

## Submission on the draft Terms of Reference

### Winchelsea Mining Pty Ltd - Winchelsea Island Manganese Mine Project

This submission is made under regulation 103 of the Environment Protection Regulations 2020

**Government authority:** Department of Health. Centre for Disease Control. Medical Entomology section.

**Summary:** Biting insects are likely to seasonally affect the project area, which could pose a nuisance risk and mosquito borne disease risk. Baseline biting insect trapping is currently being carried out by Winchelsea Mining Pty Ltd. This would inform a biting insect management plan aimed at reducing the impact of biting insects on the workforce, and reduce the potential for mining activities to create new mosquito breeding sites.

Section of draft TOR	Theme or issue	Comment
Table 4. Theme- People- Human Health	<p>Biting insects – human nuisance, mosquito borne disease, other arthropods that can cause irritation and illness.</p> <p>Mine site management, biting insect control and prevention.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mine sites have the potential to create new mosquito breeding sites, which could affect workers, and affect the future amenity of the land if legacy mosquito breeding sites remain after operations. General information on mosquito prevention and mitigation at mine sites can be found in the guideline listed in Appendix A of the TOR document.</li> <li>• The proposed mine site is in a remote coastal environment of the Top End, and is likely to be exposed to seasonally appreciable biting insect populations, including from potential disease carrying mosquitoes. Mosquitoes and biting midges are the most abundant biting insects in the Top End. Baseline mosquito and biting midge trapping for a 12 month period is usually recommended to determine the seasonal and spatial abundance of biting insects in a particular area. Baseline biting insect trapping is currently being undertaken by Winchelsea Mining Pty Ltd, and is expected to be completed in mid-2022. The information would be used to inform a biting insect management plan, with regards to project aspects such as building site selection (i.e. choose locations away from mangroves and swamps where feasible), the design and management of water holding structures, biting insect control, personal protection and site rehabilitation. As well as informing a biting insect management plan, the information from the baseline trapping should also be summarised in the Human Health section of the EIS. If the completion of the EIS is anticipated to precede the completion of the baseline biting insect trapping program, then preliminary findings and recommendations should be used in the EIS, with reference to the final biting insect management plan.</li> </ul>