

DIRECTION TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This direction is given under regulation 83 of the Environment Protection Regulation 2020

Proposed action name	GEMCO Excess Water Disposal Project
Proponent	Groote Eylandt Mining Company Pty Ltd (GEMCO)
NT EPA reference	EP2025/043
Nature of proposed action	Mining, utilities and services
Direction	The proponent is directed to provide the additional information in relation to the proposed action and potential significant impacts.
Submission period for additional information	The additional information must be submitted to the NT EPA within 20 business days of the date of this Direction.
Person authorised to give direction	Dr Paul Vogel AM – Chairperson, Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority Delegate of the NT EPA under section 36 of the <i>Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority Act 2012</i>
Signature	
Date of direction	11 August 2026

Attachment A – Additional information

Groote Eylandt Mining Company Pty Ltd – Excess Water Disposal Project

Table 1. Additional information to be provided in accordance with regulation 83

Item	Context	Additional information required
1.	The NT EPA has consulted (under EP Regulation 160) with the proponent and statutory decision-makers who may have an interest, on the draft environmental approval for the proposed action. Consultation occurred during the period 21 July to 4 August 2026. A submission received identified that sacred sites occur within, and in close proximity to, the project area. GEMCO provided a copy of an Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA) Authority Certificate on 4 August 2026 and clarified that the conditions imposed by the certificate can be accommodated within the project are currently proposed. Changes to water quality are predicted in close proximity to the outfall diffuser and sediment deposition modelling results over a one year simulation have been provided in Section 4.6.2 and Figure 44 of Appendix A of the Supplementary Environmental Report. Figures indicate 3 mm of sediment deposition outside the zone of influence and up to 8 mm in localised areas around the Milner Bay Jetty structure. The potential impacts of the modelled sediment deposition was assessed against benthic communities and marine sediment quality. No modelling or discussion about potential changes and impacts from changes to hydrological processes has been provided in relation to sacred sites and for the life of the project. Additional information from the proponent about potential impacts to cultural values is required to inform the NT EPA's consideration	• Provide an assessment of potential changes to sediment deposition for the life of the project (and include assumptions such as the number of years and control measures). • Provide an assessment of direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of the proposed action on features of the sacred site (particularly in relation to restricted works area (RWA) 1) and whether a significant impact is predicted. • Assess whether the changes to water quality from the proposed action will potentially significantly impact known sacred sites. • Provide a figure showing sediment deposition and the NT EPA recommended LEP and MEP overlain with the RWA1 and sacred site features. • Describe measures to avoid and mitigate impacts to the greatest extent practicable as required by section 26 of the EP Act.

Item	Context	Additional information required
	of potential significant impacts to cultural values and any recommendations to the Minister.	
2.	The proponent's submission on the draft environmental approval proposes a pH 5.2 discharge limit. Environmental regulation and standard practice typically require a pH range between 6 and 9.	- Describe the impacts to the receiving environment of excess water with a potential discharge limit (potential in pipe compliance limit) of pH 5.2 - Define and map the area around the diffuser that is predicted to be pH 5.2 to 6.