Big Vein South open cut gold mine project

Application Number: **03024** Commencement Date: **31/07/2025** Status: **Locked**

1. About the project

1.1 Project details

1.1.1 Project title *

Big Vein South open cut gold mine project

1.1.2 Project industry type *

Mining

1.1.3 Project industry sub-type

Other

1.1.4 Estimated start date *

01/06/2026

1.1.4 Estimated end date *

31/12/2045

1.2 Proposed Action details

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

Sections 1, 2 and 3 provide a summary of the proposed action details.

1. Project Overview

The project (proposed action) involves the construction, operation and decommissioning of an open cut gold mine on a greenfield site in North Queensland. The proposed mine site is located approximately 100 km north of Richmond and 380 km west of Townsville (Att A, Figure 1).

The proposed mine will produce up to approximately 1.95 million tonnes per annum of Run of Mine (ROM) gold ore. The ore will be processed on site to produce gold doré (solid bars containing gold alloy). The mine will yield up to approximately 100,000 ounces of gold doré per annum. Gold doré bars will be transported from the mine site via plane to a refinery.

2. Project Description

2.1 Mining Operations

Open cut mining operations will involve mining of waste rock and gold ore from three open cut pits using excavators and trucks. The majority of the ore will be mined from the Big Vein South (BVS) Pit, which will be active over the life of the mine. Two small satellite pits (BV1 and BV2) will be mined in the first two years of operations (Att A, Figure 2).

Mined waste rock will be hauled from the pits in trucks and stored in three Waste Rock Dumps (WRDs) located in proximity to the pits (Att A, Figure 2). Waste rock from the BV1 and BV2 pits will be stored in the Northern WRD. Waste rock mined from the BVS Pit will be stored in the Central and Southern WRDs.

Mined gold ore will be transported from the pits by haul truck to the ROM area at the southern end of the project site and either stockpiled prior to processing, or fed directly to a crusher at the Carbon in Leach (CIL) Plant or the heap leach pads.

The operating mine life will be in the order of 11 years. The progression of mining over the mine life is illustrated in Att A, Figures 3-7.

The open cut mining operations will involve the following activities:

- Clearing of any vegetation
- Stripping and stockpiling of topsoil
- Drilling and blasting of waste rock and ore
- Mining of waste rock and ore using excavators and trucks
- Haulage of ore by truck to the ore stockpile areas for processing
- Haulage of waste rock by truck to the WRDs
- Progressive rehabilitation of WRDs

2.2 Exploration Activities

Exploration activities will be undertaken over the life of the mine within the mining lease area. This will include exploration drilling and seismic surveys that are designed and located to ensure they do not have any significant impacts on any MNES.

Exploration and site investigations will also continue through to the commencement of mine construction. These activities are not part of the proposed action and will be located and designed to ensure they do not have any significant impacts on any MNES.

2.3 Mine Infrastructure

The majority of the mine infrastructure will be located at the southern end of the project site (Att A, Figure 2). Mine infrastructure construction is scheduled to be completed in the first two years of the project. The key infrastructure components are as follows:

- Carbon in Leach (CIL) Plant: The CIL Plant will include a crushing circuit, sag mill, carbon-in-leach circuit, elution circuit and gold room (Att A, Figure 8). The CIL Plant will produce up to approximately 100,000 ounces of gold doré per annum. The CIL Plant will also produce tailings. A tailings dewatering system (filter press) is scheduled to be commissioned by Project Year 4. Dewatered tailings will be co-disposed with waste rock in the Central and Southern WRDs. Wet tailings will be pumped to a Tailings Storage Cell (TSC) for storage.
- Heap Leach Facility (HLF): The HLF will operate predominantly in the initial project years prior to the commissioning of the CIL Plant in Year 3. The HLF will include a mobile crusher, three heap leach pads and three heap leach ponds. The heap leach process involves the irrigation of a cyanide leaching solution onto ore heaps that are fed through the mobile crusher and placed on the heap leach pads by a stacker. The irrigated leaching solution seeps through the ore heap "leaching" gold from the ore. The HLF will be operated so that the heap leach process solutions are contained within a closed system with no external discharge. Spent heap leach ore will be reprocessed through the CIL Plant over the life of the mine.
- ROM ore stockpile area and temporary ore stockpile areas.
- Tailings Storage Cell: The TSC will be a lined containment cell with nil external catchment, constructed from perimeter embankments. It will store approximately 3.15 Mm3 of tailings (settled solids) produced in the CIL Plant over the life of the mine.
- Diesel and Solar Power Station: The power station will include diesel generators with an average generation load of 8.75 MW, supplemented with a 2.5 MW solar farm.
- Workshop and vehicle servicing facilities, warehouse, laydown and storage areas, and administration building.
- Water supply and mine water management infrastructure including a raw water dam and pump station, mine water dams, process water ponds, diversion drains and sediment ponds.
- Workforce accommodation camps for the construction/decommissioning and operational phases of the project.
- Private airstrip for transportation of workers to and from the site and transport of gold doré from the site.
- Haul roads and access roads.

During the operation of the BV1 and BV2 pits in Projects Years 1 and 2, the Northern Mine Industrial Area (MIA) will be operational (Att A, Figure 2). The Northern MIA will include a mine vehicle parking area, crib hut and vehicle refuelling and servicing facilities.

There are no additional developments that are part of the proposed action, outside of the project site.

2.4 Rehabilitation and Mine Closure

Areas of progressive rehabilitation over the life of the mine are shown in Att A, Figures 3-7. The conceptual final landform for the project site is shown in Att A, Figure 9. A soils assessment has been completed to confirm the soil types present on the project site and the availability of topsoil suitable for use in rehabilitation.

The final landform includes areas of proposed grazing post mining land use in mine infrastructure areas, reinstating the current pre mining land use. Rehabilitation of these areas will include:

- Decommissioning and removal of mine infrastructure.
- Contamination assessment and decontamination, where necessary.
- Surface reprofiling, where necessary, to match the adjacent natural surface areas.
- Topsoiling and soil amelioration.
- Ripping and seeding with native and endemic species.

The WRD landforms are designed to shed surface runoff and limit infiltration. They will include drainage along the outer slope benches to designated rock lined chutes that will convey drainage down the slopes. Rehabilitation of the WRDs will involve topsoiling of the slope benches and dump crest areas, and

subsequent revegetation by seeding.

Final rehabilitation and decommissioning of the TSC will involve covering the stored dried tailings solids with a 1 m to 3 m thick layer of benign capping material (e.g. suitable subsoil) and shaping the capped surface to promote runoff and minimise infiltration. The final surface will be topsoiled and revegetated with grass species. These measures will ensure containment of the tailings solids and any tailings moisture in the long-term following mine closure.

3. Land Tenure

The project site is located within two parcels of crown land that are leased by separate landholders, as shown in Att A, Figure 10 and described below. The Proponent (SMC) has agreements in place with the two landholders in relation to access to the land within the project mining leases, for mining activities.

Landholding 1

- Description: Lot 2 on WLR12
- Property Name: Mt Norman
- Registered Ower: Crown Land
- Registered Lessee: Burnett Holdings (NQ) Pty Ltd

Landholding 2

- Description: Lot 2414 on SP289336
- Property Name: Middle Park
- Registered Ower: Crown Land
- Registered Lessee: Woolgar Valley Aboriginal Corporation

A gazetted road reserve, referred to as “Peterfield Road”, passes through the Mt Norman property at the southern end of the project site (Att A, Figure 10). SMC has a consent and compensation agreement with the Richmond Shire Council that allows the closure of the road reserve within the project site and relocation of the access road.

The project site is comprised of four existing Mining Leases (MLs) (ML2729, ML2739, ML90238 and ML100236) (Att A, Figure 11), all of which are held by SMC. No additional mining tenure is required for the project.

4. Project Impacts

Project activities will directly impact vegetation and potential habitat through clearing. A total area of approximately 1,341 ha of remnant vegetation is proposed to be cleared over the life of the project. Detailed information about the impacts to vegetation and potential habitat are provided in the Terrestrial Ecology Report (Att B). An assessment of the impacts of the project on aquatic ecology is provided in the Aquatic Ecology Report (Att C). Project activities are also predicted to potentially indirectly impact Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs) as a result of predicted drawdown on the groundwater table due to the project. Detailed information about predicted drawdown on the groundwater table, and potential impacts on GDEs, is provided in the Groundwater Report (Att D) and the GDE Report (Att E).

The project area (and project site) is the combination of the four existing MLs which cover an area of approximately 2,281 ha (Att A, Figure 12). The project disturbance footprint covers an area of approximately 1,384 ha. This includes approximately 1,341 ha of direct impacts due to vegetation clearing and approximately 43 ha of potential indirect impacts to terrestrial GDEs due to groundwater drawdown (Att A, Figure 12).

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? *

Relevant Queensland and Commonwealth legislation requiring an environmental assessment for the project

1. Mining Leases under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld)

The project site consists of 4 existing Mining Leases (ML2729 [granted on 25/05/1989, commencement date 01/06/1989], ML2739 [granted on 25/05/1989, commencement date 01/06/1989], ML90238 [granted on 19/09/2017, commencement date 01/10/2017] and ML100236 [granted on 15/11/2021, commencement date 01/12/2021]) which are held by SMC. There are no additional MLs required for the project.

2. Environmental Authority under the *Environment Protection Act 1994* (Qld)

SMC holds an existing Environmental Authority (EA) EPSL00828013 for mining and exploration activities within the project site MLs. The EA is a standard EA under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (Qld) (EP Act) that allows low risk mining and exploration activities to be conducted on the mining leases in accordance with the *Eligibility Criteria and Standard Conditions for Mining Lease Activities – Version 2 - ESR 2016/2241* and the *Eligibility Criteria and Standard Conditions for Exploration and Mineral Development Projects – Version 2 – ESR/2016/185*.

The project mining activities do not satisfy the mining activity eligibility criteria in the current EA and hence the project requires a new site-specific EA for a resource activity within the project MLs. SMC submitted an EA application for the project to the Queensland Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI) on 23 December 2022. DETSI confirmed in writing on 20 June 2025 that the EA application does not require an environmental impact statement (EIS) under the EP Act.

3. Approval under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth)

The project Terrestrial Ecology Report (Att B) concluded the project is likely to have a potential significant impact on habitat for listed threatened species (the Squatter Pigeon [Southern] and the Koala) and hence is being referred to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) under the EPBC Act.

4. Relevant Queensland Planning Frameworks

The project site is located in the Richmond Shire Council Local Government Area (LGA) within the North West Queensland Region (NWQR). The region has a diverse economy and is renowned for its mining and mineral processing, cattle grazing and outback tourism. The NWQR is within the North West Minerals Province (NWMP) which is considered one of the world's most significant base and precious metals producers.

A number of regional strategies and plans have been developed by the Queensland and the NWQR local governments to support growth within the NWQR and the NWMP. These are relevant to the project and are summarised below. The development of the project is consistent with, and complimentary to, the intent of the government plans for the NWQR.

NW Regional Plan 2010

The *North West Regional Plan 2010-2031* (NW Regional Plan) was prepared by the Minister for Infrastructure and Planning under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009* and applies to the NWQR. The NW Regional Plan recognises mining as the largest economic driver for the region now and into the future. The NW Regional Plan sets out strategies and policies aimed at maximising the economic opportunities for mining and mineral processing in the region within acceptable social and environmental standards.

North West Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils

The *North West Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils* (NWQROC) comprises a number of councils in the NWQR, including the Richmond Shire Council. The mission of the NWQROC is to work with councils, communities and people in the NWQR to facilitate economic diversification and sustainable

growth of the region. The NWQROC identifies the NWQR as one of the world's richest mineral producing areas that has delivered significant economic benefits (and royalties) to the state for decades. The *NWQROC Strategic Plan 2018-2021* commits to engaging with the Queensland government and resources sector to develop strategies and policies that will enable further development of the NWQR and ensure infrastructure needs are met.

New Economy Minerals

"New economy minerals" is the term used for a range of metals and minerals that are essential in the manufacture of the emerging technologies and advanced electronics that are expected to support the future economy. Gold is identified as a new economy mineral.

The Queensland government has developed a range of strategies and initiatives to encourage further exploration and facilitate future development of new mining projects focusing on new economy minerals in the NWMP, including:

- *A Strategic Blueprint for Queensland's NWMP: Supporting Strong and Prosperous Regional Communities* (Strategic Blueprint);
- *Research and Development Priorities for Minerals in Queensland* (R&D Roadmap); and
- *New Economy Minerals: Investment Opportunities in Queensland's Minerals Provinces* (Investment Prospectus).

One of the aims of the Strategic Blueprint is to create a stronger and more diversified economy, leveraging existing economic and community strengths. In order to achieve this, the R&D Roadmap was developed to support further innovation. The R&D Roadmap is a strategic, industry-led analysis of the research and development priorities for minerals in Queensland, with a focus on new economy minerals projects. The R&D Roadmap identifies research priorities to support both the development of a world-class new economy mineral mining portfolio and knowledge base in Queensland, and a downstream new economy minerals industry.

The Queensland government has prepared the Investment Prospectus to encourage exploration and future development of new mining projects in the NWMP. The Investment Prospectus recognises that investment will drive the evolution of projects and jobs, delivering new economy minerals needed for the future to Queensland and the global market. The Investment Prospectus commits the Queensland government to working in partnership with other levels of government, the resources sector, business, industry and local communities to guide and secure the future of the NWMP.

The Investment Prospectus identifies the Big Vein South Gold Project as one of Queensland's major new economy minerals resources (referred to in the prospectus as "Woolgar – Big Vein").

Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan

The 2022 *Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan* (QRIDP) sets out a clear 30-year vision for Queensland's resource industry to be "a resilient, responsible and sustainable resource industry that grows as it transforms". The QRIDP outlines 6 key focus areas where government and industry need to work together to prepare the resources sector for future opportunities. The QRIDP recognises the importance of supporting new economy mineral projects in Queensland to achieve its vision.

Mount Isa to Townsville Economic Development Zone

The Mount Isa to Townsville Economic Development Zone (MITEZ) is a regional organisation representing seven LGAs across the northern parts of Queensland, including the Richmond, Flinders, McKinlay, Charters Towers and Townsville LGAs, and encompassing the towns of Mount Isa, Cloncurry, Julia Creek, Richmond, Hughenden, Charters Towers and Townsville. MITEZ forms a vital corridor connecting the region to the rest of Queensland, helping to provide, process and export resources to Australia and

international markets through road, rail, air and sea transport. MITEZ is committed to maintaining its existing investments, and to investigating new opportunities as they arise, to accelerate growth in the region and secure its economic future for decades to come. The project is located along the MITEZ corridor.

5. Local Government Approval

The project does not require any approvals under local government legislation.

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. *

1. Project Setting

The project site is located in a remote and sparsely populated area of the North West Queensland Region. It is located approximately 380 km west of Townsville and 100 km north of Richmond (Att A, Figure 13) in the north-eastern corner of the Richmond Shire Council (RSC) Local Government Area (LGA) (Att A, Figure 14). The RSC RGA covers an area of approximately 25,580 km and at the time of the 2021 census had a total population of 761 persons.

The closest township to the project site is Richmond, which is approximately 120 km by road and 2 hours drive from the project site. Approximately 90 km of the road from the project site to Richmond is unsealed. Richmond is located halfway between Townsville and Mt Isa on the Flinders Highway. Richmond is the administrative centre of the RSC LGA and at the time of the 2021 census had a population of 578 persons.

Hughenden and Julia Creek are the next closest townships to the project site (Att A, Figure 14). The populations of Hughenden and Julia Creek at the 2021 census were 1,113 and 549 respectively. Hughenden and Richmond are approximately 240 km and 270 km by road from the project site, respectively.

Townsville is the closest major coastal city and is an approximately 500 km drive along the Flinders Highway from Richmond, a 7.5 hour drive from the project site (Att A, Figure 13). Townsville had a population of 192,820 persons in 2021 (ABS, 2022) which is more than 80% of the North Queensland Region's population.

Due to the remote location, small population and low unemployment rate of the regional Richmond community, it is anticipated that the project workforce will need to be predominantly non-local Fly-in Fly-out (FIFO) workers from the broader North Queensland Region (Townsville) with up to 10% of workers from Richmond and other regional towns.

The project site is located immediately to the east of the rural locality of "Woolgar" (Att A, Figure 14). Woolgar contained a small historical gold mining settlement and numerous small scale gold prospecting areas in the late 1800s and early 1900s. There is no notable settlement remaining at Woolgar today.

The project site is located within two large cattle grazing properties referred to as the Middle Park Property and the Mt Norman Property. There are three grazing property homesteads within 15 km of the project site. There is currently no power, rail or water supply infrastructure in proximity to the project site. There are no other resource projects currently operating in the RSC LGA.

SMC has been actively exploring in the Woolgar Goldfields continuously over the last 30 years, working in collaboration and consultation with local landholders, Traditional Owners, Richmond Shire Council and local businesses. This has included the negotiation of several compensation agreements with landholders in relation to the development of the project and numerous cultural heritage clearances from the Traditional Owners for project exploration work. Through this history, SMC has well established stakeholder relationships and a track record in working collaboratively with project stakeholders.

