


Form for the referral of a proposed action or strategic proposal to the NT EPA

Under sections 48 to 50 of the *Environment Protection Act 2019*.

For instructions on how to complete this form, see the Environmental Impact Assessment Guidance for Proponents - Referring a Proposed Action to the NT EPA at [LINK](#).

a) Referrer details			
Proponent or authorised representative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Statutory decision-maker <input type="checkbox"/>	
Name (print): Mike Chapman		Signature 	
Position	Project Study and Approvals Manager	Organisation	Groote Eylandt Mining Company Pty Ltd
Email	Mike.Chapman@south32.net		
Address	Street No.	Street Name GEMCO, Rowell Highway	
Suburb Alyangula		State/Territory NT	Postcode 0885
Does the referrer request that the NT EPA treat any part of the information in the referral as confidential? <i>Provide an application under regulation 271 of the EP Regulations and the confidential information in a separate attachment.</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Referral declaration for proponent and statutory decision-maker:			
I, Mike Chapman, declare that I am authorised to refer this proposed action on behalf of Groote Eylandt Mining Company Pty Ltd, and further declare that:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the referral has been prepared in accordance with the EP Act and EP Regulations; and the referral does not provide false or misleading information; and the proponent is a fit and proper person to hold an environmental approval in accordance with section 62 of the EP Act; and the proponent fully understands that referring a proposed action 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. 			

- the proponent has fulfilled its general duty in accordance with section 43 of the EP Act

Provide details of how the general duties have been met by referencing a part of, or appendix to, the referral that provides the explicit details of how section 43(a) to (g) of the EP Act requirements have been met.

In the preparation of this referral, the proponent (Groote Eylandt Mining Company Pty Ltd) has fulfilled the “general duty of proponents” as described in s. 43 of the EP Act, as follows:

- a) The proponent has undertaken extensive consultation with local communities in relation to the proposed action, as detailed in Section 2.4 – Stakeholder Engagement of the Referral (attached);
- b) Consultation has been undertaken in a culturally appropriate manner, as detailed in Section 2.4 – Stakeholder Engagement of the Referral (attached);
- c) Community knowledge and understanding of the natural and cultural values of the areas that may be impacted by the project has been sought and documented in the design of the project, as detailed in Section 2.3 – Selection of Realigned Access Corridor and Haul Road Design and Section 2.4 – Stakeholder Engagement of the Referral (attached);
- d) Aboriginal values, rights and interests in relation to areas that may be impacted by this proposal have been addressed, specifically in the selection of the project’s alignment and design, as detailed in Section 2.3 – Selection of Realigned Access Corridor and Haul Road Design and Section 2.4 – Stakeholder Engagement of the Referral (attached);
- e) The principles of ecologically sustainable development have been considered, as detailed in Attachment 1-1 - EP Act Environment Impact Assessment Objectives of the Referral (attached);
- f) The environmental decision-making hierarchy has been applied in the design of the proposed action, as detailed in Attachment 1-1 - EP Act Environment Impact Assessment Objectives of the Referral (attached); and
- g) The waste management hierarchy has been considered in the design of the project, as detailed in Attachment 1-1 - EP Act Environment Impact Assessment Objectives of the Referral (attached).

b) Referral type

What type of proposal is being referred?

- proposed action**
- strategic proposal
- proponent initiated EIS*

Provide a brief justification for why you consider the action may have a significant impact on the environment and warrants referral to the NT EPA.

*If the referral is for a proponent initiated EIS, please include reasons for why an EIS is necessary.

The proponent has undertaken a self-assessment to determine whether the project has the potential to have a significant impact on the environment. This has included undertaking detailed preliminary planning and environmental investigations as well as extensive consultation (refer to the Referral). The proponent has concluded that significant adverse impacts on the environment are unlikely to arise from the project. However, legal certainty is being

	sought as to whether an approval is required under the EP Act.
If the referral is for a proponent initiated EIS, are there draft terms of reference and statement of reasons included?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If yes, ensure the draft terms of reference and statement of reasons are attached to this referral.
c) Proponent and proposal description	
3.1 Proponent details	
Title of the proposed action	J Quarry Haul Road Realignment Project
Name of the proponent/s (including Trading Name if relevant)	Groote Eylandt Mining Company Pty Ltd (GEMCO)
Australian Company Number(s) <input type="checkbox"/> OR Australian Business Number(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ABN: 26 004 618 491
Contact for the proposed action (if different from the referrer) <i>Please include: name, physical address, phone, and email.</i>	Name – Ms Laura Knowles (Principle Environmental Scientist) Address – Level 15, 215 Adelaide Street, Brisbane City, QLD, 4001 (Postal Address – GPO Box 3285, Brisbane, QLD, 4001) Phone - +61 7 3226 0900 Email – lknowles@hansenbailey.com.au
3.2 Northern Territory approvals and regulation	
Is rezoning of any land required before the proposed action can be implemented? If yes, please provide details.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Please identify other approvals required for the proposed action: Refer to Referral (Section 1.4 – Regulatory Approvals)	

