

Decisions pursuant to s.39(1) under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*

Proposal Title: Mt Keith Satellite Project

Proposal Location: Approximately 20 km south of the current Mt Keith mining operations and 80 km north of Leinster in the Shire of Lenora

Case Number: CMS17075

Date Received: 3 April 2017

Date More Information Received: 13 April 2017

Referrer: BHP Billiton Nickel West

Proponent: BHP Billiton Nickel West

Potential significant effects:

The proposal includes clearing of up to 842 hectares (ha) within a development envelope of 1,251 ha with potential to impact a Priority Ecological Community and conservation significant flora and fauna, including potential habitat for the black-flanked rock-wallaby and the night parrot. The proposal has the potential to impact local hydrological processes, remove subterranean fauna habitat, alter the quality of the Jones Creek Catchment. There are identified Aboriginal heritage sites within the development envelope.

Preliminary key environmental factors:

Flora and Vegetation, Terrestrial Fauna, Subterranean Fauna, Hydrological Processes, Inland Waters Environmental Quality, and Social Surrounds (Heritage).

Public comments on referral information:

Assess: a) Referral information	0
b) Environmental review (no public review)	0
c) Public environmental review	0
d) Other	0

Total Submissions: 0 0

Decision: s. 39A – Assess

Level of assessment: Environmental review – Environment Review Document (s. 40(2)(b))

Other details: EPA-prepared Environmental Scoping Document

Explanation of decision:

Several preliminary key environmental factors require consideration, and the project design requires refinement. Detailed assessment is required to determine the extent of the proposal's direct and indirect impacts, and how the environmental issues could be managed. There is limited public interest and a public review period is not necessary.

Rights of Appeal:

There are no rights of appeal under the EP Act in respect of this decision.



Dr Tom Hatton
Chairman

15 July 2017