

# Wodgina Lithium Mine Expansion

Application Number: **03390**

Commencement Date:  
**27/03/2026**

Status: **Locked**

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## 1. About the project

### 1.1 Project details

#### 1.1.1 Project title \*

Wodgina Lithium Mine Expansion

#### 1.1.2 Project industry type \*

Mining

#### 1.1.3 Project industry sub-type

Other

#### 1.1.4 Estimated start date \*

01/01/2028

#### 1.1.4 Estimated end date \*

31/12/2062

## 1.2 Proposed Action details

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

MARBL Lithium Operations Pty Ltd (MARBL) is proposing to expand the Wodgina Lithium Project (the Proposed Action), located approximately 110 km south of Port Hedland, in the Pilbara Region of Western Australia (refer to Attachment 1, Figure 1, p.16).

MARBL is proposing to expand the Project to allow for continued operations for 30 years. The Proposed Action will require clearing of up to 617 ha (Proposed Action area) for the construction of extensions to existing infrastructure including the Cassiterite Pit, Eastern Waste Landform (EWL) and the Run of Mine (ROM) pad, and construction of new infrastructure including the Southern Basin Tailings Storage Facility (TSF), a solar photovoltaic array and ancillary activities such as infrastructure corridors, roads, mine camp, laydown areas and topsoil stockpiles (refer to Attachment 1, Figure 3, p. 20).

Refer to Attachment 1, Section 2, pp. 18 - 31 for further details on the Proposed Action.

Potential impacts identified as relevant to the Matters of National Significance include:

- Loss of habitat from clearing.
- Fragmentation of habitat.
- Fauna injury or mortality.
- Introduced fauna species and feral predators.
- Noise, vibration and artificial light.
- Dust, weeds and altered fire or hydrological regimes.

Refer to Attachment 1, Section 5, pp. 76 - 85 for further details on potential impacts.

The Proposed Action area is situated on the Kangan pastoral lease and is also located within the Kariyarra native title determination area (refer to Attachment 1, Figure 10, p. 45).

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

Yes

### 1.2.3 Is the proposed action the first stage of a staged development (or a larger project)?

No

### 1.2.4 Related referral(s)

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### 1.2.5 Provide information about the staged development (or relevant larger project).

The proposed action is associated with a number of projects previously referred under the EPBC Act including:

- EPBC 2018/8194 (Wodgina Lithium Mine Expansion, Pilbara, WA)
- EPBC 2009/5167 (Wodgina Direct Shipping Ore Project)
- EPBC 2011/5975 (Development of the Wodgina Direct Shipping Ore Project, Stage 2)
- EPBC 2013/6789 (Mine the Hercules Deposit under the Wodgina Direct Shipping Ore Project Stage 3)

The current referral does not constitute a staged project or split referral under section 74A of the EPBC Act because:

- Previous actions at Wodgina were referred where required and assessed on the basis of the information available at the time,
- Subsequent disturbance did not materially increase impacts to critical fauna habitat beyond the extent previously considered in the 2018 referral, and
- The current referral has been made because new information and revised life-of-mine planning have now defined a new and materially different expansion proposal that is likely to result in significant residual impacts to MNES fauna habitat.

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

The following Commonwealth and State legislation or policies are relevant to the Proposed Action.

## **Commonwealth Legislation**

### ***Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)***

The EPBC Act is the Australian Government's central piece of environmental legislation, providing a legal framework to protect and manage nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places – collectively defined under the Act as Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES). Any action that is likely to have a significant impact on MNES requires assessment and approval under the EPBC Act before it can be taken. As the Proposed Action has the potential to impact MNES, it triggers the Commonwealth environmental assessment and approval process.

The existing Project was most recently referred under the EPBC Act on 23 April 2018, with a resubmission lodged on 8 May 2018 (EPBC 2018/8194). The referral was made on the basis of possible impacts to the Northern Quoll, Greater Bilby and Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat; however, the Project was subsequently deemed not a Controlled Action.

### ***Native Title Act 1993***

The Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) (NTA) recognises and protects the rights and interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in land and waters according to their traditional laws and customs. The NTA also establishes mechanisms for agreement-making between native title holders, governments, and other parties – including Indigenous Land Use Agreements – providing a voluntary framework for negotiating the use of land and waters in connection with proposed developments.

The Proposed Action is located within the Kariyarra native title determination area and is relevant to the Kariyarra People.

## **Guidelines**

### **Matters of National Environmental Significance – Guideline 1.1**

The Australian Government's Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 – Matters of National Environmental Significance (the Guidelines) provide guidance on what constitutes a 'significant impact' under the EPBC Act. The Guidelines assist proponents in determining whether a proposed action is likely to have a significant impact on MNES, thereby triggering the requirement for referral and assessment under the EPBC Act.

This referral has been prepared in accordance with the Guidelines to assess whether the Proposed Action is likely to result in a significant impact on relevant MNES. The significance of potential impacts has been evaluated against the criteria set out in the Guidelines, with appropriate management and mitigation measures identified where relevant.

### **EPBC Listed Threatened Species Guidance, Recovery Plans and Conservation Advice**

Survey guidance, approved conservation advice and recovery plans for MNES known or likely to occur in the Proposed Action area are provided in Attachment 1, Section 5.1, p. 77, with key documents outlined below. These guidance documents identify overall conservation objectives, critical habitats, important populations, key threats and priority management actions for the subject species and were considered during the assessment process.

- Referral guideline for 14 birds listed as migratory species under the EPBC Act (Department of the Environment 2015).
- National Recovery Plan for the Northern Quoll *Dasyurus hallucatus* (Hill and Ward 2010a).
- EPBC Act referral guideline for the endangered Northern Quoll *Dasyurus hallucatus* (Department of the Environment 2016).
- Conservation Advice *Macroderma gigas* Ghost Bat (Threatened Species Scientific Committee 2016b).
- Approved Conservation Advice *Rhinonictoris aurantia* (Pilbara form) Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat (TSSC 2016c).
- Approved Conservation Advice for *Liasis olivaceus barroni* (Olive Python – Pilbara subspecies) (Threatened Species Scientific Committee 2008).
- Recovery Plan for the Greater Bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*) (DCCEEW 2023c).
- Conservation Advice *Falco hypoleucos* Grey Falcon (Threatened Species Scientific Committee 2020).
- Conservation Advice *Pezoporus occidentalis* (Night Parrot) (Threatened Species Scientific Committee 2016c).
- Guidelines for determining the likely presence and habitat usage of night parrot (*Pezoporus occidentalis*) in Western Australia (Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions 2024).
- National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife (DCCEEW 2023b).
- Threat Abatement Plan for Predation by Feral Cats (DoE 2015a).
- Threat Abatement Plan for Predation by the European Red Fox (DEWHA 2008c).

## **Western Australian legislation**

### ***Environmental Protection Act 1986 (EP Act)***

The *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) is Western Australia's primary environmental legislation, establishing the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) as an independent statutory authority responsible for providing advice and recommendations to the Government on environmental matters. The EP Act provides for the prevention, control and abatement of pollution and environmental harm, and for the conservation, preservation, protection, enhancement and management of the environment.

Part IV of the EP Act establishes Western Australia's environmental impact assessment (EIA) process. Under Section 38 of the EP Act, a proponent must refer a proposal to the EPA where it may have a significant effect on the environment. The Proposed Action is being referred to the EPA under Section 38 on the basis that it has the potential to significantly affect the environment across the EPA's key environmental factors. The referral will not be assessed under a Bilateral Agreement between the State and Commonwealth Governments.

