



# Environmental Protection Authority

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Mr Mick Anstey  
General Manager, Health Safety  
Environment and Community  
Flinders Mines Limited  
PO Box 3065  
**RUNDLE MALL SA 5000**

*Our Ref* OEPA2011/000614  
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Dear Mr Anstey

## EPA PREPARED SCOPING GUIDELINE

**PROPOSAL:** Flinders Pilbara Iron Ore Project  
**LOCALITY:** Shire of Ashburton  
**PROPONENT:** Flinders Mines Ltd  
**DECISION:** Assess: Assessment on Proponent Information (Assessment No. 1903)  
**PROCEDURE:** Category A – EPA-prepared scoping guideline

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has set the level of assessment on the above proposal as Assessment on Proponent Information (API) - Category A.

The procedure for an API - Category A is described in the *Environmental Impact Assessment - Administrative Procedures 2010*. This level of assessment provides for the assessment of a proposal where:

1. the proposal raises a limited number of significant environmental factors that can be readily managed, and for which there is an established condition-setting framework;
2. the proposal is consistent with established environmental policy frameworks, guidelines and standards;
3. the proponent can demonstrate that it has conducted appropriate and effective stakeholder consultation; and
4. there is limited, or local, interest only in the proposal

You are required to prepare an Environmental Review (ER) document in accordance with this scoping guideline.

Once a satisfactory ER document is received the EPA will proceed to assess the proposal and provide an assessment report and recommendations to the Minister for Environment in accordance with section 44 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act).

The ER document will be made publically available when the EPA releases its report and recommendations, and must be a standalone document that contains the following information:

- a. Description of the proposal and alternatives considered, including alternative locations with a view to minimising environmental impacts.
- b. Description of the receiving environment, its conservation values and key ecosystem processes, and discussion of their significance in a regional setting. This description should focus on those elements of the environment likely to be adversely affected by the proposal.
- c. Identification of the key environmental issues (and a list of the environmental factors associated with these issues) and their relative significance.
- d. Discussion and analysis of the direct and indirect impacts of the proposal, in a local and regional context, including cumulative impacts.
- e. Findings of the surveys and investigations undertaken (and technical reports provided as appendices).
- f. Identification of management measures to mitigate significant adverse impacts.
- g. Identification of any offsets, where appropriate, after all other steps in the mitigation sequence have been exhausted.
- h. Spatial datasets, information products and databases required.
- i. Demonstration that the expectations for Environmental Impact Assessment identified in section 5 of the Administrative Procedures 2010 have been addressed.

- j. Demonstration that the proposal conforms with; the principles of the EP Act, relevant environmental objectives, policies, guidelines, standards and procedures.
- k. Details of stakeholder consultation. As proponent you are expected to engage in consultation with State and local government agencies and stakeholders who are interested in or affected by their proposal, including the local community. Proponents should ensure that people are informed about their proposal and its impacts, and there are opportunities for public participation. Proponents should identify in their documentation how issues raised during the stakeholder consultation have been responded to, and any subsequent adjustments made to their proposals.
- l. Provision of a completed checklist for documents submitted for EIA on terrestrial biodiversity, as detailed on the EPA website [www.epa.wa.gov.au](http://www.epa.wa.gov.au)

The EPA considers the following preliminary environmental issues or factors to be of key significance to the proposal:

- Vegetation and flora - particularly in relation to Declared Priority Flora species and threatened ecological communities.
- Fauna - particularly in relation to troglifauna and stygofauna.
- Groundwater – the potential impacts of the project on the local and regional aquifers relating to the quality and quantity of groundwater.
- Rehabilitation and Mine Closure – final landforms, predictions about the final resting state of the pit (final level, quality) and revegetation.

As the proposed mine is close to FMG's Solomon Project, the EPA requires that cumulative impacts are addressed. The ER document should also identify any other potential environmental impacts and succinctly address the management of these impacts. The ER document should provide sufficient confidence to the EPA that the environmental factors identified above will be able to be appropriately managed, including the provision of details of other relevant approvals that may be required.

The EPA considers that as a minimum, the following stakeholders should be consulted during the preparation of the ER document:

- Department of Environment and Conservation;
- Department of Water;
- Department of Mines and Petroleum;
- Department of Indigenous Affairs; and
- Shire of Ashburton.

The EPA considers that the ER document should address the policy framework, guidelines and standards listed below:

EPA Guidance Statements and Environmental Assessment Guidelines:

- Environmental Assessment Guideline No. 6.- Timelines for Environmental Impact Assessment of Proposal
- EPA Guidance Statement No. 20 - Sampling of Short Range Endemic Invertebrate Fauna for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia (May 2009)
- EPA Guidance Statement No. 41 - Assessment of Aboriginal Heritage (April 2004)
- EPA Guidance Statement No. 51 - Terrestrial Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia (June 2004)
- EPA Guidance Statement No. 54 - Consideration of Subterranean Fauna in Groundwater and Caves during EIA in WA. (December 2003)
- EPA Guidance Statement No. 54a - Sampling methods and survey considerations for subterranean fauna in Western Australia (August 2007)
- EPA Guidance Statement No. 56 - Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia (June 2004)
- Technical guide - Terrestrial Vertebrate Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment (September 2010)
- EPA Guidance Statement No. 19 – Environmental Offsets (September 2008)
- Environmental Protection Bulletin No. 1 - Environmental Offsets – Biodiversity (September 2008)
- EPA Guidance Statement No. 6 - Rehabilitation of Terrestrial Ecosystems (June 2006)
- EPA and DMP *Guidelines for Preparing Mine Closure Plans* (June 2011)


Other Policy and Guidelines

- Pilbara water in mining guideline (DoW, September 2009)

**Target Timeframe**

It is understood that the ER Document may be submitted in February 2012. Upon receipt of an adequate document, the timelines for the proposal are those described in Environmental Assessment Guideline No. 6 - Timelines for Environmental Impact Assessment of Proposal

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Vogel', is written over a horizontal line that extends across the page.

**Dr Paul Vogel**  
CHAIRMAN

19 January 2012