2. Stakeholder Engagement

2.1 Overview

The project stakeholder engagement program involves the following:

- Communication during project planning and development, to build project awareness, and identify and address stakeholder issues;
- Statutory stakeholder notification and consultation, required for the approvals process; and
- Community and stakeholder engagement throughout the life of the project.

The key stakeholder groups for the project, consultation approach and outcomes to date, are discussed in the following sections.

2.2 Key Stakeholders

Key community stakeholder groups for the project include:

- Richmond Shire Council.
- Richmond community.
- Landholders within and adjoining the project site.
- Traditional Owner representatives.

2.3 Consultation Approach and Outcomes

The following sections provide a summary of the consultation approach, key outcomes to date and proposed future consultation with key stakeholders.

Richmond Shire Council and Richmond Community

SMC has consulted with the RSC and Richmond community stakeholders regularly during the exploration and development phase of the project over the past 30 years. This has included regular meetings and project updates with the RSC Mayor and Chief Executive Officer and community stakeholders. The RSC and Richmond community are supportive of the project and interested in the benefits of the project for the Richmond Shire including regional employment and the positive flow-on effects to the local economy, business viability, community and the transport corridor through to Townsville.

SMC will continue to consult with the RSC and Richmond community through briefings on the project approval and development process, including the environmental impact assessment results. SMC will continue working closely with the RSC and Richmond community in order to maximise the economic benefits of the project for the area.

Landholders

The project site is located within two parcels of crown land that are leased by separate landholders as follows:

- Mt Norman property leased by Burnett Holdings (NQ) Pty Ltd
- Middle Park property leased by the Woolgar Valley Aboriginal Corporation

Both properties are large scale cattle grazing properties. The project site is comprised of existing mining leases and SMC has existing agreements with both landholders in relation to compensation for mining activities and access to the land within the mining leases. There are no other adjoining/neighbouring landholders due to the size of the properties. These two properties also contain the three homesteads located within 15 km of the project site. SMC is in regular communication with the landholders in relation to the ongoing exploration activities within the project site. Both landholders remain supportive of the project and interested in securing employment and other commercial opportunities during the development phase.

SMC will continue regular communication with the landholders during the project approval and development process.

Traditional Owners

While the project site is not subject to any current Native Title claims or determinations SMC has engaged with Traditional Owner representatives in relation to obtaining Aboriginal cultural heritage clearances for exploration activities within the project site in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* (ACH Act) and in relation to the grant of the mining leases. The Traditional Owner representatives remain interested in securing employment opportunities at the project. SMC will continue to engage with the Traditional Owner representatives during the project approval process and in accordance with the ACH Act.

The landholder for the Middle Park property, which is within the northern end of the project site, is the Woolgar Valley Aboriginal Corporation with whom SMC has an existing agreement for compensation for mining activities, and for access to the land within the mining leases.

3. Consultation Register

SMC has undertaken stakeholder engagement in relation to exploration activities and grant of the project mining leases since at least 1989. The Consultation Register (Att F) provides a summary of the recent consultation undertaken to date. The register includes the date and nature of the consultation, what information was provided and discussed, and any comments or issues raised by the stakeholder.

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.

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1.3.1.1 Is Referring party an organisation or business? *

Yes

Referring party organisation details

ABN/ACN	35008901380
Organisation name	STRATEGIC MINERALS CORPORATION N.L.
Organisation address	Level 15, 40 Creek St, Brisbane 4000 QLD

Referring party details

Name	Trent Cini
Job title	
Phone	0408312269
Email	tcini@qcoal.com.au
Address	Level 15, 40 Creek St Brisbane 4001

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? *

Yes

Person proposing to take the action organisation details

ABN/ACN	35008901380
Organisation name	STRATEGIC MINERALS CORPORATION N.L.
Organisation address	Level 15, 40 Creek St, Brisbane 4000 QLD

Person proposing to take the action details

Name	Trent Cini
Job title	
Phone	0408312269
Email	tcini@qcoal.com.au
Address	Level 15, 40 Creek St Brisbane 4001

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. *

There are no past or present proceedings against SMC under Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. SMC has not made a previous EPBC Act Referral, nor has it been responsible for undertaking an action referred under the EPBC Act.

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

SMC is a wholly owned subsidiary of QGold Pty Ltd. SMC's Environmental Policy (Att G) includes SMC's environmental commitments. SMC otherwise conducts its exploration activities on the project site in accordance with its existing Environmental Authority.

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	35008901380
Organisation name	STRATEGIC MINERALS CORPORATION N.L.
Organisation address	Level 15, 40 Creek St, Brisbane 4000 QLD

Proposed designated proponent details

Name	Trent Cini
Job title	
Phone	0408312269
Email	tcini@qcoal.com.au
Address	Level 15, 40 Creek St Brisbane 4001

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	35008901380
Organisation name	STRATEGIC MINERALS CORPORATION N.L.
Organisation address	Level 15, 40 Creek St, Brisbane 4000 QLD
Representative's name	Trent Cini
Representative's job title	
Phone	0408312269
Email	tcini@qcoal.com.au
Address	Level 15, 40 Creek St Brisbane 4001

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.

Same as Referring party information.

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

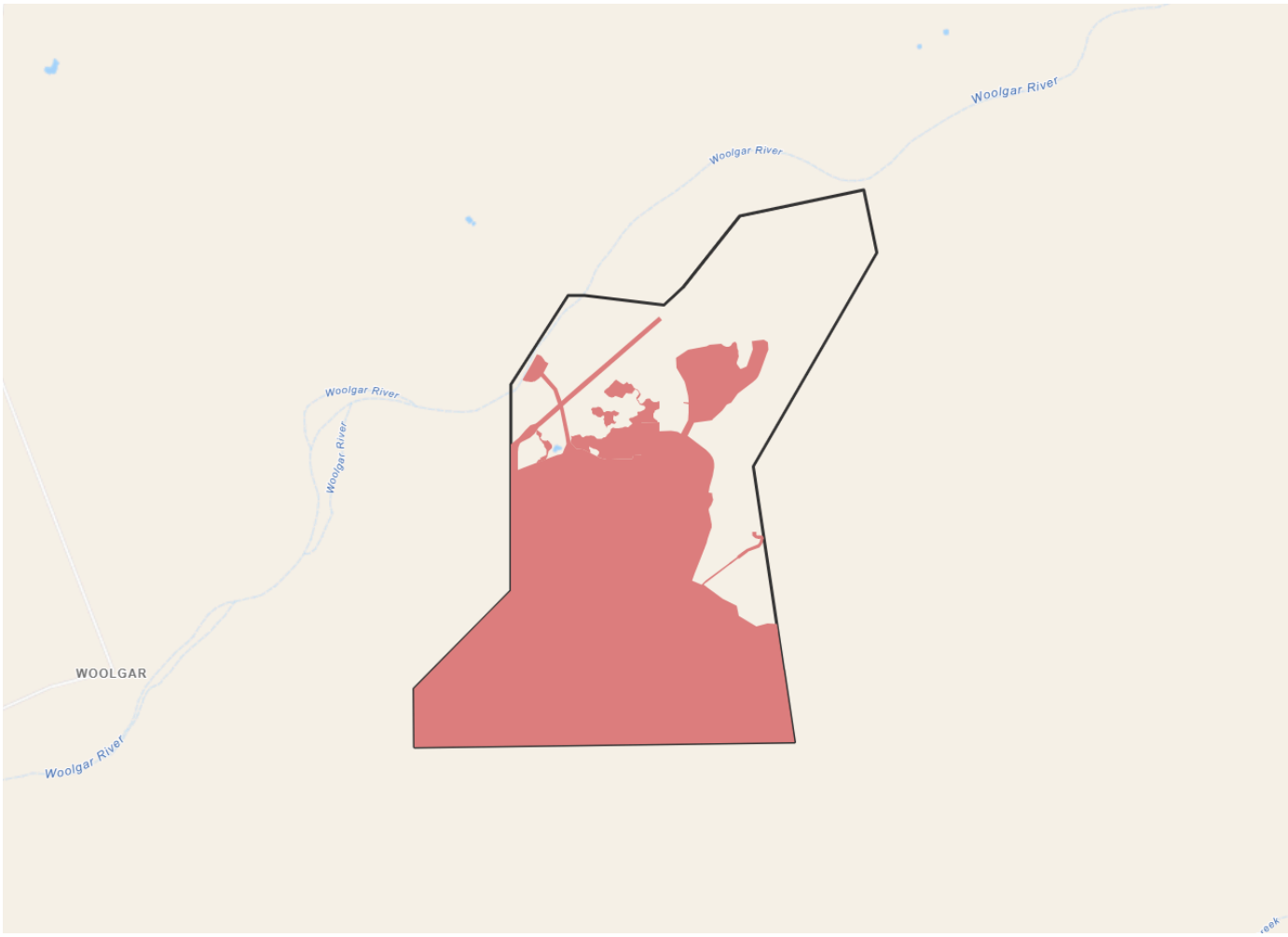
1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

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: 2286.01 Ha **Disturbance Footprint:** 1386.94 Ha

2.2 Footprint details

2.2.1 What is the address of the proposed action? *

Yan Yean Burleigh Mt Norman Road, Woolgar QLD 4822

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

Queensland

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? *

See response to Q1.2 for mining and exploration tenures and land ownership/holder information within the project site.

The Burnett Holdings (NQ) Pty Ltd lease is for 30 years, commencing on 31 March 2016 and expiring on 31 March 2036.

The Woolgar Valley Aboriginal Corporation lease is for 40 years, commencing on 20 September 2013 and expiring on 19 September 2053.

3. Existing environment

3.1 Physical description

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

1. Location

The project site is located approximately 380 km west of Townsville and 100 km north of Richmond in North Queensland (Att A, Figure 1). The project site is remote, with the closest township being Richmond, approximately 120 km by road to the south.

2. Zoning

The project site is zoned Rural under the *Richmond Shire Planning Scheme 2020*. There will be no changes to the project site zoning for the project. All of the land adjoining and in the vicinity of the project site is also zoned Rural.

3. Current Condition

3.1 Land Use

The current land uses within the project site and surrounding area are cattle grazing and mineral exploration. The two land parcels within the project site are part of large-scale cattle grazing properties. These properties extend well beyond the project site boundary and surround the project site (Att A, Figure 10).

Built infrastructure within the project site and surrounding area is limited to stock fencing, unsealed access roads and stock watering dams (Att A, Figure 15). The local roads that traverse the project site provide access to the local large-scale grazing properties and their homesteads. The land in the northern section of the project site has been subject to historic gold mine workings from the late 1800s to the early 1900s.

3.2 Vegetation

The vegetation across the project site comprises remnant vegetation. Narrow corridors lacking vegetation are associated with the Woolgar River channel and the two existing local access roads.

The landscape within and surrounding the project site is intact, providing regional connectivity with the surrounding landscape. Other than the open, sandy creek bed of the Woolgar River, the project site is generally characterised by sparse, open, Eucalyptus and Corymbia woodland communities.

Vegetation communities and fauna habitat throughout the project site, including Koala and Squatter Pigeon habitat, are typically in good condition with some exotic grass infiltration on the lower lying areas and in the riparian zones. Some areas also display the effects of historic activities including intense fires, gold mining and timber harvesting, and current cattle grazing and mineral exploration disturbance. The following broad vegetation communities/habitat types were found to occur in the project area:

- Riparian woodland. This habitat type is associated with the natural levees and riverbeds of the Woolgar River and supports large River Red Gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*). The condition of this habitat is variable, with a discontinuous canopy in some areas and large infestations of Rubber Vine (*Cryptostegia grandiflora*) (an exotic weed) in a number of places.
- Open woodlands. This habitat type is associated with the lower slopes of the project site and is dominated by Eucalypts and Corymbia trees and contains some large, hollow-bearing trees. Malvastrum (*Malvastrum americanum*) (an exotic weed) is prominent in some areas and this habitat is subject to some grazing pressure.
- Low woodlands. This habitat type is associated with the flatter ground between the plateaus in the east of the site and the Woolgar River in the west of the site. The habitat is dominated by Acacia species and there are very few weeds present. Large mature trees, some hollow-bearing, are present throughout this habitat.
- Open Eucalypt woodlands. This habitat type is associated with the steep slopes in the east of the project site with large Eucalypt trees. It is dissected by numerous gullies and there are very few weeds present.

4. Road Infrastructure

4.1 Existing Road Network

The key roads that will be used by project traffic are the:

- Flinders Highway between Townsville and Richmond (Att A, Figure 13); and
- Richmond-Woolgar Road and Yan Yean-Burleigh-Mt Norman Road, between Richmond and the project site (Att A, Figure 14).

The distance from Townsville to Richmond along the Flinders Highway is approximately 500 km. The Flinders Highway continues to the west beyond Richmond to Cloncurry. The highway forms a major component of the road access from Townsville to Mt Isa. The Flinders Highway is a state-controlled road with a two lane sealed road pavement.

Richmond-Woolgar Road and Yan Yean-Burleigh-Mt Norman Road are Richmond Shire Council (RSC) roads. Richmond-Woolgar Road is a sealed two lane road that joins Yan Yean-Burleigh-Mt Norman Road approximately 30 km north-west of Richmond. Yan Yean-Burleigh-Mt Norman Road extends for approximately 90 km from Richmond-Woolgar Road to the project site. Yan Yean-Burleigh-Mt Norman Road is a two lane unsealed road. It provides access to a small number of large remote rural properties.

4.2 Project Transportation

The existing road network from Townsville will be utilised by heavy vehicles delivering equipment and supplies to the project during construction, operations and decommissioning.

The majority of the workforce for construction, operations and decommissioning is expected to be non-local FIFO workers from Townsville, with up to 10% of the total workforce expected to travel from the local area. Prior to commissioning, and after decommissioning of the on-site airstrip, workers will be transported to site from Richmond airport via buses provided by SMC. During the period when the on-site airstrip is operational, the number of workforce buses travelling to and from Richmond will reduce. All mine workers will stay in an on-site camp during their on-site shift roster.

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

1. Current Land Use

The current land uses within the project site are cattle grazing and mineral exploration. The two land parcels within the project site are part of large-scale cattle grazing properties. Cattle grazing has occurred on these two properties for many decades.

SMC has been conducting exploration activities within the project site in accordance with relevant resource tenure and environmental authorities for over 30 years.

2. Future Land Use

The proposed future use of the project site, subject to gaining the necessary approvals, is the development of the Big Vein South Gold Mine.

3. Previous Land Use

The project site is located immediately to the east of the rural locality of “Woolgar” (Att A, Figure 14). Woolgar contained a small historical gold mining settlement and numerous small scale gold prospecting areas in the late 1800s and early 1900s. There is no notable settlement remaining at Woolgar today and only scattered remnants of historic gold mine workings.

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

1. Project Area's Natural Features

The project site is situated on the south-western edge of the Gregory Range (Att A, Figure 14) at elevations of between approximately 360 m and 450 m Australian Height Datum (AHD) (Att A, Figure 3). The north-eastern portion of the project site is characterised by a mosaic of sandstone scarps dissected by drainage gullies, while the remainder of the project site is gently undulating and sloping to the west (Att A, Figure 16).

The project site is located adjacent to the Woolgar River at the upstream end of the Flinders River Basin (Att A, Figure 16). The Woolgar River is ephemeral and flows in a south-westerly direction along the northern and north-western boundaries of the project site. The majority of the project site is above the 0.1% (1 in 1,000) Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) Woolgar River flood level (Att A, Figure 16). There a number of ephemeral tributary drainage features traversing the project site, originating from the sandstone scarps to the east and flowing through the site to the Woolgar River (Att A, Figure 16).

The vegetation within the project site is characterised as open woodland dominated by Eucalyptus and Corymbias, with a variable shrub layer. Limited clearing has occurred on the project site to date, due to current land uses.

2. Project Area's Important Values

There are no national parks, world heritage areas, nature refuges or resource reserves within the project site. The Rungulla National Park, Bellfield Nature Refuge and the Rungulla Resources Reserve are approximately 38 km, 36 km and 24 km, respectively, to the north of the project site boundary. There is also a Forestry Management Unit approximately 30 km to the west of the project site boundary and Blackbraes National Park is approximately 70 km north-east of the project site boundary.

3. Project Area's Unique Values

There are scattered remnants of historic gold mine workings from the late 1800s and early 1900s in the project area. These heritage places are not considered to have state or national significance and were assessed as being potentially of local significance only.

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

1. Project Area Elevation and Gradient

The project site elevation ranges between approximately 360 m and 450 m Australian Height Datum (AHD) (Att A, Figure 3). The north-eastern portion of the project site is characterised by a mosaic of sandstone scarps (up to in the order of 40 m high) dissected by drainage gullies, while the remainder of the project site is gently undulating and sloping to the west toward the Woolgar River (Att A, Figure 3).

The Woolgar River is ephemeral, flowing only after significant rainfall events in the wet season. It flows in a south-westerly direction along the northern and north-western boundaries of the project site. In the vicinity of the project site, the Woolgar River has a well-defined channel (approximately 50 m wide and typically 10 m deep) that is set within a narrow, discontinuous floodplain.

