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File reference
36:DITT2022/00015

Via email: eia.ntepa@nt.gov.au

Dear Ms Fitzpatrick

**Re: Invite to comment on EP2021/004 Winchelsea Mining Pty Ltd – Winchelsea Island
Manganese Mine Project – Notice of Significant Variation**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the referred Notice of Significant Variation for the Winchelsea Island Manganese Mine Project submitted by the Winchelsea Mining Pty Ltd.

The Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade has reviewed the referral documents and comments are provided at Attachment A.

If you require any further information, please contact Roslyn Vulcano, Executive Director Mining Operations on (08) 8999 5029 or via email at roslyn.vulcano@nt.gov.au if you require further information.

Yours sincerely



BRETT EASTON
Director, Resource Policy and Reform

Submission on Notice of Significant Variation referral and amendments to the existing approved Terms of Reference for an EIS

Winchelsea Mining Pty Ltd – Winchelsea Island Manganese Mine Project

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

NT EPA reference number: EP 2021/004

Government authority: Department of Industry Tourism and Trade (DITT)

DITT has reviewed the Notice of Significant Variation Referral and amendments to the Terms of Reference for an EIS for the Winchelsea Island Manganese Mine Project and provides the following comments:

- The variation outlines relatively minor changes to pit and quarry areas and layout. DITT considers these changes to be relatively minor and they do not change the potential environmental risks or impacts already identified for this proposal.
- The variation proposes a new disturbance; construction of a tailings storage facility (TSF) instead of progressive disposal of tailings in pits. DITT comments in relation to this are provided in the table below.
- Other proposed changes such as the wharf extension, marine dredging and the dredge disposal facility occur outside of the mineral lease and are therefore not administered under the *Mining Management Act 2001*. Consequently, DITT has no comments in relation to these.

Section of referral or terms of reference	Theme / issue	Comment
Section 3 – Table 3.1 – Tailings dam and Disposal	Handling and disposal of tailings materials	This variation details construction of a TSF for receiving all tailings produced from mineral ore processing. The variation details an estimated extraction rate of 1.2 million tonnes per annum for 11 years of mine life and a TSF with a capacity of 0.465 million cubic meters. Given these figures, the TSF may not be of sufficient capacity to hold approximately 13.2 million tonnes of tailings expected for the life of the mine. Winchelsea Mining should be required to demonstrate that the TSF will have sufficient capacity and that tailings will be handled appropriately without the need for additional TSFs to be constructed in the future. Alternatively, if additional storage capacity is required, associated disturbances should be outlined in the future EIS.
		Winchelsea should be required to demonstrate that the TSF will be constructed in accordance with Australian National Committee on Large dams (ANCOLD) guidelines.
		Winchelsea has not detailed how the pits will be rehabilitated, now that pit void backfilling with tailings is not being considered. The future EIS should be required to describe best practice rehabilitation methodology for the proposed pit voids.
		DITT notes that there are no proposed changes to the Terms of Reference (ToR) with regard to the new TSF.