

14 January 2026

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Mr Roland Lee
Environmental Assessment Unit
Environment and Heritage Division
Department of Lands, Planning and Environment
GPO Box 3675
DARWIN NT 0801

T 08 8999 4446

Our Ref: DLPE2025/0365

Dear Mr Lee

Re: Invitation to comment on referral – Rover 1 Project - Castile Resources Pty Ltd

The information submitted for the above Referral has been assessed by the relevant divisions within the department, and the following comments are provided:

Flora and Fauna Division

The Flora and Fauna Division has reviewed the significant variation Referral and considers the proposed variations are unlikely to affect any additional biodiversity values beyond those originally identified, and that the existing Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Terms of Reference (ToR) are adequate to address biodiversity values that may be impacted by the project.

Land Resources Division**Weed Management Branch**

The Weed Management Branch have reviewed the significant variation Referral, the previous comments provided by the Weed Management Branch on the Proponent Initiated EIS ToR (21 November 2023) remain valid.

Further Information regarding weed management is available online^[2] or alternatively contact the Weed Management Branch for further advice on (08) 8951 9210.

Environment and Heritage Division**Heritage Branch**

The Heritage Branch have reviewed the significant variation documents and provides comment in **Attachment 1**.

^[2] <http://www.nt.gov.au/environment/weeds>

Water Resources Division

Groundwater Assessment Team

No hydrogeological investigation data or reports have been provided. The potential for the proposed variation to have a significant impact on groundwater resources has not been adequately justified. Groundwater level, extraction, and water quality data are required to assess any potential significant impacts.

Water Regulation Team

Comments provided by the Water Regulation Team for the original proposal are still relevant. In order to better understand the change in possible environmental impacts associated with the proposed change in scope for this project, it will be necessary for the proponent to clearly quantify the water balance in terms of sources and supply rates/schedules, consumption rates/schedules and water supply storage/disposal details for the amended project.

Environmental Regulation Division

The previous comments from Environmental Regulation Division remain valid.

Should you have any further queries regarding these comments, please contact the Development Coordination Branch by email DevelopmentAssessment.DLPE@nt.gov.au or phone (08) 8999 4446.

Yours sincerely



Maria Wauchope
Executive Director Land Resources

Attachment 1 – Heritage Branch comments

Attachment 1

Submission on the Significant Variation

Castile Resources Pty Ltd– Rover 1 Project

This submission is made under regulation 171 of the Environment Protection Regulations 2020

Government authority: Department of Lands, Planning and Environment – Heritage Branch

Summary: The Heritage Branch reminds the proponent of the previous comments made regarding this project, and acknowledges their commitment to undertaking further archaeological assessment.

Section of Referral	Theme or issue	Comment
Section 4.1.8	Commitment to additional archaeological assessment.	• The Heritage Branch has previously provided comment to the proponent advising that the 2012 archaeological heritage report does not respond sufficiently to the Rover 1 Project draft ToR for an EIS (EP2023/030); • We acknowledge that in the proponent's Notice of Significant Variation there is a commitment to further archaeological assessment of the project area as part of the development of the EIS (Section 4.1.8, Page 16); and • We recommend that the proponent continues to engage with the Heritage Branch during the development of the EIS. The Heritage Branch can help in the development of an archaeological scope to ensure any works undertaken meet obligations under the <i>Heritage Act 2011</i> and may help to create a more competitive tender process.