



Ms Lisa Bradley  
Director Environmental Assessment  
Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security  
Northern Territory Government  
PO Box 3675  
PARAP NT 0820

Via: [Lisa.Bradley@nt.gov.au](mailto:Lisa.Bradley@nt.gov.au) Cc: [eia.NTEPA@nt.gov.au](mailto:eia.NTEPA@nt.gov.au)

**Invitation to Comment – Referral of Lithium Plus Minerals Ltd. to the NT EPA**

Dear Ms Bradley

Thank you for inviting comment on the referral of the Lei Lithium Project to the NT EPA. The department's comments relate to matters relevant to the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and are provided at Attachment A.

In brief, the department notes that the project intersects with a known occurrence of the following EPBC protected matters:

- Listed threatened species and communities (relevant to s18 and s18A of the EPBC Act)
- Listed migratory species (relevant to s20 & s20A)

Anyone proposing to take an action with the potential to significantly impact matters of national environmental significance must refer the action for consideration under the EPBC Act. The department has written to the proponent to advise them of their obligations due to the number of listed species that may be present in the project area and surrounds, as identified in the department's Protected Matters Search Tool.

If you have any questions about our response, please contact Sophie Brennan, Assessment Officer by email [Sophie.Brennan@dcceew.gov.au](mailto:Sophie.Brennan@dcceew.gov.au) and cc in [EADSAandNTSection@dcceew.gov.au](mailto:EADSAandNTSection@dcceew.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bray".

Dr Josh Bray  
Acting Director  
SA & NT Assessments Section  
Environment Assessment West Branch (WA, SA, NT)  
7 February 2025

**Attachment A:** DCCEEW submission form

## Submission on the referral

### Lithium Plus Minerals Ltd - Lei Lithium Project

This submission is made under regulation 53 of the Environment Protection Regulations 2020

**Government authority:** Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW, the department)

**Summary:** Lithium Plus Minerals Ltd. proposes to develop an underground lithium mine on Fog Bay Road, approximately 30 km south of Darwin within exploration lease 31091. The proposal includes vegetation clearing and topsoil stripping and storage, infrastructure, water storages, drainage lines and sediment basin construction. The department has not engaged with the proponent about their proposal, nor has the department received a valid referral under the EPBC Act. The referral provided to the Northern Territory Environmental Protection Authority (NT EPA) confirms that the project intersects with known occurrence of nationally listed threatened and migratory species.

Please note the following comments are not a reflection of whether the department endorses the conclusions that have been drawn by the proponent. The department can only provide comment on the potential for significant impact to matters of national environmental significance if a referral under the EPBC Act is received. Anyone proposing to take an action with the potential to significantly impact matters of national environmental significance must refer the action to DCCEEW for consideration under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Section of Referral	Theme or issue	Comment															
Referral Form – Part C	Referral type	The referral document notes that the proposal does not involve an action that the person thinks may be or is a controlled action and requires referral under the EPBC Act.															
Referral Report - Section 5.2.3 & Ecological Assessment – Appendix B	Threatened Species  Reptiles	The department’s PMST identifies that the proposed action is likely to intersect with the occurrence of the following listed threatened reptile species under the EPBC Act:															
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Scientific Name</th> <th>Common Name</th> <th>Threatened Status</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><i>Varanus mitchelli</i></td> <td>Mitchell's Water Monitor</td> <td>Critically Endangered</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Tiliqua scincoides intermedia</i></td> <td>Northern Blue-tongued Skink</td> <td>Critically Endangered</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Varanus mertensi</i></td> <td>Mertens' Water Monitor</td> <td>Endangered</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Acanthophis hawkei</i></td> <td>Plains Death Adder</td> <td>Vulnerable</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Scientific Name	Common Name	Threatened Status	<i>Varanus mitchelli</i>	Mitchell's Water Monitor	Critically Endangered	<i>Tiliqua scincoides intermedia</i>	Northern Blue-tongued Skink	Critically Endangered	<i>Varanus mertensi</i>	Mertens' Water Monitor	Endangered	<i>Acanthophis hawkei</i>	Plains Death Adder	Vulnerable
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		<p>The department's relevant conservation advice for the species identifies relevant key threats as exotic invasive species, habitat loss, habitat disturbance, modification from mining and inappropriate fire regimes.</p> <p>The proponent has considered the proposed action against the department's <i>Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1</i>. However, in the absence of a referral under the EPBC Act, the department is unable to comment on the potential for impacts to these species or the adequacy of this assessment.</p>																														
<p>Referral Report - Section 5.2.3 &amp; Ecological Assessment – Appendix B</p>	<p>Threatened Species  Mammals</p>	<p>The department's PMST identifies that the proposed action is likely to intersect with the occurrence of the following listed threatened mammal species under the EPBC Act:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="465 475 1576 1043"> <thead> <tr> <th>Scientific Name</th> <th>Common Name</th> <th>Threatened Status</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><i>Mesembriomys gouldii gouldii</i></td> <td>Black-footed Tree-rat</td> <td>Endangered</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Dasyurus hallucatus</i></td> <td>Northern Quoll</td> <td>Endangered</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Petrogale concinna canescens</i></td> <td>Nabarlek (Top End)</td> <td>Endangered</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Antechinus bellus</i></td> <td>Fawn Antechinus</td> <td>Vulnerable</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Xeromys myoides</i></td> <td>Water Mouse</td> <td>Vulnerable</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Macroderma gigas</i></td> <td>Ghost Bat</td> <td>Vulnerable</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Saccolaimus saccolaimus nudicluniatus</i></td> <td>Bare-rumped Sheath-tailed Bat</td> <td>Vulnerable</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Phascogale pirata</i></td> <td>Northern Brush-tailed Phascogale</td> <td>Vulnerable</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Trichosurus vulpecula arnhemensis</i></td> <td>Northern Brushtail Possum</td> <td>Vulnerable</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Camera trapping surveys conducted from May to June 2023 confirmed the occurrence of the Northern Brushtail Possum and the Black-footed Tree-rat. The department's relevant conservation advice for both species identifies relevant key threats as invasive species, frequent extensive fires, habitat loss and fragmentation from clearance as well as degradation due to invasive grasses.</p> <p>The proponent has considered the proposed action against the department's <i>Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1</i>. However, in the absence of a referral under the EPBC Act, the department is unable to comment on the potential for impacts to these species or the adequacy of this assessment.</p>	Scientific Name	Common Name	Threatened Status	<i>Mesembriomys gouldii gouldii</i>	Black-footed Tree-rat	Endangered	<i>Dasyurus hallucatus</i>	Northern Quoll	Endangered	<i>Petrogale concinna canescens</i>	Nabarlek (Top End)	Endangered	<i>Antechinus bellus</i>	Fawn Antechinus	Vulnerable	<i>Xeromys myoides</i>	Water Mouse	Vulnerable	<i>Macroderma gigas</i>	Ghost Bat	Vulnerable	<i>Saccolaimus saccolaimus nudicluniatus</i>	Bare-rumped Sheath-tailed Bat	Vulnerable	<i>Phascogale pirata</i>	Northern Brush-tailed Phascogale	Vulnerable	<i>Trichosurus vulpecula arnhemensis</i>	Northern Brushtail Possum	Vulnerable
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<p>A likelihood of occurrence was discussed for the Red Goshawk, Masked Owl, Grey Falcon, Greater Sand Plover and Partridge Pigeon species. Camera trapping surveys conducted from May to June 2023 did not confirm the occurrence of threatened bird species. The department’s relevant conservation advice for all species identifies relevant key threats as including but not limited to, clearing of suitable habitat and exotic invasive species.</p> <p>The proponent has considered the proposed action against the department’s <i>Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1</i>. However, in the absence of a referral under the EPBC Act, the department is unable to comment on the potential for impacts to these species or the adequacy of this assessment.</p>																										