The project site is drained by a number of unnamed minor tributaries of the Woolgar River. The tributary drainage features typically have wide shallow channels ranging up to a maximum of approximately 10 m wide and 1.5 m deep. Similar to the Woolgar River, the drainage features traversing the project site are highly ephemeral, with short duration flows in the wet season following significant rainfall events.

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.

1. Surveys

Multi-season terrestrial flora and fauna surveys were conducted for the terrestrial ecology assessment. The field survey program is summarised below and a detailed description of the survey methodology is provided in the Terrestrial Ecology Report (Att B, Section 3, pp 7-9).

1.1 Field Survey Programs - Flora Surveys

- Timing and period: Early Wet Season 2015, 12 – 22 November 2015; Duration: 11 days
- Timing and period: Early Dry Season 2016, 11 – 18 April 2016; Duration: 8 days
- Timing and period: Early Wet Season 2017, 19, 21 and 24 November 2017; Duration: 3 days
- Timing and period: Early Dry Season 2021, 27 April – 5 May 2021; Duration: 9 days
- Timing and period: Early Dry Season 2024, 11 – 17 July 2024; Duration: 7 days

1.2 Field Survey Programs - Fauna Surveys

- Timing and period: Early Wet Season 2017, 13 – 24 November 2017; Duration: 12 days
- Timing and period: Early Dry Season 2019, 24 April – 8 May 2019; Duration: 15 days
- Timing and period: Early Dry Season 2021, 27 April – 2 May 2021; Duration: 3 days over the survey period
- Timing and period: Early Dry Season 2024, 11 – 17 July 2024; Duration: 7 days

2. Key Findings

2.1 General

The vegetation across the study area comprises remnant vegetation. Narrow corridors of cleared areas are associated with the Woolgar River channel and the two existing local access road corridors that provide access to the homesteads in the area surrounding the project site.

The landscape within and surrounding the study area is intact, providing regional connectivity with the surrounding landscape. There is minimal clearing in the project site from historic land uses (such as gold mining, timber harvesting and bushfires) and the current cattle grazing and mineral exploration land uses. Other than the open, sandy creek bed of the Woolgar River, the project site is generally characterised by sparse, open, Eucalyptus and Corymbia woodland communities. Further detail on the regional ecosystems present within the project site is provided in the Terrestrial Ecology Report (Att B, Section 4.1, pp 10-13).

2.2 Flora Species and Threatened Ecological Communities

No EPBC Act listed flora species or Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) were recorded within the project site or were assessed as being likely to occur within the project site. Further detail is provided in the Terrestrial Ecology Report (Att B, Sections 4.1 & 4.2, pp 10-14) and the Aquatic Ecology Report (Att C, Section 6.8, p45).

2.3 Fauna Species

One threatened fauna species listed under the EPBC Act was recorded within the project site during the fauna surveys, namely the Squatter Pigeon (Southern). Koala scats were recorded within the dry river bed of the Woolgar River, adjacent to but not within, the project site. All other terrestrial and aquatic EPBC Act listed fauna species were assessed as having a low likelihood to occur in the project site. Further detail is provided in the Terrestrial Ecology Report (Att B, Section 4.3, pp 14-22) and the Aquatic Ecology Report (Att C, Sections 6.5-6.7 & 6.9, pp 40-47).

2.4 Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems

The only potential aquatic GDE within the project site is the Woolgar Riverbed.

There are potential terrestrial GDEs (i.e. woodland vegetation with access to the groundwater table) within the project site. Further information on aquatic and terrestrial GDEs is provided in the GDE Report (Att E, Sections 2.4.1 & 2.4.2, p 11).

A stygofauna sampling program was conducted in the project site that included 28 stygofauna samples (10 in the hyporheic zone of the Woolgar River alluvium and 18 samples from the groundwater monitoring network). Further information on the stygofauna sampling program methodology is provided in the Aquatic Ecology Report (Att C, Section 4.2.11, pp 21-22). The sampling program results confirmed there were no groundwater dependent stygofauna (stygobites) within the project site and that the fauna detected in the Woolgar River alluvium were stygoxenes (i.e. fauna accidentally or optionally occurring within groundwater habitats that do not require groundwater systems to complete their lifecycle). Further information on the stygofauna sampling program results is provided in the Aquatic Ecology Report (Att C, Section 6.9, pp 45-47).

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

1. Vegetation

The vegetation across the study area comprises remnant vegetation. Narrow corridors of cleared areas are associated with the Woolgar River channel and the two existing local access road corridors.

The landscape within and surrounding the study area is intact, providing regional connectivity with the surrounding landscape. There is minimal clearing in the project site from historic land uses (such as gold mining, timber harvesting and bushfires) and the current cattle grazing and mineral exploration land uses. Other than the open, sandy creek bed of the Woolgar River, the project site is generally characterised by sparse, open, Eucalyptus and Corymbia woodland communities.

Thirty-five exotic species were recorded from the study area with exotic flora found primarily along the Woolgar River and the surrounding areas. Overall, weed diversity and abundance was relatively low within the study area.

The distribution of ground-truthed vegetation communities in the study area is shown in the Terrestrial Ecology Report (Att B, Figure 5, p 47). The REs that occur within the project site are listed below. All vegetation communities are listed as Least Concern under the VM Act and none of the vegetation communities are listed under the EPBC Act. The project site includes approximately 2,281 ha of remnant native vegetation. Further information is provided in the Terrestrial Ecology Report (Att B, Section 4.1, pp 10-13).

1.1 Vegetation Communities

- RE 2.3.21j, VM Act Status: Least Concern; EPBC Act Status: - ; Total within Study Area (ha): 512.2; Condition: Good with exception of some areas of Parkinsonia (exotic species) and small areas of clearing
- RE 2.3.26b, VM Act Status: Least Concern; EPBC Act Status: - ; Total within Study Area (ha): 4.3; Condition: Good general condition with mature trees although dense Rubber Vine (exotic species) infestation in some areas
- RE 2.3.50b, VM Act Status: Least Concern; EPBC Act Status: - ; Total within Study Area (ha): 17.0; Condition: Good, no exotic species evident
- RE 2.5.18a, VM Act Status: Least Concern; EPBC Act Status: - ; Total within Study Area (ha): 879.3; Condition: Good overall condition with some light cattle grazing evident, no exotic species evident
- RE 2.5.9, VM Act Status: Least Concern; EPBC Act Status: - ; Total within Study Area (ha): 99.2; Condition: Good overall condition with some light cattle grazing evident, no exotic species evident
- RE 2.10.1a, VM Act Status: Least Concern; EPBC Act Status: - ; Total within Study Area (ha): 83.2; Condition: Good, limited evident of grazing or timber cutting, very few exotic species
- RE 2.10.2x5a, VM Act Status: Least Concern; EPBC Act Status: - ; Total within Study Area (ha): 123.6; Condition: Good, limited evidence of grazing or timber cutting, very few exotic species
- RE 2.11.1a, VM Act Status: Least Concern; EPBC Act Status: - ; Total within Study Area (ha): 561.9; Condition: Good with exception of cattle grazing and small areas of clearing, no exotic species evident
- Total Area (ha): 2,280.7

2. Surface Geology

The surface geology within the project site is shown in Att A, Figure 17. It is comprised of:

- localised alluvium in the north-western corner of the project site associated with the Woolgar River and its floodplain.
- weathered in-situ material of the Eromanga Basin and Proterozoic basement (herein called the ‘weathered profile’).

The Woolgar River alluvium is a sand and gravel deposit that forms the Woolgar River floodplain along the north-western boundary of the project site. The floodplain alluvium is confined within a narrow valley. The floodplain alluvium thickness typically ranges from a few centimetres at the edge of the floodplain up to approximately 10 m on the riverbanks.

The weathered profile has been extensively modified by weathering and erosion. It comprises poorly consolidated, fine-grained, clay-bound sands and silts. The weathered profile is present across the entire project site and is typically located at the ground surface, except where it is overlain by the alluvium. The weathered profile is up to approximately 40 m thick in the lower lying areas and is typically thinner in the elevated parts of the project site (approximately 0.5 m thick).

3. Soils

Soil types present within the project site are summarised below. The distribution of the soil profile classes within the project site is shown in Att A, Figure 18.

