

Appendix B – EPBC Ref: 2014/7260 - request for additional information - Ammaroo Phosphate project



Mr Chris Tziolis
Executive Director
Rum Jungle Resources Ltd
GPO Box 775
DARWIN NT 0801

Dear Mr Tziolis

**REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Ammaroo Phosphate Project, Northern Territory (EPBC 2014/7260)**

Thank you for submitting a referral under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) concerning the above proposed action.

As you are aware, on 3 August 2014, I determined that the proposal is a controlled action to be assessed by Preliminary Documentation under section 95A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

While it has been determined that your project will be assessed by Preliminary Documentation, we require further information to be able to assess the relevant impacts of the action. We are requesting you provide further information as described in **Attachment A** to this letter.

In any correspondence with the Department please quote the title of the action and EPBC reference, as shown on the beginning of this letter. You can send information to us:

by letter North West Section
 West Assessment Branch
 Department of the Environment
 GPO Box 787
 CANBERRA ACT 2601

by email matt.whitting@environment.gov.au

Once the Minister or his delegate is satisfied that you have provided the information requested we will give you written direction to publish the information for public comment. In accordance with section 95B of the EPBC Act you will then be required to address any public comments prior to commencement of the assessment under section 95C.

If you have any questions about the process please contact the project manager, Matt Whitting, by email to matt.whitting@environment.gov.au, or telephone 02 6274 1869 and quote the EPBC reference number shown at the beginning of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Dr Simon Banks
Assistant Secretary
West Assessment Branch

15 August 2014

1. Provide a detailed assessment of the likely presence of the following listed threatened species and their habitat within, and up to 1 km from, the project area:

- Greater Bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*);
- Southern Marsupial Mole (*Notoryctes typhlops*);
- Black-footed Rock-wallaby (*Petrogale lateralis* - MacDonnell Ranges race);
- Crest-tailed Mulgara (*Dasyercus cristicauda*); and
- Great Desert Skink (*Liopholis kintorei*).

This assessment should be based on further targeted surveys for these species at both the proposed mine site and transport corridor and include discussions on the quality and quantity of available habitat.

2. Assess the risk of impact, if any, to the above listed threatened species from any potential source of impact arising from this project including, but not limited to:
 - Clearing of known and potential habitat for each of the listed threatened species identified above. The type, importance, quality and quantity of habitat to be cleared should be discussed for each species.
 - Vehicle strike as a result of increased day and night time traffic, including during construction and throughout the operating life of the proposed project. The number of vehicle movements during construction and normal operations should be estimated and proposed vehicle speed limits should be identified.
 - Increase in feral fauna species, particularly cats and foxes, as a result of increased accessibility and use of linear infrastructure (e.g. impacts of increased predation and competition).
 - Introduction and increase spread of weeds (e.g. impacts by modification of important habitat; altered fire regimes).
 - Barrier effects caused by the mine pit and associated linear infrastructure and the impacts of habitat and population fragmentation.
 - Likely toxicological impacts from the disposal of lead in the gypsum waste stream. This should include discussion of the expected concentration of lead produced in the gypsum waste stream and potential mobilisation of lead into the surrounding environment. The likelihood and consequences of lead mobilisation must be discussed.
 - Transportation and/or disposal of acidic material or wastes.
3. For all impacts listed above, and any additional impacts identified, propose appropriate mitigation measures to reduce the level of impact and provide a discussion of the efficacy of these mitigation measures.
4. In the event that significant residual impacts remain for any of the above listed species following application of the proposed mitigation measures, offsets should be proposed with reference to the *EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy, October 2012*. An explanation as to how the offsets meet the policy and the *Offsets Assessment Guide* should be provided.

5. It is noted in the referral documentation that progressive rehabilitation of areas disturbed by mining will be conducted. Please provide further detail on how rehabilitation will be undertaken, taking into consideration the presence or absence of listed threatened species in the project area. This discussion should include information on the:
- species to be planted and proposed vegetative cover per hectare;
 - expected survival rates of replanted vegetation;
 - management of key threats;
 - replanting commitments and monitoring, including timeframes; and
 - measures to be implemented to ensure long term protection of this habitat.