

NOTICE OF DECISION AND STATEMENT OF REASONS

This notice of decision and statement of reasons is made under regulations 275 and 276 of the Environment Protection Regulations 2020 (EP Regulations)

Name of proposed action	Southern Lease Mining Project
NT EPA reference	EP2023/024
Proponent	Groote Eylandt Mining Company Pty Ltd (GEMCO)
Description of proposed action	<p>To develop Southern Lease Mining Project (proposal) in Exploration Licence (EL) 2455 on the NT Portion 1632, approximately 10 km south of Angurugu on Groote Eylandt in the East Arnhem Local Government Area. The land tenure is Aboriginal freehold, and the proposal is adjacent and to the south of the existing GEMCO Mine. The proposed activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> clearing of approximately 1620 ha construction of supporting infrastructure (e.g. water dams, water treatment plant, refuelling station, sewage treatment plant, heavy vehicle parking and crib hut) open-cut mining methods (as used at the proponent's existing operations) mining manganese ore and hauling to the existing GEMCO Mine for processing progressive rehabilitation of disturbed areas <p>The duration of the proposal is seven to eight years (comprising two years construction, three years mining, and two to three years for rehabilitation and closure).</p>
Nature of the proposed action	Mining
Person authorised to make decision	<p>Dr Paul Vogel AM Chairperson Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA) Delegate of the NT EPA under section 36 of the <i>Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority Act 2012</i></p>
Decision	Extend the specified period to submit Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to the NT EPA in accordance with regulation 274 of the EP Regulations
Original specified period	Submit EIS to NT EPA by 16 August 2025
Extended specified period	Submit EIS to NT EPA by 31 December 2026

NOTICE OF DECISION AND STATEMENT OF REASONS- GEMCO - SOUTHERN LEASE MINING PROJECT -EXTEND SUBMISSION PERIOD

Reasons for the decision

Under the regulation 274, the proponent's request to extend the specified period to develop and submit EIS is considered to be:

- necessary to meet the objects of the EP Act; and
- consistent with the purpose of the assessment process under section 42 of the EP Act.

The proponent's operations on Groote Eylandt sustained substantial damage from Tropical Cyclone Megan in 2024, requiring the proponent to direct resources to the cyclone recovery effort, which delayed preparation of the EIS.

Signature



Date of decision

9 April 2025