

WESTERN AREAS LTD



Spotted Quoll Open Pit Nickel Mine Ministerial Statement 808 Annual Compliance Assessment Report 1 July 2018 to the 30 June 2019



PREPARED BY: Western Areas Limited

PREPARED FOR: Office of the Environmental Protection Authority - Compliance Branch

DUE DATE: 17 September 2019

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1. Introduction

The Spotted Quoll Open Pit Nickel Mine is part of the Forrestania Nickel Operation (FNO) which is located approximately 160 kilometres (km) south of Southern Cross and 80 km east of Hyden in the Shire of Kondinin (Figure 1). The Spotted Quoll mine is wholly owned operated by Western Areas Limited (WAL).

The Spotted Quoll Open Pit Nickel Mine was approved under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) in September 2009 and issued Ministerial Statement No. 808 (MS808) (Appendix 1). A second referral was submitted to the EPA on the 2 August 2010 for the Spotted Quoll Underground Nickel Mine. The EPA decided not to subject the second proposal to a formal environmental impact assessment process and the subsequent setting of formal conditions by the Minister for Environment (Appendix 2); however, did provide public advice on the 8 October 2010 under Section 39A (7) of the EP Act (Appendix 3). In summary, WAL was advised to clearly establish and distinguish any impacts from the underground mine from the open cut pit to ensure that they remain compliant with the existing MS808.

A statement to amend conditions applying to MS808 was issued on the 2 December 2011 as Ministerial Statement 882 (MS882) (Appendix 4) and subsequently condition M8-2 of MS808 was replaced and condition M8-3 of MS808 deleted.

Condition M4-6 of MS808 requires the preparation and submission of an annual Compliance Assessment Report (CAR) for the preceding 12 months. This report has been prepared to meet condition M4-6 and covers the period 17 September 2018 to 16 September 2019. The MS808 audit compliance table is provided in Appendix 5.

This annual CAR has been prepared by WAL for the Spotted Quoll project area and has been prepared in accordance with the Compliance Assessment Plan (CAP) dated March 2010.

1.1. Approvals Record

A record of other approvals sought and gained by WAL for the Spotted Quoll project is presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Approvals Record

Approval Type	Reference Number	Date Approved	Description	Issuing Authority
Works Approval	WA 4499/2008/1 (DEC9635)	24/09/2009	Dewatering infrastructure (water bores, dewatering pipeline and settling ponds).	Department of Environment and Conservation
Mining Proposal	REG ID 22286	07/10/2009	Spotted Quoll Open Pit Nickel Mine and related infrastructure.	Department of Mines and Petroleum
Abstraction Licence	GWL170112	19/11/2009	License to take water for mine dewatering activities.	Department of Water
Prescribed Premises License	L8041/1990/3	04/02/2010	Amendment made to the Flying Fox Prescribed Premises Licence to include the dewatering activities associated with the Spotted Quoll Open Pit Nickel Mine.	Department of Environment and Conservation

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Mining Proposal	REG ID 28561	29/11/2010	Spotted Quoll Underground Nickel Mine and related infrastructure.	Department of Mines and Petroleum
Mining Proposal	REG ID 35890	09/08/2012	Spotted Quoll Underground Nickel Mine related infrastructure upgrade.	Department of Mines and Petroleum
Prescribed Premises License	L8041/1990/5	17/10/2013	All WAL FNO prescribed premises licenses amalgamated to form a contiguous boundary and operate in an integrated entity.	Department of Environment and Regulation
Mining Proposal	REG ID 22286	21/01/2015	Spotted Quoll Underground Nickel Mine return airway shaft.	Department of Mines and Petroleum
Licence Amendment	L8041/1990/1	14/04/2016	Various amendments.	Department of Environment and Regulation
Mine Closure Plan	REG ID 60856	20/12/2016	FNO Mine Closure Plan.	Department of Mines and Petroleum
Amendment Notice	L8041/1990/5	14/12/2017	Groundwater Monitoring Programme	Department of Water and Environment Regulation
Mining Proposal	REG ID 73637	20/06/2018	Vegetation EIA - Spotted Quoll Vent Shaft	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety
Mining Proposal	REG ID 76230	17/10/2018	Spotted Quoll – Vent Shaft Groundwater Bores	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety
Works Approval / Licence Amendment	W5665/2014/1 L8041/1990/5	14/09/2019	Spotted Quoll – Septic Drying Lagoons	Department of Water and Environment Regulation
Works Approval / Licence Amendment	L8041-AN2 L8041/1990/5	26/01/2019	Spotted Quoll – Vent Shaft Bores	Department of Water and Environment Regulation

2. Summary of Proposal's Implementation Status

The Spotted Quoll open pit ceased production in February 2012 whilst underground operations commenced in April 2011 and have since continued. A layout diagram of the Spotted Quoll project is included as Figure 2 and is comprised of:

- Open Pit Mine
- Underground Mine
- Waste Dump
- Topsoil Stockpiles

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- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Paste Plant | • Septic System |
| • Vent Shaft | • Bioremediation Facility |
| • Mine Ore Pad | • Transport and Powerline Corridors |
| • Offices | • Overburden Stockpile |
| • Workshops and Fuel Bay | • Laydown Facility |
| • Dewatering Infrastructure | • Switch Yard |

Activities undertaken for the reporting period included:

- Development of the Spotted Quoll underground mine vent shaft
- Continuation of the Spotted Quoll underground mine
- Rehabilitation works of the Spotted Quoll waste dump.

3. Statement of Compliance

3.1. Proposal and Proponent Details

Proposal Title	Spotted Quoll Open Pit Nickel Mine
Statement Number	Ministerial Statement 808 and 882
Proponent Name	Western Areas Limited
Proponent's Australian Company Number	091 049 357

3.2. Statement of Compliance (SoC) Details

Reporting Period	1 July 2018 to the 30 June 2019
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Implementation phase(s) during reporting period (please tick ✓ relevant phase(s))							
Pre-construction		Construction		Operation	✓	Decommissioning	

Audit Table for the Statement addressed in this SoC is provided in Attachment:	Appendix 5
<p>The audit table has been prepared in accordance with the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority's (OEPA) Post Assessment Guideline for Preparing an Audit Table, as amended from time to time. The 'Status Column' of the audit table has accurately described the compliance status of each implementation condition and/or procedure for the reporting period of this Statement of Compliance. The terms used by WAL in the 'Status Column' of the audit table are limited to the Compliance Status Terms listed and defined as per Table 2.</p>	

Table 2: Compliance Status Terms

Compliance Status Terms	Abbrev	Definition	Notes
Compliant	C	Implementation of the proposal has been carried out in accordance with the requirements of the audit element.	This term applies to audit elements with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ongoing requirements that have been met during the reporting period; and requirements with a finite period of application that have been met during the reporting period, but whose status has not yet been classified as 'completed'.
Completed	CLD	A requirement with a finite period of application has been satisfactorily completed.	This term may only be used where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> audit elements have a finite period of application (e.g. construction activities, development of a document); the action has been satisfactorily completed; and the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority (OEPA) has provided written acceptance of 'completed' status for the audit element.
Not required at this stage	NR	The requirements of the audit element were not triggered during the reporting period.	This should be consistent with the 'Phase' column of the audit table.
Potentially Non-compliant	PNC	Possible or likely failure to meet the requirements of the audit element.	This term may apply where during the reporting period the proponent has identified a potential non-compliance and has not yet finalized its investigations to determine whether non-compliance has occurred.
Non-compliant	NC	Implementation of the proposal has not been carried out in accordance with the requirements of the audit element.	This term applies where the requirements of the audit element are not "complete" have not been met during the reporting period.

Were all implementation conditions and/or procedures of the Statement complied with within the reporting period? (please tick <input type="checkbox"/> the appropriate box)			
No (please proceed to Section 3.3)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes (please proceed to Section 3.4)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.3. Details of Non-compliance(s) and/or Potential Non-compliance(s)

The information for each non-compliance or potential non-compliance identified during the reporting period covered by this Statement of Compliance is provided in Table 3.

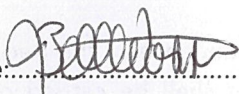
Table 3: Non-compliance/potential non-compliance

Which implementation condition or procedure was non-compliant or potentially non-compliant?		
Was the implementation condition or procedure non-compliant or potentially non-compliant?		
On what date(s) did the non-compliance or potential non-compliance occur (if applicable)?		
Was this non-compliance or potential non-compliance reported to the General Manager, OEPA?		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Reported to OEPA verbally. Date: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Reported to OEPA in writing. Date: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> No
What are the details of the non-compliance or potential non-compliance and where relevant, the extent of and impacts associated with the non-compliance or potential non-compliance?		
What is the precise location where the non-compliance or potential non-compliance occurred (if applicable)? (please provide this information as a map or GIS co-ordinates)		
What was the cause(s) of the non-compliance or potential non-compliance?		
What remedial and/or corrective action(s), if any, were taken or are proposed to be taken in response to the non-compliance or potential non-compliance?		
What measures, if any, were in place to prevent the non-compliance or potential non-compliance before it occurred? What, if any, amendments have been made to those measures to prevent re-occurrence?		
Please provide information/documentation collected and recorded in relation to this implementation condition or procedure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in the reporting period addressed in this Statement of Compliance; and • as outlined in the approved Compliance Assessment Plan for the Statement addressed in this Statement of Compliance. (the above information may be provided as an attachment to this Statement of Compliance)		

* For additional non-compliance or potential non-compliance, please duplicate Table 3 as required.

3.4. Proponent Declaration

I, JOSEPH BELLADONNA, (full name and position title) declare that I am authorised on behalf of WESTERN AREAS LTD. (being the person responsible for the proposal) to submit this Statement of Compliance and that the information contained in this Statement of Compliance is true and not misleading.

Signature:  Date: 17/9/19

Please note that:

- it is an offence under section 112 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 for a person to give or cause to be given information that to his knowledge is false or misleading in a material particular; and
- the General Manager of the OEPA has powers under section 47(2) of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 to require reports and information about implementation of the proposal to which the statement relates and compliance with the implementation conditions.

4. Environmental Monitoring

Various environmental monitoring programs (Table 4) were carried out during the 2018 to 2019 reporting period. Details of these monitoring activities with results are provided to the relevant government departments (Department of Water and Environment Regulation; Department of Mines, Industry Regulation; and Safety and Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions) and Not-For-Profit Organizations (National Malleefowl Recovery Team) in separate annual reports.

Table 4: Environmental Monitoring Programs

Aspect	Monitoring Method	Frequency
Ground Disturbance Activities	Disturbance Mapping and Reconciliation	Annually
Groundwater Quality and Levels	Standing Water Levels	Quarterly
	pH, EC and Major Analytes	Quarterly
Surface Water Quality (surface drainage)	pH, EC and TDS	Quarterly

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Aspect	Monitoring Method	Frequency
Dust Emissions	Dust Deposition (5 fractions) and Metals	Quarterly
Fire Fuel Loading	Fuel Load Assessments	Annually
Weed Establishment	Weed Identification and Mapping	Quarterly
Rehabilitation	Rehabilitation monitoring	Biennially
	Visual inspections	Annually
Feral Animals (wild dog, fox and cat)	Visual sightings	As reported
Malleefowl Mounds	National Malleefowl Recovery Database (total of 109 mounds) and Remote Camera.	Annually
Western Quoll (Chuditch)	Remote Camera and Nocturnal Monitoring	Biannual
Stygofauna	Bore purging and netting	Annually
Environmental Management	Internal audit of management system	Annually
Incidents	Internal review	Quarterly

4.1. Declared Rare Flora (*Eucalyptus steedmanii*)

Condition 6-3 of MS808 states that WAL shall monitor the health and abundance of the Declared Rare Flora (DRF) *Eucalyptus steedmanii* populations and that the monitoring shall be carried out to the satisfaction of the CEO of the then Department of Environment and Conservation (now Department of Water and Environmental Regulation). A copy of the DRF Annual Monitoring Report is provided in Appendix 7.

In 2009, WAL engaged Coffey to produce a Management Plan (dated 10 June 2009) for *Eucalyptus steedmanii* to satisfy monitoring requirements as per Condition 6-3 of MS808. Monitoring requirements under this plan are detailed in Table 5.

Table 5: *Eucalyptus steedmanii* Monitoring Requirements June 2009

Aspect	Monitoring Method	Frequency
Declared Rare Flora (<i>Eucalyptus steedmanii</i>)	Delineate DRF populations and ascertain population numbers.	Prior to commencement of construction activities
	Baseline monitoring of plant health, recruitment and reproductive status DRF populations.	
	DRF population census of all seven known <i>Eucalyptus steedmanii</i> populations	Prior to commencement of construction activities and thereafter quadrennial.
	Visual monitoring of populations in close proximity to the haul road and operations.	Weekly
	Transect monitoring of populations for plant health and reproductive status.	Monthly

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In 2014, WAL engaged Astron Environmental Services (AES) to revise the *Eucalyptus steedmanii* management plan. They provided a 'Steedman's Gum Conservation Management Plan for Operational and Closure Stages of the Spotted Quoll Mine' (dated April 2014). This plan was submitted to the Office of the EPA for review on 15th April 2014 which was formally accepted on the 20 May 2014 (Appendix 6). Monitoring requirements under this plan are detailed in Table 6. WSA proposes to review and update this Management Plan and submit for review and approval during 2019.

Table 6: *Eucalyptus steedmanii* Revised Monitoring Requirements April 2014

Activity	Parameters	Populations	Frequency
Census	Plant density Plant condition rating Reproductive status	1 to 8 [^]	Quadrennial
<i>E. steedmanii</i> health monitoring (observation)	Visual observations and photographs	1, 3A/3B and plants identified by Botanica (2009)	Quarterly
<i>E. steedmanii</i> health monitoring (ratings)	Plant condition rating. Presence of seed. Seed development. Recruitment.	1, 2, 3A/3B and 7.	Quarterly
		4 and 5.	Annually
Dust deposition (gauges)	Weight per unit area per unit per area time	At-risk populations and control areas*	Quarterly
Dust deposition (<i>E. steedmanii</i>)	Deposition rating	At-risk populations and control areas*	Quarterly
Fuel Load	Unspecified	Areas surrounding Spotted Quoll operations.	Annual
Miscellaneous potential threats	Unintentional clearing. Spillage of saline water. Fire and its management. Uncontrolled vehicle access.	Areas surrounding Spotted Quoll operations.	Concurrent with above monitoring activities and opportunistic surveillance at other times

*At-risk populations with respect to dust deposition are those adjacent to the haul road and those to the south of the pit; therefore, Population 1, 3a and 3b. Dust gauges and *E. steedmanii* monitoring transects at population 2 and 7 are therefore assumed at present to be controls (that is, sites where no impact of dust from operations is expected).

4.2. Raw Data

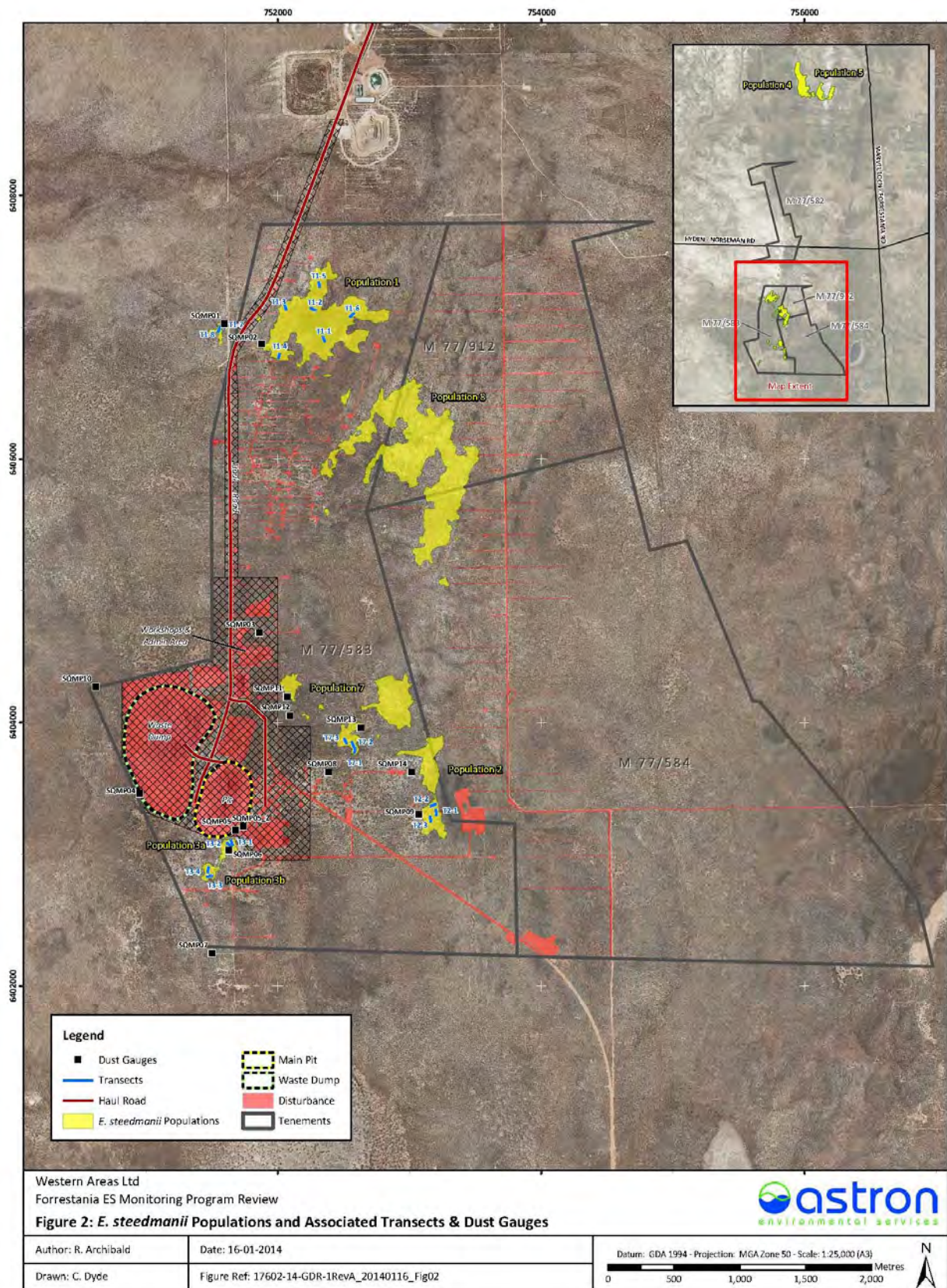
Monitoring data collected as per Table 6 during the reporting period and has been provided in this CAR as Appendix 7 (Annual DRF Monitoring Report) to meet Condition 6-4 of MS808. The most recent DRF census was undertaken during May 2019 by Botanica Consulting.

5. Figures

5.1. Project Location



5.2. Project Area and Site Layout



6. Appendices

6.1. Ministerial Statement 808

STATUS OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document has been produced by the Office of the Appeals Convenor as an electronic version of the original Statement for the proposal listed below as signed by the Minister and held by this Office. Whilst every effort is made to ensure its accuracy, no warranty is given as to the accuracy or completeness of this document.

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Published on 17 September 2009

Statement No. 808

STATEMENT THAT A PROPOSAL MAY BE IMPLEMENTED (PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE *ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1986*)

SPOTTED QUOLL OPEN PIT NICKEL MINE SHIRE OF KONDININ

Proposal: The proposal is to develop and operate an open pit nickel mine and associated infrastructure on Mining Lease 77/00583 and haulage road on Mining Lease 77/00545 within the Shire of Kondinin.

The proposal is further documented in schedule 1 of this statement.

Proponent: Western Areas NL

Proponent Address: Suite 3, Level 1, 11, Ventnor Avenue,
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Assessment Number: 1795

Report of the Environmental Protection Authority: Report 1334

The proposal referred to in the above report of the Environmental Protection Authority may be implemented. The implementation of that proposal is subject to the following conditions and procedures:

1 Proposal Implementation

1-1 The proponent shall implement the proposal as documented and described in schedule 1 of this statement subject to the conditions and procedures of this statement.

2 Proponent Nomination and Contact Details

2-1 The proponent for the time being nominated by the Minister for Environment under sections 38(6) or 38(7) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* is responsible for the implementation of the proposal.

- 2-2 The proponent shall notify the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environment and Conservation of any change of the name and address of the proponent for the serving of notices or other correspondence within 30 days of such change.

3 Time Limit of Authorisation

- 3-1 The authorisation to implement the proposal provided for in this statement shall lapse and be void five years after the date of this statement if the proposal to which this statement relates is not substantially commenced.
- 3-2 The proponent shall provide the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environment and Conservation with written evidence which demonstrates that the proposal has substantially commenced on or before the expiration of five years from the date of this statement.

4 Compliance Reporting

- 4-1 The proponent shall prepare and maintain a compliance assessment plan to the satisfaction of the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environment and Conservation.
- 4-2 The proponent shall submit to the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environment and Conservation, the compliance assessment plan required by condition 4-1 at least 6 months prior to the first compliance report required by condition 4-6. The compliance assessment plan shall indicate:
1. the frequency of compliance reporting;
 2. the approach and timing of compliance assessments;
 3. the retention of compliance assessments;
 4. reporting of potential non-compliances and corrective actions taken;
 5. the table of contents of compliance reports; and
 6. public availability of compliance reports.
- 4-3 The proponent shall assess compliance with conditions in accordance with the compliance assessment plan required by condition 4-1.
- 4-4 The proponent shall retain reports of all compliance assessments described in the compliance assessment plan required by condition 4-1 and shall make those reports available when requested by the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environment and Conservation.

- 4-5 The proponent shall advise the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environment and Conservation of any potential non-compliance within two business days of that non-compliance being known.
- 4-6 The proponent shall submit a compliance assessment report annually from the date of issue of this Implementation Statement addressing the previous twelve month period or other period as agreed by the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environment and Conservation. The compliance assessment report shall:
1. be endorsed by the proponent's Managing Director or a person, approved in writing by the Department of Environment and Conservation, delegated to sign on the Managing Director's behalf;
 2. include a statement as to whether the proponent has complied with the conditions;
 3. identify all potential non-compliances and describe corrective and preventative actions taken;
 4. be made publicly available in accordance with the approved compliance assessment plan; and
 5. indicate any proposed changes to the compliance assessment plan required by condition 4-1.

5 Performance Review and Reporting

- 5-1 The proponent shall submit to the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environment and Conservation, a Performance Review Report at the conclusion of the first year after the start of implementation and then annually, which addresses:
1. the major environmental risks and impacts; the performance objectives, standards and criteria related to these; the success of risk reduction/impact mitigation measures and results of monitoring related to management of the major risks and impacts;
 2. the level of progress in the achievement of sound environmental performance, including industry benchmarking, and the use of best available technology where practicable; and
 3. improvements gained in environmental management which could be applied to this and other similar projects.

6 Flora and Vegetation

- 6-1 The proponent shall not cause the loss of the Declared Rare Flora *Eucalyptus steedmanii* from the implementation of the proposal.
- 6-2 Prior to ground disturbing activities, the proponent shall undertake baseline monitoring of the health and abundance of the Declared Rare Flora *Eucalyptus*

steedmanii populations 2, 3a, 3b, 7 and population 1 (including individuals in close proximity to the haul road and the population fragment to the west of the haul road) identified in Figure 3, schedule 1.

- 6-3 The proponent shall monitor impacts on the health and abundance of the Declared Rare Flora *Eucalyptus steedmanii* populations as identified in condition 6-2, from activities undertaken in implementing the proposal. This monitoring shall be carried out to the satisfaction of the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environment and Conservation.
- 6-4 The proponent shall submit annually the results of monitoring required by condition 6-3 to the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environment and Conservation.
- 6-5 In the event that monitoring required by condition 6-3 indicates a decline in the health or abundance of Declared Rare Flora *Eucalyptus steedmanii* outside the areas to be cleared:
 - 1. the proponent shall report such findings to the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environment and Conservation within 21 days of the decline being identified;
 - 2. provide evidence which allows determination of the cause of the decline;
 - 3. if determined by Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environment and Conservation to be a result of activities undertaken in implementing the proposal, the proponent shall submit actions to be taken to remediate the decline to the Chief Executive Officer; and
 - 4. the actions to remediate the decline of Declared Rare Flora shall be undertaken upon approval of the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environment and Conservation.
- 6-6 The proponent shall make the monitoring reports required by condition 6-5 publicly available in a manner approved by the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environment and Conservation.
- 7 Fauna**
- 7-1 The proponent shall implement measures identified in Chapter 6.3 of the *Environmental Protection Statement for the Proposed Spotted Quoll Mine*, prepared by Coffey Environments Pty Ltd, Perth, Western Australia (July 2009) to prevent adverse impacts to Malleefowl along the haul road.
- 8 Mine Closure and Rehabilitation**
- 8-1 Prior to the commencement of ground-disturbing activities, the proponent shall conduct surveys of the proposal area to collect baseline information on the following:
 - 1. pre-mining soil profiles;

2. groundwater levels;
3. surface water flows;
4. vegetation complexes;
5. landscape and landforms; and
6. material characterisation.

- 8-2 The proponent shall submit a Rehabilitation and Mine Closure Plan acceptable to the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Director General of the Department of Mines and Petroleum with the advice of other agencies as appropriate within 12 months of the commencement of ground disturbing activities.

The Rehabilitation and Mine Closure Plan shall provide for specific outcomes for:

1. landform design and material characterisation;
2. rehabilitation completion criteria consistent with Environmental Protection Authority Guidance Statement No. 6* to provide a self-sustaining, functional ecosystem comprising, native vegetation of local provenance species;
3. progressive rehabilitation timelines and monitoring against key performance indicators;
4. annual reporting procedures; and
5. procedures to review and revise the Rehabilitation and Mine Closure Plan.

* - *Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors: Rehabilitation of Terrestrial Ecosystems: No 6*, Environmental Protection Authority, 2006

- 8-3 The proponent shall ensure that after mine closure, the final pit void:
1. does not cause significant groundwater contamination outside of the final pit void;
 2. is not accessible by terrestrial native fauna if water remains in the final pit void; and
 3. is not accessible by any native fauna which may subsequently be harmed or fauna which may harm surrounding native vegetation.

Procedures

1. The Minister for Environment will determine any dispute between the proponent and the Environmental Protection Authority or the Department of Environment and Conservation over the fulfilment of the requirements of the conditions.

2. The proponent is required to apply for a Works Approval and Licence for this project under the provisions of Part V of the Environmental Protection Act 1986.
3. Where a condition lists advisory bodies, it is expected that the proponent will obtain the advice of those listed as part of its compliance reporting to the Department of Environment and Conservation.

Donna Faragher JP MLC
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, YOUTH

Schedule 1

Spotted Quoll Open Pit Nickel Mine (Assessment No. 1795)

The proposal is to:

- develop and operate an open pit nickel mine and associated infrastructure on Mining Lease 77/00583 and haulage road on Mining Lease 77/00545 within the Shire of Kondinin; and
- construct mining infrastructure at Spotted Quoll.

The location of the various project components is shown in Figure 1.

The main characteristics of the proposal are summarised in Table 1 below. A detailed description of the proposal is provided in Section 2 of the project referral document, *Environmental Protection Statement for the Proposed Spotted Quoll Mine*, prepared by Coffey Environments Pty Ltd, Perth, Western Australia (June 2009).

Table 1: Summary of key proposal characteristics for Spotted Quoll Open Pit Nickel Mine

Element	Description
General	
Project area	237 hectares
Area of vegetation disturbance	No more than 140 hectares
Total area of rehabilitation	A minimum of 120 hectares
Mining Operation	
Operating life	33 months (including 2-3 months pre-strip) (approximately)
Size of Orebody	Open Cut - 386,000 tonnes at 5.1% nickel (approximately)
Number of mine pits	One
Depth to groundwater	30 to 40 metres from ground level (approximately)
Total Mine Depth	150 metres from ground level (approximately)
Material movements:	
• Total waste	6.83 million tonnes per annum (approximately)
• Ore	200,000 tonnes per annum (approximately)
Dewatering rate	Years 1-2 year: up to 4.7 Gigalitres per year Year 3: 1.5 - 3.2 Gigalitres per year

Figures

- Figure 1. Project location.
 Figure 2. Project area and site layout.
 Figure 3. *Eucalyptus steedmanii* within and adjacent to the Spotted Quoll project area.



Figure 1: Project location

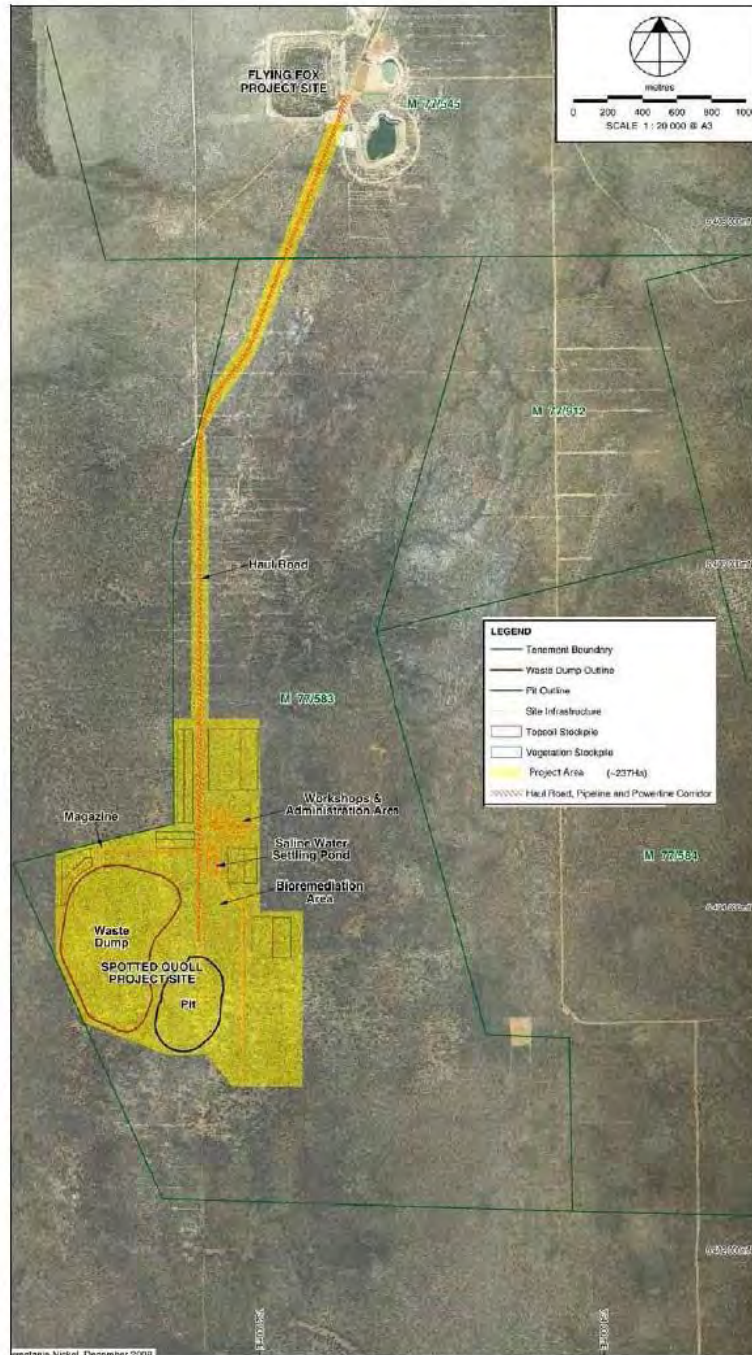


Figure 2: Project area and site layout

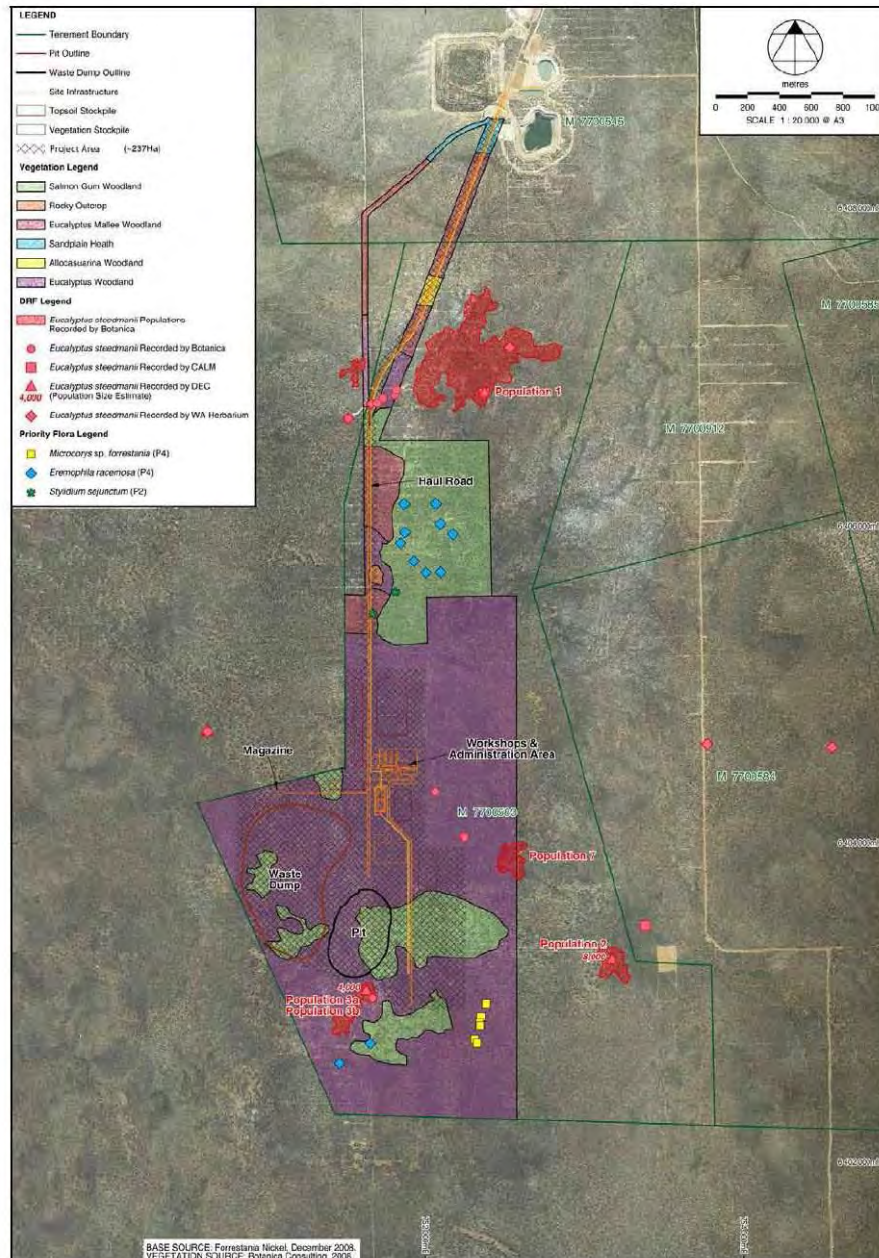


Figure 3: *Eucalyptus steedmanii* within and adjacent to the Spotted Quoll project area.

6.2. Letter of Advice not to Assess (SQ UG Nickel Mine)



Environmental Protection Authority

The Atrium,
Level 8, 168 St Georges Terrace,
Perth, Western Australia 6000.
Telephone: (08) 6467 5000.
Facsimile: (08) 6467 5557.

Postal Address: Locked Bag 33,
Cloisters Square, Perth, Western Australia 6850.
Website: www.epa.wa.gov.au

RECEIVED
31 AUG 2010

BY: _____

Chief Executive Officer
Western Areas NL
Suite 3, 11 Ventnor Avenue
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Our Ref A322609
Enquiries Peter Tapsell

Attn: Phil Knapton

Dear Sir/Madam

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 39A(3)(a)/(b) *Environmental Protection Act 1986*

PROPOSAL: Spotted Quoll underground mine M77/583 & M77/545
LOCATION: Approx 160 km S of Southern Cross & 80 km E of Hyden
PROponent: Western Areas NL
DECISION: Not Assessed - Public Advice Given

Thank you for your letter of 2 August 2010 referring the above matter to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) under section 38 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) for consideration of its potential environmental impact.

This proposal raises a number of environmental issues. However, the EPA has decided not to subject this proposal to the formal environmental impact assessment process and the subsequent setting of formal conditions by the Minister for Environment. Nevertheless, the EPA will provide advice to you and relevant authorities on the environmental aspects of the proposal. That advice will be forwarded to you and relevant public authorities following completion of the appeals process.

The EPA's decision to not assess the proposal is open to appeal. There is a 14-day period, closing on 13 September 2010, during which, on payment of the \$10 appeal fee, an appellant may ask the Minister to consider directing the EPA to conduct a formal assessment. Information on the outcome of the appeals process is available through the Appeals Convenor's website, www.appealsconvenor.wa.gov.au, or by telephoning 6467 5190 after the closing date of appeals.


The information received regarding your proposal will be made publicly available on request. However, 39(2) of the EP Act provides for a proponent to request that matters of a confidential nature not be kept on the public record. If you believe any part of the proposal information relates to a manufacturing process or trade secret which is commercially confidential and should not be publicly available, please contact the Assessment Officer cited above no later than 3 working days after the date of this letter. Any such request should be confirmed in writing.

Yours faithfully

Colin Murray
Director
Assessment and Compliance Services

30 August 2010

6.3. Public Advice Under EP Act Section 39A(7)



Office of the Environmental Protection Authority

RECEIVED
11 OCT 2010

BY: Anna

Chief Executive Officer
Western Areas NL
Suite 3, 11 Ventnor Avenue
WEST PERTH WA 6005

The Atrium,
Level 8, 168 St Georges Terrace,
Perth, Western Australia 6000.
Telephone: (08) 6467 5600.
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Our Ref: A322609
Enquiries: Peter Tapsell : 6467 5491
Email: peter.tapsell@epa.wa.gov.au

Attn: Phil Knapton

Dear Sir/Madam

PUBLIC ADVICE UNDER SECTION 39A(7)
Environmental Protection Act 1986

PROPOSAL:	Spotted Quoll underground mine M77/583 & M77/545
LOCATION:	Approx 160km S of Southern Cross & 80km E of Hyden
LOCALITY:	Shire of Kondinin
PROPONENT:	Western Areas NL
LEVEL OF ASSESSMENT:	Not Assessed – Public Advice Given

Further to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) letter of 30 August 2010 with regard to the above proposal, the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority (OEPA) advises that no appeals were received against the EPA's determination that your proposal should be treated as *Not Assessed-Public Advice Given*.

Accordingly, the OEPA provides the following advice:

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Environmental Issues

- a. Stygofauna
- b. Works Approval
- c. Existing Ministerial Statement

2. Advice and Recommendations regarding Environmental Issues

a. Stygofauna

The EPA notes that the proposal involves the extension of the period of extraction of groundwater to cater for the underground mine (increasing from 33 to approximately 108 months). The EPA also notes that the rate of extraction will not exceed the dewatering rates approved for the open cut mine.

6.4. Ministerial Statement 882

STATUS OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document has been produced by the Office of the Appeals Convenor as an electronic version of the original Statement for the proposal listed below as signed by the Minister and held by this Office. Whilst every effort is made to ensure its accuracy, no warranty is given as to the accuracy or completeness of this document.

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Published on: 2 December 2011

Statement No. 882

STATEMENT TO AMEND CONDITIONS APPLYING TO A PROPOSAL (PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 46 OF THE *ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1986*)

SPOTTED QUOLL OPEN PIT NICKEL MINE SHIRE OF KONDININ

Proposal: Refer to Ministerial Statement 808.

Proponent: Western Areas NL

Proponent Address: Level 2, 2 Kings Park Road
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Assessment Number: 1795

Report of the Environmental Protection Authority: Report 1417

Previous report of the Environmental Protection Authority: Report 1334

Previous Statement Number: 808 (published on 17 September 2009)

The implementation of the proposal to which the above report of the Environmental Protection Authority relates is subject to the conditions and procedures contained in Ministerial Statement 808, as amended by the following:

1. Condition 8-2 replaced

Condition 8-2 of Ministerial Statement 808 is deleted and replaced with:

"8-2 The proponent shall submit a Rehabilitation and Mine Closure Plan which is to be prepared to the requirements of the CEO of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority with the advice of other agencies as appropriate within 12 months of the commencement of ground disturbing activities.

The Rehabilitation and Mine Closure Plan shall cover:

1. landform design and material characterisation outcomes;

6.5. Compliance Audit Table

Audit Code	Subject	Requirement	How	Evidence	Phase	Timeframe	Status	Further Information
808: M1.1	Proposal Implementation	The proponent shall implement the proposal as documented and described in schedule 1 of this statement subject to the conditions and procedures of this statement.	Implement the proposal.	This document serves to confirm that the proposal has been implemented subject to the conditions and procedures of Statement 808 hence compliance with Condition 1 is met for the reporting period.	Overall.	Operating life.	C	Annual Performance Review Report 2018/19. Annual Compliance Assessment Report 2018/19.
808: M2.1	Proponent Nomination and Contact Details	The proponent for the time being nominated by the Minister for Environment under sections 38(6) or 38(7) of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 is responsible for the implementation of the proposal.	Western Areas Limited (WSA) are responsible for the implementation of the proposal.	Western Areas NL remains the proponent responsible for the implementation of the proposal hence compliance with Condition 2-1 is met for the reporting period.	Overall.	Operating life.	C	Annual Performance Review Report 2018/19. Annual Compliance Assessment Report 2018/19.
808: M2.2	Proponent Nomination and Contact Details	The proponent shall notify the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environment and Conservation of any change of the name and address of the proponent for the serving of notices or other correspondence within 30 days of such change.	Any changes to the proponent name and address are to be notified to the CEO.	Western Areas remains the proponent. While no record of official correspondence regarding the address change could be located at the time of the audit; however, all recent correspondence includes current address.	Overall.	Operating life.	C	Annual Performance Review Report 2018/19. Annual Compliance Assessment Report 2018/19.
808: M3.1	Time Limit of Authorisation	The authorisation to implement the proposal provided for in this statement shall lapse and be void five years after the date of this statement if the proposal to which this statement relates is not substantially commenced.	Substantial commencement of project occurred on the 9th of October 2009.	Annual Performance Review Report.	Overall.	Operating life.	C	Annual Performance Review Report 2018/19. Annual Compliance Assessment Report 2018/19.
808:	Time Limit of	The proponent shall provide the Chief Executive	WSA will provide a formal letter	Written Evidence to CEO demonstrating substantial	Overall.	Operating	C	Annual

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M3.2	Authorisation	Officer of the Department of Environment and Conservation with written evidence which demonstrates that the proposal has substantially commenced on or before the expiration of five years from the date of this statement.	notifying the CEO of DEC that the proposal has been substantially commenced before the 17th September 2014.	commencement of proposal.		life.		Performance Review Report 2018/19. Annual Compliance Assessment Report 2018/19.
808: M4.1	Compliance Reporting	The proponent shall prepare and maintain a compliance assessment plan to the satisfaction of the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environment and Conservation.	A Compliance assessment plan is to be prepared and submitted to the CEO.	A compliance Assessment Plan was prepared and submitted during 2010.	Overall.	Operating life.	C	Annual Performance Review Report 2018/19. Annual Compliance Assessment Report 2018/19.
808: M4.2	Compliance Reporting	The proponent shall submit to the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environment and Conservation, the compliance assessment plan required by condition 4-1 at least 6 months prior to the first compliance report required by condition 4-6. The compliance assessment plan shall indicate: 1. the frequency of compliance reporting; 2. the approach and timing of compliance assessments; 3. the retention of compliance assessments; 4. reporting of potential non-compliances and corrective actions taken; 5. the table of contents of compliance reports; and 6. public availability of compliance reports.	A Compliance Assessment Plan is to be submitted to the CEO at least 6 months prior to the first compliance report required by condition 4-6.	A compliance Assessment Plan was prepared and submitted during 2010. Compliance achieved through assessment of population data collected in accordance with the monitoring requirements noted in the Eucalyptus steedmanii Management Plan (the Management Plan).	Overall.	Operating life.	C	Annual Performance Review Report 2018/19. Annual Compliance Assessment Report 2018/19.
808: M4.3	Compliance Reporting	The proponent shall assess compliance with conditions in accordance with the compliance assessment plan required by condition 4-1.	A Compliance Assessment Report is to be submitted to the CEO.	Annual Compliance Assessment Reports; completed and submitted to the CEO from 2014 onwards.	Overall.	Operating life.	C	Annual Performance Review Report 2018/19. Annual Compliance Assessment Report 2018/19.
808: M4.4	Compliance Reporting	The proponent shall retain reports of all compliance assessments described in the compliance assessment plan required by condition 4-1 and shall	Records of Compliance Assessment Reports are to be available.	Electronic reports are retained; and are available upon request.	Overall.	Operating life.	C	Annual Compliance Assessment

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		make those reports available when requested by the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environment and Conservation.						Report 2018/19. Annual Performance Review Report 2018/19.
808: M4.5	Compliance Reporting	The proponent shall advise the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environment and Conservation of any potential non-compliance within two business days of that non-compliance being known.	The CEO will be notified of any potential non-compliances in accordance with DWER requirements.	Letter to CEO advising of non-compliance (as required).	Overall.	Operating life.	C	Annual Performance Review Report 2018/19. Annual Compliance Assessment Report 2018/19.
808: M4.6	Compliance Reporting	The proponent shall submit a compliance assessment report annually from the date of issue of this Implementation Statement addressing the previous twelve-month period or other period as agreed by the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environment and Conservation. The compliance assessment report shall: 1. be endorsed by the proponent's Managing Director or a person, approved in writing by the Department of Environment and Conservation, delegated to sign on the Managing Director's behalf; 2. include a statement as to whether the proponent has complied with the conditions; 3. identify all potential non-compliances and describe corrective and preventative actions taken; 4. be made publicly available in accordance with the approved compliance assessment plan; and 5. indicate any proposed changes to the compliance assessment plan required by condition 4-1.	An Annual Compliance Assessment report is to be submitted to the CEO.	Annual Compliance Assessment Reports; completed and submitted to the CEO from 2011 onwards. Uploaded to WSA corporate website.	Overall.	Operating life.	C	Annual Performance Review Report 2018/19. Annual Compliance Assessment Report 2018/19.
808: M5.1	Compliance Reporting	The proponent shall submit to the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environment and Conservation, a Performance Review Report at the conclusion of the first year after the start of implementation and then annually, which addresses: 1. the major environmental risks and impacts; the performance objectives, standards and criteria	A Performance Review Report is to be submitted to the CEO.	Annual Performance Review Report; completed and submitted to the CEO from 2011 onwards.	Overall.	Operating life.	C	Annual Performance Review Report 2018/19. Annual Compliance Assessment Report 2018/19.

		related to these; the success of risk reduction/impact mitigation measures and results of monitoring related to management of the major risks and impacts; 2. the level of progress in the achievement of sound environmental performance, including industry benchmarking, and the use of best available technology where practicable; and 3. improvements gained in environmental management which could be applied to this and other similar projects.						
MS808: M6.1	Flora and Vegetation	The proponent shall not cause the loss of the Declared Rare Flora Eucalyptus steedmanii from the implementation of the proposal.	Prevent the loss of Eucalyptus steedmanii from the implementation of the proposal. Protective management measures to be implemented onsite including clearing controls, dust controls and management of people and vehicular movements. Implementation of monitoring to assess impacts. Implement remedial measures or change operations as required based on outcomes of monitoring.	A Eucalyptus steedmanii Management Plan has been developed and implemented. Annual Compliance Assessment Reports; completed and submitted to the CEO from 2011 onwards.	Overall.	Operating life.	C	Annual Monitoring Report for Declared Rare Flora (DRF) 2018/19. Annual Compliance Assessment Report 2018/19.
MS808: M6.2	Flora and Vegetation	Prior to ground disturbing activities, the proponent shall undertake baseline monitoring of the health and abundance of the Declared Rare Flora Eucalyptus steedmanii populations 2, 3a, 3b, 7 and population 1 (including individuals in close proximity to the haul road and the population fragment to the west of the haul road) identified in Figure 3, schedule 1.	Undertake baseline monitoring of Eucalyptus steedmanii prior to ground disturbing activities.	Monitoring activities including transect/quadrat monitoring were undertaken in September 2009 prior to ground disturbing activities commencing. A Eucalyptus steedmanii Management Plan has been developed and implemented. Annual Compliance Assessment Reports; completed and submitted to the CEO from 2011 onwards.	Overall.	Operating life.	C	Annual Monitoring Report for Declared Rare Flora (DRF) 2018/19. Annual Compliance Assessment Report 2018/19.
MS808: M6.3	Flora and Vegetation	The proponent shall monitor impacts on the health and abundance of the Declared Rare Flora Eucalyptus steedmanii populations as identified in condition 6-2, from activities undertaken in implementing the proposal. This monitoring shall be carried out to the satisfaction of the Chief Executive	Prevent the loss of Eucalyptus steedmanii from the implementation of the proposal. Protective management measures implemented onsite including	A Eucalyptus steedmanii Management Plan has been developed and implemented. Annual Compliance Assessment Reports; completed and submitted to the CEO from 2011 onwards.	Overall.	Operating life.	C	Annual Monitoring Report for Declared Rare Flora (DRF) 2018/19.

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		Officer of the Department of Environment and Conservation.	clearing controls, dust controls and management of people and vehicular movements. Implementation of monitoring to assess impacts. Implement remedial measures or change operations as required based on outcomes of monitoring.					Annual Compliance Assessment Report 2018/19.
MS808: M6.4	Flora and Vegetation	The proponent shall submit annually the results of monitoring required by condition 6-3 to the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environment and Conservation.	An annual report on Eucalyptus steedmanii monitoring is to be submitted to the CEO.	A Eucalyptus steedmanii Management Plan has been developed and implemented. Annual Monitoring Report for Declared Rare Flora (DRF). Annual Compliance Assessment Reports; completed and submitted to the CEO from 2011 onwards.	Overall.	Operating life.	C	Annual Monitoring Report for Declared Rare Flora (DRF) 2018/19. Annual Compliance Assessment Report 2018/19.
MS808: M6.5	Flora and Vegetation	In the event that monitoring required by condition 6-3 indicates a decline in the health or abundance of Declared Rare Flora Eucalyptus steedmanii outside the areas to be cleared: 1. the proponent shall report such findings to the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environment and Conservation within 21 days of the decline being identified; 2. provide evidence which allows determination of the cause of the decline; 3. if determined by Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environment and Conservation to be a result of activities undertaken in implementing the proposal, the proponent shall submit actions to be taken to remediate the decline to the Chief Executive Officer; and 4. the actions to remediate the decline of Declared Rare Flora shall be undertaken upon approval of the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environment and Conservation.	Report any declines in health of Eucalyptus steedmanii that are noted from monitoring activities.	A letter was provided to the CEO on 26/07/2017 regarding potential decline in vegetation health from Dieback pathogen.	Overall.	Operating life.	C	Annual Monitoring Report for Declared Rare Flora (DRF) 2018/19. Annual Compliance Assessment Report 2018/19.
MS808: M6.6	Flora and Vegetation	The proponent shall make the monitoring reports required by condition 6-5 publicly available in a	Reports are to be made publicly available.	Uploaded to WSA corporate website.	Overall.	Operating life.	C	Annual Compliance

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		manner approved by the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environment and Conservation.						Assessment Report 2018/19.
MS808: M7.1	Fauna	The proponent shall implement measures identified in Chapter 6.3 of the <i>Environmental Protection Statement for the Proposed Spotted Quoll Mine</i> , prepared by Coffey Environments Pty Ltd, Perth, Western Australia (July 2009) to prevent adverse impacts to Malleefowl along the haul road.	Implement measures to prevent impacts to Malleefowl along the haul road.	A Malleefowl Management Plan has been developed and implemented. Annual Compliance Assessment Reports; completed and submitted to the CEO from 2011 onwards.	Overall.	Operating life.	C	Annual Performance Review Report 2018/19. Annual Compliance Assessment Report 2018/19.
MS808: M8.1	Mine Closure and Rehabilitation	Prior to the commencement of ground-disturbing activities, the proponent shall conduct surveys of the proposal area to collect baseline information on the following: 1. pre-mining soil profiles; 2. groundwater levels; 3. surface water flows; 4. vegetation complexes; 5. landscape and landforms; and 6. material characterisation.	Undertake surveys prior to ground disturbing activities in order to gather baseline data.	Baseline data meeting the requirements of Condition 8-1 was supplied to PIMS in September 2009 prior to ground disturbance activities commencing. Hence compliance with Condition 8-1 has been met.	Overall.	Operating life.	C	Annual Performance Review Report 2018/19. Annual Compliance Assessment Report 2018/19.
MS808: M8.2	Mine Closure and Rehabilitation	The proponent shall submit a Rehabilitation and Mine Closure Plan acceptable to the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Director General of the Department of Mines and Petroleum with the advice of other agencies as appropriate within 12 months of the commencement of ground disturbing activities. The Rehabilitation and Mine Closure Plan shall provide for specific outcomes for: 1. landform design and material characterisation; 2. rehabilitation completion criteria consistent with Environmental Protection Authority Guidance Statement No. 6* to provide a self-sustaining, functional ecosystem comprising, native vegetation of local provenance species; 3. progressive rehabilitation timelines and monitoring against key performance indicators; 4. annual reporting procedures; and 5. procedures to review and revise the Rehabilitation and Mine Closure Plan.	Submit a rehabilitation and mine closure plan to the CEO within 12 months of ground disturbing activities.	A Rehabilitation and Mine Closure Plan (RMCP) was developed for the FNO and approved by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) in 2013, in accordance with the DMP & EPA (2011) Guidelines for Preparing Mine Closure Plans guidelines. There have been various revisions to this plan; including a resubmission in 2016 and planned submission in 2019.	Overall.	Operating life.	C	Annual Performance Review Report 2018/19. Annual Compliance Assessment Report 2018/19.

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		* - Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors: Rehabilitation of Terrestrial Ecosystems: No 6, Environmental Protection Authority, 2006						
MS808: M8.3	Mine Closure and Rehabilitation	The proponent shall ensure that after mine closure, the final pit void: 1. does not cause significant groundwater contamination outside of the final pit void; 2. is not accessible by terrestrial native fauna if water remains in the final pit void; and 3. is not accessible by any native fauna which may subsequently be harmed or fauna which may harm surrounding native vegetation.	Mine closure plan to reference pit void risk management.	A Rehabilitation and Mine Closure Plan (RMCP) was developed for the FNO and approved by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) in 2013, in accordance with the DMP & EPA (2011) Guidelines for Preparing Mine Closure Plans guidelines. There have been various revisions to this plan; including a resubmission in 2016 and planned submission in 2019.	Overall.	Operating life.	C	Annual Performance Review Report 2018/19. Annual Compliance Assessment Report 2018/19.
MS808: N1	Procedures	The Minister for Environment will determine any dispute between the proponent and the Environmental Protection Authority or the Department of Environment and Conservation over the fulfilment of the requirements of the conditions.	/	/	Overall.	Operating life.	C	Annual Performance Review Report 2018/19. Annual Compliance Assessment Report 2018/19.
MS08: N2	Procedures	The proponent is required to apply for a Works Approval and Licence for this project under the provisions of Part V of the Environmental Protection Act 1986.	A Works Approval/Licence is required.	Works Approval W4499-1/2008/1. Licence L8041/1990/5.	Overall.	Operating life.	C	Annual Performance Review Report 2018/19. Annual Compliance Assessment Report 2018/19.
MS808: N3	Procedures	Where a condition lists advisory bodies, it is expected that the proponent will obtain the advice of those listed as part of its compliance reporting to the Department of Environment and Conservation.	/	/	Overall.	Operating life.	C	Annual Performance Review Report 2018/19. Annual Compliance Assessment Report 2018/19.

DRF Management Plan Acceptance Letter



Government of **Western Australia**
Office of the **Environmental Protection Authority**

Mr Phil Knapton
Environmental Manager
Western Areas Ltd
Level 2
2 Kings Park Road
WEST PERTH WA 6005



Our Ref: AC05-2014-0017
Enquiries: Euan Sutherland, 6145 0959
Email: euan.sutherland@epa.wa.gov.au

Dear Mr Knapton

**SPOTTED QUOLL OPEN PIT NICKEL MINE – STEEDMANS GUM
CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN – CONDITION 6 OF MINISTERIAL
STATEMENT 808**

Thank you for your letter of 15 April 2014 and the submission of the Steedman's Gum Conservation Management Plan (the Plan) prepared to address Condition 6 of Ministerial Statement 808.

The Office of the Environmental Protection Authority (OEPA) has reviewed the Plan and considers that it satisfies the requirements of Condition 6 of Ministerial Statement 808.

If there are any changes made to the Plan that would substantially affect the management actions or targets, the amended documents would require submittal to OEPA.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kim Taylor", written over a horizontal line.

Mr Kim Taylor
GENERAL MANAGER

20 May 2014

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Postal Address: Locked Bag 10, East Perth, Western Australia 6892.

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6.6. DRF Annual Monitoring Report