



**PART A**

**INFORMATION FOR THE PUBLIC**

**GUIDELINES FOR PREPARATION OF  
A PUBLIC ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT**

**MATILDA MINERALS LTD  
AIRCRAFT LANDING AREA  
ANDRANANGOO CREEK WEST, MELVILLE ISLAND**

**July 2007**

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## **1 PURPOSE**

The Northern Territory Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts has determined that this proposal requires assessment under the *Environmental Assessment Act* at the level of a Public Environmental Report (PER).

These guidelines have been developed to assist Matilda Minerals Ltd in preparing a PER for the proposed Aircraft landing Area (ALA) in accordance with Clause 8 of the Administrative Procedures of the *Environmental Assessment Act*. The object of these guidelines is to identify those matters that should be addressed in the PER. The guidelines are based on the initial outline of the proposal in the Notice of Intent (NoI).

These guidelines consist of two sections:

- Part A (this section) is the introduction and brief description of the project and the PER process; and
- Part B details the type and extent of information to be included in the PER.

The object of these guidelines is to identify those matters that should be addressed in the PER. The guidelines are based on the initial outline of the proposal in the proponent's NoI. The guidelines, however, are not necessarily exhaustive. They should not be interpreted as excluding from consideration any matters which are currently unforeseen that emerge as important or significant from scientific studies or otherwise during the preparation of the PER and the public consultation process.

This section of the guidelines has been developed to assist members of the public and other interested parties in preparing comments on the PER.

## **2 THE PROPONENT**

The proponent is Matilda Minerals Ltd.

## **3 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL**

### **3.1 Introduction**

The ALA site is located on Melville Island which is part of the Tiwi Islands, located 60 km north of Darwin. The ALA will be constructed parallel to the existing access road to the Andranangoo Creek Sand Mine, (approved by this agency in August 2006) and located approximately 50-130 kilometres by road from existing airstrips on the island.

The ALA is expected to provide the following benefits to the mining site:

- Decreased travel time to site for personnel and visitors;
- Improved safety by allowing quick evacuation of personnel and visitors in the event of a cyclone or medical emergency;
- Less need to travel by road in the wet season when water levels are high;
- Faster and more reliable method of delivery of supplies and perishables to site, particularly during the wet season.

The estimated life-of mine at Andranangoo Creek is three to three and a half years and at the Lethbridge Bay West site is approximately six months.

### **3.2 Operational Details**

The runway will be serviced by charter aircraft from Darwin for the purpose of transporting personnel, visitors and supplies to Matilda's mineral sands operation. The charter aircraft would operate from the ALA three (3) to five (5) times per week depending on Matilda's requirements.

### **3.3 Infrastructure**

On-site infrastructure will include:

- the airstrip including runway, runway strip and flyover areas; and
- fuel storage arrangements (as required).

It is not proposed to handle or store hydrocarbon products in the vicinity of the proposed ALA. Should fuel temporarily require storage at the ALA Matilda will operate in compliance with the associated Andranangoo Creek West Hydrocarbon and Hazardous Substances EMP.

### **3.4 Workforce**

No employees will be based at the ALA.

### **3.5 Decommissioning**

It is proposed that the ALA will be made available for use by the Traditional Owners following decommissioning of the mine site by Matilda.

## **4 PER PROCESS**

The proponent has been directed to prepare a PER. Once prepared, the PER will be exhibited for public review and comment for a period of 28 days, during which time advisory bodies will also comment on the document.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Program will prepare an Environmental Assessment Report and Recommendations based on the PER and any comments received. If the Minister approves the Report and Recommendations, these are forwarded to the responsible (consent) Minister(s) for inclusion in permit, lease or license conditions and in relevant management procedures (e.g. Environmental Management Plans).

The Assessment Report and Recommendations are included on the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts (DNRETA) webpage and hard copies are provided to the Proponent and PER respondents.

## **5 ADMINISTRATION**

The nominated Action Officer for this project is Annie Andrews from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Program, Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts (NRETA). Her contact telephone number is (08) 8924 4123, facsimile number (08) 89244 4053, and e-mail is: [annie.andrews@nt.gov.au](mailto:annie.andrews@nt.gov.au).

Copies of the final guidelines will be posted on the NRETA website <http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/environment/assessment/register/matildaminerals/index.html>

Copies of the PER will be available to the public for purchase from the proponent.

**Comments on the draft PER Guidelines and subsequent PER should be forwarded to the nominated Action Officer.**