

5 February 2021

Environmental Assessment
Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security
Northern Territory Government
Floor 1, Arnhemica House, 16 Parap Road, Parap
PO Box 3675, Parap, NT 0801

Re: Winchelsea Island Manganese Mine Project Referral

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above referral. Medical Entomology comments are as follows.

Referral Document for Winchelsea Manganese Mine Project

1. Section 5.7 Biting Insects. Third Paragraph. The mention of Ross River virus in this paragraph appears incorrect, as Ross River virus is endemic to Australia.
2. It is mentioned in Table 7.1 Knowledge Gaps, that there are gaps in biting insect data and biting insect monitoring is required. To alleviate the knowledge gaps, Medical Entomology suggests the following biting insect monitoring program.
 - a) 12 month baseline adult biting insect monitoring at the proposed Little Paradise accommodation camp site. The proposed accommodation site is located adjacent to expansive mangrove areas and localised swamps that are likely to be seasonal sources of mosquitoes and biting midges. Ideally, the accommodation facility should be located at least 1.6km from extensive mangroves and swampy areas, to avoid the areas of highest mosquito and biting midge abundance.

Overnight adult biting insect traps should be set once a month, and should ideally be carried out before major construction commences, otherwise at least before the mine is in full operation.
 - b) Ad-hoc wet season adult mosquito monitoring at the administration and other personnel building areas on Winchelsea Island. For example, at the start of the wet season, mid wet season and end of wet season.
 - c) Larval mosquito survey of swampland areas nearby to the accommodation camp. This would only be important if there is a potential for larval mosquito control to be carried out.
 - d) A management plan should be created that summarises the biting insect trapping data, and include best practice measures to avoid and control adult biting insects, specifically mosquitoes and biting midges, and measures to avoid other potentially important arthropods such as the scrub typhus mite, spiders, itchy grubs and stinging insects. The management plan should cover the construction phase and operations phase.

- e) During the operations phase, it is recommended for exotic adult mosquito monitoring to be carried out at the jetty that receives international ships. The frequency of trapping should be determined via discussions with Medical Entomology and the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment.
 - f) Some general guidance on minimising the potential for mine sites to create new mosquito breeding sites can be found in the Medical Entomology guideline '[Guidelines for preventing mosquito breeding sites associated with mining sites](#)'.
3. Medical Entomology has the capacity to assist in the development of a 12 month biting insect monitoring program and subsequent management plans, therefore the proponent/environmental scientists can contact Medical Entomology for advice. Depending on site access and resources available to carry out the suggested baseline biting insect monitoring, if required the baseline program can be modified to tie in with other surveys.

Please contact me if there are any queries with this letter.

Yours sincerely

Advice and Control Officer