3.1 Soil Types

- Soil Profile Class (SPC): 1; SPC Concept Description: Moderately deep, slightly acidic, black loam and brown sandy loam subsoil; Australian Soil Classification (Major Order/ Sub-order): Brown Kandosol; Area (ha): 499
- Soil Profile Class (SPC): 2; SPC Concept Description: Moderately deep, moderately acidic, black firm sandy loam with brown sandy loam to strongly alkaline, extremely sodic, sandy clay loam subsoil.; Australian Soil Classification (Major Order/ Sub-order): Red Kandosol; Area (ha): 80
- Soil Profile Class (SPC): 3; SPC Concept Description: Very shallow, rocky, strongly acidic, black sandy loam on steep hills on sedimentary rock.; Australian Soil Classification (Major Order/ Sub-order): Leptic Rudosol; Area (ha):189
- Soil Profile Class (SPC): 4; SPC Concept Description: Moderately deep, moderately acidic, brown loamy sand on red, moderately alkaline, sandy clay loam subsoil.; Australian Soil Classification (Major Order/ Sub-order): Red Kandosol; Area (ha):132
- Soil Profile Class (SPC): 5; SPC Concept Description: Shallow, hard-setting, slightly acidic, brown sands on brown sandy clay loam on sedimentary rock; Australian Soil Classification (Major Order/ Sub-order): Brown Kandosol; Area (ha): 208
- Soil Profile Class (SPC): 6; SPC Concept Description: Moderately deep, firm, moderately alkaline, grey clay loam on strongly alkaline, extreme salinity and sodic, brown clay loam subsoil.; Australian Soil Classification (Major Order/ Sub-order): Brown Kandosol; Area (ha): 23
- Soil Profile Class (SPC): 7; SPC Concept Description: Deep, soft, moderately acidic, reddish brown sandy loam on red sandy clay loam subsoil.; Australian Soil Classification (Major Order/ Sub-order): Red Kandosol; Area (ha): 961
- Soil Profile Class (SPC): 8; SPC Concept Description: Shallow, hard setting, neutral, brown sandy loam with red sandy loam subsoil on metamorphic rock.; Australian Soil Classification (Major Order/ Sub-order): Red Kandosol; Area (ha): 80
- Soil Profile Class (SPC): 9; SPC Concept Description: Very shallow, hard setting, strongly acidic, yellowish-brown sandy clay loam on sedimentary rock.; Australian Soil Classification (Major Order/ Sub-order): Leptic Rudosol; Area (ha): 93

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.

There are no Commonwealth heritage places overseas or other places recognised as having heritage values within or in the vicinity of the project site.

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

The project area is located on land historically claimed by the Woolgar People (also referred to as the Mbara Ngawun). While the land has been subject to a number of native title claims by the Woolgar People, all claims have been discontinued and the area has not been subject to any registered native title claim since December 2011.

SMC has engaged with representatives from the Woolgar People throughout the project development period to identify and protect Indigenous heritage within the project area and undertake cultural heritage clearances for exploration activities in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* (Qld) (ACH Act).

Existing engagement makes provision for the ongoing identification and management of Indigenous heritage by Traditional Owner representatives throughout the project life. This will include ongoing engagement with Traditional Owner representatives in relation to cultural heritage clearances to identify and mitigate impacts from the proposed mining operations, in accordance with the ACH Act.

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. *

1. Surface Water

1.1 Regional Catchment

The project site is located within the Woolgar River catchment (Att A, Figure 19). The Woolgar River catchment is a sub-catchment of the Stawell River catchment, which is one of several regional catchments that form the upstream end of the Flinders River basin. The Flinders River basin drains to the Gulf of Carpentaria, approximately 375 km north-west of the project site.

1.2 Local Catchment and Drainage

The north-eastern portion of the project site is characterised by a mosaic of sandstone scarps dissected by drainage gullies, while the remainder of the project site is gently undulating and slopes to the west towards the Woolgar River (Att A, Figure 20). The Woolgar River flows to the south-west along the north-western boundary of the project site. Numerous minor tributary drainage features traverse the project site. The Woolgar River and the tributary drainage features are discussed in the following sections.

1.2.1 Woolgar River

The Woolgar River commences approximately 46 km upstream of the project site and flows in a south-westerly direction along the northern and north-western boundaries of the project site. The Woolgar River joins the Stawell River approximately 73 km downstream of the project site then the Stawell River continues for approximately 56 km before joining the Flinders River approximately 129 km downstream of the project site. The Flinders River flows north-west through the Gulf Country and discharges into the Gulf of Carpentaria approximately 766 km downstream of the project site.

The Woolgar River is ephemeral and typically flows for approximately 12% of the time (i.e. 44 days per year, on average). The volume and timing of surface water flow in the Woolgar River varies from year-to-year depending on rainfall with the majority of surface water flow occurring during the wet season (December to March). Surface water flows decrease rapidly as the dry season commences, with low mean monthly flows recorded between April and November.

In the vicinity of the project site, the Woolgar River has a well-defined channel that is set within a narrow, discontinuous floodplain. The river channel contains a braided low flow channel with sand sheet deposits, bars and islands that have been formed by extensive sediment deposition during flow events. The river channel also contains rock bars and a series of seasonal pools that may contain water for extended periods during the dry season.

The banks of the river channel are generally stable and well vegetated. However, cattle grazing has resulted in extensive bank erosion at regular intervals along the river.

1.2.2 Local Tributaries of the Woolgar River

The project site spans several local sub-catchments of the Woolgar River (Att A, Figure 20) and is drained by a number of unnamed tributaries of the Woolgar River, which area discussed below. The unnamed Woolgar River tributaries are all drainage features and have been numbered 1 to 6 (Att A, Figure 20).

- The Northern Catchment is approximately 4.2 km2 and contains Drainage Feature 4 and its tributary Drainage Feature 5. Drainage originates in the elevated scarps in the east of the project site, flows north-west across the northern part of the project site (where Drainage Feature 5 joins Drainage Feature 4) and enters the Woolgar River approximately 1.1 km downstream of the project site boundary.
- The Central Catchment is approximately 19.4 km2 and contains Drainage Feature 1 and its tributaries Drainage Features 2 and 3. Drainage originates in the elevated scarps east of the project site, traverses the centre of the project site (where Drainage Features 2 and 3 join Drainage Feature 1) in a generally westerly direction and enters the Woolgar River approximately 0.7 km downstream of the project site boundary.

- The Southern Catchment is approximately 53.7 km2 and contains Drainage Feature 6. Runoff from the project site drains to the south-west as overland sheet flow and ultimately forms Drainage Feature 6 in the lower part of the catchment, approximately 14 km downstream of the project site boundary. Drainage Feature 6 flows parallel to the Woolgar River for approximately 1 km before entering the Woolgar River approximately 15 km downstream of the project site boundary.
- The north-western part of the project site drains directly to the Woolgar River, via several undefined overland flowpaths.

The local catchments have been modified by cattle grazing and land disturbance associated with mineral exploration, local access roads, and historic gold mining and timber harvesting.

The drainage features within the local catchments are highly ephemeral, with short duration flows that contain elevated levels of suspended sediment.

2. Groundwater

2.1 Hydrogeological Setting

The local hydro-stratigraphy is illustrated in the Groundwater Report (Att D, Figures 5 & 6, pp 48-49) and comprises:

- Localised alluvium associated with the Woolgar River;
- A weathered profile which exhibits variable permeability and is typically dry and unsaturated;
- Localised, disconnected residual areas of fresh Jurassic strata; and
- A fresh Proterozoic basement aquiclude, comprising a dry crystalline and metamorphosed rock mass. Occasional disconnected cracks in the upper profile of this aquiclude that can contain groundwater.

2.2 Groundwater Recharge and Movement

Seasonal rainfall and runoff concentrate on the upper surfaces and slopes of the elevated scarp landforms, enhancing infiltration in these areas. A portion of the surface water infiltration moves through the unsaturated weathered profile and Jurassic strata to recharge the underlying regional groundwater table.

Locally, groundwater flows west from the elevated plateau recharge areas towards the surrounding lower-lying areas.

The Groundwater Report (Att D, Figures 19-22, pp 61-64) show groundwater elevation and direction of flow in each hydro-stratigraphic unit.

2.3 Groundwater Depth and Distribution

The Groundwater Report (Att D, Figure 25, p 67) shows the spatial variations in the groundwater table depth due to changes in topography. The groundwater table is generally deeper in elevated areas and shallower in the vicinity of the incised river and drainage features. In the elevated plateau areas, the groundwater table is typically located in the Proterozoic basement at depths of approximately 50 m, and up to approximately 110 m, below ground level. In the lower-lying areas, the groundwater table is typically located between approximately 10 m and 50 m below ground level and intersects the weathered profile, Jurassic strata and cracks in the upper profile of the Proterozoic basement.

The Groundwater Report (Att D, Figures 23 & 24, pp 65-66) show the extent and thickness of the saturation in the weathered profile and the Jurassic strata. The Proterozoic basement contains groundwater in disconnected cracks but does not form a continuous, saturated aquifer.

In discrete areas below the Woolgar River channel, where the alluvium is thickest, the base of the alluvium may intersect the groundwater table. In these localised and discontinuous areas, the base of the alluvium is likely to be partially saturated and recharged by the regional groundwater flows (Att D, Figure 26, p 68).

