

# ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING DOCUMENT

## WEST ANGELAS REVISED PROPOSAL

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has determined that the above Proposal is to be assessed under Part IV of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act).

The purpose of the Environmental Scoping Document (ESD) is to define the form, content, indicative timing and procedure of the environmental review, required by s. 40(3) of the Act.

Robe River Mining Co. Pty Ltd (the Proponent) has prepared this draft ESD according to the procedures in the EPA's [Procedures Manual](#).

The EPA requires the Proponent to undertake the environmental review according to the procedures in the EPA's [Administrative Procedures](#) and [Procedures Manual](#), and the [Instructions and Template: How to prepare an Environmental Review Document](#).

**Table 1 General Proposal and Proponent Information**

Proposal name:	West Angelas Revised Proposal
Proponent:	Robe River Mining Co. Pty. Ltd.
Assessment number:	2290
Location:	The West Angelas Revised Proposal is located approximately 130 km northwest of Newman in the east Pilbara region of Western Australia.
Local Government Area:	Shire of East Pilbara and Shire of Ashburton
Public review period:	Environmental Review Document – Public Environmental Review; 8 weeks
EPBC Reference Number:	2021/8923

#### 1.1. INDICATIVE TIMING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Table 2 sets out the indicative outline of the timing of the environmental review (indicative timeline) agreed between the EPA and the Proponent.

**Table 2: Indicative outline of the timing of the environmental review (indicative timeline)**

Key Assessment Milestones	Completion Date
EPA approves ESD	February 2023
Proponent submits first draft Environmental Review Document (ERD)	March 2023
EPA provides comment on draft ERD (including Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) comments) (6 weeks from receipt of ERD)	April 2023
Proponent submits revised draft ERD	July 2023
EPA authorises release of ERD for public review (2 weeks from EPA approval of ERD)	September 2023
Proponent releases ERD for public review for 8 weeks	October 2023

Close of public review period	December 2023
EPA provides Summary of Submissions <i>(3 weeks from close of public review period)</i>	December 2023
Proponent provides Response to Submissions	May 2024
EPA reviews the Response to Submissions (includes DCCEEW review) <i>(4 weeks from receipt of Response to Submissions)</i>	June 2024
Proponent submits revised final Response to Submissions	July 2024
EPA finalises Assessment Report (including two-week consultation on draft conditions) and gives report to Minister. Assessment Report (which includes draft Ministerial Statement) to be provided to DCCEEW. <i>(6 weeks from completion of assessment)</i>	December 2024

## 1.2. COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT APPROVALS

The Proposal has been referred and determined to be a 'Controlled Action' under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) on 1 June 2021 (EPBC 2021/8923). The Proposal is being assessed an accredited process under section 87 of that Act. Further information regarding Commonwealth Government approvals can be found in Attachment 1.

## 2. FORM AND CONTENT (REQUIRED WORK)

The EPA requires that the form of the report on the environmental review required under section 40 of the EP Act is in accordance with the [Instructions and Template: How to prepare an Environmental Review Document](#). The EPA requires that the content of the Environmental Review Document (ERD) is in accordance with the [Instructions and Template: How to prepare an Environmental Review Document](#).

Work required to inform the ERD will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of EPA Environmental Factor Guidelines and Technical Guidance for each preliminary key environmental factor and that a consolidated report of the surveys and/or investigations undertaken is provided for each factor. Where previous investigations or surveys are relied upon, justification will be provided to demonstrate that they are relevant and consistent with EPA guidance.

As the Proposal is a significant amendment to Ministerial Statement 1113, the ERD will also include the following required information:

- The approved proposal, such that the environmental impacts may be considered in the context with the significant amendment.
- The combined effects that implementation of the significant amendment with the approved proposal might have on the environment.
- The existing implementation conditions and whether the Proponent considers these should be inquired into or proposes amendments.
- Consideration of existing implementation conditions are adequate to ensure the Proposal's ongoing elements are consistent with the EPA's environmental objectives.
- Consideration of whether outcome conditions and associated monitoring can replace existing management plan conditions.
- Where existing management plan conditions are proposed to continue, include updated plans to address combined impacts and to ensure amended proposal meets current EPA objectives.
- Consideration of Section 3.2.1 of the [Environmental Impact Assessment \(Part IV Divisions 1 and 2\) Procedures Manual](#).

The EPA also requires that the environmental review includes the Proposal specific additional content outlined in Section 2.

The Proponent will also undertake a review of the ERD to ensure the requirements of the relevant EPA instructions, templates and guidance have been met. The ERD will include a scoping checklist that identifies the section(s) and page number of the ERD indicating where both all the dot points in the scoping checklist on page 5 of the ERD Template (2021) and the requirements of this ESD can be found,

### 2.1. Preliminary Key Environmental Factors

The preliminary key environmental factors to be addressed in the ERD are:

1. Inland waters
2. Flora and vegetation
3. Terrestrial fauna
4. Subterranean fauna
5. Greenhouse gas emissions
6. Social surroundings.

## 2.2. Specific additional work required for assessment of Proposal

The form and content of the ERD will be in accordance with the [Instructions and Template: How to prepare an Environmental Review Document](#).

A Mine Closure Plan will be submitted with the ERD, which includes the consideration for rehabilitation and closure of final landforms, consistent with the *Statutory guideline for mine closure plans* (DMIRS, March 2020) and *Mine Closure Plan Guidance – How to Prepare in Accordance with Part 1 of the Statutory Guidelines* (DMIRS, March 2020).

A Proposal Content Document (PCD) will be completed and submitted with the ERD to the requirements of current EPA guidance: *Instructions and Template – How to identify the content of a Proposal* (EPA Western Australia, October 2021).

Table 3 outlines the Proposal specific additional work required.

**Table 3 Proposal specific additional work required**

Inland waters	
<b>Required work</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conduct peer review of hydrogeological modelling (undertaken to determine the EPA objective for Inland Waters, as it relates to groundwater, can be met) associated with additional deposits of the West Angelas Revised Proposal where below water table mining is proposed and at Western Hill Deposit due to the proximity to Karijini National Park.</li> </ol>
Terrestrial fauna	
<b>Required work</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Update the existing West Angelas Environmental Management Plan (EMP), in accordance with the requirements of <i>EPA Instructions on how to prepare Environmental Protection Act 1986 Part IV Environmental Management Plans</i> (2020 or any subsequent revisions), that describes any proposed management and/or monitoring plans that will be implemented to ensure residual impacts (direct and indirect) are not greater than predicted as a result of the Significant Amendment.</li> <li>2. Where significant residual impacts to MNES remain and contributions to the Pilbara Environmental Offsets Fund are not proposed, include a discussion of the consideration of the <i>EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy</i>.</li> </ol>
Subterranean Fauna	
<b>Required work</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Determine and quantify any significant residual impacts by applying the Residual Impact Significance Model in the WA Environmental Offsets Guidelines (2014, or any subsequent revisions) and include reference to the Commonwealth Offsets Assessment Guide for any MNES. Where significant residual impacts remain, propose an appropriate offsets package that is consistent with the WA Environmental Offsets Policy and Guidelines (or any subsequent revisions).</li> <li>2. If offsets are proposed for subterranean fauna, a thorough assessment of the outcome of the proposed offset will be provided which demonstrates that EPA's objective can be met.</li> </ol>
Greenhouse gas emissions	
<b>Required work</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prepare and implement a Greenhouse Gas Management Plan in accordance with the most recent 'final' published guidance which will demonstrate, but not limited to, the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The Proponents' contribution towards the State's aspiration of net zero emissions by 2050, in relation to Scope 1 GHG emissions as outlined in the State GHG Policy and Guideline</li> <li>b. The intended reduction in Scope 1 emissions, via interim targets</li> <li>c. That all reasonable and practicable measures have been applied to avoid, reduce and offset the Scope 1 emissions from the Proposal.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

Social surroundings	
<b>Required work</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide evidence of consultation with relevant stakeholders, demonstrate how issues raised through consultation have been addressed, and specify how the Proponent will minimise impacts to social surroundings values within the Development Envelope.</li> <li>2. Provide a detailed description and assessment of the potential impacts (direct, indirect and cumulative) to visitors to Karijini National Park.</li> <li>3. Conduct and undertake meaningful investigations, consultation and engagement with relevant Traditional Owner groups to identify tangible and intangible cultural heritage values within and outside the Development Envelope that could be directly or indirectly impacted by the Proposal (to the extent that they are impacted upon by the physical or biological environment): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Provide evidence of meaningful investigations, engagement and consultation undertaken with Traditional Owner groups such as survey reports and documented consultation outcomes.</li> <li>b. Provide details of the methodology used for the investigations and engagement, including (but not limited to) the timing, scope, activities undertaken and stakeholders involved, and a description of how the methodology adequately identifies tangible and intangible cultural heritage values for consideration in the assessment of impacts to social surroundings.</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. Prepare a Social, Cultural and Heritage Management Plan for each Traditional Owner group, in consultation with each group, that describes the social, cultural and heritage values within the relevant country and specifies how the Proponent will avoid (where possible) and minimise impacts to social, cultural and heritage values within and directly adjacent to the Development Envelope.</li> </ol>
Environmental offsets	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Where offsets are proposed for any environmental factor, the content for offsets detailed in the ERD instructions will be provided, including sufficient evidence about whether and how an offset is likely to counter-balance a significant residual impact.</li> <li>2. Where current offsets exist for the approved proposal, current offsets practice applies in accordance with relevance guidance including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity factors: WA Environmental Offsets Policy and the WA Environmental Offsets Guidelines, and complete the WA Environmental Offsets template and the WA Residual Impacts Significance Model table template.</li> <li>• Greenhouse gas emissions factor: Government of Western Australia's Greenhouse gas emissions policy for major projects and EPA's Environmental Factor Guideline – Greenhouse Gas Emissions.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Where a contribution to the Pilbara Environmental Offsets Fund is proposed to offset significant residual impacts for any environmental factor, provide an impact reconciliation procedure prepared in accordance with Instructions on how to prepare Environmental Protection Act 1986 Part IV Impact Reconciliation Procedures and Impact Reconciliation Reports (2018, or any subsequent revisions) and the Template for Environmental Protection Act 1986 Part IV Reconciliation Procedures (2018, or any subsequent revisions). Where a contribution to the Pilbara Environmental Offsets Fund is not appropriate (i.e. it's not related to native vegetation or fauna habitat that is not native vegetation) other appropriate offsets will be proposed with due consideration of the WA Environmental Offsets Policy and Guidelines (or any subsequent revisions).</li> </ol>

### 2.3. Cumulative impact assessment – scoping of activities, boundaries and environmental values for relevant environmental factors

For all preliminary environmental factors, a summary of the activities associated with the Proposal, boundaries (of the cumulative impact assessment) and environmental values that will be considered for the cumulative impact assessment will be provided in relation to each preliminary key environmental factor.

The ERD will include cumulative impact assessment to assess the following:

- Inland waters: Assess and quantify cumulative impacts on ground and surface water from the Proposal.
- Flora and vegetation: Assess cumulative impacts of the implementation of the Proposal on identified environmental values including any significant vegetation types, listed ecological communities, potential groundwater dependent ecosystems, and Priority flora. Include a quantitative assessment of the cumulative impact of the Proposal on significant vegetation units, listed ecological communities, potential groundwater dependent ecosystems and Priority flora. Describe and assess cumulative impacts within local, regional and State contexts, as appropriate.
- Terrestrial fauna:
  - Assess and quantify the extent of direct and indirect cumulative impacts of implementation of the Proposal to fauna, including SRE and the following MNES species: Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*), Ghost Bat (*Macroderma gigas*), Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat (*Rhinonicteris aurantia* [Pilbara Form]), Pilbara Olive Python (*Liasis olivaceus barroni*), Grey Falcon (*Falco hypoleucos*), Night Parrot (*Pezoporus occidentalis*) and Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus*).
- Subterranean fauna:
  - Describe and assess the extent of direct, indirect and cumulative impacts to subterranean fauna as a result of implementation of the Proposal, taking into consideration the significance of fauna and fauna habitat values.
  - Quantify the extent of direct and indirect cumulative impacts, including where feasible, percentages of habitat types to be disturbed or otherwise impacted
- Greenhouse Gas: the West Angelas Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Management Plan, required by condition 9 of Ministerial Statement 1113 (approval of the GHG Management Plan is pending), will be updated to include the Proposal subject to this assessment. The GHG Management Plan will provide context and, where relevant, information on the entire existing approved West Angelas operations and the Proposal subject to this assessment. The plan will also include updates of estimates of peak, annual average and total GHG emissions from existing approved West Angelas operations and the Proposal subject to this assessment.
- Social surroundings:
  - Provide a detailed description and assessment of the potential direct and indirect cumulative impacts to social surroundings as a result of changes to the environment from the Proposal with specific consideration given to Traditional Owners, pastoralists and visitors to Karijini National Park and their activities on the land including areas adjacent to and surrounding the Proposal which have the potential to be impacted.

### 3. **STATE DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITIES**

The Proponent has identified the State decision-making authorities listed in Table 4 for this Proposal. Additional decision-making authorities may be identified during the course of the assessment. Information about how DMAs processes can meet expected outcomes and EPA objectives will be provided in the ERD on a per impact basis.

