

DIRECTION TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN THE SUPPLEMENTARY ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

This direction is given under regulations 119(2) and 121(2) of the Environment Protection Regulations 2020

Name of proposed action	Finniss Lithium Project BP33 Underground Mine – Proposed Variations
Proponent	Lithium Development (Grants) Northern Territory Pty Ltd
NT EPA reference	EP2026/051
Nature of proposed action	Mining
Description of proposed action	The Proposal is located at two adjacent mine sites, Grants Lithium Project ('Grants') and the Finniss Lithium Project BP33 Underground Mine ('BP33') on the Cox Peninsula, approximately 33 km west of the Berry Springs townsite in the Northern Territory. The Proposal is to: • increase the depth of BP33 underground mine by 530 m, from 320 metres below ground level (mbgl) to 850 mbgl • extend the life of mine from 4 years to a period of up to 12 years • increase the total mined ore from 2.09 Mt to 10.1 Mt • maintain the Grants open-cut and processing facility as a centralised ore processing, waste handling and water storage hub (with the same extended life of mine to service the BP33 operation) • transport dry rejects from Grants to BP33 via haul trucks along the Cox Peninsula Road, and • treat dry stack tails ('processing rejects') using a crusher directly associated with the BP33 paste plant. The Proposal area is located on Parcel Section 1 Hundred of Parsons, and Section 2746 Hundred of Hughes.
Method of environmental impact assessment	Assessment by supplementary environmental report (SER).
Direction	The proponent is directed to: • prepare an SER to address the submissions received in relation to the referral information, and • include additional information in the SER as detailed in Attachment 1.
Submission period for SER	The SER must be submitted to the NT EPA within 24 months of the date of this notice.
Form	The SER must generally conform with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 Level AA and material relevant to creating accessible documents on the NT Government website . In particular, the SER must:

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- be provided as:
 - accessible PDF files that do not exceed 20 MB
 - a printed copy to be displayed at the locations listed below
 - be divided into two parts:
 - a main report (with summary available as separate document)
 - appendices to the main report
 - have a navigable table of contents
 - present information in a format that is easy to follow
 - use hyperlinks to assist with navigation through the document
 - include a summary presented in appropriate local language/s.

If biodiversity data will form part of the SER, it must be submitted in line with NT EPA's [Biodiversity data policy](#) and [Biodiversity data guidance](#).

Ensure that all spatial data is provided in GIS format, georeferenced, provided as an ESRI geodatabase or shapefile, uses GDA2020 and projected into the appropriate MGA zone.

Manner

The SER must be:

- provided electronically to the NT EPA for publishing on its public register
- published electronically on the proponent's webpage and maintained for the duration of the proposal
- provided in printed hard copy for display at the following locations during the public consultation submission period:
 - NT EPA, Level 1, Arnhemica House, 16 Parap Road, Parap
 - Library & Archives NT, L2, Danala, CDU Education and Community Precinct, 54 Cavenagh Street, Darwin City
 - Environment Centre NT, Unit 3, 98 Woods Street, Darwin
 - Northern Land Council, 45 Mitchell Street, Darwin
 - Litchfield Shire Council, 7 Bees Creek Road, Freds Pass
 - Minerals and Energy InfoCentre, Level 3 Paspalis Centrepont Building, 48-50 Smith Street, Darwin.

Person authorised to give direction

Tess Cole-Adams
Executive Director Environmental Regulation
Delegate of the NT EPA under section 36(1) of the *Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority Act 2012*

Signature



Date of direction:

19 August 2026

Attachment 1 – Additional information requirements for the Supplementary Environmental Report Lithium Development (Grants) Northern Territory Pty Ltd – Finniss Lithium Project BP33 Underground Mine – Proposed Variations

Topic	Context	Additional Information Required
Community and economy		
Traffic movements, road safety, noise and dust associated with haulage	The proposed variations to the BP33 underground mine will extend the period of operation of haul trucks along Cox Peninsula Road and will result in a longer duration of traffic movement along public roadways. The activities proposed as part of the referral include increasing the depth of BP33 underground mine by 530 m (from 320 mbgl to 850 mbgl), to extend the life of mine (LOM) from 4 years to a period of up to 12 years and to increase in the total quantity of mined ore from 2.1 Mt to 10.1 Mt. In previous environmental impact assessments, the Proponent committed to pavement maintenance, installation of road signage and emergency access. The Proponent also committed to restrict road train haulage past the Berry Springs Primary School to outside the hours of 07:45am to 08:45am and 2:30pm to 3:30pm on school days, unless otherwise approved in writing by the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure in consultation with Berry Springs Primary School.	1. Provide an assessment of the potential impacts on community and economy, specifically traffic movements, road safety, noise and dust, that may occur as a result of the increased LOM and the haulage of raw and processed material on the Cox Peninsula Road between the two sites. 2. Describe, in the SER, the measures to avoid and mitigate impacts to the community and economy that would be implemented for the life of mine to manage: i. the traffic/vehicle movements, road safety, complaints, noise, vibration and dust associated with haulage along the Cox Peninsula Road, and ii. haulage through Berry Springs Primary School drop-off and pick-up periods.