Proposed activities e.g. clearing, dewatering, mining, processing, dredging	Land tenure/access e.g. Crown land, Mining lease, specify legislation for access if relevant	Type of approval e.g. Vegetation Clearing Permit, licence, mining authorisation	Legislation regulating the activity
3.3 Location			
Provide map/s showing the proposed action's location and footprint.		Refer to Figure 1-1, Figure 1-3 and Figure 6-1 of the Referral	
Location: a) street address, suburb, tenement details, lot/section numbers, town/hundred, NT Portion or pastoral lease numbers, as applicable; or b) if remote, the nearest town or recognisable feature and distance and direction from that town/feature to the site of the proposed action.		Refer to Referral (Section 1.2 – Project Overview and Section 2.2 – Setting)	
Provide land tenure and zoning details.		Refer to Referral (Section 2.2 – Setting)	
What is the current land use of the proposed footprint? If known, detail the land use history within the proposed footprint.		Refer to Referral (Section 2.2 – Setting)	
3.4 Description of proposed action (refer to Environmental Impact Assessment Guidance - Referring a Proposed Action to the NT EPA)			
Describe the key characteristics of the proposed action <i>Provide as an attachment to the form</i>		Refer to Referral (Section 2.5 – Project Description)	
Have you provided electronic spatial data, maps and figures in the appropriate format?		✓ Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

3.5 Alternatives	
Describe alternative location/s of the action or its components and justify the selection.	Refer to Referral (Section 2.3 – Selection of Realigned Access Corridor and Road Design and Section 2.5.10 - Alternatives)
List alternative timeframes considered and their effects on duration and intensity of impacts/benefits.	Refer to Referral (Section 2.5.8 – Timing)
List alternative activities considered (e.g. ore processing vs direct shipping ore; new port facilities vs use of existing port facilities)	Refer to Referral (Section 2.3 – Selection of Realigned Access Corridor and Road Design and Section 2.5.10 - Alternatives)
4 Existing environment	
Describe the existing natural environment within and in proximity to the proposed footprint.	Refer to Referral (Section 2.2 – Setting, Section 4.2 – Surface Water Setting, Section 5.2 – Overview of Project Site, and Section 6.1 – Overview of Project Site)
Describe any important sites or features within or near the proposed action.	Refer to Referral (Section 2.2 – Setting)
Describe the social structure and economy of the region.	Refer to Referral (Section 2.2 – Setting)
5 Environmental factors	
What are the environmental factors that could be significantly impacted by this proposed action?	<input type="checkbox"/> Landforms <input type="checkbox"/> Terrestrial environmental quality <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Terrestrial ecosystems <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrological processes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inland water environmental quality <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aquatic ecosystems <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal processes <input type="checkbox"/> Marine environmental quality <input type="checkbox"/> Marine ecosystems <input type="checkbox"/> Atmospheric processes

	<input type="checkbox"/> Air quality <input type="checkbox"/> Society and economy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Culture and heritage <input type="checkbox"/> Human Health
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For **each** of the environmental factors identified above, complete the table at 6 below, or provide the information in a supplementary report

6 Potential environmental impacts

Please see Appendix A to the referral guidance to assist in filling out this section.

1	Receiving environment – Describe the current condition of the receiving environment in relation to this factor.	Refer to Referral (Section 4 – Surface Water, Section 5 – Aquatic Ecology, Section 6 – Terrestrial Ecology, and Section 7 – Culture and Heritage)
2	Potential impacts – Identify and assess the potential impacts of the action against the NT EPA objective for the environmental factor.	Refer to Referral (Section 4 – Surface Water, Section 5 – Aquatic Ecology, Section 6 – Terrestrial Ecology, and Section 7 – Culture and Heritage)
3	Mitigation – Describe the measures proposed to avoid, mitigate or offset the potential environmental impacts.	Refer to Referral (Section 4 – Surface Water, Section 5 – Aquatic Ecology, Section 6 – Terrestrial Ecology, and Section 7 – Culture and Heritage, and Section 8 – Environmental Management)
4	Assumptions - Describe any assumptions critical to your assessment.	Refer to Referral (Appendix A – Hydrology and Hydraulics Assessment Report, Appendix B – Geomorphic Impact Assessment Report, Appendix C – Aquatic Ecology Report, and Appendix D – Terrestrial Ecology Report)
5	Relevant policy and guidance / industry standards used in applying mitigation measures.	Refer to Referral (Section 4 – Surface Water, Section 5 – Aquatic Ecology, Section 6 – Terrestrial Ecology, Section 7 – Culture and Heritage, and Section 8 – Environmental Management)
6	Consultation – Outline the outcomes of consultation in relation to the potential environmental impacts and proposed mitigation.	Refer to Section 2.4 – Stakeholder Engagement of the Referral

7	Cumulative impact – of this action with other actions in the area.	Refer to Referral (Section 4 – Surface Water, Appendix C – Aquatic Ecology Report, and Appendix D – Terrestrial Ecology Report)
8	Ecologically sustainable development – how have the following principles been considered/applied? a) Decision-making principle b) Precautionary principle c) Principle of evidence-based decision-making d) Principle of intergenerational and intragenerational equity e) Principle of sustainable use f) Principle of conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity g) Principle of improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms	Refer to Referral (Attachment 1-1 – EP Act Environmental Impact Assessment Objectives)
9	Residual impact – provide a statement of the expected residual impact to the environmental factor.	Refer to Referral (Section 4 – Surface Water, Section 5 – Aquatic Ecology, Section 6 – Terrestrial Ecology, and Section 7 – Culture and Heritage)

7 Commonwealth Government approvals

Does the proposed action involve an action that may be or is a controlled action under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (EPBC Act)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Has the proposed action been referred? If yes, when was it referred and what is the reference number (EPBC No.)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: _____ EPBC No.: _____
If the proposed action has not been referred, does the referrer intend to refer it?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If referred, has a decision been made on whether the proposed action is a controlled action? If 'yes', check the appropriate box and provide the decision in an attachment.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

	<input type="checkbox"/> Decision – controlled action <input type="checkbox"/> Decision – not a controlled action
Is approval required from other Commonwealth Government/s for any part of the proposed action? <i>If yes, describe.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Approval: