Roper Valley Iron Ore Project

Application Number: **02939** Commencement Date: **27/05/2025** Status: **Locked**

1. About the project

1.1 Project details

1.1.1 Project title *

Roper Valley Iron Ore Project

1.1.2 Project industry type *

Mining

1.1.3 Project industry sub-type

Iron ore mine

1.1.4 Estimated start date *

31/08/2026

1.1.4 Estimated end date *

31/08/2032

1.2 Proposed Action details

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

The Roper Valley Iron Ore Project (RVIOP) is located in the Gulf of Carpentaria region of the Northern Territory, approximately 420 km southeast of Darwin and 150 km east of Mataranka. The current proponent, Northern Territory Iron Ore Pty Ltd (NTIO), became a wholly owned subsidiary of NRR Services Pty Ltd (NRR) in December 2023. NRR also operates the nearby Nathan River Project (NRP).

Previous disturbance at the site, by the then proponent Sherwin Iron, includes a small bulk sample pit, ore stockpiles, and supporting infrastructure (e.g., accommodation, access tracks), located within mining lease's (ML) 29584 and 30317, and associated exploration lease's (EL) 24101. In 2013, Sherwin Iron submitted an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA) for assessment under the former *Environmental Assessment Act 1982* (EA Act). The Project was also referred to the Australian Government under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). Under a bilateral agreement between the Northern Territory and the Commonwealth, Commonwealth approval was granted on 27 April 2015.

NTIO is now seeking renewed EPBC approval for activities previously authorised under the expired approval (EPBC 2013/6726), titled *Sherwin Creek Iron Ore Project*, which lapsed in January 2025.

Proposed Activities

The RVIOP proposes to produce up to 3 million tonnes (Mt) of iron ore per year over a six-year mine life, with a total production target of approximately 13.8 Mt. Conventional open-cut mining methods will be used, including truck and shovel operations. Mined material will be crushed, screened, and sorted by ore grade, then transported via road trains along one of two proposed haulage routes to a suitable export port.

The RVIOP will include the development and operation of the following components, some of which were established during the initial bulk sampling program in 2014:

- Staged open-cut pits within the Deposit C resource area;
- Supporting infrastructure such as workshops, administration buildings, and laydown areas;
- A run-of-mine (ROM) pad for crushing, screening, and stockpiling ore by grade;
- A waste rock dump for overburden storage;
- Haul roads connecting key operational areas, including both existing MLs, with access to the Roper Highway;
- An existing accommodation camp;
- Internal access roads; and
- Water management and storage infrastructure.

The Project area spans 1,833.62 hectares (ha), including two MLs and existing disturbed areas connected via associated exploration tenements. The total disturbance footprint, which includes the proposed clearing area plus a 100 m buffer for indirect impacts (e.g. dust, noise, and vibration), covers 630.5 ha. Within this, the direct clearing footprint is 385.3 ha.

A previous federal approval allowed for 350 ha of clearing but did not include the accommodation camp or additional disturbance from the haul road, which together add approximately 30 ha.

Mining (Att P, Section 2.8.1, p. 2-19)

Mining at the RVIOP will focus on Deposit C, beginning near the existing bulk sample pit and progressing in six sequential stages over a six-year period. Initial mining will occur to the south and west of the current pit, with operations gradually expanding northward toward the defined pit boundary (see Figure 2-12, Att P, page 2-23). Blasting will be used where material is consolidated.

The initial waste rock material will be used to construct site infrastructure such as access roads, hardstands, and the magazine area. Excess waste material will be placed in the external waste dump, where some material has already been deposited during earlier bulk sampling, particularly near the proposed office and workshop areas.

After completion of Pit Stage 1, and once the external dump reaches capacity for sub-grade stockpiling, remaining waste will be progressively backfilled into the pit, moving northward in line with ore extraction. The sub-grade stockpile will also be extended along the western side of the external dump, adjacent to the pit.

Pit stages 5 and 6 are not planned for backfilling at this time, as historic drilling suggests a potential resource to the north. Backfilling these areas could sterilise this resource, which requires further evaluation before any closure decision is made. This area will be utilised as a water storage, capturing surface run-off from the backfilled pit landform, whilst decisions are made on progressing further with the northern resource area.

Processing (Att P, Section 2.8.2, p. 2-28)

Ore will be transported from the pit to either the ROM pad or a sub-grade stockpile, depending on grade. Material will be processed using mobile crushing, screening, and ore sorting equipment. No chemicals or additives will be used, only water for dust suppression. The processing plant may be relocated during the project to minimise haul distances and align with active mining areas. Sub-grade material will be stockpiled west of the pit and processed after higher-grade ore, gradually forming a continuous deposit along the pit's length. When capacity allows, the plant will also process harder, benign waste rock for use as road base.

Haulage (Att P, Section 2.8.3, p. 2-32)

Processed ore will be loaded onto triple-trailer road trains at the ROM pad for transport to export markets. The primary haulage route runs east via the Roper Highway and Nathan River Road to the NRP, from where ore will travel approximately 170 km along a private haul road to the Bing Bong Loading Facility (BBLF) for export, utilising existing NRP approvals.

The previously approved haulage route to the Port of Darwin remains a secondary option. NTIO is seeking renewed approval for this route under the current EPBC referral, consistent with the earlier EPBC approval. Prior to using either route, NTIO will coordinate with relevant road authorities to obtain required permits and ensure compliance with public road use conditions.

Water Management (Att P, Section 2.8.4-2.8.5, p. 2-34 to 2-38)

Water management at the RVIOP aims to protect surface and groundwater resources while minimising impacts on natural drainage. Clean runoff will be diverted, and sediment-laden water treated in sedimentation basins to maintain water quality and drainage patterns. Existing roads and tracks will be reused where possible to reduce new disturbance, with new infrastructure sited to avoid drainage lines. An Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, alongside a Water Management Plan, will guide water quality monitoring.

The proposed pit, located on a mesa, is not expected to intersect groundwater. Dewatering will focus on managing wet season rainfall, with collected water used primarily for dust suppression. Mining will prioritise higher pit areas during the wet season, deferring pit floor excavation to the dry season. Post-mining, the westward-dipping pit floor will naturally retain water, providing long-term storage to support life-of-mine water management.

Potable water for the accommodation camp will be supplied from three existing groundwater bores. NTIO holds a groundwater extraction licence, granting access to an allocated groundwater entitlement to meet the potable water requirements of the RVIOP. Power for all site operations will be provided by on-site diesel generators.

Waste and Hazardous Material Management (Att P, Section 2.8.6, p. 2-39)

The RVIOP is expected to generate minimal hazardous waste from drilling, blasting, excavation, and basic ore processing. Waste oil, filters, and grease from equipment maintenance will be collected and disposed of off-site by licensed contractors. Sewage and effluent will be treated on-site and reused for irrigation or dust suppression. Hydrocarbon spills will be contained, cleaned, and remediated, including through

bioremediation if necessary. Diesel will be stored in two 100,000 L self-bunded tanks within a bunded area near the mine workshop. Explosives will be stored and handled in accordance with the *NT Dangerous Goods Act 1998*. An on-site landfill will manage domestic and putrescible waste, while recyclables and waste oil will be transported off-site for processing at approved facilities.

Rehabilitation and Closure (Att P, Section 2.8.9, p. 2-44)

Progressive in-pit dumping will restore the final landform to closely match the original topography, except in the northern section, which will remain unfilled to serve as a wet-season water storage area and reduce sediment runoff. After backfilling, topsoil will be spread along crests and slopes using dozers, and the surface will be deep-ripped on contour to reduce erosion, improve water infiltration, and promote seed establishment through microhabitat creation. The external waste dump southwest of the pit will be reshaped to a stable 20° slope and deep-ripped to minimise erosion. The in-pit waste dump will closely replicate the original mesa surface, resulting in minimal visual impact.

Initial consultation with Traditional Owners and Mt McMinn Station landholders supports a post-mining land use of natural vegetation with periodic cattle grazing. NTIO is committed to achieving a safe, stable, non-polluting final landform, with the site expected to revert to pastoral use following closure. Ongoing stakeholder engagement will help finalise land use outcomes and closure criteria. A Rehabilitation and Mine Closure Plan, developed during the EIS, integrates rehabilitation into the operational mine plan and remains applicable, as current activities are consistent with the EIS proposal.

Ongoing resource definition

Small-scale exploration, sampling, and resource definition activities will continue within the project area during the RVIOP assessment and approval process. These activities will follow all relevant Territory government approvals and are not part of the current action. Due to their limited scale, they are unlikely to require separate referral.

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

No

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

The Project was previously approved under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) for the Sherwin Creek Iron Ore Project (EPBC 2013/6726). This approval lapsed in January 2025. Both Commonwealth and Northern Territory approvals were originally granted in 2014, following the submission of a Supplementary Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS).

At the Northern Territory level, the Project was initially authorised under the former *Environmental Assessment Act 1982* and the *Mining Management Act 2001*, via Authorisation 0902-01. The Project continues to be authorised under current Territory legislation through a Deemed Environmental Mining Licence, issued in accordance with the *Environment Protection Act 2019*, which replaced the earlier assessment framework.

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. *

The Alawa and Mumbaliya (Namumardidi) people of the Roper Gulf Shire region are the original inhabitants of the land where the Project
is located. The Alawa and Mumbaliya people formally claimed attachment to the land and connection to country through lodgment of the Chatterhoochee-Mt McMinn Native Title Claim (number DC2001/064). The Northern Land Council (NLC) is the prescribed body corporate for the Alawa and Mumbaliya (Namumardidi) people. The proponent and the NLC are currently finalising a Regional Agreement that will apply to exploration and mining at the Project and later, on other areas of mineralisation on nearby areas of land that are subject to either the Native Title Act 1993; or the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976.
The Agreement will include mechanisms through which the matters raised
during the negotiation process (e.g. business development) may be resolved (Att D, Section 1.2.1, page 3).

1.3.1 Identity: Referring party

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1.3.1.1 Is Referring party an organisation or business? *

Yes

Referring party organisation details

ABN/ACN	96947262397
Organisation name	MEC Mining
Organisation address	4000 QLD

Referring party details

Name	David Moss
Job title	Manager of Environment
Phone	07 3832 0301
Email	epbc@mecmining.com.au
Address	300 Adelaide Street, Brisbane, 4000

1.3.2 Identity: Person proposing to take the action

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

No

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

Yes

Person proposing to take the action organisation details

ABN/ACN	609206706
Organisation name	NORTHERN TERRITORY IRON ORE PTY LTD
Organisation address	6008 WA

Person proposing to take the action details

Name	Simon Peat
Job title	Director
Phone	0418 124 034
Email	simon.peat@nathan-river.com
Address	PO Box 36309 Winnellie, NT, 0821

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. *

The Project, including the activities outlined in this referral, have previously been assessed and approved under both the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC 2013/6726) and the former Northern Territory *Environmental Assessment Act 1982* and *Mining Management Act 2001* (Authorisation 0902-01). The proponent has a demonstrated track record of responsible environmental management and has not received any infringement notices or been involved in any reportable environmental incidents during its operating history.

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

The proponent believe it is their responsibility to strive for excellence in environmental performance and are committed to environmental sustainability. They strive to minimise the impact of our business activities on the environment and surrounding communities. They are committed to:

- Promoting a culture of innovation, engagement and participation;
- Promoting the efficient use of energy and water, reduction of waste, recycling of materials and prevention of pollution;
- Improving energy efficiency and management of greenhouse emissions;
- Implementing a robust environment management system that allows the proponent to manage risks effectively while also meeting or exceeding all relevant legislative and other obligations;
- Regularly reviewing the proponent's environmental performance and identifying and implementing opportunities for improvement;
- Influencing suppliers and subcontractors to utilise a similar approach towards responsible environmental practices;
- Promoting practices, systems, values and behaviours that contribute to environmental sustainability; and
- Demonstrating leadership in environmental management.

The above is described further within Att E, page 1.

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	609206706
Organisation name	NORTHERN TERRITORY IRON ORE PTY LTD
Organisation address	6008 WA

Proposed designated proponent details

Name	Simon Peat
Job title	Director
Phone	0418 124 034
Email	simon.peat@nathan-river.com
Address	PO Box 36309 Winnellie, NT, 0821

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	96947262397
Organisation name	MEC Mining
Organisation address	4000 QLD
Representative's name	David Moss
Representative's job title	Manager of Environment
Phone	07 3832 0301
Email	epbc@mecmining.com.au
Address	300 Adelaide Street, Brisbane, 4000

Confirmed Person proposing to take the action's identity

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

ABN/ACN	609206706
Organisation name	NORTHERN TERRITORY IRON ORE PTY LTD
Organisation address	6008 WA
Representative's name	Simon Peat
Representative's job title	Director
Phone	0418 124 034
Email	simon.peat@nathan-river.com
Address	PO Box 36309 Winnellie, NT, 0821

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

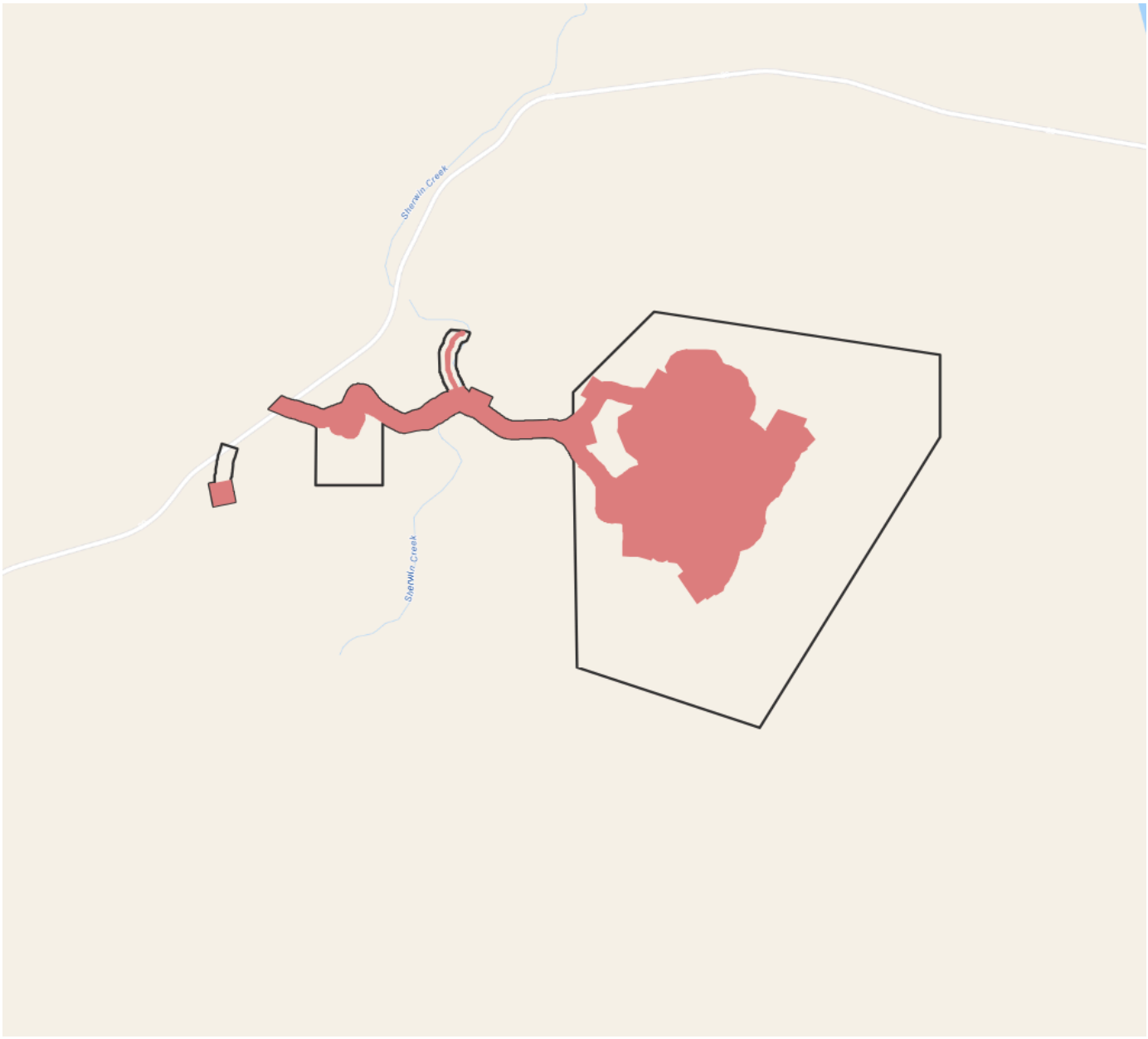
1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

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

Person proposing to take the action

2. Location

2.1 Project footprint



Project Area: 1841.48 Ha **Disturbance Footprint:** 633.19 Ha

2.2 Footprint details

2.2.1 What is the address of the proposed action? *

Roper Highway Roper Valley NT 0852 Australia

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

Northern Territory

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

No

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

The Project is located across two mineral leases (MLs): ML30317 and ML29584. ML30317 accommodates ancillary infrastructure, including worker accommodation, while all mining activities associated with the Project will take place on ML29584. Both MLs are underlain by exploration licence (EL) EL24101, which spans a broader area and provides a connection between the two leases. Planned disturbance within the EL will be limited to infrastructure such as access tracks and water management infrastructure required to link the MLs.

All tenements—ML30317, ML29584, and EL24101—are held by Northern Territory Iron Ore Pty Ltd.

Tenure Details:

ML30317

Date granted: 14/02/2025

Date effective: 14/02/2025

Expiry date: 08/07/2054

ML29584

Date granted: 09/07/2014

Date effective: 09/07/2014

Expiry date: 08/07/2039

EL24101

Date granted: 20/08/2004

Date effective: 20/08/2024

Expiry date: 19/08/2026

3. Existing environment

3.1 Physical description

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

Describe the current condition/state of the whole environment (not just native vegetation) relevant to the project area. Please consider its ecological condition/level of degradation.

The environment within the Project area is largely intact and exhibits a relatively low level of ecological degradation. Approximately 88% of the Project area is characterised by a prominent sandstone escarpment dominated by Vegetation Community 17.1, described as a mid woodland composed primarily of *Eucalyptus phoenicea*, with possible occurrences of *Corymbia dichromophloia*, *Eucalyptus tetrodonta*, and *Corymbia ferruginea* subsp. *ferruginea*.

The remaining 12% of the area supports a mosaic of other vegetation communities, including: Vegetation Community 11.2 (6%), Vegetation Community 14.1 (2%), Vegetation Community 16.1 (2%), Vegetation Community 2.1 (1%), Vegetation Communities 4.1, 5.1, and 11.1 (each <1%). All vegetation communities identified within the Project area are considered common and widespread in the region. As a result, the proposed vegetation clearance is expected to pose minimal risk to regional biodiversity or the integrity of broader ecological processes (*Attachment G*, Section 3.2, p.13).

Weed surveys conducted as part of the 2013 EIS indicate that weed presence within the Project area is relatively low. Weed infestations are primarily confined to disturbed areas, such as cattle yards and creek lines near the Roper Highway. A total of six introduced plant species were recorded in the Project area and its immediate surroundings, with four species occurring within the Project footprint. Of these, *Hyptis suaveolens,* a Class B declared weed under the *Northern Territory Weed Management Act 2001,* was the only regulated species. This weed requires control to prevent its spread and growth. *Hyptis suaveolens* is typically associated with pastoral land use and was rarely observed in undisturbed habitats (Att G, Section 3.2, p.13).

As outlined in Section 1, areas of existing disturbance remain within the Project area from a previous bulk sampling program conducted in 2015. This disturbance includes a small, shallow bulk sample pit, a Run-of-Mine (ROM) pad, ore stockpiles, access tracks, and associated accommodation and water infrastructure. The total disturbance footprint is approximately 42 hectares, entirely located within the Deposit C area, which was previously approved under the EPBC Act. The bulk sampling program involved the extraction of approximately 400,000 tonnes of material, the majority of which remains stockpiled on site. The existing disturbance and infrastructure are expected to be fully utilised as part of future activities, thereby minimising the need for additional disturbance to include these pieces of infrastructure.

Identify the distance of the project area to major towns (km).

The Project area is located in the Northern Territory, approximately 570 km south-east of Darwin and 150 km east of Mataranka by road (Att G, Figure 1, p.1). The closest settlements to the Project area are:

- **Ngukurr** – approximately 50 km east;
- **Minyerri** – approximately 60 km south; and
- **Mataranka** – approximately 150 km west.

These communities are the nearest population centres.

Provide details of the project area site's zoning including any changes to zoning to facilitate the proposed development.

The Project area is located entirely within Mt McMinn Station and is therefore subject to the requirements and conditions of a Pastoral Lease, as well as the provisions of the *Native Title Act 1993*. No formal rezoning has been undertaken or is proposed to facilitate the development, as mining activities are permissible under the current pastoral land tenure, subject to regulatory approvals.

Land use in the broader project area comprises a mix of pastoral, conservation, tourism, Aboriginal freehold and leasehold, fishing, and horticulture. The dominant land uses in the region are pastoral activities, agriculture, and fishing, while mining currently represents a minor proportion of regional land use.

The nearest operating mines near this Project include:

- **SILL80 Project** operated by Australian Ilmenite Resources, located approximately 40 km east of the Project area; and
- **Nathan River Project**, operated by Nathan River Resources, located to the south-east.

For further land tenure context, refer to Att A, Section 2.3.3, page 20, and Figure 1.

Road infrastructure
Access to and from the Project is primarily via the Roper Highway, a single-lane sealed road approximately four metres wide with localised widening at intersections. The highway connects to the Stuart Highway, south-west of the Project near Mataranka, with a posted speed limit of 110 km/h, including the stretch between the Stuart Highway and the Project access road. The Project also connects to the Nathan River Road (or referred to as the Savannah Way). The Nathan River Road is an unsealed, public road which connects the Project to the proponent's other operation, the Nathan River Project (NRP), located 151 km south-east of the Project via road.

The main haulage route will run east via the Roper Highway and Nathan River Road to the NRP, from which ore will be transported approximately 172 km along a private haul road to the Bing Bong Loading Facility (BBLF) for export. This route uses existing NRP approvals and infrastructure. Triple-trailer road trains will depart the Project along an internal access road, then travel 151 km via public Nathan River Road before entering NRP’s private haul road.

A secondary haulage route to the Port of Darwin via the Roper and Stuart Highways also exists, consistent with earlier approvals. NTIO is seeking to renew authorisation for this route as a contingency. Prior to using either route, NTIO will engage with relevant road authorities to obtain necessary permits and ensure compliance with public road use conditions. During development, operational, and completion stages, both existing public and private road infrastructure will be used to support all transportation activities related to the Project.

To manage haulage-related risks and traffic impacts, a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) will be developed in accordance with the Project's currently Territory Deemed Environmental Mining Licence. The TMP will include an assessment of risks associated with both haulage routes and outline several mitigation measures. Proposed mitigation measures may include vehicle branding with contact numbers, installation of road signage, driver fatigue management, daily road condition inspections, dust suppression on unsealed roads, and regular grading and maintenance of haul routes. Drivers will receive site-specific training covering route hazards, emergency procedures, and communication protocols. Road condition monitoring will be undertaken in collaboration with the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (DIPL), using the 2021 ARCCOS road condition assessment as a baseline.

Describe whether the project area has suffered recent effects from bushfire, flood or other major events, and explain how that has affected the condition.

The Project area has experienced natural seasonal events typical of the region, including periodic flooding and historical bushfires. During the wet season, flooding within the lower-lying areas of the Roper River catchment can be extensive, and such flood events have occurred within the vicinity of the proposed Project area (Att A, Section 2.3.1, p.17). These flood events are seasonal and expected, contributing to natural hydrological cycles without causing significant or lasting degradation to the Project site.

Bushfire activity has also occurred in the area, though its impact has been relatively low. Most flora survey sites recorded a low to moderate fire impact, with the most recent fire activity occurring more than two years ago. The fire regime in the area is considered typical for the region and has not significantly affected vegetation condition or structure.

Importantly, flora surveys within Vegetation Community 17.1, which dominates the Project area, did not record the presence of weeds or feral animals, indicating that despite historical fire events, the ecological condition remains largely intact (Att G, Appendix 2). Overall, while the area has been subject to natural

environmental processes such as flooding and fire, these have not resulted in significant or ongoing degradation of the site.

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

The project area supports a mix of existing land uses, including pastoral, tourism, Aboriginal freehold and leasehold, fishing, and horticulture. The dominant economic activities in the region are pastoralism, agriculture, and fishing, which collectively represent the major industries in terms of land use. While mining exists in the broader region, it constitutes only a minor component of current land use within the project area itself. However, two operating mines, the Australian Ilmenite Resources SILL 80 project (approximately 40 km east) and the Nathan River Project operated by Nathan River Recourses to the south-east, are accessed via the Roper Highway, which also services the project area.

Proposed uses for the area may continue to support these key industries, particularly pastoralism and agriculture, while also allowing for potential growth in tourism and community-based initiatives. The presence of Aboriginal freehold and leasehold land suggests that ongoing and future uses may also align with Aboriginal land management, cultural practices, and socio-economic development initiatives.

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

The Project is located in the Gulf Fall and Uplands bioregion of the Gulf of Carpentaria in the NT. The Limmen National Park is located approximately 50km south east of the project area (Att G, Table 3, page 19). The Wongalara Private Nature Reserve is approximately 50km north of the Project area. Importantly, the project remains well outside of these two significant areas.

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

The Project area is situated on a ridgeline at approximately 125 m Australian Height Datum (AHD) and gradually slopes down to its lowest point at around 45 mAHD, located along the project's access road. This indicates a total elevation change of approximately 80 m across the site. The area lies entirely within the Sherwin Creek sub-catchment and is approximately 15 km south of the Roper River. The natural topography reflects a moderate gradient, typical of ridge-to-plain drainage systems, which may influence site drainage, erosion potential, and water flow pathways within the project area (Att A, Section 3,9, page 43).

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.

The project area is located within the Gulf Falls and Uplands Bioregion (Att G, Figure 2). This bioregion is characterised by undulating terrain interspersed with scattered low, steep rocky hills. Vegetation is predominantly woodland, typically dominated by *Eucalyptus* and *Corymbia* species, with either a spinifex or tussock grass understory. Major river systems within the bioregion include the Roper and McArthur Rivers. The rocky sandstone ranges found throughout the region provide important refugial habitats and support a number of endemic or near-endemic species.

Vegetation surveys conducted between 2011 and 2013 across the project area identified eight vegetation communities, all of which are common and widespread within the region. One Threatened Ecological Community (TEC)—the Arnhem Plateau Sandstone Shrubland Complex—and one threatened flora species, *Solanum carduiforme* (listed as Vulnerable under the EPBC Act), were initially considered potentially present based on regional records and habitat characteristics.

However, desktop investigations (Att G, Appendix 3) concluded that neither the TEC nor the threatened species is likely to occur within the project area, as the nearest suitable habitat is located approximately 100 km away. These findings were confirmed through targeted field surveys undertaken for the EIS, which verified the absence of both the TEC and *Solanum carduiforme* within the project area (Att G, Sections 3.2 and 4.1.1, pp. 13 and 17).

Vegetation at project area is classified as *Eucalyptus* low woodland. The upper-storey is dominated by *Eucalyptus phoenicea*, *Corymbia ferruginea*, and *Corymbia dichromophloia*. The mid-storey consists of species such as *Erythrophleum chlorostachys*, *Calytrix exstipulata*, and *Terminalia canescens*, while the ground layer features *Triodia bitextura*, *Eriachne obtusa*, and *Sorghum stipoideum*.

Field surveys at the project area recorded 101 native terrestrial vertebrate species: 60 birds, 17 reptiles, 4 amphibians, and 19 mammals, plus two introduced mammals and one introduced amphibian (Cane Toad). Amphibians included four native species and the invasive Cane Toad. Reptiles totaled 17 species, including varanids, geckos, dragons, skinks, flap-footed lizards, and pythons. Sixty bird species from 29 families were recorded; honeyeaters were most diverse. Nineteen native mammals were found, including dasyurids, macropods, bats, rodents, possums, bandicoots, and the Short-beaked Echidna. Cattle and feral pigs were also observed. Six invertebrate samples were collected during short-range endemic surveys; none were endemic. Specimens included various spiders, silverfish, and scorpions.

To capture any updates to MNES since the EIS, a current Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST) assessment was undertaken. Potential MNES species identified by the PMST include the following species:

- Gouldian Finch (*Erythrura gouldiae*);
- Red Goshawk (*Erythrotriorchis radiatus*);
- Crested Shrike-tit (northern) (*Falcunculus frontatus whitei*);
- Mertens' Water Monitor (*Varanus mertensi*);
- Mitchell's Water Monitor (*Varanus mitchelli*);
- Northern Brush-tailed Possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula arnhemensis*);
- Fawn Antechinus (*Antechinus bellus*);
- Ghost Bat (*Macroderma gigas*);
- Northern Blue-tongued Skink (*Tiliqua scincoides intermedia*); and
- Largetooth Sawfish (*Pristis pristis*).

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

Most of the project area (approximately 88%) is characterised by a prominent sandstone escarpment dominated by vegetation community 17.1. This community is defined as mid woodland composed primarily of *Eucalyptus phoenicea* with variable presence of *Corymbia dichromophloia*, *Eucalyptus tetrodonta*, and *Corymbia ferruginea* subsp. *ferruginea*. Smaller portions of the project area support other diverse vegetation communities: community 11.2 covers about 6%, community 14.1 covers 2%, community 16.1 covers 2%, and community 2.1 covers 1%. Vegetation communities 4.1, 5.1, and 11.1 each occupy less than 1% of the project area. All these vegetation communities are common and widespread across the region, indicating that the proposed vegetation clearance is unlikely to pose a significant threat to regional biodiversity or ecological processes.

At survey site CV2, located within the low woodland vegetation community 11.2, the canopy cover was recorded at over 70%, leading to its classification as dry monsoon rainforest. This vegetation type is recognised as a sensitive environment in the Northern Territory. Aerial photography and ground surveys estimate the extent of dry monsoon forest within the project area to be approximately 0.25 hectares (Attachment G, Section 3.2, p. 13).

An introduced weed survey conducted for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in 2013 focused on areas vulnerable to weed invasion, such as previously disturbed zones and Sherwin Creek. The survey found weed presence to be very low and limited to Sherwin Creek. Only two weed species were recorded: *Hyptis suaveolens* (Hyptis), which was common and widespread, and *Sida acuta* (Spinyhead sida), which appeared only at a single locality in immature form without flowers or fruit. At the time of the survey, Spinyhead sida seemed to be a recent introduction to the project area.

A soil survey was conducted across the project area from 12 to 14 August 2013 to characterise the soil types within the lease and disturbance areas. Covering approximately 24 square kilometres, the survey involved excavating twelve soil test pits to examine soil profiles and conduct both field and laboratory analyses of soil properties (Attachment Q, Section 1, p. 1).

Five land systems have been identified within the project area and its immediate surrounds. These are Patterson, Munyi, Cliffdale, Coolibah, and Bukulara (Att Q, Section 2.1, p. 2).

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 that would be affected by the proposed project activities. A search of the Northern Territory Heritage Register, along with consultation with the NT Heritage Branch, confirmed that there are no nominated, provisional, or declared heritage places within the project area.

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

The NT Heritage Branch has advised that there are no previously recorded Aboriginal archaeological sites within the project area, according to the databases it maintains. However, the mining areas feature landforms such as vertical reliefs and rocky outcrops—environments where archaeological sites (including rock art and stone artefact scatters) are commonly found. Similarly, the Port Roper area is likely to contain coastal archaeological sites, such as shell mounds and middens.

A detailed Indigenous heritage survey was conducted in 2013 by Earth Sea Heritage Surveys. The survey identified:

- 12 rock art sites;
- 1 historical site;
- 1 stone artefact scatter; and
- numerous isolated stone artefacts (Att J, Section 6.1, p. 33).

The previous proponent of the project was granted an Authority Certificate under the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989* for exploration and ground-disturbance activities on EL24101. NTIO will continue to engage with the Northern Land Council to support sacred site surveys and will apply for the necessary Authority Certificates for all areas associated with the project., specifically relating to mining activities on the project's MLs.

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. *

Regional Surface Water Hydrology

The project area is located within the middle reaches of the Roper River catchment, which is 81,794 km2 in extent and the largest river entering the Gulf of Carpentaria. From its headwaters, the Roper River catchment drains in an easterly direction for a total length of approximately 500 km, where it enters the Gulf of Carpentaria. The tidal limit of the river is Roper Bar, a natural rock bar extending across the river, approximately 200 km east of Mataranka and 20 km downstream of the project area (Att L, Figure 1-1).

The Roper River is a losing system, with flows decreasing with distance downstream, except for areas of groundwater interaction (Knapton 2009). Only the upper reaches of the Roper River maintain flows greater than 0.1 m 3/s (100 L/s) by the end of the dry season, due to groundwater input. The middle and lower reaches of the river usually have flows less than 0.1 m 3/s by the end of the dry season, and flow records show that cease to flow conditions can often occur at Roper Bar. In some very dry periods, such as the 1950s and 1960s, cease to flow events occurred up to 65 km upstream of Roper Bar at Judy Crossing.

Local Surface Water Hydrology

The project area is located within the Roper River Basin, intersecting the major sub-catchment of the Roper River. The Roper River is a large perennial river, sustained during the dry season by groundwater discharge in its upper reaches. Sitting within this major sub-catchment is Sherwin Creek, a small intermittent first order tributary of the Roper River, whose catchment is approximately 100 km2 in area. Over its 30 km length, the total fall in elevation of Sherwin Creek is approximately 140 m. In the vicinity of the Project, Sherwin Creek has a rocky bed with average channel dimensions of 25 m (wide) x 3 m (deep). Att L, Figure 1-3 provides an indication of the typical conditions of Sherwin Creek within the vicinity of the Project.

Surface water from the Project drains predominantly to the west into Sherwin Creek which flows from south to north into the Roper River approximately 8 km north-east of the Project. The access road between ML and the Roper Highway crosses Sherwin Creek approximately 2 km downstream of the Project at an off-lease location. Given the relatively small size of the catchment and typical hydrology within this area, stream flows are ephemeral and highly responsive to rainfall events. Site observations indicate that Sherwin Creek ceases to flow in the early dry season (i.e. May/June), with some permanent / semi-permanent pools located downstream of the Project.

There are no listed significant wetlands in the vicinity of the Project Area. Although not considered to be within the potential zone of impact, it is noted that the lower estuarine reaches of the Roper River, together with its associated tidal flats and coastal dunes, are contained within the Limmen Bight and associated coastal floodplains Site of Conservation Significance (NT).

Groundwater

The project area terrain is predominantly flat to undulating and blanketed with thin Quaternary soils. The cyclic sandstone and mudstone shallow marine sequence is up to 2,000 m thick in the area and has been intruded by dolerite sills, up to 50 m thick, prior to regional deformation (Att K). ML 29584 (Deposit C mining area) contains the Maiwok Sub Group, comprising a sequence of mud/siltstones at the bottom, sandstone with silt/mudstones and at the top, interbedded fine grained sandstone, siltstone and mudstone, with distinct pisolitic ironstone units at several stratigraphic horizons near the surface. The Upper, Middle and Lower Ironstone beds are well represented at Sherwin Creek. Dolerite sills, up to 50 m or more in thickness, have intruded between the Lower Ironstone and the overlying basal oolitic hematite of the Middle Ironstone.

The local aquifers are described as weathered strata overlying hard fractured bed rock and comprise of a permeable and ephemeral shallow system (Att K). The pedological column, particularly at the north-western end of ML 29584 contains some lenses of fresh ground water trapped locally in silty-clays, overlying extremely weathered sandstone (~6 m thick). These conditions do not extend across the footprint of the existing bulk sample pit and are highly localised, within the alluvial-debris fans located at the outlets of numerous small creek channels and gullies.

The shallow system is underlain by a sequence of interlayered weathered and fractured siltstones, sandstones, shales and localised mudstones, in which groundwater is encountered between about 20 m below surface (lower lying terrain) and 70 m below surface (across higher lying terrain and the bulk sample pit). Below this, there is a thick sequence of siltstones overlying a very hard bluish dolerite that acts as the lower boundary of the confining system (Att K).

Groundwater strikes were generally small and resultant groundwater levels below the depth of mining recorded during legacy bulk sample operations. The hydraulic parameters of the aquifers are low, indicative of the relative impermeability of the terrain.

Baseline groundwater investigations in the Project area indicated that groundwater depth was between 27 and 100 metres below ground level (mbgl). Eleven bores were assessed and ten bores had groundwater in excess of 40 mbgl. Based on this information, it was concluded that mining to about 30-40 m below surface would not interfere with the deeper fractured aquifers and groundwater influx would not take place at the Project area (Att K, Table 3, page 23).

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. *

There are no world heritage sites located within the vicinity of the Project area.

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. *

There are no National heritage Locations within the vicinity of the project area.

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 within the vicinity of the Project area.

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
Yes	Yes	Chloebia gouldiae	Gouldian Finch
No	No	Dasyurus hallucatus	Northern Quoll, Digul [Gogo-Yimidir], Wijingadda [Dambimangari], Wiminji [Martu]
No	No	Elseya lavarackorum	Gulf Snapping Turtle
Yes	Yes	Erythrotriorchis radiatus	Red Goshawk
No	No	Falco hypoleucos	Grey Falcon
Yes	Yes	Falcunculus frontatus whitei	Crested Shrike-tit (northern), Northern Shrike-tit
Yes	Yes	Macroderma gigas	Ghost Bat
No	No	Natator depressus	Flatback Turtle
No	No	Pristis clavata	Dwarf Sawfish, Queensland Sawfish
No	No	Pristis pristis	Freshwater Sawfish, Largetooth Sawfish, River Sawfish, Leichhardt's Sawfish, Northern Sawfish
No	No	Rostratula australis	Australian Painted Snipe
No	No	Saccolaimus saccolaimus nudicluniatus	Bare-rumped Sheath-tailed Bat, Bare-rumped Sheathtail Bat
Yes	Yes	Tiliqua scincoides intermedia	Northern Blue-tongued Skink
Yes	Yes	Trichosurus vulpecula arnhemensis	Northern Brushtail Possum
No	No	Tyto novaehollandiae kimberli	Masked Owl (northern)
Yes	Yes	Varanus mertensi	Mertens' Water Monitor, Mertens's Water Monitor

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
Yes	Yes	Varanus mitchelli	Mitchell'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. *

Direct impacts on protected matters are primarily related to habitat clearance and the potential for direct mortality of individual organisms. Habitat clearance is expected to occur predominantly during the construction phase of the project, which is anticipated to last approximately two years.

Indirect impacts are mostly associated with edge effects resulting from mining operations. These include increased dust, noise, vibration, and artificial lighting, which may alter habitat quality and species behaviour in adjacent areas. These indirect impacts are expected to occur throughout the operational phase of the project, which is projected to span approximately six years.

Att H (Fauna Report) gives further details on the direct and indirect impacts associated with the proposed action.

Gouldian Finch (*Erythrura gouldiae*) (Att 1)

Direct: Clearing will remove 274.5 ha of potential breeding habitat and 75.34 ha of wet season feeding habitat.