The existing Project has not previously been referred to the EPA, with vegetation clearing to date undertaken under Native Vegetation Clearing Permits approved under the EP Act.

### ***Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act)***

The Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act) is Western Australia's principal legislation for the identification, protection, conservation and management of biodiversity, including the regulation of activities that may adversely affect listed species and communities.

The Proposed Action has the potential to impact threatened flora and fauna species listed under the BC Act. Where the Proposed Action is likely to disturb, take or interfere with threatened or specially protected flora or fauna, a licence will be required from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

(DBCA). Relevant permits and licences under the BC Act will be sought prior to the commencement of works.

### **Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (AH Act)**

The AH Act is Western Australia's principal legislation for the protection and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage, protecting all places and objects of significance to Aboriginal people under their traditions - including sacred, ritual or ceremonial sites, and other places or objects associated with Aboriginal tradition.

Infrastructure designs for the Proposed Action are not yet finalised, with design scenarios currently being investigated to avoid and reduce risk to Aboriginal heritage. Where heritage sites cannot be avoided or are at risk of indirect impact, consultation with the Kariyarra Aboriginal Corporation will be undertaken to progress the necessary approvals (including Section 18), and to engage on appropriate mitigation measures.

Refer to Attachment 1, Section 1, pp. 14 for further details on other approvals that relate to the Proposed Action.

## **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. \***

MARBL's objective for stakeholder consultation in relation to its operations is to ensure that all identified stakeholders, who may be affected by implementation of our projects have been appropriately consulted, and that their input has been considered with respect to key operational aspects. MARBL has established a presence within the communities surrounding our Wodgina operation through various community investment and engagement initiatives. MARBL recognises that effective stakeholder consultation is an integral component of its planning, assessment, and development processes to support the Company's various ongoing operations through to mine closure. Recognising the importance of stakeholder engagement, MARBL has a dedicated Communities and Stakeholder Engagement team that facilitates the Company's engagement with local communities, pastoralists, private landowners, Traditional Owner groups and local government as part of tenement applications, regulatory approval processes and ongoing operations.

The Proponent is committed to continued engagement with stakeholders through all development phases of the Proposed Action. The key stakeholder consultation and engagement activities undertaken to date by the Proponent are summarised in Attachment 1, Table 5, pp. 39.

Key stakeholders include:

- Government Agencies including DCCEEW and Western Australian Government Agencies (DBCA, DMPE, DPLH, DWER, EPA)
- Port Hedland Local Government
- Kariyarra Aboriginal Corporation Registered Native Title Body Corporate (KAC)
- Kangan Pastoral Lease

Consultation will continue to be undertaken with the respective stakeholders identified to ensure the Proposal aligns with expectations, where practicable, as well as in accordance with any approval or licensing conditions.

## 1.3.1 Identity: Referring party

### **Privacy Notice:**

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

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

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

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Alternatively, email us at [privacy@dcceew.gov.au](mailto:privacy@dcceew.gov.au).

**Confirm that you have read and understand this Privacy Notice \***

### **1.3.1.1 Is Referring party an organisation or business? \***

Yes

Referring party organisation details

**ABN/ACN** 52637077608  
**Organisation name** MARBL LITHIUM OPERATIONS PTY LTD  
**Organisation address** 6017 WA

Referring party details

**Name** Savannah Killerby-Smith  
**Job title** Senior Environmental Advisor  
**Phone** +61417132593  
**Email** Savannah.Killerby@mrl.com.au  
**Address** 20 Walters Dr, Osborne Park WA 6017

## 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** 52637077608  
**Organisation name** MARBL LITHIUM OPERATIONS PTY LTD  
**Organisation address** 6017 WA

Person proposing to take the action details

**Name** Jenny Cookson  
**Job title** Senior Manager Approvals  
**Phone** +61 8 9329 3600  
**Email** jenny.cookson@mrl.com.au  
**Address** 20 Walters Drive, Osborne Park, Western Australia 6017

**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. \***

MARBL Lithium Operations Pty Ltd. has a satisfactory record of responsible environment management. There are no past or present proceedings or convictions under the Commonwealth, State or Territory Law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable land use of natural resources.

MARBL Lithium Operations Pty Ltd has not previously referred any action under the EPBC Act. Mineral Resources Limited (of which Wodgina Lithium Pty Ltd (WLPS) is a wholly owned subsidiary, and WLPS operates in the joint venture with Albemarle Wodgina Pty Ltd) has previously referred the Wodgina Lithium Project under the EPBC Act. The existing Project was most recently referred to DCCEE on 23 April 2018 with a resubmission on 8 May 2018 (EPBC 2018/8194) due to possible impacts to Northern Quoll, Greater Bilby and Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat and was deemed not a Controlled Action.

The proposed action will be undertaken in accordance with Mineral Resources Limited environmental policy and framework. Refer to Attachment 2.

**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**

Mineral Resources Limited (MinRes) is an Australian mining services, contracting and resource development company with a formalised environmental management framework. MinRes's Environment Policy is provided as an attachment to this referral (Attachment 2 – MinRes Environment Policy).

MinRes is committed to environmental management that maintains our licence to operate in an environmentally responsible and sustainable manner. The Environment Policy applies to all MinRes Stakeholders, defined for this purpose as employees (including contractors and consultants) and Directors for all entities within the Group. The policy commits MinRes to:

- Develop, implement, and continually improve environmental management systems that enable MinRes to identify and manage environmental risks and opportunities at all stages of our operations
- Measure and continuously improve our environmental performance through setting environmental objectives, performance measures and performance targets
- Minimise the adverse environmental impacts associated with our operations and where possible protect the environment through the efficient use of natural resources such as energy and water; reduction of waste; prevention of pollution; minimisation of dust, air quality and operational GHG emissions; and the responsible management of land and biodiversity
- Continually improve practices to manage the safe operation and closure of tailings storage facilities
- Integrate rehabilitation and closure considerations throughout all stages of our activities to transition to closure effectively
- Implement environmental initiatives and encourage the development of environmental technologies that contribute to greater environmental responsibility
- Commit resources to comply with this Policy and to manage and monitor our environmental performance
- Comply with all applicable legislation, standards, compliance obligations and codes of practice
- Understand and consider the expectations of all stakeholders in our operations for diligent environmental management
- Report our Environmental performance to stakeholders in a transparent, timely and regular manner.

### **Goals and Responsibility**

MinRes's stated goal is to cause no environmental harm beyond that which is absolutely necessary to conduct its business and for which statutory approval has been received. All employees hold personal responsibility for environmental compliance, with leaders required to communicate and enforce the Policy across all Stakeholders.

## 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

<b>ABN/ACN</b>	52637077608
<b>Organisation name</b>	MARBL LITHIUM OPERATIONS PTY LTD
<b>Organisation address</b>	6017 WA

#### Proposed designated proponent details

<b>Name</b>	Jenny Cookson
<b>Job title</b>	Senior Manager Approvals
<b>Phone</b>	+61 8 9329 3600
<b>Email</b>	jenny.cookson@mrl.com.au
<b>Address</b>	20 Walters Drive, Osborne Park, Western Australia 6017

## 1.3.4 Identity: Summary of allocation

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## ✔ Confirmed Referring party's identity

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

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ABN/ACN	52637077608
Organisation name	MARBL LITHIUM OPERATIONS PTY LTD
Organisation address	6017 WA
Representative's name	Savannah Killerby-Smith
Representative's job title	Senior Environmental Advisor
Phone	+61417132593
Email	Savannah.Killerby@mrl.com.au
Address	20 Walters Dr, Osborne Park WA 6017

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## ✔ 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.