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Topic	Context	Additional Information Required
Hydrogeological processes, Inland water environmental quality and Aquatic ecosystems		
Groundwater modelling	The referral report and Appendix H of the referral discuss the potentially significant impacts to riparian vegetation and groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs) present in the area of the proposed action and zone of influence. In addition to this, the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA) submission raises concern for the implications of groundwater decline and drawdown on GDE and cultural values within the area. Based on hydrogeological assessments undertaken at Grants and BP33, a finite element (FEFLOW) numerical groundwater model was constructed in 2018 and subsequently updated in 2021 and 2023. Artesium Consulting Services Pty Ltd updated the numerical model further in 2025. Australasian Groundwater and Environmental Consultants Pty Ltd (AGE) have undertaken an independent peer review of the latest (2026) update of the groundwater model and model report¹ and noted that the FEFLOW model focussed on predicting potential impacts to the groundwater system and associated environmental receptors resulting from the development of the underground mine at BP33. It has been identified that there is an absence of deep groundwater testing and monitoring to collect hydrogeological and calibration data and that:	3. Review and refine the numerical groundwater model including: i. varying the thickness of model layer 1 spatially based on site specific information, geological mapping and CSIRO regolith modelling results (i.e. the shallow aquifer of unconsolidated 'regolith' and alluvium) ii. optimising the current calibrated model parameters using an automated calibration approach and allowing hydraulic parameters to vary spatially, within appropriate constraints, to fit the available observation data iii. inclusion of observed drawdown (relative to initial readings in each observation bore) and vertical head differences as additional calibration targets iv. completion of a predictive uncertainty analysis using a Monte Carlo based statistical approach such that the probability of different predictive outcomes can be quantified. 4. Address the hydrogeological and calibration data gaps in deep zones to determine: i. the magnitude, extent and duration of groundwater drawdown ii. the hydraulic connectivity between the shallow, intermediate and deeper aquifers iii. risks or potential significant impacts to ecological (e.g. groundwater dependent ecosystems) and cultural values

¹ Artesium Consulting Services Pty Ltd (Artesium), 2026. Groundwater Model Update – Core Lithium BP33 Mine Groundwater Dewatering Model Update. Project no: 2026-002. 9 April 2026.

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	- limits the degree to which modelled parameters in deep zones can be calibrated, and - introduces a high degree of uncertainty and reduces confidence in the reliability of the groundwater model simulation, scenario testing and predictions used to evaluate the behaviour of the surface and groundwater system. Refinement of the numerical groundwater model and subsequent update to the assessment (including protection measures) is required to improve confidence in, and the prediction of, potential significant impacts to hydrological processes, groundwater dependent ecosystems and cultural values¹.	iv. the potential cumulative impacts of the proposed action and the nearby Lei Lithium Project.
Inland water environmental quality and wastewater discharges	The receiving environment of the catchment downstream of the proposal includes the Charlotte River, Bynoe Harbour Fog Bay, and West Arm, Darwin Harbour that form part of the Fog Bay and Darwin Harbour Beneficial Use Areas declared under the Northern Territory <i>Water Act 1992</i>. In sections of the referral report, the proponent indicates that controlled discharge of excess mine affected water to the environment may be required as a result of the extended life of mine. To date, this has been managed via waste discharge licences granted under the <i>Water Act 1992</i> for BP33 (WDL253-01) and the Grants Lithium Project/Mine (WDL248-03), and the proponent has committed to developing an integrated water	5. Prepare and provide an integrated water management strategy and plan (including an integrated water balance model). The water management system must consider short term and long-term climatic patterns and trends, and incorporate management of mine affected water, water storage and treatment methods, and specify the discharge water quality that will be achieved. 6. Clarify that the discharge of treated mine-affected water from the proposed action with extended life of mine into either the unnamed ephemeral stream that feeds into West Arm, Darwin Harbour, and the Charlotte River and Bynoe Harbour is required. 7. Assess the potential significant impacts (direct, indirect and cumulative) to the environment that includes an evaluation of

¹ The Charlotte River and Bynoe Harbour support freshwater and marine ecosystems also have recreational and cultural value important to the traditional owners of the Cox Peninsula.

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	management plan to ensure that permanent alteration of inland water quality does not occur as a result of the proposed actions.	contaminants of concern, and treatment of wastewater to a quality that is suitable for discharge into the receiving environment under a waste discharge licence.