Elsewhere, the base of the alluvium is typically located several metres above the regional groundwater table, and therefore in these areas the alluvium is typically dry and unsaturated (Att D, Figure 26, p 68). In the areas of unsaturated alluvium, the regional groundwater regime does not contribute significantly to recharge of the alluvium.

Groundwater interactions with surface water are described in the Groundwater Report (Att D, Section 5.1, pp 17-18).

Additional groundwater information on the existing groundwater regime, including groundwater interactions with surface water and perched groundwater, is provided in the Groundwater Report (Att D, Section 5, pp 17-23).

3. Connectivity with Ramsar Wetlands

There are no Ramsar Wetlands in the Flinders River basin. The closest Ramsar Wetland to the project site is Bowling Green Bay (BGB) which is approximately 380 km east of the project site. BGB is not in the same catchment as the project site and therefore there is no surface water connection between the project site and BGB or any other Ramsar Wetland. Similarly, there is no potential for connectivity between groundwater within the project site and any Ramsar wetlands.

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	No	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 closest World Heritage site to the project site is Riversleigh World Heritage Area in Boodjamulla National Park, approximately 480 km to the west. Therefore, due to the large distance between the project site and the closest World Heritage site, the project is unlikely to have either a direct or indirect impact to a World Heritage site.

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 nearest National Heritage Site is the Dinosaur Stampede National Monument over 360 km south-west of the project site. Therefore, due to the large distance between the project site and the closest National Heritage site, the project is unlikely to have either a direct or indirect impact to a National Heritage site.

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 Wetlands in the Flinders River basin where the project is located. The closest Ramsar Wetland to the project site is Bowling Green Bay (BGB), near Townsville, which is approximately 380 km east of the project site. The BGB Ramsar Wetland is not in the same surface water or groundwater catchment as the project site and therefore, there is no hydraulic connectivity between the project site and BGB or any other Ramsar Wetland. Therefore, the project is unlikely to have either a direct or indirect impact to a Ramsar Wetland.

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	Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper
No	No	Chloebia gouldiae	Gouldian Finch
No	No	Erythrotriorchis radiatus	Red Goshawk
No	No	Falco hypoleucos	Grey Falcon
No	No	Gallinago hardwickii	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
Yes	No	Geophaps scripta scripta	Squatter Pigeon (southern)
No	No	Grantiella picta	Painted Honeyeater
No	No	Macroderma gigas	Ghost Bat
Yes	No	Phascolarctos cinereus (combined populations of Qld, NSW and the ACT)	Koala (combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory)
No	No	Rostratula australis	Australian Painted Snipe
No	No	Tyto novaehollandiae kimberli	Masked Owl (northern)
No	No	Varanus mertensi	Mertens' Water Monitor, Mertens's Water Monitor

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. *

The following two MNES fauna species have been identified as being present or likely to be present in the project site:

- Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*); and
- Squatter Pigeon (Southern) (*Geophaps scripta scripta*).

No other MNES flora or fauna species were identified as being likely to be present within the project site. No TECs were identified as being present, or potentially present, within the project site. No aquatic species listed under the EPBC Act were identified as being present, or potentially present, within the project site (Att C, Section 6.10, p 47*).*

MNES Flora Species

Species name, EPBC Act Status, Likelihood of Occurrence, Habitat Extent (ha), Area to be cleared (ha), Direct Impacts, Indirect Impacts, Cumulative Impacts.

- Cycas platyphylla, Vulnerable, Unlikely, 0, 0, None, None, None
- Dichanthium setosum, Vulnerable, Unlikely, 0, 0, None, None, None
- Pink Gidgee (Acacia crombiei), Vulnerable, Unlikely, 0, 0, None, None, None
- Wallangarra White Gum (Eucalyptus scoparia), Vulnerable, Unlikely, 0, 0, None, None, None

MNES Fauna Species

Species name, EPBC Act Status, Likelihood of Occurrence, Habitat Extent (ha), Area to be cleared (ha), Direct Impacts, Indirect Impacts, Cumulative Impacts.

- Koala, Endangered, Likely, 521.5, 147.4, **Yes** – habitat clearing for proposed mining areas and infrastructure areas. The direct impacts will last for the duration of the mine life (i.e. 19 years). Significant impact assessments undertaken in accordance with the DCCEEW Significant Impact Guidelines can be found in the Terrestrial Ecology Report (Att B, Appendix G), **No** - indirect impacts such as the effects of habitat fragmentation and edge effects, noise and vibration, vehicle strike, lighting, dust, erosion and sedimentation and invasive species have all been assessed as being unlikely to significantly impact the Koala and the Squatter Pigeon (Southern). See the Terrestrial Ecology Report (Att B, Section 5.2, pp 27-30) for more details,**None** – there are no mining projects adjacent to or within the vicinity surrounding the project site. There are very few mining projects in operation or proposed for the entire Gulf Plains bioregion. Impacts to remnant vegetation from activities in the region surrounding the project, particularly in the form of direct clearing, are negligible.
- Squatter Pigeon (Southern), Vulnerable, Present, 1,098.1 breeding and foraging habitat and 1,182.6 foraging only habitat, 545.4 breeding and foraging habitat and 795.2 foraging only habitat, **Yes** – habitat clearing for proposed mining areas and infrastructure areas. The direct impacts will last for the duration of the mine life (i.e. 19 years). Significant impact assessments undertaken in accordance with the DCCEEW Significant Impact Guidelines can be found in the Terrestrial Ecology Report (Att B, Appendix G), **No** - indirect impacts such as the effects of habitat fragmentation and edge effects, noise and vibration, vehicle strike, lighting, dust, erosion and sedimentation and invasive species have all been assessed as being unlikely to significantly impact the Koala and the Squatter Pigeon (Southern). See the Terrestrial Ecology Report (Att B, Section 5.2, pp 27-30) for more details, **None** – there are no mining projects adjacent to or within the vicinity surrounding the project site. There are very few mining projects in operation or proposed for the entire Gulf Plains bioregion. Impacts to remnant vegetation from activities in the region surrounding the project, particularly in the form of direct clearing, are negligible.
- Curlew Sandpiper (Calidris ferruginea), Critically Endangered / Migratory, Unlikely, 0, 0, **None, None, None**

- Northern Quoll (Dasyurus hallucatus), Endangered, Unlikely, 0, 0, **None, None, None**
- Greater Glider (central) (Petauroides volans), Endangered, Unlikely, 0, 0, **None, None, None**
- Australian Painted Snipe (Rostratula australis), Endangered, Unlikely, 0, 0, **None, None, None**
- Black-throated Finch (Southern) (Poephila cincta cincta), Endangered, Unlikely, 0, 0, **None, None, None**
- Gouldian Finch (Erythrura gouldiae), Endangered, Unlikely, 0, 0, **None, None, None**
- Red Goshawk (Erythrotriorchis radiatus), Endangered, Unlikely, 0, 0, **None, None, None**
- Star Finch (Southern) (Neochmia ruficauda ruficauda), Endangered, Unlikely, 0, 0, **None, None, None**
- Ghost Bat (Macroderma gigas), Vulnerable, Unlikely, 0, 0, **None, None, None**
- Large-eared Horseshoe Bat (Rhinolophus robertsi), Vulnerable, Unlikely, 0, 0, **None, None, None**
- Julia Creek Dunnart (Sminthopsis douglasi), Vulnerable, Unlikely, 0, 0, **None, None, None**
- Grey Falcon (Falco hypoleucos), Vulnerable, Unlikely, 0, 0, **None, None, None**
- Masked Owl (Northern) (Tyto novaehollandiae kimberli), Vulnerable, Unlikely, 0, 0, **None, None, None**
- Painted Honeyeater (Grantiella picta), Vulnerable, Unlikely, 0, 0, **None, None, None**
- Plains Death Adder (Acanthophis hawkei), Vulnerable, Unlikely, 0, 0, **None, None, None**
  Yakka Skink (Egernia rugosa), Vulnerable, Unlikely, 0, 0, **None, None, None**

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. *

Direct impacts to the Koala and the Squatter Pigeon (Southern) are deemed to be significant due to the area of habitat clearing. The Terrestrial Ecology Report (Att B, Appendix G) provides the detailed significance assessments using the Significant Impact Guidelines. Further discussion around the project's direct, indirect and cumulative impacts can be found in the Terrestrial Ecology Report (Att B, Section 5, pp 24-31).

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. *

The Koala and the Squatter Pigeon (Southern) will both be significantly impacted by the project in accordance with the DCCEEW Significant Impact Guidelines, due to the area of habitat proposed to be cleared for each species (147.4 ha of refuge habitat for the Koala and 545.4 ha of breeding and foraging habitat for the Squatter Pigeon (Southern)). Therefore, the project is likely to be a Controlled Action.

