

**Public record pursuant to s39(1) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986***

**Proposal Title:** Yangibana Rare Earths Project

**Proposal Location:** 270 kilometres east-northeast of Carnarvon, Shire of Upper Gascoyne

**Case Number:** CMS 17016

**Date referral received:** 31-01-2017 **Date more information received:**

**Referrer:** Hastings Technology Metals Limited **Proponent:** Hastings Technology Metals Limited

**Potential significant effects:**

Clearing of up to 1,000 ha of native vegetation including priority flora; Impacts on subterranean fauna habitat, in particular a Priority Ecological Community that supports stygofauna species; Dispersal of saline, sodic and alkaline soils and the elevation of naturally occurring radionuclides in tailings storage facilities (TSF); Impacts on hydrological regimes and groundwater from drawdown; Potential impacts on groundwater dependent vegetation, contamination from the TSF and seepage of saline pit lake water to groundwater post closure; and members of public being subjected to radiation that exceeds safe limits.

**Preliminary key environmental factors:**

Flora and Vegetation, Subterranean Fauna, Terrestrial Environmental Quality, Hydrological Processes and Inland Waters Environmental Quality, Human Health

**Public comment on referral information:**

Do not assess:	0
Assess: a) Referral information	1
b) Environmental review - no public review	0
c) Public environmental review	0
<i>Total submissions:</i>	1

**Decision:** s. 39A – Assess

**Level of assessment:** Environmental Review – 4 week public review period

**Other details:** EPA-prepared Environmental Scoping Document

**Explanation of decision:**

Several preliminary key environmental factors are complex. Detailed assessment is required to determine the extent of the proposal's direct and indirect impacts, and how the environmental issues could be managed. While there was low public interest in this proposal, it is a significant new proposal in an area that has not received many formal assessments and warrants a 4 week public review period. Additionally the proposal is likely to be declared a controlled action under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

**Appeals:** Decision not appealable.



**Dr Tom Hatton**  
CHAIRMAN

Delegate of the Environmental Protection Authority

Under Notice of Delegation No. 30 published 08 February 2013

**Date:** 22 Feb 2017