

Referral form - Environment Protection Act 2019

Referring a controlled action (referral of significant variation) to the NT EPA under Section 52 of the Environment Protection Act 2019

PART A - Proponent details	
It is the proponent's responsibility to advise the NT EPA in writing, of changes to consultant and proponent contacts.	
Name of the proponent/s (legal entity)	Verdant Minerals Ltd
Proponent details	<p>Name: Chris Tziolis</p> <p>Position/responsibility: Managing Director</p> <p>Physical address: 20 / 90 Frances Bay Drive, Stuart Park NT 0820</p> <p>Postal address: GPO Box 775, Darwin NT 0801</p> <p>Phone: +61 8 8942 0385</p> <p>Email: ctziolis@verdantminerals.com.au</p>
Proponent Trading Name if relevant	N/A
Australian Business Number/s	ABN 33122 131 622
Australian Company Number/s	ACN 0122 131 622
Provide a description of the organisational structure with respect to responsibility of the proposed action, environmental approvals, and implementation.	Verdant Minerals Ltd (Verdant) is the 100% owner of the Ammaroo Project and at this point in time will be executing the design and delivery of the proposed project works associated with construction and the operation of the Ammaroo Ammonium Phosphate Fertiliser Project.
Joint-venture partners (if applicable)	N/A

PART B - Outline of the proposal and location	
Outline of the Proposed action or strategic proposal (proposal)	
Title of the proposal	Ammaroo Ammonium Phosphate Fertiliser Project
Provide a brief summary (one or two paragraphs) of the proposal including the activity type/ industry/ duration.	The Ammaroo Ammonium Phosphate Fertiliser Project will incorporate the mining and beneficiation of approximately 2 million tonnes per annum of phosphate rock concentrate (the approved project) and convert that rock concentrate locally to phosphoric acid that will subsequently be converted to 1 million tonnes per annum of Ammonium Phosphate Fertilisers (the proposed project). These fertiliser products will be sold

	<p>both to regional export markets and the domestic Australian market</p> <p>The proposed project will also involve the construction of onsite plant and infrastructure, including a phosphoric acid plant, sulphuric acid plant, ammonia plant, granulation plant for the production of diammonium phosphate (DAP) and monoammonium phosphate (MAP) fertiliser products, as well as amenity and service infrastructure beyond that contemplated in the approved project.</p> <p>Product will be railed to either the Darwin Port or to South Australia depending upon markets and seasonality.</p> <p>The project's construction period is approximately 3 years, and the operation period is 25 years.</p> <p>The proposed project's closure and rehabilitation will comprise activities such as capping of the gypsum stacking area, decommissioning and disassembly of plant and associated infrastructure, progressive revegetation and weed control, and related monitoring.</p>
Location	
<p>Provide location details as:</p> <p>a) street address, suburb</p> <p>b) tenement, lot/section numbers, town/hundred, NT Portion or pastoral lease numbers, as applicable</p> <p>c) the nearest town, recognisable feature, and distance and direction from that town/feature to the site of the proposed action.</p> <p>If the proposal includes several locations, provide location details for each location. For example, a mine at location 1 and a processing site at location 2.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>MLA 29463 over EL25184</p> <p>MLA 29854 over EL24726</p> <p>The Ammaroo Ammonium Phosphate Fertiliser Project is situated in the Barkly region of the Northern Territory, located in the western Georgina Basin approximately 220 kilometres (km) southeast of Tennant Creek, 125 km east of Barrow Creek, and 270 km northeast of Alice Springs.</p> <p>Regional areas include Tennant Creek, Barkly, and Sandover-Plenty. Indigenous locations (ILOCS) include Ampilatwatja, Utopia and Arlparra, Imangara (Murray Downs), and Ali Curung. Surrounding pastoral stations include Ammaroo Station, Neutral Junction and Murray Downs.</p> <p>The mine and ammonia phosphate plant are located within the ML boundary.</p>

Name of the Local Government Area/s in which the proposal is located.	Barkly
What is the land tenure type?	Pastoral Lease with EIs and MLAs overlaid
Does the proponent have the legal (land) access required for the implementation of all aspects of the proposal?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Not yet. Finalisation of a Native Title Mining Agreement is the trigger to granting of the Mineral Leases followed by the approval of an MMP. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If yes, provide an indication of legal access authorisations / agreement / tenure.
Is the land zoned under the NT Planning Scheme ?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If yes, what is/are the zoning/s?
What is the current land use of the proposal site/s?	Pastoral Activities
What is the approximate distance (direct line) and direction to the closest human sensitive receptor? For example, residence, accommodation, hospital, school, homeland from the proposal.	The nearest human sensitive receptor is the project's proposed accommodation camp, which is to be located at ~3.6km east northeast of the fertiliser manufacturing plant. The closest community receptor (Ampilatwatja) is located 20km south of the ML.
Consultation	
Provide an overview of consultation undertaken specific to the proposal and potential environmental impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consultation with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water (DCCEEW) to determine whether referral of the Proposed Project is required for consideration by the Minister or whether it is a controlled action. The DCCEEW indicated that given that the Ammaroo Phosphate Project does not exceed the already approved clearance (EPBC Act referral 2014/7260 dated 5 January 2018), no additional action is required on EPBC-related matters and the approval would still be applicable as no variation to its condition is proposed. - Consultation with Traditional Owners, and Central Land Council (CLC) are ongoing, with the intent of concluding the Native Title Mining Agreement which also incorporates the process for attaining a sacred sites clearance certificate from AAPA for the Ammaroo


	<p>Ammonium Phosphate Fertiliser Project to conform with the Native Title Act and Sacred Sites Act.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consultation was carried out with key stakeholder groups to better understand their views, provide information about the project, and where possible, enable opportunities for collaboration on project design <p>Stakeholders include Native Title Holders, community residents, and service providers in Ampilatwatja, nearby pastoral stations and regional stakeholders in Tennant Creek, and Alice Springs, Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet, NT Chamber of Commerce, Barkly Regional Council, Arid Lands Environment Centre, and Saltbush Social Enterprise.</p>
<p>List the matters raised in consultation and identify how the proposal has been modified to respond to stakeholder feedback.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Perceived opportunities including employment opportunities for local community, support for community events, economic benefits from Native Title Agreement, and potential upgrades to local roads, use of proposed infrastructure (such as bores and the airfield), long-term and sustainable employment opportunities for communities in the Barkly Region, procurement opportunities for business across Alice Springs and the Barkly Region, and economic diversification. - Perceived concerns including potential road safety risks for road users, governance and implementation of the Native Title Agreement, restrictions to Country for gathering resources, use of groundwater, further degradation of the roads if they are not upgraded, workforce accessing parts of the station without permission, access for cattle to water sources, and potential environmental impacts as a result of groundwater extraction and greenhouse gas emissions. <p>As part of the EIS Referral, Verdant has completed the following studies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social Impact Assessment - Economic Impact Assessment - Traffic Impact Assessment - Groundwater Impact Assessment - Air Quality Impact Assessment - Noise Impact Assessment - Greenhouse Gas Assessment <p>Findings of these technical studies have informed the risk assessment process and proposed management and mitigation (control) measures to reduce risks to relevant</p>

	NT EPA Environmental Factors (including Protected Matters and Threatened Species under the EBPC Act) to as low as reasonably practicable (ALARP).
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PART C – Referral type	
What type of proposal is being referred?	<input type="checkbox"/> proposed action <input type="checkbox"/> strategic proposal <input type="checkbox"/> proponent initiated EIS referral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Significant variation to proposal NT EPA (Assessment Report 87)
<p>Provide a brief justification including the reasons why you consider the action may have a significant impact on the environment and is referred to the NT EPA.</p> <p>Refer to section 11 of the EP Act and the NT EPA's environmental factors and objectives.</p>	<p>The NT EPA's Assessment Report 87 (dated October 2018) identified the following key environmental factors that may be impacted by the Ammonia Phosphate Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hydrological processes - Inland water environmental quality.- uncertainty of proposal configuration <p>Further, Recommendation 2 of Assessment Report 87 requires Verdant to provide written notice to the NT EPA and the Responsible Minister, if it alters the Project and/or EIS commitments, safeguards, or mitigation measures in such a manner that the environmental significance of the action may have changed, in accordance with clause 14A of the Environmental Assessment Administrative Procedures (now Environment Protection Act 2019).</p>
Does the proposal involve an action that may be or is a controlled action under the Commonwealth <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (EPBC Act)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <p>The original action was determined to be a controlled action (2014/7260) and received approval in January 2018.</p>
Has the significant variation been referred?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <p>Advice from the Australian Government indicated a referral for the significant variation was unlikely to be required (see consultation in Part B above).</p>
If referred, has a decision been made on whether the proposed action is a controlled action?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <p>If yes, check the appropriate decision outcome and provide the decision in an attachment.</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Decision – controlled action <input type="checkbox"/> Decision – not a controlled action

PART D – Proponent referrer details and declaration

*The referral form must include the declaration signed by the proponent, or where the proponent is an organisation or business, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or duly authorised delegate within the proponent company.

Who is referring this proposal?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proponent <input type="checkbox"/> Authorised representative within proponent entity		
Does the proponent request that the NT EPA treat any part of the information in the referral as confidential under section 281(2) of the EP Act?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If yes, provide an application in accordance with regulation 271 of the Environment Protection Regulations 2020 and submit the confidential information as a separate attachment		
Referral declaration by proponent: I, Christopher Neale Tziolis, declare that I am authorised to refer this proposed action/strategic proposal on behalf of Verdant Minerals Ltd, and further declare that: <ul style="list-style-type: none">the attached environmental impact assessment documents have been prepared in accordance with the EP Act and EP Regulations; andthe attached environmental impact assessment documents (including attachments) are true; andthe attached environmental impact assessment documents do not provide false or misleading information and I know it is an offence to provide false and misleading information, noting the penalties under section 260 of the EP Act, and section 119 of the <i>Criminal Code Act 1983</i>; andthe proponent fully understands that referral under the EP Act does not limit, in any way, the requirements of the proponent to ensure approvals under any other regulatory regime are applied for, and adhered to; andthe proponent has fulfilled its general duty in accordance with section 43 of the EP Act. <p><i>Note: if the NT EPA determine that an environmental approval is required, the proponent will be requested to provide supporting documents during the assessment process such as details to support that the person is a fit and proper person to hold an environmental approval in accordance with section 62 of the EP Act</i></p>			
Name CHRISTOPHER TZIOLIS	Signature* 		
Date	16/11/2022		
Position	Managing Director	Organisation (if a business or organisation)	
Email	ctziolis@verdantminerals.com.au		
Address	20/90	Frances Bay Drive	
Stuart Park		NT	0820

PART E – Nominated contact

<p>Contact details for proponent contact (provide the details for the person who will be corresponding with the NT EPA on the proposal)</p>	<p><i>Business name:</i> Verdant Minerals Ltd <i>Name of primary contact:</i> Chris Tziolis <i>Physical address:</i> 20/90 Francis Bay Drive, Stuart Park, NT, 0820 <i>Postal address:</i> GPO Box 775, Darwin, NT, 0801 <i>Phone:</i> 0437021415 <i>Email:</i> ctziolis@verdantminerals.com.au</p>
<p>Contact details of consultant (if relevant, provide the details for the person who will be corresponding with the NT EPA on the proposal on behalf of the proponent)</p>	<p><i>Business name:</i> <i>Name of primary contact:</i> <i>Physical address:</i> <i>Postal address:</i> <i>Phone:</i> <i>Email:</i></p>

Checklist 1 – Cross reference of matters addressed in the referral report (for more detail see Table 1 in section 3.3.1 and section 4 of the Referring a proposal to the NT EPA guidance)

Item	See Referral guidance for complete information requirements	Report section/page
<i>Publication statement</i>	Provide name and qualifications of relevant contributors to the referral.	Page xxvi
<i>Executive summary</i>	Overview of the proposal, its potential for significant impact and key conclusions.	Pages i - xx
<i>Introduction</i>	Include a brief introduction to the proposal and the proponent (noting proponent details are also to be included in the referral form).	Section 1/ Pages 1 -7
<i>Proposal description - Key components</i>	<p>Provide a clear and detailed description of the proposal, referencing maps and spatial information.</p> <p>Provide a key components summary table.</p> <p>Identify uncertainty / likely changes if particular elements of a proposal require further design at the time of referral.</p> <p>Provide an account of past, present and reasonably foreseeable future development, operations, or industries that are related the current proposal.</p>	Sections 4 & 5 Pages 16 - 36
<i>Proposal description - Location and regional context</i>	Location and regional context.	Section 7 / Page 47
<i>Proposal description - Alternatives (options)</i>	<p>Describe any alternatives (location, timeframes, activities) considered or are under consideration in scoping and developing the proposal.</p> <p>Describe how the analysis of alternatives accounted for the <i>principles of environment protection and management</i> (Part 2 of the EP Act).</p> <p>Justification for the preferred/selected option.</p> <p>Describe any assumptions critical to your assessment.</p>	Section 6 / Page 38
<p><i>Proposal description - Application of the:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Principles of environment protection and management (Part 2)</i> - <i>General duty of proponents (s43)</i> 	<p>Discuss how the proposal accounts for the <i>principles of environment protection and management</i> (Part 2 of the EP Act) and the general duty of proponents provided for under section 43 of the EP Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principles of ecologically sustainable development • Environmental decision-making hierarchy • Waste management hierarchy. 	Page xviii & Appendix G
<p><i>Consultation</i></p> <p>Refer to NT EPA Stakeholder Engagement guidance 2020</p>	<p>The EP Act (section 3 and section 43) puts an obligation on the proponent to consult with stakeholders and the community in the development of the proposal.</p> <p>As an example, the referral should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a description of stakeholder engagement and community consultation undertaken • an outline of the method and process of consultation with stakeholders • a summary of the key matters raised during consultation • any changes made as a result of consultation • the ongoing consultation, and options for feedback • whether the consultation has or has not been undertaken in accordance with NT EPA guidance on Stakeholder Engagement 2020 	Section 9 Pages 57 - 59 Section 15 Pages 95 - 98 Appendix L

Item	See Referral guidance for complete information requirements	Report section/page
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> whether the consultation has or hasn't been undertaken in accordance with the section 43 (EP Act) general duty of proponents (see Checklist 2). 	
<i>Strategic and statutory context</i>	Table discussing proposal specific legislation, policies, and guidelines that are and may be applicable to the proposal and the sequencing and status of those, is provided.	Section 3 Pages 12-16
<i>Environmental Factors</i>	<p>The remaining sections below relate to information that describes the potential impacts of the proposal on the NT EPA's Environmental factors.</p> <p>Information requirements for each environmental factor identified by the pre-referral screening tool are provided (any technical studies and surveys included).</p>	
<i>Environmental Factors and objectives</i> Presence/absence of environmental values	<p><i>Repeat for each NT EPA Factor being considered for your proposal/referral</i></p> <p>The presence or absence of relevant environmental values and sensitivities are verified.</p> <p>Specify the source of information (e.g. desktop assessments, and/or field surveys, the methods used, dates, sources, and whether the approach is conducted in accordance with relevant regulatory and industry guideline.</p>	Sections 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 & 19
<i>Environmental Factors and objectives</i> Potential impacts and consistency with relevant policy/guidance	<p><i>Repeat for each NT EPA Factor being considered for your proposal/referral</i></p> <p>Assessment of potential impacts (positive, negative, direct, indirect, cumulative, short and long-term) of the proposal.</p> <p>Relevant policy and guidance described.</p> <p>Residual / remaining impact to the environmental factor described.</p>	Appendices F, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P & Q
<i>Environmental Factors and objectives</i> Environment protection and management	<p><i>Repeat for each NT EPA Factor being considered for your proposal/referral</i></p> <p>Describe in terms of management hierarchies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> measures proposed to avoid, mitigate or offset (if appropriate) effectiveness of proposed measures and the level of confidence of implementation whether the NT EPA's objective for the environmental factor is likely to be met. 	
<i>Environmental Factors and objectives</i> Cumulative impacts	<p><i>Repeat for each NT EPA Factor being considered for your proposal/referral</i></p> <p>Describe potential cumulative impacts.</p>	

Checklist 2 – Consideration of the Proponent’s general duty (in accordance with section 43 of the EP Act)

Section 43 General duty	Done	Comment
The following principles of ecologically sustainable development must be taken into consideration in the design of the proposed action.		Provide comment here
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision-making principle 	✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Precautionary principle 	✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principle of evidence-based decision-making 	✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principle of intergenerational and intergenerational equity 	✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principle of sustainable use 	✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principle of conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity 	✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principle of improved valuation, pricing, and incentive mechanisms 	✓	
The following management hierarchies must be taken into consideration in the design of the proposed action.		Provide comment here
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental decision-making hierarchy 	✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste management hierarchy 	✓	
Other section 43 considerations		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have communities that may be affected by the proposed action been provided with information and opportunities for consultation? 	✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has consultation with affected communities, including Aboriginal communities’ been undertaken in a culturally appropriate manner? 	✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has community knowledge and understanding (including scientific and traditional knowledge and understanding) of the natural and cultural values of areas that may be impacted by the proposed action been sought and documented? 	✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have Aboriginal values and the rights and interests of Aboriginal communities’ been addressed in relation to areas that may be impacted by the proposed action? 	✓	