

Media Statement

20 October 2021

Rare earths plant recommended for environmental approval

A proposal for a rare earths processing facility in the Goldfields has been recommended for environmental approval by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), subject to conditions.

Lynas Kalgoorlie Pty Ltd proposes to construct and operate the plant on Great Eastern Highway, about 7km from Kalgoorlie-Boulder. The project will process rare earth concentrate sourced from Lynas' Mt Weld mine, about 380km north of Kalgoorlie, to produce rare earth carbonate for export via Fremantle port.

EPA Chair Professor Matthew Tonts said air quality, human health and social surroundings were among the key considerations during the environmental impact assessment.

"The EPA has recommended a native vegetation buffer at least 30 metres wide to screen the facility from residents and the city's entrance along Great Eastern Highway," he said. "Conditions have also been recommended for waste management to ensure the proponent disposes of waste to an appropriate location at its Mt Weld mine or finds an alternative use for the process-derived waste."

Professor Tonts said the EPA's initial concerns over the clearing of native vegetation and impacts to flora, fauna and vegetation were no longer relevant because the proponent had withdrawn its plan for a by-product storage facility at Parkeston.

The proponent plans to return waste from the processing facility to Mt Weld for disposal. The rare earth carbonate produced for export will be packaged in closed containers and transported by rail to Fremantle.

The EPA's report to the Minister for Environment is now open for a two-week public appeal period, closing 3 November 2021. Appeals can be made at www.appealsconvenor.wa.gov.au.

The Minister for Environment will make the final decision on the proposal. EPA Report 1712 can be found [HERE](#).

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