



9. Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES)

Atlas Iron referred the Proposal to the then DEE under the EPBC Act in December 2019 (EPBC 2019/8601). The referral was made primarily due to potentially significant impacts to the Ghost Bat, which Atlas Iron has mitigated through a variety of means. Significant impacts were also determined to be possible at the local scale for Northern Quolls. Other MNES (or potential habitat therefor) was identified during surveys for the Proposal, however impacts are not considered by Atlas Iron to be significant, even pre-mitigation. Mitigation has been built into the Proposal during the EIA stage, and additional mitigation in the form of a Significant Species Management Plan is proposed for the Ghost Bat and Northern Quoll due to the removal of habitat for these species (Appendix K).

The following MNES (currently listed, or pending) are considered in relation to State-level impacts in Chapter 5.6, and impacts will be assessed by DAWE:

- Northern Quoll (Endangered)
- Ghost Bats (Vulnerable)
- Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bats (Vulnerable)
- Northern Brushtail Possum (pending Vulnerable)
- Grey Falcon (pending Vulnerable)
- Pilbara Olive Python (Vulnerable) – not recorded during surveys for the Proposal, however potential habitat is present.