


NOTICE OF DECISION

Regulation 104(3) of the Environment Protection Regulations 2020 (EP Regulations) for a decision on draft Terms of Reference for a proposed action

Name of proposed action	Rover 1 Project
Proponent	Castile Resources Pty Ltd
NT EPA reference	EP2023/030
Description of proposed action	<p>Development and operation of an underground iron oxide copper gold mine to produce copper, gold, cobalt and magnetite, approximately 70 km southwest of Tennant Creek in the Barkly local government area. The proposed action is located on NT Portion 3556 and the land tenure is Aboriginal freehold.</p> <p>The proposed activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • land disturbance of approximately 177 ha • a decline box cut and underground workings • above ground facilities and infrastructure, including a waste rock dump, processing plant, paste plant, tailings storage facility, run-of-mine pad, raw water dam and supporting infrastructure including an onsite accommodation village • estimated groundwater extraction of up to 4.4 megalitres per day from the underground workings and a groundwater borefield • ore processing of up to 500,000 tonnes per annum, with the products hauled to Tennant Creek for further transport via train, airline and marine vessels • upgrades to the existing Kunayungka Road and minor roads • sewage (treated) irrigation to land • potential development of a gas-fired power station and a 40 km long gas pipeline connecting to the Amadeus gas pipeline (location and total footprint to be confirmed). <p>The estimated operational life of the mine is approximately 10 years, followed by 5 years of rehabilitation.</p>
Decision	In accordance with EP regulation 104(3)(b), the draft terms of reference (TOR) are approved with changes the NT EPA considers appropriate.
Person authorised to make decision	Dr Paul Vogel AM – Chairperson of the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA)
Signature	
Date of decision	9 January 2024
Matters considered	<p>The NT EPA has considered the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the accepted referral (including the referral form, referral report and appendices, proponent terms of reference, and proponent statement of reasons)

- submissions received in relation to the accepted referral during the public consultation period from 5 October to 15 November 2023:
 - Government authority submissions received: six
 - Public submissions: two
 - submission received in relation to the draft amended TOR from the Australian Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
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Consultation

The submissions received in relation to the draft TOR raised the potential for significant impacts to the following:

- terrestrial ecosystems (sensitive or significant vegetation, and threatened fauna including the Greater Bilby, Painted Honeyeater and Grey Falcon)
- hydrological processes
- inland water quality
- social and cultural values
- matters of national environmental significance.

The appropriate changes have been made to the TOR to address the comments.
