p. 51, and Figure 7-6** provides further detail.

Regionally Restricted Vegetation

Regional data analysis by *ecologia* (2025a) indicated most vegetation types are represented outside the Wyloo North survey area. Three (3) vegetation types (AkCITe, ChTsTw and EIAcTw1) were not floristically like quadrats in the regional dataset. However, all three vegetation types occur at or near the edge of the survey area and inspection of aerial imagery strongly suggests that these types extend beyond the survey area. These three vegetation types are not considered significant, unless for other reasons as discussed previously. Only AkCITe is present within the Proposed Action Area. **Attachment 1, Section 7.2.4.2, p. 51** provides further detail.

The latest flora and vegetation survey report (*ecologia* 2025a) is also provided in **Attachment 3** if more information is required. As mentioned previously, a consolidated flora and vegetation survey report is in progress of being prepared.

3.3 Heritage

3.3.1 Describe any Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas or other places recognised as having heritage values that apply to the project area.

No Commonwealth heritage places occur within or adjacent the Proposed Action Area. The Proposed Action Area lies entirely within the jurisdiction of Western Australia, therefore no places listed on the List of Overseas Places of Historic Significance to Australia (LOPHSA) are relevant to the Proposed Action. In addition, no places with European heritage value are known to occur within the Proposed Action Area. Details regarding European heritage related to the Proposed Action are discussed in more detail in **Attachment 1, Section 11.2.5, pg.105-106.**

3.3.2 Describe any Indigenous heritage values that apply to the project area.

Fortescue has commenced consultation with the Kurrama and Pinikura people regarding Social Surroundings values within and surrounding the Proposed Action Area in March 2025. This consultation will continue throughout the life of the Proposed Action. In addition to the Social Surroundings consultation undertaken to date, heritage surveys (archaeological and ethnographic) have been undertaken since 2009 and are ongoing to identify heritage places, including broad cultural values associated with plant and animal species within and surrounding the Proposal. To date 145 archaeological and 28 ethnographic surveys have been completed.

Fortescue considers cultural values to include all aspects of country (tangible and intangible elements) that hold social, spiritual, historical, scientific, or aesthetic value to Native Title holders. This includes heritage places, important landforms and features, and broader contemporary values such as maintaining access to country.

Heritage Places

A search of DPLH's Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System (ACHIS) was undertaken on 18 August 2025 to identify any Registered Sites, Lodged Places, and Historic Places (previously Stored Data/Not A Site) within the Wyloo North Proposed Action Area. The ACHIS search identified 4 Registered Sites, 42 Lodged Places, and 2 Historic Places within the Wyloo North Proposed Action Area. There are no gender restrictions noted in ACHIS for these places. All but five (5) of the DPLH places have been recorded during Fortescue surveys.

A search of Fortescue's internal heritage database system was also undertaken. Based on surveys undertaken within Wyloo North to date, an additional 146 heritage places have been recorded and not yet submitted to the DPLH: 120 within Kurrama country and 26 within Pinikura country. The most common site types within Kurrama and Pinikura country are artefact scatters and rock shelters.

Cultural Values of Water

Kurrama representatives noted that permanent and semi-permanent pools (or yintas) are culturally important as common birth places and for their associations with the Warlu (water serpent) (Mitchell 2025a). The presence of pools is an indication of the health of Country and therefore the overall wellbeing of the Kurrama people and culture. While all pools are important to Kurrama, specific pools of importance within or surrounding the Wyloo North Proposed Action Area have been recorded as heritage places or Heritage Restriction Zones (HRZs).

Water is a core value within Pinikura culture and is vital to the health of Pinikura country (Mitchell 2025b). Metawandy Creek is a culturally important waterway to Pinikura and feeds into other important waterways such as the Hardey and Ashburton Rivers (Mitchell 2025b). Pinikura reiterated the importance of maintaining water flow to and from Metawandy Creek, and its tributaries.

Culturally Significant Plants and Animals

Preliminary values regarding plants and animals have been provided through the Social Surroundings consultation conducted to date. Kurrama noted that preserving bush medicine and bush food species was important, including the preservation of Honey Trees. Honey Trees are trees that have native bees living in them or evidence of honey having been harvested in the past (e.g. cut marks into a hollow cavity in the trunk). In addition to Honey Trees, the Sturt Pea (*Swainsona formosa*) was also identified as a culturally significant species to Kurrama (Mitchell 2025a). Pinikura has not yet provided any general or specific information regarding flora of cultural significance within or surrounding the Wyloo North Proposed Action Area.

No general or specific information regarding fauna species of cultural significance to Kurrama or Pinikura has been documented to date from Social Surroundings consultation. However, Kurrama did raise concerns about food species such as goannas, kangaroos, bush turkeys, and emus, leaving the area once mining starts. It has not yet been confirmed if Kurrama hunt these species within the Wyloo North Proposed Action Area. While these food species may also be culturally important to Pinikura, consultation to date suggests that Pinikura do not hunt these species within the Wyloo North Proposed Action Area as no hunting areas were identified and Pinikura did not request access to areas within the Proposed Action Area (Mitchell 2025b).

Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) surveys with Kurrama and Pinikura are planned to be undertaken.

Access to Country

To date, Kurrama have requested access to two sites is maintained (Mitchell 2025a) (site names have been withheld due to cultural sensitivity, please see **Attachment 1, Section 11.2.3.5, p. 102** for details). However, both of these places are located outside the Proposed Action Area with one site located just north adjacent to the Proposed

Action Area and the other site is located approximately 20 km north of the Proposed Action Area.

No specific areas for hunting or camping in the Wyloo North Proposed Action Area were identified during the Social Surroundings consultation to date. Further consultation with Kurrama may identify additional places or areas requiring access to undertake traditional activities.

Pinikura has requested use of the access track (commonly referred to as the Paulsen's access track because it leads to Paulsen's East Iron Ore Mine) through a heritage place (name withheld due to cultural sensitivity, see **Attachment 1, Section 11.2.3.5, p. 102** for details) located at the far western end of the Proposed Action Area and continued use of the access track from Nanutarra Road into Wyloo North camp, which is part of the Proposed Action Area as it is being considered as an alternative mine access track into Wyloo North.

Aesthetics and Amenity

Considerations for potential impacts from changes to the visual aesthetics of the area and amenity (use of Country) due to noise or dust generated by Fortescue's activities were discussed with Kurrama and Pinikura. Augmented reality was used to support consultation on potential aesthetics and amenity impacts, allowing Kurrama and Pinikura to visualise what the project may look like in the landscape, while standing at the location.

No specific concerns were raised by Kurrama about seeing the Proposed Action from a particular place or location and the impact this would have on their ability to use or visit that place. Instead, concerns about impacts to aesthetics and amenity were more general and focused on minimising disturbance to country. For Kurrama, keeping as much country intact as possible is important to minimise the cumulative impacts from development and maintain the cultural and spiritual integrity to country (Mitchell 2025a). As such, no receptors or locations have been identified for inclusion in the visual impact assessment (VIA), which is in progress.

Concerns regarding dust were also raised by Kurrama however were primarily in relation to potential contamination of water and its effect on aesthetics. Specific pools were identified as receptors for dust modelling and water quality assessments. No receptors were identified as potential camping or hunting areas, or places where excessive dust levels may prevent Kurrama from using or visiting. Kurrama expressed general concerns for noise impacts to heritage sites however, no specific places or receptors were provided (Mitchell 2025a). As such, no receptors have been identified for inclusion in the noise assessment.

Pinikura representatives expressed that they are not overly concerned about the issues of visual amenity or noise because they are likely to avoid the area during the active mining phase anyway (Mitchell 2025b). No concerns were raised about seeing the project from locations surrounding the project area or hearing the project from specific locations. As such, no receptors or locations were identified for inclusion in the VIA or noise assessment.

A key matter for consideration by Pinikura was how dust impacts will be managed. Concerns regarding dust were specific to potential impacts on waterways, in particular potential contamination of the Metawandy Creek tributaries in proximity to the proposed Run of Mine (ROM) and the use of HaulPac (product used on unsealed roads to reduce dust) (Mitchell 2025b). The Metawandy Creek tributaries near the ROM have been identified as a receptor for inclusion in the dust assessment.

Other concerns and values related to aesthetics and amenity raised by Pinikura to date have been more in relation to reinstating the area close to natural conditions after mining operations cease and finding opportunities to utilise infrastructure for other purposes. Consultation with Pinikura regarding potential impacts to aesthetics and amenity will continue throughout the approvals process and refinement of the Wyloo North project.

For more detail on the above sections and cultural receptors mentioned, refer to **Attachment 1, Section 11.2.3 and Table 11-5 and 11-6, p. 95-105, and Figures 11-1 and 11-2.**

The Proponent wishes to advise that as part of ongoing consultation, the PKKP AC was provided the opportunity to review the referral supporting document (**Attachment 1**) in late 2025 with the understanding that it was to be included in submissions to support referral of the Proposed Action. PKKP AC has requested that certain sensitive cultural information was redacted prior to publishing. Therefore, a redacted version of the supporting document has been provided to DCCEEW for publishing.

3.4 Hydrology

3.4.1 Describe the hydrology characteristics that apply to the project area and attach any hydrological investigations or surveys if applicable. *

Surface Water

The Proposed Action spans across two sub catchments of the Ashburton River Catchment, namely the Duck Creek and Metawandy Creek catchments. The Ashburton River catchment covers an area of approximately 77,000 km² bounded in the north by the Hamersley and Parry ranges, and in the south by the Godfrey Range and the Yannarie River catchment divide (Fortescue 2025d).

The Duck Creek catchment to the confluence with the Ashburton River is approximately 6,600 km² in area, with elevations varying from a maximum of 1,133 mAHD in the south eastern extent of the Caves Creek catchment, to 148 mAHD at the confluence with the Ashburton River, with a mainstream length of approximately 300 km to its headwaters in the Caves Creek catchment. The major catchments of Duck Creek are heterogeneous, with significantly different topographical character over relatively short distances. Significant catchments contributing flows into Duck Creek include Caves Creek (approx. 1,600 km²), Serpentine Creek (approx. 750 km²) and Boolgeeda Creek (approx. 1,600 km²) (Fortescue 2025d; Fortescue 2024b). Figure 10 1 shows an overview of the Duck Creek catchment divides and major creeklines in Wyloo North.

The Metawandy Creek catchment covers an area of approximately 800 km², with a mainstream length of approximately 77 km stretching from its northeastern headwaters to its confluence with the Ashburton River at Hardey Junction in the southwest. Flowing into Metawandy Creek are two creeks, namely Pilaru Creek and Kurtjirli Creek. The confluence of the Pilaru and Metawandy creeks is located approximately 1 km upstream of the Nanutarra Road crossing of Metawandy Creek, while the Kurtjirli Creek confluence is approximately 10 km further downstream, near Mt McGrath (Fortescue 2025b). Figure 10 1 shows an overview of the Metawandy Creek Catchment.

The Wyloo North mine transport corridor crosses Boolgeeda Creek and its tributary Pinarra Creek. Boolgeeda Creek, a major tributary of Duck Creek is a highly ephemeral system that flows westward for approximately 75 km before joining Duck Creek (Lateral 2024). Boolgeeda Creek has relatively broader floodplains and less incision along most of its length, particularly in the upper reaches where flow paths are braided across a relatively wide area. Towards the lower reaches, flow paths generally become more defined, with a sinuous but well-defined primary flow path until approximately 25 km upstream of the confluence with Duck Creek. Near the confluence of Boolgeeda Creek and Pinarra Creek, it becomes braided once more before combining again (Fortescue 2025d; Fortescue 2024b).

The majority of the proposed Wyloo North mine pits are located in the Duck Creek catchment draining to the north through various unnamed tributaries discharging to Duck Creek. The remaining southernmost pits and infrastructure of the Proposed Action are located along the northern headwaters of Metawandy Creek which drains in a south-west direction and discharges to the Hardey River (Fortescue 2024b).

The western mine access road extends south-west from the central mine area, following Pilaru Creek to its confluence with Metawandy Creek, and traverses comparatively lower-lying terrain in contrast to the predominantly steep and rugged sub-catchment landforms that characterise the proposed mine pit locations.

In the Pilbara streamflow is typically ephemeral owing to high initial infiltration rates in dry catchment conditions. However, significant streamflow usually occurs when moisture content of the soil is high, which is caused by intense rainfall influenced by cyclones and tropical depressions (Fortescue 2024b).

Figure 10-1 in Attachment 1 (p.88) shows an overview of the Duck Creek catchment and Metawandy Creek catchment and major creeklines relative to the Proposed Action.

The content described above can also be found in **Attachment 1, Section 10.2.3, pp. 86-87**.

Groundwater

Based on available groundwater level data, it is suggested that a single, unconfined aquifer system exists across the Wyloo North Proposed Action Area. Aquifers within this system are expected to be found within the Marra Mamba, Wittenoom (weathered) and Brockman Iron Formations, with groundwater flow gradients following topographic gradients, although movement may be influenced by faults and dyke structures which act as pathways and barriers. These aquifers are likely to represent the “main groundwater system”, with the Weeli Wolli Formation and Jeerinah Formation potentially creating the groundwater flow barrier in the north and south of the Wyloo North deposit respectively. Hydrogeological drilling and aquifer testing are in progress which will be able to confirm this interpretation (Fortescue 2024b).

Across the Wyloo North deposit, the groundwater flow is generally toward the northwest (GWC 2025). A major N-NE-trending structure between the western and eastern parts of the Proposed Action Area appear to compartmentalise these areas, potentially separating the two groundwater systems. A significant vertical offset of approximately 24 m exists between groundwater levels in the western (~316 m AHD) and eastern (~340 m AHD) parts of the Wyloo North deposit.

The primary input to the groundwater system in the Wyloo North deposit is recharge from rainfall infiltration, occurring both along creek lines and as diffuse infiltration across permeable lithologies. Higher rates of groundwater flow are along more permeable aquifers, structural features such as faults and alluvial channels, as well as evapotranspiration and surface discharge within deeply incised gorges. Based on observed groundwater levels and the current base-case mine plan, 17% of the mineralisation is situated below the water table (Fortescue 2025g). Potential dewatering is expected to be limited to three pits, with groundwater not anticipated to be intersected until year 5 of mining.

Based on available electrical conductivity (EC) data, the groundwater in Wyloo North area is considered fresh. Field measurements collected at several locations across the deposits indicate an average EC 750 $\mu\text{s}/\text{cm}$ (ranging from 440 to 1,100 $\mu\text{s}/\text{cm}$). Laboratory analysis conducted at multiple sites report EC values from 220 to 1,280 $\mu\text{s}/\text{cm}$ (Fortescue 2024b).

The content described above can also be found in **Attachment 1, Section 10.2.4, p. 89**.

Pools

Ephemeral waterways of abovementioned Boolgeeda Creek, Metawandy Creek and Duck Creek and their tributaries are known to support pools of varying permanency. In the Pilbara, permanent pools persist year-round. These waterbodies are characterised by permanent standing water, attributed to pool depth, degree of shading of the pool, and/or connection to groundwater. Permanent pools are known to persist, albeit contracted, during extended drought periods (Lateral 2024).

Semi-permanent pools tend to persist for the majority of a given year. In the Pilbara, semi permanent pools tend to occur on the outer edge of meanders (areas of waterway where the bed has been cut down into the bedrock), or where the river is confined in a narrow section. Semi-permanent pools are initially filled by transient river flows following periods of high rainfall (widespread and large or sustained rainfalls) and the surface water may persist over a prolonged dry period (i.e. years) (Lateral 2024). However, as opposed to permanent pools, semi-permanent pools can occasionally dry out completely following an extended period of low rainfall or can be known to routinely dry out over the dry season, as a result of reduced recharge and receding groundwater level (Lateral 2024; Hydrobiology 2025). Semi permanent to permanent pools are commonly situated on bedrock structures that impede and connect to groundwater flow, or against cliffs where high-flow events have scoured deep pools that capture and store transient flows (Lateral 2024).

Temporary/ephemeral pools persist for the minority of a given year. In the Pilbara, ephemeral pools do not intersect with the water table or may only be supported for short periods following heavy rainfall and tend to be recharged seasonally by rainfall or a cyclonic event (Lateral 2024). Ephemeral pools tend to dry out over the wet season, receding after flow events over a period of days to weeks and do not tend to persist into the dry season (Hydrobiology 2025).

The presence, characterisation and classification of pools in Wyloo North is in progress and will be ongoing to support environmental impact assessment. Fortescue has identified numerous pools based on various data sources, such as aerial imagery from flyovers, LiDAR depression analysis, field visits and information from Kurrama and Pinikura Traditional Owners. Fortescue has been refining the pools identified to date to a set of priority pools for on-going water monitoring. Investigations using multiple lines of evidence are currently being undertaken to better characterise the pools and understand their source of water, e.g. if pools are groundwater dependent. Early indications show that there are both groundwater and surface water dependent pools within the Wyloo North Proposed Action Area.

The content described above can also be found in **Attachment 1, Section 10.2.5, pp. 89-90**.

4. Impacts and mitigation

4.1 Impact details

Potential Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) relevant to your proposed action area.

EPBC Act section	Controlling provision	Impacted	Reviewed
S12	World Heritage	No	Yes
S15B	National Heritage	No	Yes
S16	Ramsar Wetland	No	Yes
S18	Threatened Species and Ecological Communities	Yes	Yes
S20	Migratory Species	Yes	Yes
S21	Nuclear	No	Yes
S23	Commonwealth Marine Area	No	Yes
S24B	Great Barrier Reef	No	Yes
S24D	Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas	No	Yes
S26	Commonwealth Land	No	Yes
S27B	Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas	No	Yes
S28	Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency	No	Yes

4.1.1 World Heritage

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

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4.1.1.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.1.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

The Proposed Action Area does not intersect, or lie adjacent to any world heritage listed places and will therefore not impact this protected matter. No further information is provided.

4.1.2 National Heritage

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

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4.1.2.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.2.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

The Proposed Action area does not intersect, or lie adjacent to any national heritage places and will therefore not impact this protected matter. No further information is provided.

4.1.3 Ramsar Wetland

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

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4.1.3.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.3.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

There are no Ramsar sites within or near the Proposed Action area. The closest Ramsar site is 415 km northeast of the Proposed Action area, and therefore, impacts (direct or indirect) to Ramsar sites are therefore not anticipated to occur. No further information is provided.

4.1.4 Threatened Species and Ecological Communities

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

Threatened species

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>	Southern Whiteface
No	No	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper
Yes	Yes	<i>Dasyurus hallucatus</i>	Northern Quoll, Digul [Gogo-Yimidir], Wijingadda [Dambimangari], Wiminji [Martu]
No	No	<i>Erythrotriorchis radiatus</i>	Red Goshawk
Yes	Yes	<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>	Grey Falcon
Yes	Yes	<i>Liasis olivaceus barroni</i>	Pilbara Olive Python
Yes	Yes	<i>Macroderma gigas</i>	Ghost Bat
No	No	<i>Pezoporus occidentalis</i>	Night Parrot
No	No	<i>Polytelis alexandrae</i>	Princess Parrot, Alexandra's Parrot
Yes	Yes	<i>Rhinonictis aurantia</i> (Pilbara form)	Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat
No	No	<i>Rostratula australis</i>	Australian Painted Snipe
No	No	<i>Seringia exastia</i>	Fringed Fire-bush
No	No	<i>Thryptomene wittweri</i>	Mountain Thryptomene

Ecological communities

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4.1.4.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

Yes

4.1.4.2 Briefly describe why your action has a direct and/or indirect impact on these protected matters. *

Seringia exastia (listed as Critically Endangered, EPBC Act) has been recorded within the Proposed Action Area. Following recent taxonomic reclassification discussed in Section 3.2.1 in this form, the species is understood to be common and widespread throughout the Pilbara, central WA, Northern Territory and extending into South Australia. It is expected that no individuals will be cleared due to the 5 records occurring outside the Indicative Disturbance Footprint. Further information is provided in **Attachment 1, Sect 7.2.5.2 p53 & Sect 13.3.1 p123**.

Fauna survey effort to date has recorded the **Northern Quoll** in numerous locations in the Wyloo North Proposed Action Area and surrounding area. During the ecologia (2025b) survey, the Northern Quoll was recorded on 35 occasions, comprising one secondary sign (scat), two captures (one male, one female) and 42 motion camera visits (eight individuals). An additional 570 northern quoll records have been recorded within the survey area during previous surveys.

There are three habitats mapped within the Proposed Action Area which are considered critical habitat (as defined in DoE (2016) for the northern quoll: Rocky Escarpments (denning habitat), Gorge/Gully (denning habitat), and Hills/Range/Plateaux habitat in the western portion of the MDE (dispersal and foraging habitat). The following habitats also are considered supporting habitat for dispersal and foraging: Drainage Line/River/Creek (major), Lower Slopes/Hillslopes and Hills/Range/Plateaux (ecologia 2025b).

Direct and indirect impacts which may arise from implementing the Proposed Action include: habitat loss due to clearing; habitat degradation as a result of fragmentation, erosional processes, changed water regimes; altered behaviour due to noise and light emissions from mining activities; increased predation by feral predators (foxes and cats) due to provision of artificial water, food waste and shelter; introduction and spread of weeds leading to habitat degradation; altered fire regimes leading to habitat degradation and greater risk of predation in post-fire landscape; direct loss or injury of individuals during clearing, vehicle movements and trenching; cumulative impacts to fauna and available habitat from the Proposed Action and other regional development.

Further information is in **Attachment 1, Sects 8.2.3, 8.2.4 p62-71 & 13.4.1, p123-126; Figures 8-1 & 8-2**.

The **Ghost Bat** has been recorded in numerous locations in the Wyloo North Proposed Action Area and surrounding area in previous fauna surveys. Primary evidence of the Ghost Bat was recorded at three sites during the ecologia (2025b) survey and secondary evidence (middens) were recorded at five caves. An additional 14 Ghost Bat records (sightings, calls and middens) were recorded during previous surveys (ecologia 2022b; Stantec 2021; GHD 2020).

The Gorge/Gully and Rocky Escarpments habitat types represent critical roosting, dispersal and foraging habitat for the Ghost Bat, with habitat surrounding Duck Creek associated with a concentration of ghost bat foraging records. The Gorge/Gully and Rocky Escarpment habitat types have suitable geologies to support the presence of diurnal Ghost Bat roosts. The Drainage Line/River/Creek (major) and Hills/Range/Plateaux habitats in the western portion of the Proposed Action Area represent critical foraging and dispersal habitat. The Ghost Bat may utilise all other habitat types within the Proposed Action Area while foraging and dispersing.

Potential direct and indirect impacts include: habitat loss due to clearing; foraging habitat degradation via indirect impacts such as changed hydrological regimes and quality; disturbance and damage to roosts due to blasting and inground vibration (should future roosts be identified); degradation of habitat due to inappropriate fire regimes and introduced herbivores; increased predation by feral animals (cats and foxes) associated with increased human development; increased dust, light spill and noise emissions; cumulative impacts to fauna and available habitat from the Proposed Action and other regional development.

Further information is in **Attachment 1, Sects 8.2.3, 8.2.4 p62-71 & 13.4.2, p126-129; Figures 8-1, 8-2, 13-2**.

The **Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat (PLNB)** has been recorded in numerous locations in the Wyloo North Proposed Action Area and surrounding area in previous fauna surveys. Ultrasonic calls belonging to the PLNB were recorded at seven sites during the ecologia (2025b) survey and 42 sites within the Wyloo North mine area during the previous ecologia (2022b) survey, with the species also recorded on 94 occasions during previous surveys. Historical low-time calls (<30 minutes after/before civil twilight) recorded by GHD (2020) and Biologic (2013) indicate that PLNB

roosting habitat may be present in or adjacent to the survey area. It is noted that the surveys undertaken by Biologic (2013) and GHD (2020) overlapped partially with the current Proposed Action Area only in the area of the transport corridor. However, the location of a roost was not identified during subsequent targeted surveys, and no low-time calls were recorded in these areas by ecologia (2025b) in the most recent survey. This indicates that the area may be used for transitory visitation rather than permanent occupancy.

Rocky Escarpment and Gorge/Gully habitats within the survey area represent critical roosting habitat for the PLNB, as well as Priority 1/Priority 2 and Priority 3 foraging habitat, respectively. Based on the regular detection rates and distribution of PLNB records within the survey area, all remaining habitat types within the survey area also provide priority foraging habitat for the Pilbara leaf-nosed bat (ranging from Priority 3 to Priority 5).

Potential direct and indirect impacts include: habitat loss due to clearing; foraging habitat degradation via indirect impacts such as changed hydrological regimes and quality; disturbance and damage to roosts due to blasting and inground vibration (should future roosts be identified); degradation of habitat due to inappropriate fire regimes and introduced herbivores; increased predation by feral animals (cats and foxes) associated with increased human development; increased dust, light spill and noise emissions; cumulative impacts to fauna and available habitat from the Proposed Action and other regional development.

Further information is in **Attachment 1, Sects 8.2.3, 8.2.4 p62-71 & 13.4.3, p130-133; Figures 8-1, 8-2, 13-2.**

The **Grey Falcon** has not been previously recorded in the Wyloo North Proposed Action Area or in the survey area. DBCA database searches indicate that the Grey Falcon has been recorded on three occasions in the vicinity of the survey area (ecologia 2025b), with the closest record located nearly 15 km north of the survey area. The species was also recorded north of the survey area on three occasions during previous detailed and targeted surveys undertaken by GHD (2020) within the Western Hub, with at least two birds recorded utilising habitat within Serpentine Creek, approximately 24 km north of the Proposed Action Area.

Drainage Line/River/Creek (major) habitat within the Proposed Action Area represents potential breeding and foraging habitat for this species if suitable nesting trees and existing corvid nests are present for the Grey Falcon to use.

Potential direct and indirect impacts include: habitat loss due to clearing; habitat degradation due to changed fire regimes & changed surface and groundwater quality and quantity; increased feral animal population (cats/foxes) due to provision of artificial water, food waste and shelter, in turn resulting in increased predation; light spill and noise emissions from mining activities deleteriously impacting behaviour, e.g. nesting, foraging; direct loss or injury of individuals during clearing / vehicle movements; direct loss or injury of individuals via entrapment in fencing installed around infrastructure; cumulative impacts to fauna and available habitat from the Proposed Action and other regional development.

Further information is in **Attachment 1, Sects 8.2.3, 8.2.4, p62-71 & 13.4.4, p135-137; Figures 8-1&8-2.**

The **Pilbara Olive Python** was not recorded in the most recent survey by ecologia (2025b), but it has been historically recorded several times in previous years within the Proposed Action Area and surrounding areas.

Gorge/Gully and Rocky Escarpment habitat types within the Proposed Action Area represent critical habitat for the Pilbara olive python due to the presence of rock crevices and outcrops near water holes. Similarly, Drainage Line/River/Creek (major) habitat within the Proposed Action Area may provide critical dispersal and foraging habitat for the species, due to the presence of permanent and semi-permanent pools within this habitat type. The Pilbara Olive Python may disperse and forage across all habitat types.

Potential direct and indirect impacts include: habitat loss due to clearing; foraging habitat degradation via indirect impacts such as changed hydrological regimes and quality; disturbance and damage to roosts due to blasting and inground vibration (should future roosts be identified); degradation of habitat due to inappropriate fire regimes and introduced herbivores; increased predation by feral animals (cats and foxes) associated with increased human development; increased dust, light spill and noise emissions; cumulative impacts to fauna and available habitat from the Proposed Action and other regional development.

Further information is in **Attachment 1, Sects 8.2.3, 8.2.4 p62-71 & 13.4.5, p137-139; Figures 8-1&8-2.**

The other Threatened Species which are listed in the Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST) results were determined to not be relevant to the Proposed Action and therefore direct and indirect impacts are not expected. Reasons why these species were not determined to be relevant to the Proposed Action are presented in **Attachment 1, Table 13-2, p120.**

4.1.4.4 Do you consider this likely direct and/or indirect impact to be a Significant Impact? *

Yes

4.1.4.5 Describe why you consider this to be a Significant Impact. *

Seringia exastia (listed as Critically Endangered, EPBC Act) has been recorded within the Proposed Action Area. Following recent taxonomic reclassification discussed in Section 3.2.1 in this form, the species is understood to be common and widespread throughout the Pilbara, central WA, Northern Territory and extending into South Australia. It is expected that no individuals will be cleared due to the 5 records in Wyloo North occurring outside the Indicative Disturbance Footprint. **Therefore impacts to this species as a result of implementing the Proposed Action are unlikely to be significant.**

Further information is provided in **Attachment 1, Sect 7.2.5.2 p53 & Sect 13.3.1 p123.**

Northern Quoll

Based on the number of individuals identified and frequency of detections recorded during previous surveys, ecologia (2025b) has concluded that Wyloo North appears to support a high density populations of Northern Quoll which, as a part of the Pilbara population, are considered important for the long-term survival of the species as defined in DoE (2016) *EPBC Act referral guideline for the endangered northern quoll*. One cluster of records is located in the western half of the Proposed Action Area and the other spans across the eastern half of the Proposed Action Area and outside of the Proposed Action Area to the north. **Based on the above, the Proposed Action has the potential to significantly impact the Northern Quoll mainly by the loss of habitat critical to the survival of the species.**

Further information is provided in **Attachment 1, Sects 8.2.3, 8.2.4 p 62-71 & 13.4.1, p 123-126; Figures 8-1 & 8-2.**

Ghost Bat

In Attachment 1, Figure 13-2 shows cave habitat features that have been identified both inside the Proposed Action Area and within the broader survey area by previous surveys including GHD (2020), Stantec (2021), ecologia (2022b), ecologia (2023a), ecologia (2025b). Within the Proposed Action Area, 55 caves have been identified, and 53 caves have been identified outside the Proposed Action Area within the survey areas.

Three caves identified by ecologia (2022b) and one cave by Stantec (2021) have been found inside the Proposed Action Area which provide diurnal roosting habitat for Ghost Bat which would be considered Category 3 (diurnal roost caves with occasional occupancy – not critical habitat) (Attachment 1, Figure 13-2). GHD (2020) also identified 7 caves, outside the MDE (approximately 9 to 30 km north) which they assessed as known Ghost Bat diurnal roosting habitat (Attachment 1, Figure 13-2). Other caves shown on Attachment 1, Figure 13-2 have varying characteristics and include Category 4 nocturnal refuges and potential Category 3 diurnal roost diurnal roost caves with occasional occupancy. A targeted bat survey will be undertaken to confirm the location, size and number of roosts used by Ghost Bat within the Proposed Action Area.

The Gorge/Gully and Rocky Escarpments habitat types represent critical roosting, dispersal and foraging habitat for the Ghost Bat, with habitat surrounding Duck Creek associated with a concentration of ghost bat foraging records. The Gorge/Gully and Rocky Escarpment habitat types have suitable geologies to support the presence of diurnal Ghost Bat roosts. The Drainage Line/River/Creek (major) and Hills/Range/Plateaux habitats in the western portion of the Proposed Action Area MDE represent critical foraging and dispersal habitat. The Ghost Bat may utilise all other habitat types within the Proposed Action Area while foraging and dispersing.

As mentioned above, there are a large number of caves located outside the Proposed Action Area which contain known and potential diurnal roost as well as nocturnal refuges. **The Proposed Action Area is also not on the edge of the Ghost Bat's range, and it is unlikely to represent an important population necessary for the long-term survival of the species. Therefore, the Proposed Action is unlikely to significantly impact the Ghost Bat.**

Further information is provided in Attachment 1, **Sections 8.2.3, 8.2.4 pp. 62-71 & 13.4.2, pp. 126-29; Figures 8-1, 8-2, 13-2.**

Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat

Fauna survey effort undertaken to date indicates that the Wyloo North Proposed Action Area is likely to be used for transitory visitation rather than permanent occupancy. In Attachment 1, Figure 13-2 shows cave habitat features that have been identified both inside the Proposed Action Area and within the broader survey area by previous surveys including GHD (2020), Stantec (2021), ecologia (2022b), ecologia (2023a), ecologia (2025b). Within the Proposed Action Area, 55 caves have been identified, and 53 caves have been identified outside the Proposed Action Area within the survey areas. As referred to above, GHD (2020) only identified potentially suitable PLNB roosting habitat at 6 caves located outside the Proposed Action Area (approximately 9 to 20 km north). Other caves shown on Attachment 1, Figure 13-2 have varying characteristics and include potential Category 4 nocturnal refuges. A targeted bat survey will be undertaken to determine the location, size and number of roosts used by PLNB within the Proposed Action Area.

Rocky Escarpment and Gorge/Gully habitats within the survey area represent critical roosting habitat for the PLNB, as well as Priority 1/Priority 2 and Priority 3 foraging habitat, respectively. Based on the regular detection rates and distribution of PLNB records within the survey area, all remaining habitat types within the survey area also provide priority foraging habitat for the Pilbara leaf-nosed bat (ranging from Priority 3 to Priority 5).

Given that the Wyloo North Proposed Action Area is likely to be used by the PLNB as transitory visitation rather than permanent occupancy, and the Proposed Action Area is unlikely to contain a significant PLNB roost, the Proposed Action is unlikely to significantly impact the PLNB.

Further information is provided in Attachment 1, **Attachment 1, Sections 8.2.3, 8.2.4 pp. 62-71 & 13.4.3, pp. 130-133; Figures 8-1, 8-2, 13-2.**

Grey Falcon

The Grey Falcon has not been previously recorded in the Wyloo North Proposed Action Area or in the survey area. Records of previous sightings are from a considerable distance north of the Proposed Action. DBCA database searches indicate that the Grey Falcon has been recorded on three occasions in the vicinity of the survey area (ecologia 2025b), with the closest record located nearly 15 km north of the survey area. The species was also recorded north of the survey area on three occasions during previous detailed and targeted surveys undertaken by GHD (2020) within the Western Hub, with at least two birds recorded utilising habitat within Serpentine Creek, approximately 24 km north of the Proposed Action Area.