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. *

The Terrestrial Ecology Report (Att B, Sections 5.1.1 & 5.1.2, pp 25-27) describes the measures taken to avoid impacts and the proposed measures to mitigate and manage impacts.

Avoidance measures included the design of the project to minimise the disturbance area to the necessary amount to safely construct, operate and decommission the mine. The following aspects of the project layout will avoid impacts to the MNES that were recorded or are likely to occur in the project site:

- Within the project site, Koala habitat is limited to the riparian zones containing River Red Gums. The proposed mine infrastructure has been purposefully located to substantially avoid impacts to the highest quality Koala habitat in the Woolgar River riparian zone, where scratches and scats of the Koala were recorded to the north and north-west of the project (Att B, Figure 6). The impact to this riparian zone is limited to vegetation clearing associated with the Woolgar River offtake, which unavoidably has to be located on the river bank and for which the clearing area has been minimised as far as practicable. The majority of the proposed mine infrastructure will be located in the southern portion of the project site, where there is no Koala habitat. Disturbance to habitat in the tributary creek riparian zones, where there is no evidence of Koala presence, was unavoidable in the open cut mining areas due the location of the gold resource.
- There are areas in the east and north-east of the project site which do not contain Koala habitat however, these areas are unsuitable for the location of mine infrastructure due to the topography which consists of elevated rocky plateaus and ridgelines.
- The entire project site provides Squatter Pigeon breeding or foraging habitat (Att B, Figure 7), hence project impacts to Squatter Pigeon habitat were unavoidable. However, the proposed location of the mine infrastructure in the southern portion of the project site avoids, as far as practical, areas of breeding habitat.

The proposed mitigation measures include:

- Operation of a Permit to Disturb procedure to ensure that any clearing is compliant with the relevant requirements of the EPBC Act approval and Environmental Authority and that pre-clearing and clearing activities are conducted in an appropriate and approved manner.
- Site speed limits and safe driving practices to minimise vehicle strike to animals.
- Watering haul roads to minimise the creation of dust.
- Implementation of erosion and sediment control measures as part of an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan.
- Implementation of weed management and pest animal management measures as part of a Weed and Pest Management Program.

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

Land based offsets are proposed for the residual significant impacts on the Koala and Squatter Pigeon (southern). An Offset Management Strategy (OMS) has been prepared that details the proposed offset measures including the nature of the proposed offset measures, measure/s that offset the residual significant impacts of the project and provide a conservation gain, and the nature of the mechanism for legally securing the offset. The OMS also explains the proposed development of an Offset Management Plan for the project.

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	Actitis hypoleucos	Common Sandpiper
No	No	Apus pacificus	Fork-tailed Swift
No	No	Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper
No	No	Calidris melanotos	Pectoral Sandpiper
No	No	Cuculus optatus	Oriental Cuckoo, Horsfield's Cuckoo
No	No	Gallinago hardwickii	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
No	No	Motacilla cinerea	Grey Wagtail
No	No	Motacilla flava	Yellow Wagtail
No	No	Pandion haliaetus	Osprey

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

No

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

The specialist ecology assessment concluded that only 1 migratory species is present, or potentially present, in the project site: the Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus*) (Att B, Section 4.3.4, pp 21-22). The project site is considered unlikely to contain any important habitat for the Fork-tailed Swift given it is an almost exclusively aerial species and is highly nomadic and habitat in project site is homogenous with the surrounding landscape. Therefore, the project is unlikely to have a direct or indirect impact on the Fork-tailed Swift. The Terrestrial Ecology Report (Att B, Appendix G) provides the detailed significance assessment for the Fork-tailed Swift.

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 project does not involve any nuclear actions.

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.

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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. *

The nearest Commonwealth Marine Area is approximately 350 km east of the project site. Due to the large distance between the project site and the nearest Commonwealth Marine Area, the project is unlikely to have direct or indirect impacts to any Commonwealth Marine Area.

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 Great Barrier Reef is approximately 350 km east of the project site. In addition, the project site is located in the Flinders River catchment that drains to the Gulf of Carpentaria, rather than towards the east coast of Australia and the Great Barrier Reef. Due to the project not being located within a catchment that drains to the Great Barrier Reef, the project will not have any direct or indirect impacts on the Great Barrier Reef.

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 project is not a coal mine or coal seam gas project. Hence this controlling provision is not applicable.

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.

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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 project is not being undertaken on, or adjacent to, any Commonwealth land. The closest Commonwealth land is the Rungulla National Park approximately 40 km north of the project site. The project site is outside the Rungulla National Park catchment area. Therefore, the project will not directly or indirectly impact any Commonwealth land.

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.

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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 project is located in Australia and is therefore not located in proximity to any Commonwealth Heritage Places overseas.

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 development of the project is focussed on mining the Big Vein South gold resource using appropriate and industry standard mining and processing methods . SMC does not have access to an equivalent alternative gold resource and hence there is no alternative to the development of the project, other than not taking the action.

5. Lodgement

5.1 Attachments

1.2.1 Overview of the proposed action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A-Referral Form Figures.pdf Figures	30/07/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att B-Terrestrial Ecology Report.pdf Terrestrial Ecology Report	30/07/2025	No	High
#3.	Document	Att C-Aquatic Ecology Report.pdf Aquatic Ecology Report	30/07/2025	No	High
#4.	Document	Att D-Groundwater Report.pdf Groundwater Report	29/07/2025	No	High
#5.	Document	Att E-GDE Report.pdf GDE Report	29/07/2025	No	High
#6.	Document	Att F-Consultation Register.pdf Consultation Register	29/07/2025	No	High
#7.	Document	Att G-SMC Environmental Policy.pdf Environmental Policy	08/01/2025	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 G-SMC Environmental Policy.pdf Att G-SMC Environmental Policy	11/07/2025	No	High

3.1.1 Current condition of the project area's environment

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A-Referral Form Figures.pdf Figures	29/07/2025	No	High

3.1.2 Existing or proposed uses for the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A-Referral Form Figures.pdf Figures	29/07/2025	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A-Referral Form Figures.pdf Figures	29/07/2025	No	High

3.1.4 Gradient relevant to the project area

Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence	
#1.	Document	Att A-Referral Form Figures.pdf Figures	29/07/2025	No	High

3.2.1 Flora and fauna within the affected area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att B-Terrestrial Ecology Report.pdf Terrestrial Ecology Report	29/07/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att C-Aquatic Ecology Report.pdf Aquatic Ecology Report	29/07/2025	No	High
#3.	Document	Att E-GDE Report.pdf GDE Report	28/07/2025	No	High

3.2.2 Vegetation within the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A-Referral Form Figures.pdf Figures	29/07/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att B-Terrestrial Ecology Report.pdf Terrestrial Ecology Report	29/07/2025	No	High

3.4.1 Hydrology characteristics that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A-Referral Form Figures.pdf Figures	29/07/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att D-Groundwater Report.pdf Groundwater Report	28/07/2025	No	High

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 B-Terrestrial Ecology Report.pdf Terrestrial Ecology Report	29/07/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att C-Aquatic Ecology Report.pdf Aquatic Ecology Report	29/07/2025	No	High

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 B-Terrestrial Ecology Report.pdf Terrestrial Ecology Report	29/07/2025	No	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 B-Terrestrial Ecology Report.pdf Terrestrial Ecology Report	29/07/2025	No	High

4.1.5.3 (Migratory Species) Why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att B-Terrestrial Ecology Report.pdf Terrestrial Ecology Report	29/07/2025	No	High

5.2 Declarations

Completed Referring party's declaration

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

ABN/ACN	35008901380
Organisation name	STRATEGIC MINERALS CORPORATION N.L.
Organisation address	Level 15, 40 Creek St, Brisbane 4000 QLD
Representative's name	Trent Cini
Representative's job title	
Phone	0408312269
Email	tcini@qcoal.com.au
Address	Level 15, 40 Creek St Brisbane 4001

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

☑ I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

☑ By checking this box, I, **Trent Cini of STRATEGIC MINERALS CORPORATION N.L.**, 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. *

☑ I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

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.

Same as Referring party information.

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

☑ I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

☑ I, **Trent Cini of STRATEGIC MINERALS CORPORATION N.L.**, 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. *

☑ I, **Trent Cini of STRATEGIC MINERALS CORPORATION N.L.**, the Person proposing the action, consent to the designation of **Trent Cini of STRATEGIC MINERALS CORPORATION N.L.** as the Proposed designated proponent for the purposes of the action described in this EPBC Act Referral. *

☑ I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

✔ 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. *

☑ I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

☑ I, **Trent Cini of STRATEGIC MINERALS CORPORATION N.L.**, 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. *

☑ I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *