

Submission on Draft environmental impact statement (EIS)

PNX Metals Limited – Fountain Head Gold Project

This submission is made under clause 9(2)(b) of the Environmental Assessment Administrative Procedures 1984

Government authority: Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade – Tourism Division

Section of referral or terms of reference	Theme / issue	Comment
Section 4.4.7	Project location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NOI outlines that the majority of material to be mined from the project pit will require blasting (section 1.4.7). • The Adelaide to Darwin railway line is located only 540 metres to the south of the operation, with passenger services passing through at varying times during the day and night. Tourism NT notes the proponent will adopt a zero-ejection policy for flying rock emitted from the pit addressing direct contact incidents, however air blast and ground vibrations may also impact operations of the Ghan Passenger rail service. • Further detail is required to what information is currently provided ‘Blasting will take place in daylight hours only and preferably during meal or shift breaks.’
Section 4.10	Impacted stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism NT requests the below stakeholders be advised of blasting activity and provided a project timeline outlining exact timings of blasts – noting mining activity is scheduled to commence Q1 2021. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Ghan, Journey Beyond ○ Emerald Springs Roadhouse (soon to undertake \$120,000 upgrades through the NTG’s Roadhouse to Recovery Fund) ○ Pine Creek Railway Resort ○ Lazy Lizard Caravan Park.
Section 4.4.2	Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is noted that ‘the operation will operate 24 hours per day 365 days per year’ with noise ‘generated from the mining fleet, blasting and crushing’. Tourism notes the greatest noise generation is to be from reversing equipment machinery during crushing operations during 12 hour day shifts, with the consequence/significance without controls being moderate to neighbours. • The proponent has conducted a noise assessment and will ensure noise levels do not exceed the NT Noise Management Framework Guideline, however Tourism NT requests suggested stakeholders be notified of potential impacts.

Environmental impact assessment under the *Environment Assessment Act 1982*
with transitional matters from the *Environment Protection Act 2019*

Section of referral or terms of reference	Theme / issue	Comment
Section 4.5.2	Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• With the level of information provided, Tourism NT is unable to assess transport/access impacts to tourists travelling by rail and car as a result of project activity.• Current detail provided lists 'increased traffic as a result of project vehicles' with the likelihood of disruption of traffic listed as virtually certain with a high significance.• Without the inclusion of a traffic impact plan Tourism NT is unable to determine risks to visitors travelling by road or potential for road accidents to occur.• A project timeline for the construction of the gold processing plant and supporting infrastructure i.e. workshops, power station, roads, offices etc is also not provided.
Section 4.8.2	Social impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tourism NT can help facilitate arrangements for short term accommodation for the 70 person workforce should assistance be required, noting there are a number of accommodation providers within an hour travel time of the project area.