Referral form

Referral form for a proposed action under the *Environment Protection Act 2019*

PART A - Proponent details				
Name of the proponent (legal entity)	Lithium Plus Minerals Ltd			
Proponent details	Name: Mr Bin Guo Position/responsibility: Executive Chairman and CEO Physical address: Suite 403, Level 4, 66 Hunter Street, Sydney NSW 200 Australia Postal address: As above Phone: +61 02 8029 0666 Email: bguo@lithiumplus.com.au info@lithiumplus.com.au			
Proponent Trading Name if relevant	N/A			
Australian Business Number/s	ABN 88 653 574 219			
Australian Company Number/s	ACN 653 574 219			
Provide a description of the organisational structure with respect to responsibility of the proposed action, environmental approvals and implementation.	Lithium Plus Minerals Ltd is a ASX listed company (LPM), with a six-member board that includes one Executive Chairman, three Non-Executive Directors, one CFO & Company Secretary and one Exploration Manager. Lithium Plus Minerals Ltd (Lithium Plus) will be responsible for delivery of the proposal.			
Joint-venture partners (if applicable)	N/A			
PART B - Outline of the proposal and l	ocation			
Outline of the proposed action or strat	egic proposal (proposal)			
Name of proposal	Lei Lithium Project			
Provide a brief summary (one or two paragraphs) of the proposal including the activity type/ industry/ duration.	deposit. The target commodity is Spodumene. The Project is proposed			

	The LOM is proposed to be 7 years, inclusive of 12 months of construction, 68 months operation and 6 months of rehabilitation and closure. Rehabilitation will be undertaken progressively where possible, during operation and finalised on mine closure.			
Location				
Provide location details as: a) street address, suburb	The Lei Lithium Project is located approximately 30 km directly south of Darwin, accessed off Fog Bay Road. Street Number: 2873. Road: Cox Peninsula. Locality/Suburb: Charlotte.			
b) tenement, lot/section numbers, town/hundred, NT Portion or pastoral lease numbers, as applicable	Tenement: ML(A)33874 Town/Hundred: Hundred of Hughes (372). Parcel: 2746.			
c) the nearest town, recognisable feature, and distance and direction from that town/feature to the site of the proposed action.	The nearest town is Berry Springs, approximately 25 km (direct line) east of the Lei Project, situated North of Kangaroo Flats Training area, South of Observation Hill and East of the Charlotte River in the Bynoe Region. Access to the Lei Project from Darwin is via the Stuart Highway, then westwards for approximately 36 km via the Cox Peninsula Road, then West for ~3.5 km on Fog Bay Road. The Lei Project infrastructure and site access road is set back approximately 150 m north of Fog Bay Road.			
Name of the Local Government Area/s in which the proposal is located.	The proposal is not located within the boundaries of any local government - Unincorporated (Cox-Daly). The proposed haul route is along NT Government controlled main roads that pass through the Litchfield, Palmerston (via Stuart Highway) and Darwin municipalities.			
What is the land tenure type, and proposed land tenure type?	Vacant Crown land – owned by NT Government.			
Does the proponent have the legal (land) access required for the implementation of all aspects of the proposal?	No - Mineral lease application (MLA) 33874 15 May 2024. ☐ Yes If yes, provide an indication of legal access authorisations / agreement / tenure.			
Is the <u>land zoned under the NT</u> <u>Planning Scheme</u> ?	Yes: Rural (R). Darwin Building Control Area.			
What is the current land use of the proposal site/s?	The Project is located on vacant land and is largely undeveloped. Areas of the larger exploration area (EL31091) known as the Bynoe Project area,			

	has been disturbed by Lithium Plus Minerals Ltd mineral exploration under Authorisation 1121, initially issued 31 May 2022.			
What is the approximate distance (direct line) and direction to the closest human sensitive receptor? For example, residence, accommodation, hospital, school, homeland from the proposal.	The closest human sensitive receptor is approximately 3.3 km (direct line) south of Lei Project. There is a private residence located in Parcel 2511 and 2512. A registered production bore (RN041993) drilled in 2020 to 42m depth for rural stock and domestic purposes, is located within Parcel 2511, 2.6 km south of the Lei Project.			
	The nearest township is Berry Springs, approximately 25 km (direct line) east of the Lei Project. Darwin and Palmerston are the nearest densely populated areas, with estimated populations of 80,530 and 37,247 respectively. The combined Greater Darwin population is reported as 139,902 (ABS, 2021).			
	The Litchfield National Park boundary is located approximately 33 km south of the Project and the Blackmore River Conservation reserve is located approximately 15 km to the east of the Project.			
What is the proposed end land use of the proposal site/s	Post mining land use, objectives and closure criteria will be developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders. It is anticipated the land will be returned to its pre-mining land use.			
Consultation				
Provide an overview of consultation undertaken specific to the proposal and potential environmental impacts.	Lithium Plus has developed a stakeholder engagement plan and commenced engagement with the local community, with information stalls being held at the Berry Springs and the Wagait Beach supermarket complex during July 2024.			
List the matters raised in consultation	Key matters raised include:			
and identify how the proposal has been modified to respond to stakeholder feedback.	Local employment - General community interest in job opportunities. The project location allows for a convenient commute eliminating the need for on-site accommodation facilities.			
	Road safety, traffic and road condition and maintenance - issues pertaining to road design / capacity, safety and maintenance within Cox Peninsula communities.			
	Safety is prioritised in collaboration with the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure (DLI) – (formerly the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics or DIPL) to address any ongoing concerns and explore solutions.			
	A haulage route assessment (GHD 2024) has been prepared to assess the most suitable haulage route, factoring in road safety into the assessment criteria. A Traffic Management Plan will be developed that will provide mitigation measures to minimise impacts of road safety.			
PART C - Referral type				
What type of proposal is being referred?	✓ proposed action□ strategic proposal			

	□ proponent initiated EIS referral			
Provide a brief justification including the reasons why you consider the action may have a significant impact on the environment and is referred to the NT EPA. Refer to section 11 of the EP Act and the NT EPA's environmental factors and objectives.	Pre-referral screening determined that the proposal has potential to impact 7 of the 14 environmental factors: • Terrestrial environmental quality • Terrestrial ecosystems • Hydrological processes • Inland water environmental quality • Aquatic ecosystems • Community and economy • Culture and heritage			
	Outcomes of the referral assessment identified 4 of these 7 environmental factors has moderate residual impact, including:			
	Terrestrial ecosystems - Threatened fauna (Black-footed tree-rat and Northern Brushtail Possum) are known to occur within the Project area. The assessment resulted in a moderate residual impact due to the high sensitivity value of the threatened species. However, the potential for significant impact is expected to be avoided through design and routine mitigation measures commonly adopted during mining activities.			
	Hydrological processes – Dewatering of the aquifer is required to conduct mining operations for the duration of the operations, resulting in reduced groundwater levels and availability. Uncertainties exist regarding drawdown extent, recovery time and the potential impacts of reduced groundwater availability to the existing mangrove communities, riparian vegetation and GDEs within the nearby Charlotte River and its tributaries. The precautionary principle has been applied until further studies are undertaken to inform the potential impact.			
	Inland water environmental quality - As a result of uncertainties related to hydrological processes (groundwater drawdown and reduced surface water recharge), there are uncertainties for impacts to inland water environmental quality due to the potential release of contaminants from exposure of acid sulfate soil within the Charlotte River, and saline intrusion into the underground workings, resulting in the need for further assessment. Aquatic ecosystems As there is some uncertainty about impacts to groundwater and surface			
	water hydrology, the potential for impacts to habitat quality and biodiversity of aquatic ecosystems is uncertain.			
Does the proposal involve an action that may be or is a controlled action under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)?	□ Yes ✓ No			
Has the proposed action been referred?	☐ Yes ✓ No If yes, provide the date referred and reference number (EPBC number)?			
	Date: EPBC number:			

If referred, has a decision been made on whether the proposed action is a controlled action?	 ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, check the appropriate decision outcome and provide the decision in an attachment. ☐ Decision - controlled action ☐ Decision - not a controlled action 		
PART D - Proponent referrer details and declaration *The referral form must include the declaration signed by the proponent, or where the proponent is an organisation or business, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or duly authorised delegate within the proponent company.			
Who is referring this proposal?	☑ Proponent☐ Authorised representative within proponent entity		
Does the proponent request that the NT EPA treat any part of the information in the referral as confidential under section 281(2) of the EP Act?	✓ No ☐ Yes If yes, provide an application in accordance with regulation 271 of the Environment Protection Regulations 2020 and submit the confidential information as a separate attachment		
Referral declaration by proponent:			
 I, Bin Guo declare that I am authorised to refer this proposed action/strategic proposal on behalf of Lithium Plus Minerals Ltd and further declare that: the attached environmental impact assessment documents have been prepared in accordance with the EP Act and EP Regulations; and the attached environmental impact assessment documents (including attachments) are true; and the attached environmental impact assessment documents do not provide false or misleading information, and I know it is an offence to provide false and misleading information, noting the penalties under section 260 of the EP Act, and section 119 of the Criminal Code Act 1983; and the proponent fully understands that referral under the EP Act does not limit, in any way, the requirements of the proponent to ensure approvals under any other regulatory regime are applied for, and adhered to; and the proponent has fulfilled its general duty in accordance with section 43 of the EP Act. Note: if the NT EPA determine that an environmental approval is required, the proponent will be requested to provide supporting documents during the assessment process such as details to support that the person is a fit and proper person to hold an environmental approval in accordance with section 62 of the EP Act. 			
Name: (print) Mr Bin Guo			
Signature: Date: 25 October 2024			

Position:

Executive Chairman and CEO

Organisation (if a business or organisation):

Lithium Plus Minerals Ltd

Email:

bguo@lithiumplus.com.au

Address:

Suite 403, Level 4, 66 Hunter Street, Sydney NSW 2000 Australia

PART E - Nominated contact

Contact details for proponent contact (provide the details for the person who will be corresponding with the NT EPA on the proposal)

Business name: Lithium Plus Minerals Ltd Name of primary contact: Mr Bin Guo

Physical address: Suite 403, Level 4, 66 Hunter Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Australia

Postal address: As above Phone: +61 02 8029 0666 Email: bguo@lithiumplus.com.au

Contact details of consultant (if relevant, provide the details for the person who will be corresponding with the NT EPA on the proposal on behalf of the proponent)

Business name: EcOz Environmental Consulting

Name of primary contact: Claire Jones

Physical address: Level 1, 70 Cavenagh St, Darwin NT 0800

Postal address: GPO Box 381

Phone: 08 8981 1100

Email: Claire.Jones@ecoz.com.au

CHECKLIST 1 - Cross reference of matters addressed in the referral report (for more detail refer to the Referring
a proposal to the NT EPA guidance)

a proposal to the NT EPA gui	•	_
Item	See Referral guidance for further detail on information requirements	Report section / page
Publication statement	Provide name and qualifications of relevant contributors to the referral.	Page i
Executive summary	Overview of the proposal, its potential for significant impact and key conclusions.	Page ii
Introduction	Include a brief introduction to the proposal and the proponent (noting proponent details are also to be included in the referral form / environmental approval application form).	Section 1
	Provide a clear and detailed description of the proposal, referencing maps and spatial information.	Section 2
	Provide a key components summary table.	
Proposal description - Key components	Identify uncertainty / likely changes if particular elements of a proposal require further design at the time of referral.	
	Provide an account of past, present and reasonably foreseeable future development, operations, or industries that are related the current proposal.	
Proposal description - Location and regional context	Location and regional context.	Section 2.1 and 2.2
	Describe any alternatives (location, timeframes, activities) considered or are under consideration in scoping and developing the proposal.	Section 2.8
Proposal description – Alternatives (options)	Describe how the analysis of alternatives accounted for the principles of environment protection and management (Part 2 of the EP Act).	
	Justification for the preferred/selected option.	
	Describe any assumptions critical to your assessment.	
Proposal description – Application of the: – Principles of environment protection and	Discuss how the proposal accounts for the <i>principles of</i> environment protection and management (Part 2 of the EP Act) and the general duty of proponents provided for under section 43 of the EP Act:	Section 4.3
management (Part 2) - General duty of proponents (s43)	 Principles of ecologically sustainable development Environmental decision-making hierarchy Waste management hierarchy. 	
	The EP Act (section 3 and section 43) puts an obligation on the proponent to consult with stakeholders and the community in the development of the proposal.	Section 3
Consultation	As an example, the referral should include:	
Refer to NT EPA Stakeholder Engagement guidance 2020	 a description of stakeholder engagement and community consultation undertaken an outline of the method and process of consultation with stakeholders a summary of the key matters raised during consultation any changes made as a result of consultation 	

	 the ongoing consultation, and options for feedback whether the consultation has or has not been undertaken in accordance with NT EPA guidance on Stakeholder Engagement whether the consultation has or hasn't been undertaken in accordance with the section 43 (EP Act) general duty of proponents (see Checklist 2). 	
Strategic and statutory context	Table discussing proposal specific legislation, policies, and guidelines that are and may be applicable to the proposal and the sequencing and status of those, is provided.	Section 4
Environmental Factors	The sections below relate to information that describes the potential impacts of the proposal on the NT EPA's Environmental factors. Information requirements for each environmental factor identified by the pre-referral screening tool are provided (any technical studies and surveys included).	Section 5
Environmental Factors and objectives Presence/absence of environmental values	The presence or absence of relevant environmental values and sensitivities are verified. Specify the source and currency of information (e.g. desktop assessments, and/or field surveys, the methods used, dates, sources, and whether the approach is conducted in accordance with relevant regulatory and industry guideline.	Section 5.1.1 Section 5.2.1 Section 5.3.1 Section 5.4.1 Section 5.5.1 Section 5.6.1 Section 5.7.1
Environmental Factors and objectives Potential impacts and consistency with relevant policy/guidance	Assessment of potential impacts (negative, direct, indirect, cumulative, short and long-term) of the proposal. Relevant policy and guidance described. Residual / remaining impact to the environmental factor described.	Section 5.1.2 Section 5.2.2 Section 5.2.3 Section 5.3.2 Section 5.4.2 Section 5.5.2 Section 5.6.2 Section 5.7.2
Environmental Factors and objectives Environment protection and management	Describe in terms of management hierarchies: measures proposed to avoid, mitigate or offset (if appropriate) effectiveness of proposed measures and the level of confidence of implementation whether the NT EPA's objective for the environmental factor is likely to be met.	Section 5.1.2 Section 5.2.2 Section 5.3.2 Section 5.4.2 Section 5.5.2 Section 5.6.2 Section 5.7.2

Environmental Factors and objectives	Describe potential cumulative impacts.	Section 6
Cumulative impacts		

CHECKLIST 2 - Consideration of the Proponent's general duty (in accordance with section 43 of the EP Act

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Section 43 General duty of proponents	Done	Comment	
The following principles of ecologically sustainable development must be taken into consideration in the design of the proposed action.		Provide comment here	
Decision-making principle	√	The Project has considered both short and long-term impacts and benefits, including impacts during construction, operation, and closure. Lithium Plus held initial community forums in July 2024 to present details of the Project to the community and discuss any concerns or feedback that was raised. Lithium Plus is committed to undertaking ongoing consultation and working closely with relevant stakeholders throughout all Project stages.	
Principle of proportionality	✓	Mitigation and management measures have been proposed that account for the level of risk of the potential impact.	
Precautionary principle	✓	The referral is based on both existing information and studies undertaken specifically for the Project by suitably qualified professionals. Where there is insufficient information to determine whether an impact will occur (for example groundwater modelling) the referral has assumed impacts until such time as evidence can be provided to the contrary.	
 Principle of evidence-based decision-making 	✓	This assessment is based on both existing information and studies undertaken specifically for the Project by suitably qualified professionals. Where information is unknown or sufficient detail to make an assessment is not yet available, additional studies will be undertaken, by suitably qualified professionals to address information gaps and the referral has assumed impacts until such time as evidence can be provided to the contrary.	
Principle of intergenerational and intergenerational equity	√	The Project aims to improve the community and environment, by providing benefits to local communities. The Project is committed to working with the local community and training providers to prioritise local employment and develop an industry that provides social and economic benefits to the region, and NT more broadly. The principle of intergenerational equity has been	
		considered in mine closure planning. The Project mine closure concept involves removing of the waste rock by backfilling the material underground and within the box cut and establish a safe, stable and non-polluting site. The land will be returned to pre-mining land use or land use criteria as determined in consultation with stakeholders.	

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		The geochemical characterisation of waste and ore undertaken to date indicate that the proposal is not expected to result in legacy contamination issues that would prevent achievement of the closure objectives. Once the closure objectives are achieved, it is not expected that there will be any limitations on land use by future generations.
Principle of sustainable use	√	Lithium Plus is currently undertaking an energy options analysis and have proposed an on-site solar farm to provide low-voltage power requirements for administration, lighting, and water plants. Water will be reused in operations for dust suppression activities. Car-pooling and the use of a minibus will be available for the workforce for transport to and from site.
Principle of conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity	√	Ecological assessments have been undertaken for the Project to inform the development. Threatened fauna species are known to occur within the Project area and within the surrounding area. Lithium Plus is committed to adhere to appropriate measures where possible to avoid and minimise significant impacts to these species.
Principle of improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms	√	The referral documents the lifecycle of the Project, including management of waste through the Project. The principle of improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms has been addressed by adopting a mine closure strategy that provides for backfilling of the mine to avoid any future impacts to land use. A security will be paid that will provide for remediation of the site so that these costs are not borne by the community if Lithium Plus is unable to achieve the agreed closure objectives.
The following management hierarchies must be taken into consideration in the design of the proposed action.		Provide comment here
Environmental decision-making hierarchy	~	As part of referral, measures to avoid or mitigate impacts have been considered for each environmental factor and are detailed in the relevant environmental factor sections. Project site layout and design has been, and will continue to be, informed by results of due diligence assessments and further studies to avoid potential impacts. Lithium Plus is committed to ensure impacts are within an acceptable level.
Waste management hierarchy	√	Lithium Plus is committed to implementing recycling processes and disposing of any unavoidable waste in a sustainable manner. A Waste Management Plan will be developed in accordance with the waste hierarchy to avoid and reduce; reuse; recycle; recover energy; treat; dispose of waste. Avoid: No processing will occur on-site, which avoids the need for an additional processing plant and tailing storage facility.

		Minimise: The objective of the proposed site layout was to ensure that all required infrastructure is installed within the smallest disturbance footprint possible to minimise environmental impact. An underground mine to access the ore rather than an open cut, substantially reduces the disturbance footprint. Reuse: The underground mine will be waste negative. Mine waste will be reused to backfill the box cut and underground on closure. There will be no requirement for long-term surface disposal of waste rock from the Proposal. Water dewatered from the underground and box cut will be settled in a water storage dam and reused on-site as a water supply for the mining operations and dust suppression activities where possible. Treat and dispose: Excess water that cannot feasibly be contained on-site will be treated to remove sediments and other contaminants (as required), prior to disposal (discharge to a land irrigation area and/or watercourse under an approved waste discharge licence). Wastewater from staff amenities will be directed to a septic system designed and constructed in accordance with the Code of Practice for Wastewater Management (Department of Health, 2020). Recycle / dispose: Recyclable construction and demolition (i.e., packaging, metals, wood, tyres, batteries etc.) will be collected by a licenced waste contractor and recycled at a waste facility in the Darwin region. Hazardous wastes that cannot be recycled i.e. waste from workshop such waste oils and grease will be stored in bulk containers; chemical containers, will be segregated and stored undercover to prevent ingress of rainfall and subsequent release of contaminated water from storage
		areas and collected by a licenced waste contractor and disposed of at a waste facility in Darwin region accordingly.
Other section 43 considerations		
Have communities that may be affected by the proposed action been provided with information and opportunities for consultation?	√	Lithium Plus has committed to conducting consultation with stakeholders throughout the life of the Project and addressing questions and concerns that may raise. A stakeholder engagement plan has been prepared. Lithium Plus is committed to working with the local community and training providers to prioritise local employment and develop an industry that provides social and economic benefits to the Berry Springs township.
 Has consultation with affected communities, including Aboriginal communities' been undertaken in a culturally appropriate manner? 	✓	A stakeholder engagement plan has been prepared and includes the plan to consult with affected communities in a culturally appropriate manner; including Belyuen Community and relevant Indigenous groups including

		Larrakia Nation, Kenbi Rangers, Larrakia Development Corporation, Indigenous Women in Mining Resources Association (IWMRA).
Has community knowledge and understanding (including scientific and traditional knowledge and understanding) of the natural and cultural values of areas that may be impacted by the proposed action been sought and documented?	√	The stakeholder engagement plan details the strategy to consult and engage with the community, and outcomes will be prepared in stakeholder engagement reports. Knowledge of the communities has been summarised in the community and economy section 5.6 and cultural values in section 5.7
Have Aboriginal values and the rights and interests of Aboriginal communities' been addressed in relation to areas that may be impacted by the proposed action?	√	The stakeholder engagement plan details the strategy to consult and engage with Aboriginal communities and will continue to engage as the project transitions into operations. The Project area is not subject to claim or determination under the Native Title Act or Aboriginal Land Rights Act. If a native title claim is lodged and registered in response to the native title notification of ML(A) 33874 then, in the first instance, the intention is to engage directly with registered native title parties to develop protocols as necessary for sacred sites. It is anticipated that the Northern Land Council (NLC) and the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA) will be involved in this process to ensure the relevant traditional owners and/or traditional custodians can make informed decisions about sacred sites. In the event that there are no native title parties following native title notification of ML(A) 33874, an Application for Authority Certificate will be progressed for the proposed development through the AAPA and in consultation with the NLC.

How to submit

Email your completed form to Environmental Assessments, Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security at eia.ntepa@nt.gov.au

Further information

For further information, contact Environmental Assessments, Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security (DEPWS) at eia.ntepa@nt.gov.au or phone 08 8924 4218.

Collection notice

Purpose: The purpose for the collection of information using this form is to provide the NT EPA with the relevant information needed to administer the environmental impact assessment process under the *Environment Protection Act* 2019.

Failure to collect information: If the DEPWS does not collect this information, then correspondence will continue to be with the proponent last notified to the NT EPA/Minister and it may have implications in the Minister's consideration of a fit and proper person under s 62 of the Environment Protection Act and environmental approval holder entity/name.

Who is collecting the information: The information is collected by the DEPWS, who provide services to the NT EPA/Minister.

Who to contact for more information: The <u>DEPWS Privacy Policy</u> sets out how you can access and/or correct your personal information and how you can make a complaint if you feel we have not complied with the <u>Privacy Act 1988</u>.

All enquiries about access, correction or to make a complaint should be directed to the Privacy Officer on (08) 8999 4410 business days, 8.00am - 4.21pm or write to PO Box 496, Palmerston, NT 0831 or email StrategicServices.DEPWS@nt.gov.au			