Indirect: An additional 153.1 ha of breeding habitat and 73.0 ha of wet season feeding habitat may be affected by weeds, noise, and lighting within the indirect impact area.

Red Goshawk (*Erythrotriorchis radiatus*) (Att 2)

Direct Impacts: Clearing will remove 0.22 ha of potential nesting habitat and 384.8 ha of potential feeding habitat.

Indirect Impacts: An additional 2.3 ha of potential nesting habitat and 243.1 ha of potential feeding habitat may be indirectly affected.

Crested Shrike-tit (northern) (*Falcunculus frontatus whitei*) (Att 3)

Direct Impacts: Clearing will remove 384.8 ha of potential habitat.

Indirect Impacts: An additional 233.1 ha of potential habitat may be indirectly affected by weeds, lighting, and noise.

Mertens' Water Monitor (*Varanus mertensi*) (Att 4)

Direct: Clearing will remove 0.22 ha of potential wet season foraging habitat.

Indirect: An additional 2.3 ha of foraging habitat may be indirectly affected by weeds, lighting, and noise.

Mitchell's Water Monitor (*Varanus mitchelli)* (Att 4)

Direct: Clearing will remove 0.22 ha of potential wet season foraging habitat.

Indirect: An additional 2.3 ha of foraging habitat may be indirectly affected by weeds, lighting, and noise.

Northern Brush-tailed Possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula arnhemensis*) (Att 5)

Direct: Clearing will remove 354.5 ha of potential habitat.

Indirect: An additional 119.9 ha of potential habitat may be indirectly affected by weeds, lighting, and noise.

Fawn Antechinus (*Antechinus bellus*) (Att 6)

Direct: Clearing will remove 359.3 ha of potential habitat.

Indirect: An additional 111.8 ha of potential habitat may be indirectly affected by weeds, lighting, and noise.

Ghost Bat (*Macroderma gigas*) (Att 7)

Direct: Clearing will remove 385.3 ha of potential feeding habitat. There are 7 unconfirmed sites within the disturbance footprint that may contain roosting habitat; confirmation through ecological surveys is pending.

Indirect: An additional 245.5 ha of potential feeding habitat may be indirectly affected by weeds, lighting, and noise. No potential roost sites are located within the indirect impact zone.

Northern Blue-tongued Skink (*Tiliqua scincoides intermedia*) (Att 8)

Direct: Clearing will remove 36.02 ha of potential habitat.

Indirect: An additional 11.9 ha of potential habitat may be indirectly affected by weeds, lighting, and noise.

Largetooth Sawfish (*Pristis pristis*) (Att H3)

Direct: Clearing will not remove any potential habitat (0 ha).

Indirect: No additional potential habitat is expected to be indirectly affected by weeds, lighting, or noise. However, if poor-quality water is discharged into Sherwin Creek, it could degrade water quality downstream in the Roper River, potentially impacting aquatic habitat for this species.

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. *

The Project is may have a significant impact on certain MNES, primarily due to the potential for direct and indirect impacts on listed threatened species and their potential habitats within the Project area. While the proposed activities are largely consistent with those previously assessed and approved, updated ecological data are required to confirm the current presence and distribution of MNES.

A preliminary significant impact assessment has been completed (Att A), which outlines potential risks to MNES based on both historical and recently updated desktop information.

To confirm and supplement this preliminary impact assessment, the proponent is undertaking updated dry and wet season ecological surveys in accordance with relevant Commonwealth survey guidelines. These surveys will provide site-specific and contemporary data, enabling a robust assessment of the likelihood and significance of potential impacts. The results will directly inform the revised impact assessment and guide the development of targeted management and mitigation strategies.

There is a potential for the Project to have a significant direct or indirect impact on certain MNES identified. The preliminary significant impact assessment (Att A) provides further details on this. These impacts will be addressed further in future ecological surveys and impact assessments.

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 proposed action is considered a controlled action under the EPBC Act due to the potential for significant impacts on Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES), particularly if mitigation and management measures are not effectively implemented. MNES relevant to the Project area include listed threatened species and their habitats. The Project has previously been referred, assessed, and approved, and was partially commenced. However, the approval has since lapsed, and this referral seeks to reinstate that approval (EPBC 2013/6726). The nature and scale of the proposed activities remain broadly consistent with those assessed under the earlier approval.

Given that the Project has already undergone assessment and approval and that the approval only lapsed recently, the proponent anticipates the Project can be re-assessed under the 'preliminary documentation' pathway. To support this process, updated ecological surveys are planned to ensure current, site-specific data inform the assessment of potential impacts on MNES. The first survey is scheduled for the dry season (September 2025), with a second survey to be conducted during the wet season if required. These surveys will be undertaken in accordance with relevant Commonwealth survey guidelines and will specifically target the detection of MNES.

In preparation for this referral, a desktop update was also completed to provide a contemporary understanding of environmental values and potential MNES within the Project area. The results of the field surveys will complement and refine this updated desktop assessment, providing further clarity on current conditions and informing a revised ecological assessment. This assessment will evaluate the potential impacts on MNES and determine the likely significance of those impacts. This approach is considered sufficient to support assessment under the preliminary documentation pathway and ensure that the Project's environmental risks to MNES are appropriately identified and managed.

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 proposed action has been designed to avoid and minimise likely impacts on MNES, particularly threatened fauna species, through a range of practical and effective measures. Where impacts cannot be completely avoided, these measures aim to mitigate and reduce any residual effects as much as possible.

Key avoidance and mitigation strategies are detailed in the Environmental Management Plan (Att N, Section 3.2.4, pages 24-26) and include:

- **Pre-clearing delineation:** Clearly marking areas to be cleared to avoid unnecessary vegetation disturbance.
- **Timing of clearing activities:** Conducting clearing outside of rain events and during times when fauna are most active (e.g., morning) to allow fauna to escape and reduce stress.
- **'Blade up' clearing method:** Using this technique to remove vegetation while preserving rootstock, topsoil, and seed stock to promote rapid vegetation regeneration in proposed disturbance areas which do not require the removal of topsoil (e.g. access tracks/laydown areas).
- **Fauna spotter-catcher presence:** Employing trained personnel to identify and safely relocate fauna during clearing.
- **Rehabilitation:** Commencing land rehabilitation promptly as areas become available to restore habitat.
- **Personnel training:** Providing induction training on identification of local and significant fauna (e.g., Gouldian Finch) to increase awareness and reduce accidental harm.
- **Vehicle speed and timing controls:** Limiting vehicle speeds to a maximum of 80 km/hr and avoiding peak fauna activity periods such as sunrise, sunset, and nighttime.
- **Wildlife protection:** Removing dead animals from mine roads to prevent scavenger fatalities, and ensuring no feeding or interaction with fauna occurs onsite.
- **Preventing invasive species:** Prohibiting the introduction of non-native fauna by personnel, and implementing weed control and hygiene measures as outlined in the Pest and Weed Management Plan.
- **Fauna safety measures:** Capping drill holes to prevent fauna entry.
- **Ongoing weed management:** Conducting annual weed surveys and control efforts to protect native ecosystems.
- **Soil and waste management:** Ensuring no imported soils are brought onsite, disposing of organic materials properly, and periodically burning putrescible waste.
- **Site exclusion infrastructure:** Installing fencing and cattle grids around the site and artificial water points to prevent unauthorized fauna access.
- **Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDE) assessment:** Establishing the presence of GDEs within or potentially impacted by the lease area to inform protection measures.

Together, these measures represent a comprehensive approach to best avoid impacts on MNES where possible, and to minimise and mitigate any unavoidable impacts arising from the proposed action.

Supporting documentation, including the full Environmental Management Plan, is provided in Att N.

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

No offsets are proposed.

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	Cecropis daurica	Red-rumped Swallow
No	No	Charadrius veredus	Oriental Plover, Oriental Dotterel
No	No	Crocodylus porosus	Salt-water Crocodile, Estuarine Crocodile
No	No	Cuculus optatus	Oriental Cuckoo, Horsfield's Cuckoo
No	No	Glareola maldivarum	Oriental Pratincole
No	No	Hirundo rustica	Barn Swallow
No	No	Motacilla cinerea	Grey Wagtail
No	No	Motacilla flava	Yellow Wagtail
No	No	Pristis pristis	Freshwater Sawfish, Largetooth Sawfish, River Sawfish, Leichhardt's Sawfish, Northern Sawfish

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. *

No listed species were recorded during fauna surveys in the project area.

Three species have been assessed as possibly occurring (may) within the project area (Att H, Section 5.2.2, page 35). Potential direct impacts to these species are summarised below ((Att H, Section 5.2.2, page 39-40):

Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus*)
The Fork-tailed Swift is a non-breeding visitor to all Australian mainland states and is listed as migratory under the *EPBC Act 1999* (EPBC Act, CAMBA, JAMBA, ROKAMBA). The species is almost exclusively aerial, flying from less than 1 m to at least 300 m above the groundl and foraging on flying insects above all habitat types. No impacts anticipated due to being an aerial species that does not directly interact with habitats within or adjacent to the disturbance footprint.

Oriental Plover (*Charadrius veredus*)
The Oriental Plover is a non-breeding visitor to Australia, where the species occurs in both coastal and inland areas, predominantly in northern Australia and is listed as Migratory (EPBC Act, CAMBA, JAMBA, ROKAMBA). Habitat for the species includes flat, open, semi-arid or arid grasslands, claypans, dry paddocks, playing fields, lawns and cattle camps and open areas that have been recently burnt.
Most Oriental Plover records are from the north-western coast, between the Exmouth Gulf and Derby in Western Australia. Records of the species within the Gulf Falls and Uplands bioregion occur close to Borroloola, more than 200 km from the Project area. The lack of records and suitable habitat within the project area suggests that the Oriental Plover will not be impacted by the development.

Oriental Pratincole (*Glareola maldivarum*)
The Oriental Pratincole is widespread in Northern Australia, including the Top End of the NT, and parts of the Gulf of Carpentaria and is listed as
Migratory (EPBC Act, CAMBA, JAMBA, ROKAMBA under the EPBC Act 1999. The species inhabits open plains, floodplains or short grassland terrestrial wetlands, such as billabongs, and along the coast on beaches and mudflats.
There are no recent records of this species near the project area and there is no suitable habitat. This species is unlikely to be impacted by the development.

Additional migratory species following updated 2025 PMST search:

Grey Wagtail (*Montacilla cinerea*): PMST search stated it was ‘known’ to occur within the Disturbance footprint.

Important habitat is defined as watercourses with rocky substrates, but also lakes and marshes. The species is a non-breeding vagrant to Australia, and it is highly improbable that a significant proportion of their population utilises any site within Australia (REFER TO GUIDELINE). It has been recorded once (in 2001) on the Roper River, 15 km north of the Project area. No suitable habitat for the species occurs in the Project area, as no watercourses or wetlands are present. Therefore it is unlikely that the Project would result in any impact to the Grey wagtail.

Osprey (*Montacila flava*): PMST search stated it was ‘known’ to occur within the Disturbance footprint.

Important habitat for this species is defined as bays, estuaries, along tidal stretches of large coastal rivers, mangrove swamps, coral and rock reefs, terrestrial wetlands and coastal lands of tropical and temperate Australia and off shore islands. No habitat for this species occurs in the Project area. The nearest habitat occurs along the Roper River, 7 km north-east of the Project, where there are several recent records. Therefore it is unlikely that the Project would result in any impact to the Osprey.

The Project was previously determined to be a controlled action for impacts to migratory species under the recently approved Federal Approval (2013/6726). However, following this decision, the species previously determined as likely to be impacted have been delisted. As described above, no migratory species are likely to be impacted by the Project.

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 is not a nuclear action.

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 action is not within the vicnity of a 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 project will not have a direct or indirect impact on the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

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 mining development or coal seam gas project.

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 located within the vicinity of 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.

—

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 not located within the vicinity of a Commonwealth Heritage Place 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 alternative of not proceeding with the proposed action, or modifying the project footprint, was considered but ultimately deemed not feasible. The project area is constrained by the fixed location of the iron ore deposit, and there is limited flexibility to shift or alter the footprint due to the finite extent of accessible and economically viable ore. As such, location-based alternatives are not available.

Beyond the favourable economic returns for the Proponent, the project is anticipated to deliver substantial flow-on benefits to the local and regional economy, including employment creation, community development, and broader economic stimulus for the Northern Territory. These benefits are particularly realised through engagement with local contractors, service providers, and supply chains.

It is also important to note that previous proponents were unable to progress the project primarily due to logistical challenges in reaching export markets. However, Northern Resources (NR) is now in a unique position to realise the project's potential, given its existing infrastructure and operational capacity at the nearby Nathan River Project (NRP). This proximity allows for efficient and cost-effective export access, removing a key historical constraint to the project’s viability.

Given the limited scale and footprint of the proposed action, and the absence of any critical environmental or heritage constraints within the project area, there is no justification for abandoning the proposal on these grounds. Key infrastructure elements—such as transport corridors and water supply—have already been secured. The Proponent is actively progressing all required stakeholder negotiations and government approvals to ensure the project is developed in a responsible and compliant manner.

In relation to infrastructure siting, the crushing and screening plant will remain mobile and be relocated as needed throughout the life of mine, thereby optimising ore haul distances and enhancing operational efficiency. Fixed site infrastructure—such as the mine offices, workshop, and camp—was strategically located based on logistical and safety considerations, including proximity to the mine, avoidance of inundation areas, and being outside blasting influence zones. Alternative locations were considered but did not meet these essential operational or environmental criteria.

In terms of mining methods, two alternatives were evaluated:

- Traditional drill and blast with dozers, excavators, and trucks; and
- Continuous miner system using surface miners and loaders.

While the EIS previously indicated a preference for surface miners, the current Proponent has determined that traditional open-cut methods are more suitable for this operation. These methods allow for greater operational flexibility, enable the use of existing fleet assets from the NRP, and support integrated scheduling of mining, civil works, and progressive rehabilitation activities across both projects.

For waste rock management, the preferred option is to backfill waste rock where feasible. This approach offers several environmental and operational benefits, including:

- Restoration of a more natural landform,
- Reduced surface disturbance,
- Lower rehabilitation costs, and
- The opportunity for progressive rehabilitation during mining operations.

Regarding power supply, two alternatives were considered: an on-site power station versus modular diesel generators. Given the modest power demand and absence of grid connection, diesel generators were deemed the most viable, cost-effective, and flexible option. They also offer advantages in terms of lower capital cost and ease of removal during the decommissioning phase.

In summary, a wide range of alternatives were carefully assessed for all major project components, including site layout, mining methods, waste management, and power generation. The selected options represent the most practical, efficient, and environmentally responsible approach for progressing the proposed action. No feasible alternatives exist that would enable the project to proceed while avoiding the chosen methods, infrastructure locations, or overall development approach.

5. Lodgement

5.1 Attachments

1.2.1 Overview of the proposed action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A Sherwin Assessment Report.pdf SEIS Assessment report		No	High
#2.	Document	Att B EIS Chapter 3 - Risk Assessment.pdf EIS Chapter 3 - Risk Assessment			High
#3.	Document	Att C Rehabilitation and Mine Closure Plan.pdf Rehabilitation and Mine Closure Plan			High
#4.	Document	Att O Site layout Figure 3-1.pdf Site layout figure		No	High
#5.	Document	Att P EIS Project Description.pdf Project Description Chapter EIS		No	High

1.2.7 Public consultation regarding the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att D Stakeholder Consultation Report.pdf Stakeholder Consultation Report			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 E Environment Policy.pdf NRR Environment Policy 2024			High

3.1.1 Current condition of the project area's environment

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A Sherwin Assessment Report.pdf SEIS Assessment report			High
#2.	Document	Att F Traffic Management Plan.pdf Traffic Management Plan and Transport Impact Assessment		No	High
#3.	Document	Att G Flora Report.pdf Flora report		No	High

3.1.2 Existing or proposed uses for the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A Sherwin Assessment Report.pdf SEIS Assessment report			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 Sherwin Assessment Report.pdf SEIS Assessment report			High
#2.	Document	Att G Flora Report.pdf Flora report			High

3.1.4 Gradient relevant to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A Sherwin Assessment Report.pdf SEIS Assessment report			High

3.2.1 Flora and fauna within the affected area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 1_Gouldian_Finch_Habitat.pdf Gouldian finch habitat within the Project area			Medium
#2.	Document	Att 2_Potential_Red_Goshawk_Habitat.pdf Potential Red Goshawk habitat within the Project area		No	Medium
#3.	Document	Att 3_Crested_Shrike_tit_northern_Habitat.pdf Potential crested Shrike-tit (northern) habitat within the Project area		No	Medium
#4.	Document	Att 4_Mertens'_Water_Monitor_and_Mitchell's_Water_Monitor_Habitat.pdf Mertens and Mitchell's water monitor habitat within the Project area		No	Medium
#5.	Document	Att 5_Northern_Brush_tailed_Possum_Habitat.pdf Potential Northern Brush-tailed Possum habitat within the Project area		No	Medium
#6.	Document	Att 6_Fawn_Antechinus_Habitat.pdf Potential Fawn Antechinus habitat within the Project area			Medium
#7.	Document	Att 7_Potential_Ghost_Bat_Habitat.pdf Potential Ghost Bat habitat within the Project area			Medium
#8.	Document	Att 8_Northern_Blue_tongued_Skink_Habitat.pdf			Medium

Potential Northern Blue Tongued Skink habitat within the Project area				
#9.	Document	Att G Flora Report.pdf Flora report		High
#10.	Document	Att H Fauna Report.pdf Fauna Report	No	High
#11.	Link	Approved Conservation Advice for Pristis pristis (largetooth sawfish) https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/thre..		High
#12.	Link	Conservation Advice Antechinus bellus fawn antechinus https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/thre..		High
#13.	Link	Conservation Advice Erythrotriorchis radiatus red goshawk https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/thre..		High
#14.	Link	Conservation Advice Erythrura gouldiae Gouldian finch https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/thre..		High
#15.	Link	Conservation Advice Falcunculus frontatus whitei crested shrike-tit (northern) https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/thre..		High
#16.	Link	Conservation Advice for Tiliqua scincoides intermedia (northern blue-tongue skink) https://environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threaten..		High
#17.	Link	Conservation Advice for Tiliqua scincoides intermedia (northern blue-tongue skink) https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/thre..		High
#18.	Link	Conservation Advice for Varanus mertensi (Mertens' water monitor) https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/thre..		High
#19.	Link			

		Conservation Advice for Varanus mitchelli (Mitchell's water monitor) https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/thre..		High
#20.	Link	Conservation Advice Macroderma gigas ghost bat https://environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threaten..		High
#21.	Link	Conservation Advice Trichosurus vulpecula arnhemensis Northern Brushtail Possum https://environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threaten..		High

3.2.2 Vegetation within the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att G Flora Report.pdf Flora report			High
#2.	Document	Att Q Soil Survey.pdf Soil Survey Report			High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att J Archeological Report.pdf Archeological assessment within the project area in 2013.			High

3.3.2 Indigenous heritage values that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A Sherwin Assessment Report.pdf SEIS Assessment report			High
#2.	Document	Att J Archeological Report.pdf Archeological assessment within the project area in 2013.			High

3.4.1 Hydrology characteristics that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att K Groundwater Report.pdf Groundwater Report		No	High
#2.	Document	Att L Water Management Plan.pdf Water Management plan		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 1_Gouldian_Finch_Habitat.pdf Desktop Gouldian Finch habitat assessment for the Project area.			Medium
#2.	Document	Att 2_Potential_Red_Goshawk_Habitat.pdf Desktop Red Goshawk habitat assessment within the Project area			Medium
#3.	Document	Att 3_Crested_Shrike_tit_northern_Habitat.pdf Desktop Crested shrike-tit habitat assessment within the Project area			Medium
#4.	Document	Att 4_Mertens'_Water_Monitor_and_Mitchell's_Water_Monitor_Habitat.pdf Desktop Mertens Water Monitor and Mitchells Water Monitor habitat assessment within the Project area			Medium
#5.	Document	Att 5_Northern_Brush_tailed_Possum_Habitat.pdf Desktop Northern Brush-tailed Possum habitat assessment within the Project area			Medium
#6.	Document	Att 6_Fawn_Antechinus_Habitat.pdf Desktop Fawn Antechinus habitat assessment within the Project area			Medium
#7.	Document	Att 7_Potential_Ghost_Bat_Habitat.pdf Desktop Ghost bat habitat assessment within the Project area			Medium
#8.	Document	Att 8_Northern_Blue_tongued_Skink_Habitat.pdf Desktop Northern Blue tongued skink habitat assessment within the Project area			Medium
#9.	Document	Att H Fauna Report.pdf Fauna Report			High
#10.	Document	Att H3 - Aquatics Report.pdf Attachment H3 - Aquatic Ecology Report		Yes	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 A - Preliminary Significant Impact Assessment.pdf Preliminary Significant Impact Assessment	No	High	

4.1.4.6 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Why you do not consider the direct and/or indirect impact to be a Significant Impact

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A - Preliminary Significant Impact Assessment.pdf Preliminary Significant Impact Assessment		No	High
#2.	Document	Att H Fauna Report.pdf Fauna Report			High
#3.	Document	Att H3 - Aquatics Report.pdf Attachment H3 - Aquatic Ecology Report		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 N Environmental Management Plan.pdf Environmental Management Plan		No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att H Fauna Report.pdf Fauna Report			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 H Fauna Report.pdf Fauna Report			High

4.1.9.2 (Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas) Why your action has a direct and/or indirect impact

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att K Groundwater Report.pdf Groundwater Report			High
#2.	Document	Att L Water Management Plan.pdf Water Management plan			High

#3.	Document	Att M Assessment of potential for Acid Mine Drainage_V2_2025-08-07.pdf Acid Mine Drainage Study	30/11/2013	No	High
#4.	Link	GDE Atlas http://www.bom.gov.au/weave/gde.html?max=true			Medium

4.1.9.6 (Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas) Why you do not consider the direct and/or indirect impact to be a Significant Impact

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att K Groundwater Report.pdf Groundwater Report			High
#2.	Document	Att L Water Management Plan.pdf Water Management plan			High

4.1.9.10 (Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas) Avoidance or mitigation measures proposed for this action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att L Water Management Plan.pdf Water Management plan			High

4.3.8 Why alternatives for your proposed action were not possible

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A Sherwin Assessment Report.pdf SEIS Assessment report			High
#2.	Document	Att P EIS Project Description.pdf Project Description Chapter EIS			High

5.2 Declarations

Completed Referring party's declaration

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

ABN/ACN	96947262397
Organisation name	MEC Mining
Organisation address	4000 QLD
Representative's name	David Moss
Representative's job title	Manager of Environment
Phone	07 3832 0301
Email	epbc@mecmining.com.au
Address	300 Adelaide Street, Brisbane, 4000

☑ 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, **David Moss of MEC Mining**, 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.

ABN/ACN	609206706
Organisation name	NORTHERN TERRITORY IRON ORE PTY LTD
Organisation address	6008 WA
Representative's name	Simon Peat

Representative's job title	Director
Phone	0418 124 034
Email	simon.peat@nathan-river.com
Address	PO Box 36309 Winnellie, NT, 0821

☑ 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, **Simon Peat of NORTHERN TERRITORY IRON ORE PTY LTD**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to the EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. I declare that I am not taking the action on behalf or for the benefit of any other person or entity. *

☑ 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, **Simon Peat of NORTHERN TERRITORY IRON ORE PTY LTD**, the Proposed designated proponent, consent to the designation of myself as the Proposed designated proponent for the purposes of the action described in this EPBC Act Referral. *

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