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ABN/ACN	52637077608
Organisation name	MARBL LITHIUM OPERATIONS PTY LTD
Organisation address	6017 WA
Representative's name	Jenny Cookson
Representative's job title	Senior Manager Approvals
Phone	+61 8 9329 3600
Email	jenny.cookson@mrl.com.au
Address	20 Walters Drive, Osborne Park, Western Australia 6017

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## ✔ 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.

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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? \***

Third party

**1.4.12 Is the third party an organisation? \***

Yes

**1.4.13 Do they have an existing ABN or ACN? \***

Yes

**1.4.14 ABN/ACN \***

33118549910

**1.4.16 Organisation name \***

MINERAL RESOURCES LIMITED

**1.4.17 Organisation's primary address \***

20 Walters Drive, Osborne Park, WA 6017

**1.4.18 First name \***

Jenny

**1.4.19 Last name \***

Cookson

**1.4.20 Job title \***

Senior Manager Approvals

**1.4.21 Phone \***

+61 407 282 596

**1.4.22 Email \***

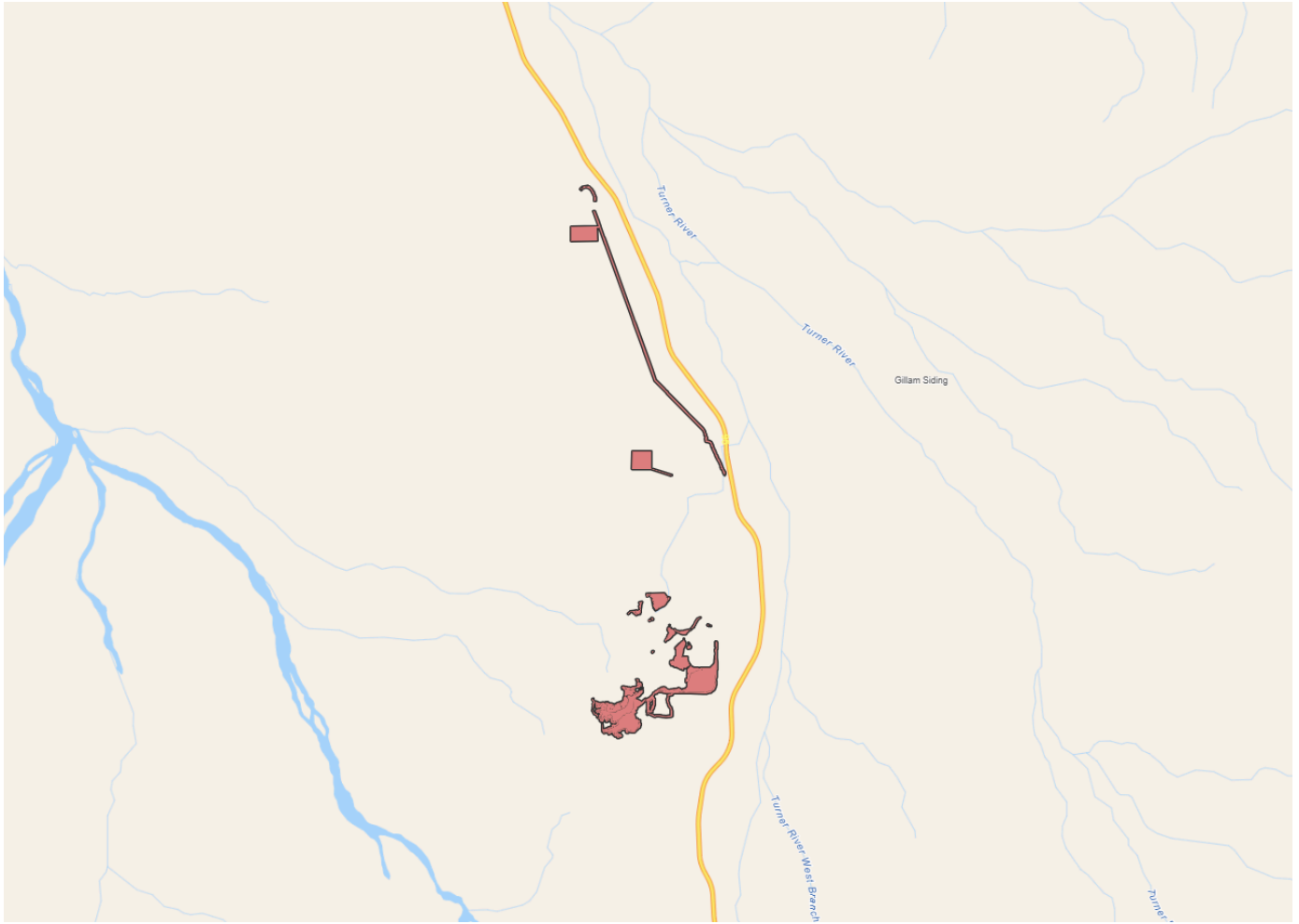
[jenny.cookson@mrl.com.au](mailto:jenny.cookson@mrl.com.au)

**1.4.23 Address \***

20 Walters Drive, Perth Western Australia 6017

## 2. Location

## 2.1 Project footprint



**Project Area: 618.58 Ha Disturbance Footprint: 618.58 Ha**

## 2.2 Footprint details

### 2.2.1 What is the address of the proposed action? \*

Wodgina Access Road, off Great Northern Hwy

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

Western Australia

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

No

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

The Proposed Action is located within the Kangan Pastoral Station (Lease N049839). The proposed action is located on various tenements managed by the Proponent or pending grant under the WA Mining Act, as provided below:

- M 45/49 Wodgina Lithium Pty Ltd / Albemarle Wodgina Pty Ltd
- M 45/50-I Wodgina Lithium Pty Ltd / Albemarle Wodgina Pty Ltd
- M 45/351-1 Wodgina Lithium Pty Ltd / Albemarle Wodgina Pty Ltd
- M 45/353 Wodgina Lithium Pty Ltd / Albemarle Wodgina Pty Ltd
- M 45/365-I Wodgina Lithium Pty Ltd / Albemarle Wodgina Pty Ltd
- M 45/381 Wodgina Lithium Pty Ltd / Albemarle Wodgina Pty Ltd
- M 45/382 Wodgina Lithium Pty Ltd / Albemarle Wodgina Pty Ltd
- M 45/383-I Wodgina Lithium Pty Ltd / Albemarle Wodgina Pty Ltd
- M 45/886 Wodgina Lithium Pty Ltd / Albemarle Wodgina Pty Ltd
- M 45/887-I Wodgina Lithium Pty Ltd / Albemarle Wodgina Pty Ltd
- M 45/888 Wodgina Lithium Pty Ltd / Albemarle Wodgina Pty Ltd
- M 45/923-I Global Advanced Metals Wodgina Pty Ltd
- M 45/924-I Wodgina Lithium Pty Ltd / Albemarle Wodgina Pty Ltd
- M 45/925-I Wodgina Lithium Pty Ltd / Albemarle Wodgina Pty Ltd
- M 45/949 Wodgina Lithium Pty Ltd / Albemarle Wodgina Pty Ltd
- M 45/950-I Wodgina Lithium Pty Ltd / Albemarle Wodgina Pty Ltd
- M 45/1188-I Atlas Iron Pty Ltd (transfer to Wodgina Lithium Pty Ltd and Albemarle Wodgina Pty Ltd in progress)
- M 45/1252-I Atlas Iron Pty Ltd (transfer to Wodgina Lithium Pty Ltd and Albemarle Wodgina Pty Ltd in progress)
- G 45/290 Wodgina Lithium Pty Ltd / Albemarle Wodgina Pty Ltd
- G 45/291 Wodgina Lithium Pty Ltd / Albemarle Wodgina Pty Ltd
- G 45/321 Wodgina Lithium Pty Ltd / Albemarle Wodgina Pty Ltd
- L 45/58 Wodgina Lithium Pty Ltd / Albemarle Wodgina Pty Ltd
- L 45/93 Wodgina Lithium Pty Ltd / Albemarle Wodgina Pty Ltd
- L 45/105 Wodgina Lithium Pty Ltd / Albemarle Wodgina Pty Ltd
- L 45/108 Wodgina Lithium Pty Ltd / Albemarle Wodgina Pty Ltd
- L 45/437 Wodgina Lithium Pty Ltd / Albemarle Wodgina Pty Ltd
- L 45/441 Wodgina Lithium Pty Ltd / Albemarle Wodgina Pty Ltd
- L 45/443 Wodgina Lithium Pty Ltd / Albemarle Wodgina Pty Ltd
- L 45/832 (pending) Wodgina Lithium Project Services Pty Ltd
- L 45/833(pending) Wodgina Lithium Project Services Pty Ltd
- L 45/835 (pending) Wodgina Lithium Project Services Pty Ltd
- R 45/004 Wodgina Lithium Pty Ltd / Albemarle Wodgina Pty Ltd

MARBL notes a minor discrepancy between the project footprint area recorded in the EPBC referral portal (approx. 618 ha) and the Proposed Action Area stated in this submission (617 ha). MARBL has reviewed this discrepancy internally but has been unable to identify the source of the variation between the portal's processing of spatial data and MARBL's GIS analysis. MARBL will engage with DCCEEW to resolve this discrepancy during the application process.

### 3. Existing environment

## 3.1 Physical description

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

The Proposed Action is located approximately 110 km south of Port Hedland, within the Pilbara biogeographic region of Western Australia. As an expansion to the current Wodgina Lithium Project, it directly adjoins the existing project area.

The Proposed Action area is intersected by the Great Northern Highway, which provides access to the Project (refer to Attachment 1, Figure 1, p. 16). There are no proposed upgrade works within the Great Northern Highway associated with the Proposal. The Proposal is not expected to increase traffic loading on the Great Northern Highway as the Project has an existing airstrip and new proposed mine camp facility to accommodate an expanded workforce (including construction personnel).

The Proposed Action area is located within the Kangan pastoral station (Lease N049839), with a minor portion located on the Wallareenya pastoral station (Lease N050365). The Proposed Action is situated within the Kariyarra Native Title Determination (refer to Attachment 1, Figure 10, p. 34). The registered Native Title body corporate for the Kariyarra Traditional Owners is the Kariyarra Aboriginal Corporation (KAC).

The Proposed Action is located at the Wodgina mining area, where mining commenced in 1902. Several impacts from historic and current mining activities are evident, including cleared areas and rehabilitated areas. The majority of the vegetation within the Proposed Action area is considered to be in Excellent condition; however, some areas show evidence of disturbance. Large portions of the Proposed Action area have experienced recent fires, with fire scars evident and fire responder flora present. Fire is a regular occurrence in this region, with large areas of vegetation periodically burning. Additional disturbances include grazing impacts from cattle and presence of weed activity.

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

Land use surrounding Wodgina comprises iron ore prospecting, exploration and mining, pastoral grazing and, to a lesser extent, tourism. A significant proportion of the Proposed Action area occurs within the Kangan Pastoral Station, leased to the Aboriginal Prospecting Company and managed by the Yandeyarra Aboriginal Community, located approximately 27 km southwest of the Proposal. A minor portion of the Proposed Action area occurs within the Wallareenya Pastoral Station. There are no proposed activities within 400 m of a pastoral dam, and the nearest pastoral homestead (Kangan Homestead) is located approximately 15 km from the Proposal.

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

The Proposed Action Area does not contain any environmentally sensitive areas (DWER-046) or legislated lands and waters (DBCA-011). The nearest environmentally sensitive area is associated with Mungaroona Range Nature Reserve located approximately 50 km southwest of the Proposal and vested under the Conservation Commission of Western Australia. There is significant contiguous native vegetation between this reserve and the Proposed Action Area.

The Proposed Action Area does not intersect with any nationally significant wetlands or RAMSAR Wetlands. The closest wetland of national significance is the Leslie (Port Hedland) Saltfields System, located approximately 80 km northeast.

The nearest proclaimed Public Drinking Water Source Area, the Yule River Water Reserve (P1, groundwater) is located approximately 32 km northwest of the Proposal. However, the Proposed Action Area is very minimally located in the Yule River upstream Catchment (<1 ha of access road) and accordingly is not considered to be part of this catchment.

#### **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 Northern half of the Proposed Action Area is characterised by ridgelines reaching above 300 mRL running to the northeast of outcropping bare rock and stony footslopes incised by drainage lines and valleys dipping to the 200 mRL. The southeast area of the Proposed Action Area stretches out into a large floodplain across the granitic peneplain dipping to the 185 mRL with ephemeral creek lines.

## 3.2 Flora and fauna

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

## FLORA

Several flora and vegetation surveys have been completed within the Proposed Action area and surrounds to determine the baseline environment (refer to Attachment 1, Table 8, p. 49-53 for summary) and recent surveys are consolidated in Umwelt's Flora and Vegetation Assessment (refer to Attachment 10).

A search of the EPBC Protected Matters Search Tool was carried out from the Proposed Action Area with a 50 km buffer. The search results listed the possibility of the Pilbara Foxglove *Quoya zonalis* (Endangered) habitat being within the buffer of the search. There is a record of this species approximately 26 km to the south-east of the Proposed Action Area. This taxon was not located during the 2023, 2024 or 2025 flora surveys of the Proposed Action Area within the known suitable habitat (hills, clay loam over granite and rocky slopes). No previous records of this species have been found in the Proposed Action Area and therefore the species is considered unlikely to occur.

Eleven significant flora taxa have been recorded within the broader Survey Area, including nine species of Priority flora (under State legislation) and two potentially undescribed taxa recorded during the 2023/2024 surveys, which in the absence of further information are being treated as potentially significant. These potentially undescribed species, *Corchorus aff. Incanus* and *Polymeria* sp., were not recorded within the Proposed Action Area and have been located over 1.4 km and 22 km from the PAA, respectively. No Threatened flora taxa were recorded within the Survey Areas.

Refer to Attachment 1, Section 4.4, p.49 - 53 and the Flora and Vegetation Management Plan (Attachment 6, Section 3.4, p. 26) for further details.

## FAUNA

The Wodgina Lithium Project and surrounds have had five comprehensive surveys undertaken (Attachment 1, Section 4.5, p.61 - 65), including the most recent detailed terrestrial fauna survey undertaken of the broader mine area (Attachment 8 - Detailed Terrestrial Fauna Survey - Phoenix 2024) and Basic Terrestrial Fauna Survey (Attachment 9 - Basic Fauna Assessment - Umwelt 2026) of an additional minor portion of the Proposed Action Area.

Phoenix Environmental and Umwelt identified seven broad fauna habitats (Attachment 1, Section 4.5.2, p. 67 - 68) within the Survey Areas (13,372.9 ha). None of the habitats identified are restricted to the Terrestrial Fauna Survey Area, and most habitats that are limited in extent within the Survey Area occur extensively within the immediate vicinity and across the broader landscape.

The exception to this, is the Ironstone Ridge top and Rocky Ridge and Gorge habitats which, while are not restricted to the Survey Area, are limited at both the local and regional scales. Their occurrence is largely confined to topographically complex landscapes and therefore have the potential to limit the distribution of significant fauna which are dependent on them including the Ghost Bat, Northern Quoll and Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat (PLNB).

Habitats within the Survey Area most likely to represent important life history components (e.g., used for breeding, dispersal, refuge/shelter and foraging) for significant vertebrate species are those with high productivity, structural complexity and/or locally mesic conditions. The Rocky Ridge and Gorge habitat represents the highest value habitat to fauna due to its suitability to support denning habitat for Northern Quoll, dispersal and shelter habitat for Pilbara Olive Python, and roosting sites for Ghost Bat and Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat.

Habitats within the Proposed Action area are as follows:

- Rocky Foothills: 231.6 ha
- Spinifex Stony Plain: 170.6 ha
- Spinifex Sandplain: 130.2 ha

- Drainage Line: 57.7 ha
- Rocky Ridge and Gorge: 18.3 ha
- Stony Rises: 2.2 ha
- Ironstone Ridge Top: 0.2 ha

A search of the Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST) identified 17 Threatened fauna species and 14 Migratory fauna species within the search area (refer to Attachment 3 for the complete Protected Matters Search Tool Results). The likelihood of occurrence of the EPBC listed species listed in the PMST are shown in Attachment 1 (Table 12, p. 71-76), with further details provided in Attachment 4 (MNES Significance Report).

One species listed under the EPBC Act was recorded within the Proposed Action Area and a further six species listed under the EPBC Act were recorded within the broader Terrestrial Fauna Survey Area or are considered likely to occur:

**Recorded within the Proposed Action Area:**

Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*) - Endangered

**Likely to Occur:**

- Ghost Bat (*Macroderma gigas*) - Vulnerable
- Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat (*Rhinonictoris aurantia*) - Vulnerable
- Greater Bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*) – Vulnerable
- Grey Falcon (*Falco hypoleucos*) - Vulnerable
- Pilbara Olive Python (*Liasis olivaceus barroni*) - Vulnerable
- Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus*) – Migratory

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

The Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) is a bioregional framework that divides Australia into 89 biogeographic regions and 419 subregions on the basis of climate, geology, landforms, vegetation, and fauna (Thackway and Cresswall 1995). The Proposal is situated in the Chichester (PIL01) subregion of the Pilbara region, comprised of undulating plains of Achaean granite and basalt, with basalt ranges. The plains support open shrublands of *Acacia* over spinifex hummock grasslands, and the ranges support an open tree-steppe of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* over spinifex hummock grasslands.

A total of six broad land systems intersect the Development Envelope within the Chichester subregion. The Capricorn and Talga land systems are largely corresponding to areas of higher relief including hills and ridges. The Boolgeeda, Macroy, Platform and Uaroo land systems are largely corresponding to areas of lower relief including stony plains, dissected slopes and raised plains. All mapped land systems within the Proposed Action Area are widely distributed across the Chichester subregion.

None of the vegetation types mapped are consistent with any formally listed Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities (TEC/PEC), nor are they considered to be significant for reasons other than formal listing as per EPA.

Field surveys mapped 16 vegetation types within the survey area (Attachment 3, Section 4.3.5, p. 40), with 11 of these being within the Proposed Action area (Attachment 1, Table 9, pp. 55-59).

The vegetation condition within the Proposed Action area ranged from Excellent to Completely Degraded, with majority (91.7%) of the vegetation in Excellent condition:

- Excellent (565.9 ha)
- Excellent-Very Good (15.1 ha)
- Very Good (18.9 ha)
- Good (0.4 ha)
- Good-Poor (0.8 ha)
- Poor (14.4 ha)
- Cleared (1.2 ha)
- Rehabilitated (0.2)

Evidence of disturbance included cattle activity and consequential weed presence.

Fifteen species of environmental weeds have been recorded within the broader Flora and Vegetation Survey Area. Of these, two are listed as Declared Pests under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*, and one is listed as a Weed of National Significance (WoNS):

- Calotrope (*Calotropis procera*) – Declared Pest
- Prickly Pear (*Opuntia* sp.) – Declared Pest and WoNS.

## 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 World, Commonwealth or State Heritage Places within or in the vicinity of the Proposed Action area. The Proposed Action area lies entirely within the jurisdiction of Western Australia, therefore no places listed on the List of Overseas Places of Historic Significance to Australia are relevant to the Proposed Action.

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

The Proposal is located within the Kariyarra Native Title Determination Area and is relevant to the Kariyarra People.

A search of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System was undertaken on 4 December 2025, confirming that the Proposed Action intersects two DPLH Registered Sites and two DPLH Lodged Places (refer to Attachment 1, Table 7, p. 48 for details). MinRes has sought advice from the DPLH regarding the intersection between the Proposed Action area and DPLH boundaries. While the footprint falls within the publicly available (dithered) boundary, DPLH has confirmed it avoids the actual Place boundaries for three of the four sites. Although infrastructure designs are not yet final, approvals under the AH Act are likely. Additional heritage site identification and recording will be required to confirm boundaries currently held by MinRes and KAC and include DPLH Lodged Place 22040 (WodE#4 Historical Aboriginal Mining Camp). Concurrently, consultation will occur with KAC regarding approvals under the AH Act and to identify mitigation opportunities.

## 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. \*

The Proposed Action is located within the Pilbara Groundwater Area and Pilbara Surface Water Area, which are proclaimed under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914 (WA)*. There are no mapped wetlands within the Proposed Action area, and it does not intersect any Public Drinking Water Source Areas.

Refer to Attachment 1, Section 4.2, pp. 44-45 for existing environment hydrology.

#### **Surface Water**

Wodgina is situated on the catchment divide of the Turner River to the east and the Yule River to the west of the mine. The mine operations are predominantly situated within the western sub-catchment of the Turner River that drains generally in a northeast direction towards the Turner River, approximately 9 km downstream of the Proposed Action Area. This sub-catchment, Turner River West, occupies an area of 467 km<sup>2</sup>, less than 10% of the greater Turner River Catchment (4,945 km<sup>2</sup>).

No permanent surface water systems intersect the Proposed Action Area, although semi-permanent pools, such as the Wodgina Rock Hole, occur following heavy rainfall events. Larger pools may persist into the dry season within the Yule and Turner Rivers owing to local topographical factors and the size of the contributing catchments.

The Pilbara region is known for its inconsistency in flood events during the wet season, where multiple floods may occur in some wet seasons and no heavy rainfall events occur in others. These large rainfall events influence the flow conditions of the rivers and creeks where flows usually occur after heavy rainfall events and last for a short period of time.

The Proposed Action has been designed to maintain surface water flow and quality as far as reasonably practicable. To support current approvals under the Mining Act, MinRes has conducted a hydrological assessment of the site, estimating peak design flows from Project catchments, followed by flood modelling (pre- and post-development) to direct the design of management and control measures. These studies will continue to be updated to support expansions of the Project and relevant secondary State approvals.

#### **Groundwater**

Groundwater levels above the ridgelines at the Project would have naturally followed the ridgelines however they have been influenced in areas by mining activities and tailings disposal. Groundwater levels measured recently vary in the range of 200 to 210 mRL around Cassiterite Pit and 185 to 188 mRL near the Eastern Waste Landform (EWL). The depth to groundwater surrounding the greenstone belt on the relatively flat granitic peneplain (including the northern evaporation pond location) is <10 m of the natural ground surface. Within the greenstone belt the depth to groundwater varies from very shallow, in low lying relief (<10 m) to >40 m bgl on the higher relief metasediment outcrop.

The mining of Cassiterite Pit has created a 'cone of depression' in the local water table resulting in groundwater flow converging towards Cassiterite Pit creating a groundwater sink, while other areas such as the EWL flow towards the east (AQ2 2022a).

Groundwater levels and sampling are regularly monitored to ensure compliance with various site approval instruments and to ensure groundwater quality is not being impacted by mining activities. Refer to Attachment 1, Section 5.3.5, pp. 71-84 for further details.

## 4. Impacts and mitigation

## 4.1 Impact details

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

<b>EPBC Act section</b>	<b>Controlling provision</b>	<b>Impacted</b>	<b>Reviewed</b>
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.

—

### 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 properties within or near the Proposed Action area. Impacts to World Heritage properties are therefore not anticipated to occur. No further information is provided.

## 4.1.2 National Heritage

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

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

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

—

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

No

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

\*

The Proposed Action area does not intersect with, or lie adjacent to, any national heritage places and as such, this protected matter will not be impacted. No further information is provided.

## 4.1.3 Ramsar Wetland

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

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

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

—

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

No

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

\*

There are no Ramsar sites within or in the vicinity of the Proposed Action area. The closest Ramsar site is approximately 170 km north-east of the Proposed Action area (in a different basin), and therefore, no impact to any Ramsar sites are anticipated. No further information is provided.

**4.1.4 Threatened Species and Ecological Communities**

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

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

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

### Threatened species

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

### Ecological communities

—

**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. \***

## **Threatened Fauna**

Refer to Referral Supporting Document (Attachment 1, Section 5, pp. 78 - 85) and Significant Fauna Management Plan (Attachment 5, Table 2, pp. 20 - 22) for further details on potential proposal-related impacts and residual impacts. Key impacts are outlined below for each species.

### **Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*) – Endangered**

The Northern Quoll has been recorded within, and in close proximity to the Proposed Action area. Consistent with the referral guidelines (Department of the Environment 2016) definitions, the Northern Quolls potentially occurring within the Proposed Action Area are considered an important population based on the records occurring in habitat which is free from Cane Toads and is therefore considered important for the long-term survival of the Northern Quoll.

Potential direct impacts: clearing of 454.2 ha of potential species habitat, of which 18.3 ha is Rocky Ridge and Gorge habitat used for shelter and breeding. Direct mortality of individuals may also occur through vehicle and machinery strikes.

Potential indirect impacts: increased predation from feral animals.

### **Greater Bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*) – Vulnerable.**

The Greater Bilby has been recorded within close proximity to the Proposed Action area.

Potential direct impacts: Clearing of 130.3 ha of spinifex sandplain and 57.7 ha of drainage line potential habitat. Direct loss from clearing and vehicle strikes.

Potential indirect impacts: Habitat fragmentation, habitat degradation (from dust emissions, unplanned project-related fire events), and increased predation by feral predators.

### **Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat (*Rhinioncteris aurantia* Pilbara form) – Vulnerable.**

Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat have been recorded within the vicinity of the Proposed Action area. No bat caves are known to occur within the Proposed Action area, and all habitat impacted is considered supporting foraging habitat and not critical habitat.

Potential direct impacts: loss of 617 ha of potential foraging habitat from clearing activities. Road mortalities may impact the local population if present.

Potential indirect impacts: Loss or abandonment of potential foraging and roost habitat due to blasting.

### **Ghost Bat (*Macroderma gigas*) – Vulnerable.**

Ghost Bat have been recorded within the vicinity of the Proposed Action area. No known bat caves will be lost as a result of the proposal, and all habitat impacted is considered supporting foraging habitat and not critical habitat.

Potential direct impacts: loss of 617 ha of potential foraging habitat from clearing activities. Road mortalities may impact the local population if present.

Potential indirect impacts: Loss or abandonment of potential foraging and roost habitat due to blasting.

### **Pilbara Olive Python (*Liasis olivaceous barroni*) – Vulnerable.**

Two records exist from the Wodgina mine area, outside the Proposed Action area. No permanent water bodies exist within the Proposed Action area (an important habitat for the species) and the species is not expected to occur in high numbers. However, given its large home range, it is likely they may occasionally

utilise portions of the Fauna Survey Area for foraging and dispersal.

Potential direct impacts: loss of Rocky Ridge and Gorge (18.3 ha) and Drainage Line (57.7 ha) of potential foraging and dispersal habitat from clearing activities. Direct mortality due to vehicle strikes.

Potential indirect impacts: Increased predation by feral predators.

**Grey Falcon (*Falco hypoleucos*) – Vulnerable.**

Grey Falcon was not recorded within the Proposed Action area. The species has been recorded in the broader Fauna Survey Area, although only a single individual or pair is likely to occur. Grey Falcon nesting habitat is associated with major drainage lines, which are absent from the Proposed Action area.

Potential direct impacts: loss of foraging habitat due to clearing (617 ha, assuming all habitat may be utilised), and direct mortality due to vehicle strikes.

For all species, refer to Referral Supporting Document (Attachment 1, Section 5, pp. 78 - 85) for further details. A likelihood review was undertaken for the Night Parrot (*Pezoporus occidentalis*) by Stantec and is provided as Attachment 7.

**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. \***

## **Threatened Fauna**

### **Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*) – Endangered**

The Proposed Action will remove 454.2 ha of critical habitat for Northern Quoll and is considered likely to have a significant impact when assessed against the DCCEEWS Significant Impact Criteria. The Pilbara population of the Northern Quoll is considered an important population as the area is currently free of Cane Toads. Although critical habitat for the Northern Quoll will be cleared through implementation of the Proposed Action, all habitat types recorded within the Proposed Action area are considered well represented in the surrounding region.

Further information is provided in Attachment 4, Section 2.1.8, pp. 30-34.

### **Greater Bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*) – Vulnerable**

The Proposed Action will remove 187.9 ha of critical foraging habitat for Greater Bilby and is considered likely to have a significant impact when assessed against the DCCEEWS Significant Impact Criteria. However, Greater Bilby was not recorded in the Proposed Action area and due to the limited number of recent records, it is likely that Greater Bilbies are either sparsely distributed, present in very low numbers, or occur intermittently where the Fauna Survey Area forms part of a broader, shifting home range. Suitable Greater Bilby habitat is also widespread throughout the surrounding region.

Further information is provided in Attachment 4, Section 2.1.10, pp. 41-45.

### **Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat (*Rhinonictoris aurantia* Pilbara form) – Vulnerable**

The proposed removal of 610.7 ha of potential foraging habitat is considered likely to have a significant impact when assessed against the DCCEEWS Significant Impact Criteria. No roosts or permanent water pools near roosts are located within the Proposed Action. Suitable foraging habitat is also widespread throughout the surrounding region.

Further information is provided in Attachment 4, Section 2.1.11, pp. 46-51.

### **Ghost Bat (*Macroderma gigas*) – Vulnerable**

The proposed removal of 610.7 ha of potential foraging habitat is considered likely to have a significant impact when assessed against the DCCEEWS Significant Impact Criteria. No roosts or permanent water pools near roosts are located within the Proposed Action. Suitable foraging habitat is widespread throughout the surrounding region.

Further information is provided in Attachment 4, Section 2.1.9, pp. 35-40.

### **Pilbara Olive Python (*Liasis olivaceous barroni*) – Vulnerable**

This species has not been recorded within the Proposed Action Area and there are only two records in the broader Fauna Survey Area, but is considered likely to occur in the area at least as a foraging visitor. The Proposed Action will remove 18.3 ha of critical habitat (Rocky Ridge and Gorge) and 57.7 ha of supporting habitat (Drainage Line) for Pilbara Olive Python and is considered likely to have a significant impact when assessed against the DCCEEWS Significant Impact Criteria.

Further information is provided in Attachment 4, Section 2.1.9, pp. 35-40.

### **Grey Falcon (*Falco hypoleucos*) – Vulnerable**

The Proposed Action will remove 610.7 ha of potential foraging habitat for Grey Falcon, conservatively assuming the entire Project area is within the Area of Occupancy as it lies within the Extent of Occurrence. Given the species' broad range and high mobility, lack of records within the Proposed Action area, absence of nesting habitat or major drainage lines within the Proposed Action area, and widespread availability of foraging habitat across the region, the Proposal is unlikely to result in a significant impact. However, due to inconsistencies in DCCEEW advice on habitat classifications across various Pilbara projects, the proponent will seek clarification on the appropriate significance assessment methodology. The removal of this habitat is conservatively considered likely to have a significant impact (as defined by DCCEEW).

Further information is provided in Attachment 4, Section 2.1.4, pp. 21-23.

#### **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. \***

In the absence of appropriate mitigation, the Proposed Action has the potential to significantly impact the Northern Quoll, Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat, Ghost Bat, Greater Bilby, Pilbara Olive Python and Grey Falcon, primarily through the direct clearing of potential habitat. Impacts to terrestrial fauna associated with the Proposed Action will be managed and mitigated throughout the development and implementation of the Proposed Action to ensure that potential impacts to MNES are managed to an acceptable level.

The following potentially significant residual impacts are anticipated following the application of mitigation measures:

- Clearing of 454.2 ha of critical habitat for Northern Quoll
- Clearing of 610.7 ha of supporting habitat for Ghost Bat
- Clearing of 610.7 ha of supporting habitat for Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat
- Clearing of 187.9 ha of critical habitat for Greater Bilby
- Clearing of 18.3 ha of critical habitat and 57.7 ha of supporting habitat for Pilbara Olive Python
- Clearing of 610.7 ha of supporting habitat for Grey Falcon.

#### **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 Proponent has applied the mitigation hierarchy (avoid, minimise, rehabilitate, offset) during the design, planned construction and operation of the Proposed Action to reduce the potential impact to terrestrial fauna. Refer to Attachment 1, Table 15, pp. 86 - 89 for mitigation measures.

Key mitigation measures involve avoiding or minimising loss of fauna habitat (such as exclusion zones around significant bat caves, infrastructure located to avoid Threatened fauna, and ), and the implementation of a SFMP to prevent indirect impacts associated with altered fire regimes, dust, weeds, feral animals, noise, vibration, artificial light sources and water flow and quality associated with construction and operation of the Project (Attachment 5, Section 8, pp. 36 - 51). Where possible, restoration of fauna habitat will be undertaken as part of the required mine rehabilitation and closure activities; and most habitats are expected to recover following cessation of mining.

The proposed mitigation measures have been developed in accordance with the *Summary of knowledge for six faunal species that are Matters of National Environmental Significance in the Pilbara, Western Australis* (Northover et al. 2023) and *Pilbara Northern Quoll Research Program: a review of progress (2016-2021)* (Dunlop et al. 2023). The SFMP (Attachment 5) outlines the management provisions in further detail, including the outcome and objective based provisions, performance criteria, monitoring, timing and responsibilities.

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

The removal of critical and supporting habitat for MNES species is a residual impact that requires offsetting. To provide an indication of likely offset rates, the Proponent has considered rates as advised by DCCEEW in 2025, however, these rates will be subject to review by DCCEEW in consideration of the specific residual impacts of the Proposed Action and may be subject to a Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase. The indicative offset rates applied are:

- Critical habitat for MNES (higher rate): \$3,306/ha.
- Supporting habitat for MNES (base rate): \$1,653/ha.

MinRes-proposed offsets for the Proposed Action are based on its recent experience with EPBC approvals (2025 Lamb Creek Project (Mineral Resources Limited 2025)) and making contributions through PEOF. Prior to the discussions on Lamb Creek, publicly available examples of other resource projects in the Pilbara region determined contribution levels using a hierarchy where offsets required for an environmental value that is also subject to offsets under one or more other environmental values, the higher offset rate would apply. This effectively means that offsets would not be duplicated. However, as a result of discussions with DCCEEW for the Lamb Creek Project, it is proposed to apply offsets on a per hectare, per species basis where DCCEEW's assessment has identified a significant residual impact. The approach to offsets will be finalised in the Decision Notice.

The offset calculations are shown in Attachment 1, Section 7.2, pp. 133 - 134.

#### **4.1.5 Migratory Species**

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

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

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

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

**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 Proposed Action is unlikely to have direct or indirect impacts on Migratory Species due to lack of suitable habitat and species recorded. A search of the Protected Matters Search Tool identified 14 Migratory Species within the search area (50 km buffer), however, no migratory shorebirds were recorded during the Phoenix (2024) detailed survey and the likelihood assessment assigned all 'unlikely' or 'possible' except for Fork tailed swift (*Apus pacificus*) (refer to Attachment 8, Appendix C for Likelihood of Occurrence Assessment).

The Fork-tailed Swift has previously been recorded in the Wodgina Mine Area on the Great Northern Highway in 2014. This species is almost entirely airborne and does not depend significantly on terrestrial habitat. It is unlikely that the Project would lead to a long-term reduction in the population of the Fork-tailed Swift due to its high mobility, extensive home range and lack of dependence on terrestrial habitats.

Impacts to migratory species within the Proposed Action are expected to be negligible as fauna habitats are not restricted to the Proposed Action Area, and a lack of suitable habitat is present for migratory shorebirds. Individuals that may fly over or occasionally use the habitat within the Proposed Action area are in low numbers and do not rely on the habitat for survival. As such, key mitigation measures are mostly associated with management strategies. These comprise clearing and construction management to avoid or minimise loss of fauna habitat, the implementation of the SFMP to implement management measures for conservation significant species during clearing and operation, and implementation of the Proposed Action EMS to prevent indirect impacts associated with altered fire regimes, feral animals and noise, vibration and artificial light sources associated with construction and operation of the Proposed Action.

## **4.1.6 Nuclear**

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

No

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

\*

The Proposed Action is not a nuclear action. Impacts as a result of nuclear actions are therefore not anticipated to occur. No further information is required.

## **4.1.7 Commonwealth Marine Area**

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

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

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

—

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

No

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

\*

The Proposed Action area occurs onshore and does not intersect with a Commonwealth Marine Area, therefore, no impacts to this Protect Matter are anticipated to occur. No further information is provided.

**4.1.8 Great Barrier Reef**

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

No

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

\*

The Proposed Action is not located within or near to the Great Barrier Reef and therefore no impacts will occur. No further information is provided.

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

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

No

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

\*

The Proposed Action is not a large coal mining development or coal seam gas project, therefore, no impacts to water resources will occur as a result of these activities. No further information is provided.

**4.1.10 Commonwealth Land**

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

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

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

—

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

No

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

\*

The Proposed Action area does not overlap Commonwealth land, therefore, no impacts to Commonwealth land will occur. No further information is provided.

**4.1.11 Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas**

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

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

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

—

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

No

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

\*

The Proposed Action is not located in international waters or on international lands. The Proposed Action does not, therefore, overlap any Commonwealth heritage places overseas and impacts to Commonwealth heritage places overseas will not occur. No further information is provided.

**4.1.12 Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency**

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

No

## 4.2 Impact summary

### Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

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

- Threatened Species and Ecological Communities (S18)

### Conclusion on the likelihood of unlikely significant impacts

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

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

## 4.3 Alternatives

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

No

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

Site and activity selection for the Proposed Action was carried out through an iterative process, whereby potential locations, designs and activities were evaluated against the risk management hierarchy (avoid, minimise, mitigate) to achieve a reduced environmental risk profile.

The following key alternative options were considered and excluded:

#### **Underground operations**

Investigation into underground operation potential at the Project is ongoing and will continue over the coming years, with early studies suggesting underground operations may be feasible at a higher spodumene concentrate price. If underground operations are adopted during the life of the Project, a paste backfill plant would be required which would reduce the total surface footprint of above ground TSFs. Current circumstances demonstrate that underground mining may become economically feasible from 2031, however, as this is not a certainty, this Proposed Action has assumed that the full extent of the above ground TSF will be required. A transition to underground in the future would not result in an increase in impacts to MNES and therefore would not be referred under the EPBC Act for assessment.

#### **Alternative TSF**

Two alternative TSF concepts were considered and were excluded due to the proximity to sensitive fauna habitat (i.e. Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat and Ghost Bat roosts) and Heritage Places. The alternate options with environmental constraints are presented in Attachment 1, Section 2.4.2.2, pp. 32-33.

The Proposed Action addresses a large Southern Basin TSF footprint. A smaller version of this TSF is presented in Attachment 1, Section 2.4.2.2, p. 34. The capacity of this design is 16 Mm<sup>3</sup> which will provide capacity for approximately only 8 years, or until approximately 2036. The smaller design is not suitable for the operations over the longer term and was therefore excluded from further consideration.

#### **No Proposed Action**

No action will result in the Wodgina Lithium Project ceasing operation in 2028 due to a lack of tailings storage capacity. There are currently approximately 800 MinRes employees working at Wodgina, with further personnel in MinRes' head office supporting the site. Closure of the site would result in direct loss of these roles and would also impact the contractors and suppliers involved in the site.

Lithium is a critical mineral, necessary for green energy infrastructure and technologies. The Australia Government's *Future Made in Australia National Interest Framework (2024)* identifies the critical minerals sector as a priority industry, critical to Australia's net zero transformation. Closure of the Wodgina Project would reduce lithium production in Australia, with alternative sources needed to be identified and developed.

Refer to Attachment 1, Section 2.4.2, pp. 32 - 37 for further detail.

# 5. Lodgement

## 5.1 Attachments

### 1.2.1 Overview of the proposed action

	<b>Type</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Confidence</b>
#1.	Document	Att 1 - EPBC Referral Supporting Document.pdf Wodgina Lithium Expansion Project supporting document for the EPBC Act Referral	02/04/2026	Yes	High
#2.	Document	Att 1 Redacted - EPBC Referral Supporting Document.pdf Wodgina Lithium Expansion Project supporting document for the EPBC Act Referral	02/04/2026	No	High

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

	<b>Type</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Confidence</b>
#1.	Document	Att 2 - Environment Policy.pdf MinRes Environment Policy (MRL-EN-POL-0001)	01/07/2022	No	High

### 3.2.1 Flora and fauna within the affected area

	<b>Type</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Confidence</b>
#1.	Document	Att 10 - Flora and Vegetation Assessment.pdf Flora and Vegetation Assessment 2025	29/01/2026	Yes	High
#2.	Document	Att 10 Redacted - Flora and Vegetation Assessment.pdf Flora and vegetation assessment 2025	29/01/2026	No	High
#3.	Document	Att 3 - Protected Matters Search Tool Results.pdf Protected Matters Search Tool Results	16/09/2025	No	High
#4.	Document	Att 4 - MNES Significance Report-2026.pdf MNES Significant Impact Assessment	23/03/2025	Yes	High
#5.	Document	Att 4 Redacted - MNES Significance Report-2026.pdf MNES Significance Report	23/03/2026	No	High
#6.	Document	Att 6 - Flora and Vegetation Management Plan.pdf Flora and Vegetation Management Plan	23/03/2026	Yes	High
#7.	Document	Att 6 Redacted - Flora and Vegetation Management Plan.pdf Flora and Vegetation Management Plan	23/03/2025	No	High
#8.	Document				

		Att 8 - Detailed Terrestrial Fauna Survey-2024.pdf Detailed Terrestrial Fauna Assessment 2024	17/10/2024	Yes	High
#9.	Document	Att 8 Redacted - Detailed Terrestrial Fauna Survey-2024.pdf Detailed terrestrial fauna survey	17/10/2024	No	High
#10.	Document	Att 9 - Basic Fauna Assessment-2026.pdf Basic Terrestrial Fauna Survey	06/03/2026	Yes	High
#11.	Document	Att 9 Redacted - Basic Fauna Assessment-2026.pdf Basic terrestrial fauna assessment	06/03/2026	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 5 - Significant Fauna Management Plan.pdf Significant Fauna Management Plan	23/03/2026	Yes	High
#2.	Document	Att 5 Redacted - Significant Fauna Management Plan.pdf Significant Fauna Management Plan	23/03/2026	No	High
#3.	Document	Att 7 - Night Parrot Likelihood Review-2025.pdf Night Parrot Likelihood Review	12/03/2026	Yes	High
#4.	Document	Att 7 Redacted - Night Parrot Likelihood Review-2025.pdf Night Parrot Likelihood Review	12/03/2026	No	High

## 5.2 Declarations

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## ✔ Completed Referring party's declaration

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

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ABN/ACN	52637077608
Organisation name	MARBL LITHIUM OPERATIONS PTY LTD
Organisation address	6017 WA
Representative's name	Savannah Killerby-Smith
Representative's job title	Senior Environmental Advisor
Phone	+61417132593
Email	Savannah.Killerby@mrl.com.au
Address	20 Walters Dr, Osborne Park WA 6017

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

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

By checking this box, I, **Savannah Killerby-Smith of MARBL LITHIUM OPERATIONS PTY LTD**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. \*

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

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## ✔ 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.

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ABN/ACN	52637077608
Organisation name	MARBL LITHIUM OPERATIONS PTY LTD
Organisation address	6017 WA
Representative's name	Jenny Cookson

Representative's job title	Senior Manager Approvals
Phone	+61 8 9329 3600
Email	jenny.cookson@mrl.com.au
Address	20 Walters Drive, Osborne Park, Western Australia 6017

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

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

I, **Jenny Cookson of MARBL LITHIUM OPERATIONS 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. \*

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

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### **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.

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Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

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

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

I, **Jenny Cookson of MARBL LITHIUM OPERATIONS 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. \*

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