Drainage Line/River/Creek (major) habitat within the Proposed Action Area represents potential breeding and foraging habitat for this species if suitable nesting trees and existing corvid nests are present for the Grey Falcon to use. **The Proposed Action Area is unlikely to support an ecologically significant proportion of the population. Therefore, the Proposed Action is unlikely to significantly impact the Grey Falcon.**

Further information is provided in **Attachment 1, Sections 8.2.3, 8.2.4, pp. 62-71 & 13.4.4, pp. 135-137; Figures 8-1 & 8-2.**

Pilbara Olive Python

The Pilbara Olive Python was not recorded in the most recent survey by ecologia (2025b), but it has been historically recorded several times in previous years within the Wyloo North Proposed Action Area and surrounding areas. Given the Pilbara Olive Python's ability to disperse and forage across all habitat types in the Wyloo North Proposed Action Area and the presence of suitable habitat in the surrounding region, the Proposed Action Area is unlikely to support an important population of the species. **Therefore, the Proposed Action is unlikely to significantly impact the Pilbara Olive Python.**

Further information is provided in **Attachment 1, Sections 8.2.3, 8.2.4 pp. 62-71 & 13.4.5, pp. 137-139; Figures 8-1 & 8-2.**

4.1.4.7 Do you think your proposed action is a controlled action? *

Yes

4.1.4.8 Please elaborate why you think your proposed action is a controlled action. *

Without appropriate mitigation measures, the impacts associated with implementing the Proposed Action could potentially significantly impact the **Northern Quoll** via direct loss of habitat and indirect impacts as a result of habitat degradation. Specifically, impacts could include:

- Direct loss of critical habitat for denning and foraging and dispersal (Rocky Escarpments, Gorge/Gully and Hills/Range/Plateaux) due to clearing for the mine and infrastructure footprint.
- Direct mortality or injury due to interaction with vehicles or mine operations, or entrapment in above ground water storage facilities.
- Habitat degradation as a result of changed surface or groundwater hydrology and quality.
- Habitat degradation as a result of altered fire regimes and introduction and spread of weeds.
- Increased rates of feral predation (cats, foxes) associated with higher level of human development.
- Altered species behaviour and utilisation of areas, related to noise, vibration and light spill.

Further information in relation to potential impacts of the Proposed Action on the Northern Quoll is provided in **Attachment 1, Section 13.4.1.3, pp. 124-125; Figures 8-1 & 8-2.**

Although, it is unlikely that the Proposed Action will significantly impact the **Ghost Bat and the Pilbara-Leaf nosed Bat** based on the survey effort undertaken to date, application of the precautionary principle requires that the potential for a significant impact on the Ghost Bat and Pilbara-Leaf nosed Bat cannot be ruled out until further targeted investigation is undertaken to determine whether suitable Ghost Bat and Pilbara-Leaf nosed Bat roosts occur within the Proposed Action Area and surrounding area.

The Ghost Bat and the Pilbara-Leaf nosed Bat could be impacted by the Proposed Action as a result of the following:

- Direct loss of critical or Priority habitat for roosting, dispersal and foraging habitat (Rocky Escarpments, Gorge/Gully) due to clearing for the mine and infrastructure footprint.
- Disturbance and damage to roosting habitat due to blasting and inground vibration
- Direct mortality or injury due to interaction with vehicles or mine operations, or entrapment in fencing.
- Habitat degradation as a result of changed surface or groundwater hydrology and quality.
- Increased rates of feral predation (cats, foxes) associated with higher level of human development.
- Altered species behaviour and utilisation of areas, related to noise, vibration and light spill.

Further information in relation to potential impacts of the Proposed Action on the Ghost Bat and the Pilbara-Leaf nosed Bat is provided in **Attachment 1, Sections 13.4.2.4 (p.128) & 13.4.3.4 (p. 131-132); Figures 8-1, 8-2 & 13-2.**

The mitigation hierarchy will be applied while developing and implementing the Proposed Action to ensure that impacts to MNES species are minimised and managed appropriately long-term.

4.1.4.10 Please describe any avoidance or mitigation measures proposed for this action and attach any supporting documentation for these avoidance and mitigation measures. *

Fortescue will consistently employ the mitigation hierarchy while implementing the Proposed Action so as to minimise impacts to MNES Threatened and Migratory species. Relevant guidance published by the DCCEE in relation to the application of the mitigation hierarchy and application of offsets will be considered, as well as relevant high level guidance on the design of mitigative strategies published in the EPA (2023) *Statement of environmental principles, factors, objectives and aims of EIA*.

The following measures will support the objective to **AVOID** potential impacts wherever found to be feasible and/or practicable:

Design:

- Targeted fauna surveys will be undertaken in accordance with applicable EPA and DCCEE guidance to determine distribution of conservation significant fauna.
- Conservation significant fauna and habitat identified during targeted fauna surveys will be recorded in Fortescue's GIS system and PIMS (Fortescue's document control system) in accordance with Fortescue's Environmental Datasets – Data Governance Guidelines (100-GU-EN-0020).
- The Proposed Action was designed and planned based on alternative options analysis to avoid disturbance of significant environmental values, major waterways as well as heritage places and culturally significant locations, where practicable.
- The Proposed Action was design and planned based on consideration of Fortescue's Mineral Waste Management Plan (100-PL-EN-1034) which requires the avoidance of potential mineral waste sources where possible.

Implementation:

- Prior to conducting ground disturbance activities, ensure known locations of significant flora and fauna habitat, as well as Heritage Places, are to be retained and protected from disturbance are identified on the ground by appropriate signage, fencing or flagging in accordance with Fortescue's Land Use Certification Procedure (100-PR-TA-001).
- Implement Fortescue's Weed Management Plan (10-PL-EN-0035) to ensure all vehicles, plant and equipment, including trailered equipment, are clean, inspected and certified prior to entry into Fortescue controlled sites to prevent the degradation of priority fauna habitat.

Where avoidance is not considered feasible or practicable, the following measures will be implemented to **MINIMISE** potential impacts of the Proposed Action.

- Infrastructure siting, design, construction and operation will reflect alternative options analysis outcomes so that impacts on conservation significant fauna and associated habitat, as well as cultural heritage values are minimised.
- Drainage infrastructure siting, design, construction and operation to design specifications which reflect risk assessment outcomes in minimising interference and disruption of natural surface water flows and quality in accordance with Fortescue's Standard Engineering Specification for Drainage and Flood Protection (100-SP-CI-0004) and the Standard Engineering Specification for Road Design for Projects (100-SP-CI-0002).
- Minimise clearing and vegetation disturbance to ensure conservation significant fauna and associated habitat is minimally impacted. Conduct clearing in accordance with a permit issued under Fortescue's Land Use Certificate Procedure (100-PR-TA-0001).
- Ensure that appropriate measures and level of effort is expended to disperse individual conservation significant fauna in safe manner prior to clearing activities. These measures will be fauna-specific, based on an understanding of local habitat values and the ecology and behaviour of the taxa.
- Employ personnel trained in fauna handling during trenching operations to clear open trench of fauna on a daily basis and prior to backfilling.
- To minimise the potential for fauna injuries or deaths on haul and access roads, implement appropriate mitigation measures such as speed limit restrictions, right of way for fauna and the prohibition of off-road driving.
- Ensure fencing installed around infrastructure is designed to mitigate risks (injury or death due to impact or entanglement) to conservation significant fauna, in particular bats.
- Ensure staff and contractors are provided with appropriate training to ensure conservation significant fauna and associated habitat are protected.

- Ensure all vehicles, plant and equipment, including trailered equipment, are clean, inspected and certified prior to entry into Fortescue controlled sites to prevent the degradation of priority fauna habitat in accordance with Fortescue's Weed Management Plan (IO-PL-EN-0035).
- In addition to the above design and construction specifications, impacts to surface water quality and quantity will be minimised via implementation of Inland Waters related Management Plan(s), which will include a suite of appropriate measures.
- Develop and implement a Feral Animal Program to effectively manage and control feral animals throughout construction and operation to decrease impacts to native fauna, including conservation significant species.
- When constructing a fire break or carrying out a prescribed burn where conservation significant fauna and habitat have been identified, adhere to the requirements outlined in a relevant Fortescue Bushfire Management Plan.
- Implement Fortescue's Dust Management Plan (IO-PL-EN-0001) and adopt suitable operational protocols, including enforcing speed limits on unsealed roads.
- Implement Fortescue's Mineral Waste Management Plan (100-PL-EN-1034) so that disturbed mineral waste sources are appropriately managed to prevent adverse impacts to the environment.
- Manage waste materials and on-site landfill facilities in accordance with Fortescue's Waste Management Plan (IO-PL-EN-0001) to minimise the likelihood of increased feral animal population and resultant increased rate of native animal predation.

REHABILITATE:

Where impacts cannot be avoided or minimised, the following measures will assist establishment of habitat and fauna values, post disturbance:

- Develop and implement a Mine Closure Plan that aligns with DMPE Guidance (DMIRS 2025).
- Progressively rehabilitate disturbed land that is not required to support ongoing operations with local native plant species to re-establish local vegetation and fauna habitats that support native fauna foraging.

As the Proposed Action is further refined and developed and potential impacts mitigated via the mitigation hierarchy, **COMPENSATION** measures may be considered should all other mitigative measures be exhausted, i.e. alternatives not considered practicable.

Further information detailing how the mitigation hierarchy is being applied to the Proposed Action is provided in **Attachment 1, Section 14 (Mitigation Hierarchy), pp. 143-146**. Mitigation measures related to terrestrial fauna are also presented in **Section 8.3, Table 8-7, pp. 76-77**.

4.1.4.11 Please describe any proposed offsets and attach any supporting documentation relevant to these measures. *

No compensatory measures are currently proposed for the Proposed Action. If, following detailed impact assessment and application of the mitigation hierarchy, compensatory measures are considered necessary, these would likely be applied via the established Pilbara Environmental Offsets Fund (PEOF) framework.

4.1.5 Migratory Species

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Common Sandpiper
Yes	Yes	<i>Apus pacificus</i>	Fork-tailed Swift
No	No	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Pectoral Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Charadrius veredus</i>	Oriental Plover, Oriental Dotterel
No	No	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Barn Swallow
No	No	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Grey Wagtail
No	No	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Yellow Wagtail
Yes	Yes	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey

4.1.5.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

Yes

4.1.5.2 Briefly describe why your action has a direct and/or indirect impact on these protected matters. *

Two migratory species have been recorded or have the potential to be present within the Proposed Action Area. These include the following:

- Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus*) - Recorded flying over the Proposed Action Area
- Osprey (*Pandion cristatus*) – Recorded in the survey area, approximately 10 km north of the Proposed Action Area.

The other Migratory species which are listed in the Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST) results were determined to not be relevant to the Proposed Action and therefore direct and indirect impacts are not expected. Reasons why these species were determined to be relevant to the Proposed Action are presented in **Attachment 1 (Referral supporting document), Section 13, Table 13-2, pp. 120-121.**

Direct and indirect impacts include: habitat loss due to clearing; foraging habitat degradation via changed fire regimes and indirect impacts such as changed water regimes, e.g. groundwater drawdown and mounding, salinity, changes to surface hydrology; predation by feral carnivores, in particular, nest predation by foxes and cats; light spill and noise emissions from mining activities; direct loss or injury of individuals during clearing and vehicle movements; cumulative impacts to fauna and available habitat from the Proposed Action and other regional development.

Further information about the Fork-tailed Swift and the Osprey in relation to this Proposed Action is provided in **Attachment 1, Section 8.2.4, Table 8-5, p. 70 & Section 13.4.6, pp. 139-142.**

4.1.5.4 Do you consider this likely direct and/or indirect impact to be a Significant Impact? *

No

4.1.5.6 Describe why you do not consider this to be a Significant Impact. *

Neither the Fork-tailed Swift, nor the Osprey were recorded by the most recent survey (*ecologia* 2025b), however both species have been recorded flying above the Wyloo North Proposed Action Area or the surrounding area in previous surveys (*ecologia* 2022a; *ecologia* 2015). The Fork-tailed Swift is an aerial specialist which does not utilise terrestrial habitats. Previous records represent intermittent visitation through the airspace above the Proposed Action Area. Critical habitat for this species does not occur within the Proposed Action Area. The Osprey is highly dependent on water and is typically associated with coastal areas. A previous sighting was associated with the northern section of Duck Creek, approximately 10 km north of the Proposed Action Area. Any utilisation of habitat within the Proposed Action Area would be likely to represent vagrant visitation to inland waterbodies, rather than permanent occupancy. Critical habitat for this species does not occur within the Proposed Action Area. Therefore, the Proposed Action is unlikely to significantly impact the migratory bird species, Fork-tailed Swift and Osprey. The above information is stated in **Attachment 1, Section 13.4.6.5 pp. 141-142.**

4.1.5.7 Do you think your proposed action is a controlled action? *

No

4.1.5.9 Please elaborate why you do not think your proposed action is a controlled action. *

The Fork-tailed Swift and the Osprey are only likely to utilise the Proposed Action Area occasionally and habitat within the Proposed Action Area is not critical habitat for the species. Impacts associated with habitat loss are not considered to be significant for the species. There is no important habitat for these species. The individuals that might overfly or occasionally use terrestrial habitat within the Proposed Action Area do not rely on the habitat for survival.

The Fork-tailed Swift is an aerial specialist which does not utilise terrestrial habitats. Previous records represent intermittent visitation through the airspace above the Proposed Action Area.

The Osprey is highly dependent on water and is typically associated with coastal areas. Any utilisation of habitat within the Proposed Action Area would be likely to represent vagrant visitation to inland waterbodies, rather than permanent occupancy.

Given this, the potential direct and indirect impacts will not significantly affect the population of the Fork-tailed Swift and the Osprey.

For more information refer to **Attachment 1, Section 13.4.6, pp. 139-142.**

4.1.5.10 Please describe any avoidance or mitigation measures proposed for this action and attach any supporting documentation for these avoidance and mitigation measures. *

Fortescue will consistently employ the mitigation hierarchy while implementing the Proposed Action so as to minimise impacts to MNES Migratory species. Relevant guidance published by the DCCEE in relation to the application of the mitigation hierarchy and application of offsets will be considered. As will relevant high level guidance on the design of mitigative strategies published by the EPA (2023e) *Statement of environmental principles, factors, objectives and aims of EIA*.

Avoidance and mitigation measures proposed for migratory bird species are similar to those proposed for threatened fauna species. Further information on the mitigation measures that may be employed to avoid, minimise, rehabilitate and compensate the direct and indirect impacts of the Proposed Action are detailed in **Attachment 1, Section 8.3 pp. 76-77 and Section 14 (Mitigation Hierarchy), pp. 143-145.**

4.1.5.11 Please describe any proposed offsets and attach any supporting documentation relevant to these measures. *

No offsets are proposed since it is considered that no significant residual impacts on EPBC Act listed Migratory species will result of the Proposed Action.

4.1.6 Nuclear

4.1.6.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on this protected matter? *

No

4.1.6.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

The Proposed Action is not a nuclear action. No further information is required.

4.1.7 Commonwealth Marine Area

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

—

4.1.7.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.7.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

There are no potential impacts to this Protected Matter from the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action Area does not intersect with a Commonwealth Marine Area. No further information is provided.

4.1.8 Great Barrier Reef

4.1.8.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on this protected matter? *

No

4.1.8.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

The Proposed Action will not impact the Great Barrier Reef as it is not located within or near the Great Barrier Reef. No further information is provided.

4.1.9 Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas

4.1.9.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on this protected matter? *

No

4.1.9.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

The Proposed Action is not a large coal mining development or coal seam gas project. Impacts (direct or indirect) to water resources due to those activities will not occur. No further information is provided.

4.1.10 Commonwealth Land

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

—

4.1.10.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.10.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

The Proposed Action area does not overlap Commonwealth land. Impacts (direct or indirect) to Commonwealth land will not occur. No further information is provided.

4.1.11 Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

—

4.1.11.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.11.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

The Proposed Action Area does not intersect with a Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas, therefore implementation of the Proposed Action will not potentially impact this protected matter. No further information is provided.

4.1.12 Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency

4.1.12.1 Is the proposed action to be taken by the Commonwealth or a Commonwealth Agency? *

No

4.2 Impact summary

Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

You have indicated that the proposed action will likely have a significant impact on the following Matters of National Environmental Significance:

- Threatened Species and Ecological Communities (S18)

Conclusion on the likelihood of unlikely significant impacts

You have indicated that the proposed action will unlikely have a significant impact on the following Matters of National Environmental Significance:

- World Heritage (S12)
- National Heritage (S15B)
- Ramsar Wetland (S16)
- Migratory Species (S20)
- Nuclear (S21)
- Commonwealth Marine Area (S23)
- Great Barrier Reef (S24B)
- Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas (S24D)
- Commonwealth Land (S26)
- Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas (S27B)
- Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency (S28)

4.3 Alternatives

4.3.1 Do you have any possible alternatives for your proposed action to be considered as part of your referral? *

No

4.3.8 Describe why alternatives for your proposed action were not possible. *

The location of the Proposed Action is necessarily constrained by the location of target iron ore mineralisation. While flexibility will be employed where possible to mitigate impacts via appropriate mine planning and risk-based siting and design, Fortescue are pursuing development of the Proposed Action to maintain production levels at Fortescue's Eliwana Iron Ore Mine as guided by the business planning process.

The mitigation hierarchy and a risk-based approach will be employed during all phases of developing and implementing the Proposed Action to limit impacts to the receiving environment and MNES-listed species.

The Indicative Disturbance Footprint (IDF) remains conceptual but is currently considered the optimum outcome (pending further studies and option assessments) in terms of mitigating impacts to the receiving environment. The IDF has been shaped via a multi-disciplinary approach which considered multiple factors including ecological data, cultural/heritage values, baseline hydrology and input from key stakeholders. For example, Priority Ecological Communities (PECs) and Aboriginal cultural heritage have been avoided as much as practicable in the current IDF. As further surveys and investigations are conducted, the IDF is expected to be adjusted to avoid, where feasible, and further reduce potential impacts on significant environmental and cultural values.

During the iterative design process of the Proposed Action, several alternative strategies were considered but ultimately excluded. A summary of these alternatives, along with the reasons for their removal are provided in **Attachment 1, Section 2.3 (Alternative Options Considered), pp. 9-11.**

Continued application of the mitigation hierarchy and ongoing consultation with the Kurrama and Pinikura People will further avoid or minimise impacts to environment and cultural values.

5. Lodgement

5.1 Attachments

1.2.1 Overview of the proposed action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	ATT_1_WylooNorth_EPA_EPBC_Referral_Supporting_Document.pdf Wyloo North EPA & EPBC Referral Supporting Document	04/02/2026	Yes	High
#2.	Document	ATT_1_WylooNorth_EPA_EPBC_Referral_Supporting_Document_REDACTED.pdf Wyloo North EPA & EPBC Referral Supporting Document	04/02/2026	No	High

1.2.6 Commonwealth or state legislation, planning frameworks or policy documents that are relevant to the proposed action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	ATT_1_WylooNorth_EPA_EPBC_Referral_Supporting_Document.pdf Wyloo North EPA & EPBC Referral Supporting Document	03/02/2026	Yes	High
#2.	Document	ATT_1_WylooNorth_EPA_EPBC_Referral_Supporting_Document_REDACTED.pdf Wyloo North EPA & EPBC Referral Supporting Document	03/02/2026	No	High

1.2.7 Public consultation regarding the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	ATT_1_WylooNorth_EPA_EPBC_Referral_Supporting_Document.pdf Wyloo North EPA & EPBC Referral Supporting Document	03/02/2026	Yes	High
#2.	Document	ATT_1_WylooNorth_EPA_EPBC_Referral_Supporting_Document_REDACTED.pdf Wyloo North EPA & EPBC Referral Supporting Document	03/02/2026	No	High

1.3.2.17 (Person proposing to take the action) Proposer's history of responsible environmental management

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	ATT_2_Fortescue_Environmental_Policy.pdf Fortescue Environmental Policy	08/04/2025	No	High

1.3.2.18 (Person proposing to take the action) If the person proposing to take the action is a corporation, provide details of the corporation's environmental policy and planning framework

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	ATT_1_WylooNorth_EPA_EPBC_Referral_Supporting_Document.pdf Wyloo North EPA & EPBC Referral Supporting Document	03/02/2026	Yes	High
#2.	Document	ATT_1_WylooNorth_EPA_EPBC_Referral_Supporting_Document_REDACTED.pdf Wyloo North EPA & EPBC Referral Supporting Document	03/02/2026	No	High

2.2.5 Tenure of the action area relevant to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence

#1.	Document	ATT_1_WylooNorth_EPA_EPBC_Referral_Supporting_Document_20260204.pdf Wyloo North EPA & EPBC Referral Supporting Document	03/02/2026	Secure	Yes	20260204
#2.	Document	ATT_1_WylooNorth_EPA_EPBC_Referral_Supporting_Document_REDACTED_20260204.pdf Wyloo North EPA & EPBC Referral Supporting Document	03/02/2026	None	High	20260204

3.1.1 Current condition of the project area's environment

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence	
#1.	Document	ATT_1_WylooNorth_EPA_EPBC_Referral_Supporting_Document_20260204.pdf Wyloo North EPA & EPBC Referral Supporting Document	03/02/2026	Secure	Yes	20260204
#2.	Document	ATT_1_WylooNorth_EPA_EPBC_Referral_Supporting_Document_REDACTED_20260204.pdf Wyloo North EPA & EPBC Referral Supporting Document	03/02/2026	None	High	20260204

3.1.2 Existing or proposed uses for the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence	
#1.	Document	ATT_1_WylooNorth_EPA_EPBC_Referral_Supporting_Document_20260204.pdf Wyloo North EPA & EPBC Referral Supporting Document	03/02/2026	Secure	Yes	20260204
#2.	Document	ATT_1_WylooNorth_EPA_EPBC_Referral_Supporting_Document_REDACTED_20260204.pdf Wyloo North EPA & EPBC Referral Supporting Document	03/02/2026	None	High	20260204

3.1.3 Natural features, important or unique values that applies to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence	
#1.	Document	ATT_1_WylooNorth_EPA_EPBC_Referral_Supporting_Document_20260204.pdf Wyloo North EPA & EPBC Referral Supporting Document	03/02/2026	Secure	Yes	20260204
#2.	Document	ATT_1_WylooNorth_EPA_EPBC_Referral_Supporting_Document_REDACTED_20260204.pdf Wyloo North EPA & EPBC Referral Supporting Document	03/02/2026	None	High	20260204
#3.	Document	ATT_3_WylooNorthFloraVegetationSurvey202528/07/2025.pdf Wyloo North Flora and Vegetation Survey Report (July 2025)_Part 1 Body	28/07/2025	Body	Yes	High
#4.	Document	ATT_3_WylooNorthFloraVegetationSurvey202528/07/2025.pdf Wyloo North Flora and Vegetation Survey Report (July 2025)_Part 2 Appendices	28/07/2025	Appendices	Yes	High
#5.	Document	ATT_3_WylooNorthFloraVegetationSurvey202528/07/2025.pdf Wyloo North Flora and Vegetation Survey Report (July 2025)_Part 1 Body_REDACTED	28/07/2025	Part1_Body	Yes	High
#6.	Document	ATT_3_WylooNorthFloraVegetationSurvey202528/07/2025.pdf Wyloo North Flora and Vegetation Survey	28/07/2025	Part2_Appendices	Yes	High

3.2.1 Flora and fauna within the affected area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	ATT_1_WylooNorth_EPA_EPBC_Referral_Supporting_Document_20260204.pdf Wyloo North EPA & EPBC Referral Supporting Document	03/02/2026	Yes	High
#2.	Document	ATT_1_WylooNorth_EPA_EPBC_Referral_Supporting_Document_REDACTED_20260204.pdf Wyloo North EPA & EPBC Referral Supporting Document	03/02/2026	No	High
#3.	Document	ATT_3_WylooNorthFloraVegetationSurvey20252025-07-12-Body.pdf Wyloo North Flora and Vegetation Survey Report (July 2025)_Part 1 Body	2025-07-12	Yes	High
#4.	Document	ATT_3_WylooNorthFloraVegetationSurvey20252025-07-20-Appendices.pdf Wyloo North Flora and Vegetation Survey Report (July 2025)_Part 2 Appendices	2025-07-20	Yes	High
#5.	Document	ATT_3_WylooNorthFloraVegetationSurvey20252025-07-20-Part1_Body.pdf Wyloo North Flora and Vegetation Survey Report (July 2025)_Part 1 Body_REDACTED	2025-07-20	No	High
#6.	Document	ATT_3_WylooNorthFloraVegetationSurvey20252025-07-20-Part2_Appendices.pdf Wyloo North Flora and Vegetation Survey Report (July 2025)_Part 2 Appendices_REDACTED	2025-07-20	No	High
#7.	Document	ATT_4_WylooNorthTerrestrialFaunaSurvey202530/06/2025 Wyloo North Terrestrial Fauna Survey Report (June 2025)	30/06/2025	Yes	High
#8.	Document	ATT_4_WylooNorthTerrestrialFaunaSurvey202530/06/2025-ov2.pdf Wyloo North Terrestrial Fauna Survey Report (June 2025)_REDACTED	30/06/2025	No	High
#9.	Link	Deletions and other changes list https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/biodiversi..			High

3.2.2 Vegetation within the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	ATT_1_WylooNorth_EPA_EPBC_Referral_Supporting_Document_20260204.pdf Wyloo North EPA & EPBC Referral Supporting Document	03/02/2026	Yes	High
#2.	Document	ATT_1_WylooNorth_EPA_EPBC_Referral_Supporting_Document_REDACTED_20260204.pdf Wyloo North EPA & EPBC Referral Supporting Document	03/02/2026	No	High
#3.	Document	ATT_3_WylooNorthFloraVegetationSurvey20252025-07-12-Body.pdf Wyloo North Flora and Vegetation Survey Report (July 2025)_Part 1 Body	2025-07-12	Yes	High

#4.	Document	ATT_3_WylooNorthFloraVegetationSurvey20252025-07-20 Appendices.pdf	High
		Wyloo North Flora and Vegetation Survey Report (July 2025)_Part 2 Appendices	
#5.	Document	ATT_3_WylooNorthFloraVegetationSurvey20252025-07-20 Part1_Body_High.pdf	High
		Wyloo North Flora and Vegetation Survey Report (July 2025)_Part 1 Body_REDACTED	
#6.	Document	ATT_3_WylooNorthFloraVegetationSurvey20252025-07-20 Part2_Appendices_High.pdf	High
		Wyloo North Flora and Vegetation Survey Report (July 2025)_Part 2 Appendices_REDACTED	

3.3.1 Commonwealth heritage places overseas or other places that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	ATT_1_WylooNorth_EPA_EPBC_Referral_Supporting_Document_20260204.pdf	03/02/2026	Yes	High
		Wyloo North EPA & EPBC Referral Supporting Document			
#2.	Document	ATT_1_WylooNorth_EPA_EPBC_Referral_Supporting_Document_REDACTED_20260204.pdf	03/02/2026	No	High
		Wyloo North EPA & EPBC Referral Supporting Document			

3.3.2 Indigenous heritage values that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	ATT_1_WylooNorth_EPA_EPBC_Referral_Supporting_Document_20260204.pdf	03/02/2026	Yes	High
		Wyloo North EPA & EPBC Referral Supporting Document			
#2.	Document	ATT_1_WylooNorth_EPA_EPBC_Referral_Supporting_Document_REDACTED_20260204.pdf	03/02/2026	No	High
		Wyloo North EPA & EPBC Referral Supporting Document			

3.4.1 Hydrology characteristics that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	ATT_1_WylooNorth_EPA_EPBC_Referral_Supporting_Document_20260204.pdf	03/02/2026	Yes	High
		Wyloo North EPA & EPBC Referral Supporting Document			
#2.	Document	ATT_1_WylooNorth_EPA_EPBC_Referral_Supporting_Document_REDACTED_20260204.pdf	03/02/2026	No	High
		Wyloo North EPA & EPBC Referral Supporting Document			

4.1.4.2 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Why your action has a direct and/or indirect impact on the identified protected matters

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	ATT_1_WylooNorth_EPA_EPBC_Referral_Supporting_Document_20260204.pdf	03/02/2026	Yes	High
		Wyloo North EPA & EPBC Referral Supporting Document			

#2.	Document	ATT_1_WylooNorth_EPA_EPBC_Referral_Supporting_Document_REDACTED_20260204.pdf Wyloo North EPA & EPBC Referral Supporting Document	03/02/2026	None	High
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4.1.4.5 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Why you consider the direct and/or indirect impact to be a Significant Impact

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	ATT_1_WylooNorth_EPA_EPBC_Referral_Supporting_Document_20260204.pdf Wyloo North EPA & EPBC Referral Supporting Document	03/02/2026	Yes	High
#2.	Document	ATT_1_WylooNorth_EPA_EPBC_Referral_Supporting_Document_REDACTED_20260204.pdf Wyloo North EPA & EPBC Referral Supporting Document	03/02/2026	None	High

4.1.4.8 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Why you think your proposed action is a controlled action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	ATT_1_WylooNorth_EPA_EPBC_Referral_Supporting_Document_20260204.pdf Wyloo North EPA & EPBC Referral Supporting Document	03/02/2026	Yes	High
#2.	Document	ATT_1_WylooNorth_EPA_EPBC_Referral_Supporting_Document_REDACTED_20260204.pdf Wyloo North EPA & EPBC Referral Supporting Document	03/02/2026	None	High

4.1.4.10 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Avoidance or mitigation measures proposed for this action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	ATT_1_WylooNorth_EPA_EPBC_Referral_Supporting_Document_20260204.pdf Wyloo North EPA & EPBC Referral Supporting Document	03/02/2026	Yes	High
#2.	Document	ATT_1_WylooNorth_EPA_EPBC_Referral_Supporting_Document_REDACTED_20260204.pdf Wyloo North EPA & EPBC Referral Supporting Document	03/02/2026	None	High

4.1.5.2 (Migratory Species) Why your action has a direct and/or indirect impact on the identified protected matters

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	ATT_1_WylooNorth_EPA_EPBC_Referral_Supporting_Document_20260204.pdf Wyloo North EPA & EPBC Referral Supporting Document	03/02/2026	Yes	High
#2.	Document	ATT_1_WylooNorth_EPA_EPBC_Referral_Supporting_Document_REDACTED_20260204.pdf Wyloo North EPA & EPBC Referral Supporting Document	03/02/2026	None	High

4.1.5.6 (Migratory Species) Why you do not consider the direct and/or indirect impact to be a Significant Impact

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	ATT_1_WylooNorth_EPA_EPBC_Referral_Supporting_Document_20260204.pdf Wyloo North EPA & EPBC Referral	03/02/2026	Yes	High

Supporting Document					
#2.	Document	ATT_1_WylooNorth_EPA_EPBC_Referral_Supporting_Document_REDACTED_20260204.pdf Wyloo North EPA & EPBC Referral Supporting Document	03/02/2026	None	High

4.1.5.9 (Migratory Species) Why you do not think your proposed action is a controlled action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	ATT_1_WylooNorth_EPA_EPBC_Referral_Supporting_Document_20260204.pdf Wyloo North EPA & EPBC Referral Supporting Document	03/02/2026	Yes	High
#2.	Document	ATT_1_WylooNorth_EPA_EPBC_Referral_Supporting_Document_REDACTED_20260204.pdf Wyloo North EPA & EPBC Referral Supporting Document	03/02/2026	None	High

4.1.5.10 (Migratory Species) Avoidance or mitigation measures proposed for this action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	ATT_1_WylooNorth_EPA_EPBC_Referral_Supporting_Document_20260204.pdf Wyloo North EPA & EPBC Referral Supporting Document	03/02/2026	Yes	High
#2.	Document	ATT_1_WylooNorth_EPA_EPBC_Referral_Supporting_Document_REDACTED_20260204.pdf Wyloo North EPA & EPBC Referral Supporting Document	03/02/2026	None	High

4.3.8 Why alternatives for your proposed action were not possible

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	ATT_1_WylooNorth_EPA_EPBC_Referral_Supporting_Document_20260204.pdf Wyloo North EPA & EPBC Referral Supporting Document	03/02/2026	Yes	High
#2.	Document	ATT_1_WylooNorth_EPA_EPBC_Referral_Supporting_Document_REDACTED_20260204.pdf Wyloo North EPA & EPBC Referral Supporting Document	03/02/2026	None	High

5.2 Declarations

✔ Completed Referring party's declaration

The Referring party is the person preparing the information in this referral.

ABN/ACN	57002594872
Organisation name	FORTESCUE LTD
Organisation address	6000 WA
Representative's name	Amy Imbergamo
Representative's job title	Senior Environmental Advisor
Phone	+61 8 9230 1708
Email	amy.imbergamo@fortescue.com
Address	256 St Georges Terrace, Perth WA 6000

Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *

Check this box to confirm these are the correct identification details. *

By checking this box, I, **Amy Imbergamo of FORTESCUE LTD**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. *

You may receive automated notifications that aim to assist you in tracking the progress of your project. You can opt out of these notifications by updating your communication preferences on your profile.

✔ Completed Person proposing to take the action's declaration

The Person proposing to take the action is the individual, business, government agency or trustee that will be responsible for the proposed action.

ABN/ACN	57002594872
Organisation name	FORTESCUE LTD
Organisation address	6000 WA
Representative's name	Jarrold Pittson
Representative's job title	Group Manager Environment and Closure
Phone	08 6218 8888
Email	jarrod.pittson@fortescue.com

Address

Ground Floor 256 St Georges Tce, Perth WA 6000

- Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *
- Check this box to confirm these are the correct identification details. *
- I, **Jarrold Pittson of FORTESCUE LTD**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to the EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. I declare that I am not taking the action on behalf or for the benefit of any other person or entity. *

You may receive automated notifications that aim to assist you in tracking the progress of your project. You can opt out of these notifications by updating your communication preferences on your profile.

Completed Proposed designated proponent's declaration

The Proposed designated proponent is the individual or organisation proposed to be responsible for meeting the requirements of the EPBC Act during the assessment process, if the Minister decides that this project is a controlled action.

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

- Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *
- Check this box to confirm these are the correct identification details. *
- I, **Jarrold Pittson of FORTESCUE LTD**, the Proposed designated proponent, consent to the designation of myself as the Proposed designated proponent for the purposes of the action described in this EPBC Act Referral. *

You may receive automated notifications that aim to assist you in tracking the progress of your project. You can opt out of these notifications by updating your communication preferences on your profile.