**Table 4 State decision-making authorities and processes**

State Decision making authority	Legislation or Agreement regulating the activity	Approval required (and specify which Proposal element the approval is related to)	Whether and how statutory decision-making process can mitigate impacts on the environment? (Yes/No and summary of reasons Include a separate line item for each relevant impact, and discuss how the EPA's factor objective will be met)
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs	<i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (AH Act)</i>	Disturbance of sites of Aboriginal heritage significance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 16 authorisation to enter, excavate, examine or remove anything on an Aboriginal site.</li> <li>• Section 18 consent where the impact on an Aboriginal site is unavoidable.</li> </ul> Relates to the potential for the Proposal to impact on the Social Surroundings environmental factor.	Yes - this process is for assessing and authorising impacts on sites of Aboriginal heritage significance.
Minister for State Development	<i>Iron Ore (Robe River) Agreement Act 1964</i>	State Agreement Proposal for approval under the <i>Iron Ore (Robe River) Agreement Act 1964</i> .	No – not a process that manages environmental impacts.
Minister for Environment	<i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act)</i>	Impacts to threatened flora and fauna species are managed through DBCA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authorisations to take threatened flora species</li> <li>• Authorisations to take or disturb threatened fauna species</li> </ul>	Yes - this process is for assessing impacts to threatened flora and fauna species and provides authorisations to take threatened flora and fauna species.
Minister for Water	<i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914 (RiWI Act)</i>	Section 5C licence to take water: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operation of dewatering and water supply borefields</li> </ul>	Yes - this process is for assessing the abstraction of groundwater associated with the Proposal. Licences manage the location and volume of groundwater abstracted for water supply. Requires monitoring and reporting against licence requirements.
		Section 26D licence to construct or alter a well <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction or dewatering and water supply bores</li> </ul>	Yes - this process is for assessing the construction of a bore to access and/or monitor water within the aquifer.



State Decision making authority	Legislation or Agreement regulating the activity	Approval required (and specify which Proposal element the approval is related to)	Whether and how statutory decision-making process can mitigate impacts on the environment? (Yes/No and summary of reasons Include a separate line item for each relevant impact, and discuss how the EPA's factor objective will be met)
		Permit to interfere with bed or banks	Yes - this process is for assessing the interference with bed and banks of a watercourse from the Proposal.
		Groundwater Operating Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage significant volumes of water proposed to be taken from several sources and multiple bores</li> </ul>	Yes - the groundwater operating strategy supplements a section 5C licence, detailing how the licensee will manage its operations given broader management issues associated with taking and using water.
Chief Executive Officer, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986 - Part V</i>	Licence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operating licence</li> <li>• Licence amendments</li> </ul>	Yes – licences manage emissions to air, land and water, including water quality and volume, emissions released to the environment. Requires monitoring and reporting against licence requirements.
Minister for Mines and Petroleum	<i>Mining Act 1978</i>	Mine Closure Plan (MCP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mine closure and rehabilitation</li> </ul>	Yes - responsibility for assessing Mine Closure Plans (MCP) which specify closure and rehabilitation actions and outcomes. A MCP will be submitted with the ERD.

# Attachment 1

## Commonwealth Government Approvals

The controlling provisions are listed threatened species (sections 18 and 18a) and migratory species (sections 20 and 20a):

- Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*);
- Night Parrot (*Pezoporus occidentalis*);
- Ghost Bat (*Macroderma gigas*);
- Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat (*Rhinoicteris aurantia* [Pilbara Form]);
- Pilbara Olive Python (*Liasis olivaceus barroni*); and
- Grey Falcon (*Falco hypoleucos*).
- Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus*)

This draft ESD includes work required to be carried out and reported on in the Environmental Review Document in relation to MNES. The Environmental Review Document will also address the matters in Schedule 4 of the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000*. MNES that may be impacted by the Proposal will be identified and the potential impacts on these matters addressed in a separate MNES chapter, in relation to preliminary environmental factor identified in Section 2.1 of this ESD. Proposed offsets to address significant residual impacts on MNES will also be discussed in the Environmental Review Document. The Environmental Review Document will provide sufficient information to allow the Minister for the Environment to make an informed decision on whether to approve, under Part 9 of the EPBC Act, the taking of the Action for each controlling provision. All relevant standards, policies and other guidance material published by DCCEEW will be referred to and followed, or justification will be provided.