



# Environmental Protection Authority

EPA REFERRAL  
FORM  
PROPONENT

## Referral of a Proposal by the Proponent to the Environmental Protection Authority under Section 38(1) of the Environmental Protection Act.

### PURPOSE OF THIS FORM

Section 38(1) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) provides that where a development proposal is likely to have a significant effect on the environment, a proponent may refer the proposal to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) for a decision on whether or not it requires assessment under the EP Act. This form sets out the information requirements for the referral of a proposal by a proponent.

Proponents are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the EPA's *General Guide on Referral of Proposals* [see Environmental Impact Assessment/Referral of Proposals and Schemes] before completing this form.

A referral under section 38(1) by a proponent to the EPA must be made on this form. A request to the EPA for a declaration under section 39B (derived proposal) must be made on this form. This form will be treated as a referral provided all information required by Part A has been included and all information requested by Part B has been provided to the extent that it is pertinent to the proposal being referred. Referral documents are to be submitted in two formats – hard copy and electronic copy. The electronic copy of the referral will be provided for public comment for a period of 7 days, prior to the EPA making its decision on whether or not to assess the proposal.

### CHECKLIST

Before you submit this form, have you

	Yes	No
Completed all the questions in Part A (essential)	✓	
Completed all applicable questions in Part B	✓	
Included Attachment 1 – location maps	✓	
Included Attachment 2 – additional document the proponent wishes to provide (if applicable)	✓	
Included Attachment 3 – confidential information (if applicable)		
Enclosed the CD of all referral information, including spatial data and contextual mapping but excluding confidential information.	✓	

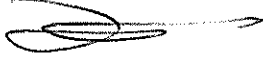
Following a review of the information presented in this form, please consider the following question. (A response is Optional)

DO YOU CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL REQUIRES FORMAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT?

- YES                       NO                       NOT SURE  
IF YES, WHAT LEVEL OF ASSESSMENT?  
 ASSESSMENT ON PROPONENT INFORMATION  
 PUBLIC ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

**PROPONENT DECLARATION** (To be completed by the proponent)

I, Jeremy English, (full name) declare that the information contained in this form is, to my knowledge, true and not misleading.

Signature: 	Name (print): Jeremy English
Position: Environmental Approvals Specialist	Company: Rio Tinto
Date: 2/5/2012	

## PART A - PROPONENT AND PROPOSAL INFORMATION

(All fields of this Part must be completed for this document to be treated as a referral)

### 1.1 PROPONENT

Name	Hamersley Iron Pty Limited.
Joint Venture parties (if applicable)	Not applicable.
Postal Address	GPO Box A42, Perth WA 6837.
Key proponent contact for the proposal <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Name</li><li>• Address</li><li>• Phone</li><li>• Email</li></ul>	Jeremy English Environmental Approvals Specialist Rio Tinto 152 – 158 St Georges Tce, Perth WA 6000 GPO Box A42, Perth WA 6837 Telephone: (08) 9366 5153 Facsimile: (08) 9327 2696 Email: jeremy.english@riotinto.com
Consultant for the proposal (if applicable) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Name</li><li>• Address</li><li>• Phone</li><li>• Email</li></ul>	Harry Ventriss Strategen Environmental Consultants P.O. Box 243, Subiaco WA 6904 (08) 9380 3100 h.ventriss@strategen.com.au

### 1.2 PROPOSAL

Title	Western Turner Syncline Stage 2: B1 and S17 Deposits
Description	The Project involves open-pit mining of the B1 and Section 17 (S17) iron ore deposits, transport of ore to the existing Western Turner Syncline (WTS) Section 10 (S10) mine (approximately 12 km west of the B1 deposit) and construction/operation of associated infrastructure.
Extent (area) of proposed ground disturbance	2500 ha
Timeframe in which the activity or development is proposed to occur. (Include start and finish dates where applicable)	Project construction to commence in Q1–Q2 2014. The expected mine life is at least 15 years.
Details of any staging of the proposal	Not applicable.
Is the proposal a strategic proposal?	No.
Is the proponent requesting a declaration that the proposal is a derived proposal? If so, provide the following information on the strategic assessment within which the referred proposal was identified - <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Title of the strategic assessment</li><li>• Ministerial Statement number</li></ul>	No.

Indicate whether, and in what way, the proposal is related to other proposals in the region.	The Proposal is related to the existing WTS S10 iron ore mine (approved under Ministerial Statement 807 on 17/9/2009), as shown in Figure 1 of Attachment 1. Iron ore will be transported from the B1 and S17 deposits to the WTS S10 mine. From WTS S10, ore will be transported to the existing Tom Price mine via an existing transportation corridor (transport of ore from WTS S10 to Tom Price is not part of the Proposal).
Does the proponent own the land on which the proposal is to be established? If not, what other arrangements have been established to access the land?	No – the proponent holds mining lease ML4SA over most of the Proposal area and is applying for further leases, as detailed in section 1.6 of the attached document (Attachment 2).
What is the current land use on the property, and the extent (area in hectares) of the property?	The current land use on ML4SA (total area approximately 58 800 ha) in the vicinity of the proposed mining is mineral exploration. Mining and processing of iron ore occurs on ML4SA at the existing WTS S10 and Tom Price mine sites.

### 1.3 LOCATION

Name of the Shire in which the proposal is located	Shire of Ashburton.
For urban areas – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• street address</li> <li>• lot number</li> <li>• suburb</li> <li>• nearest road intersection</li> </ul>	Not applicable.
For remote localities – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• nearest town</li> <li>• distance and direction from that town to the proposal site</li> </ul>	The proposal is located approximately 30 km west of Tom Price.
Electronic spatial data - GIS or CAD on CD, geo-referenced and conforming to the following parameters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GIS: polygons representing all activities and named</li> <li>• CAD: simple closed polygons representing all activities and named</li> <li>• datum: GDA94</li> <li>• projection: Geographic (latitude/longitude) or Map Grid of Australia (MGA)</li> <li>• format: Arcview shapefile, Arcinfo coverages, Microstation or AutoCAD</li> </ul>	Enclosed: Yes

## 1.4 CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Does the proponent wish to request the EPA to allow any part of the referral information to be treated as confidential?	No
If yes, is confidential information attached as a separate document in hard copy.	NA

## 1.5 GOVERNMENT APPROVALS

Is rezoning of any land required before the proposal can be implemented? If Yes, provide details.		No	
Is approval required from any Commonwealth or State Government agency or Local Authority for any part of the proposal? If yes, complete the table below -		Yes	
Agency/Authority	Approval Required	Application lodged Yes / No	Agency/Local Authority contact/s for proposal
Department of Environment and Conservation	Works Approvals and Licences under Part V of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>	No	NA
Department of Water	Licences to construct wells and take groundwater under the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i>	No	NA
Department of Mines and Petroleum	Mining Proposal for Proposal activities on <i>Mining Act 1978</i> tenure	No	NA
Department of State Development	Approval of Proposal submitted under the <i>Iron Ore (Hamersley Range) Agreement Act 1963</i>	No	NA
Shire of Ashburton	Building Licences	No	NA



- Are you aware of any recent flora surveys carried out over the area to be disturbed by this proposal?

✓ Yes

□ No

**If yes**, please attach a copy of any related survey reports and provide the date and name of persons / companies involved in the survey/s. (If no, please do not arrange to have any biological surveys conducted prior to consulting with the DEC.)

Multiple flora and vegetation surveys have been undertaken within the Proposal area and surrounds, with results of all surveys consolidated in a report by Biota Environmental Sciences (2012) *West Turner Syncline Phase 2 Vegetation and Flora Report*, located in Appendix 1 in the supporting documentation (Attachment 2).

- \* Has a search of DEC records for known occurrences of rare or priority flora or threatened ecological communities been conducted for the site? #

✓ Yes

□ No

If you are proposing to clear native vegetation for any part of your proposal, a search of DEC records of known occurrences of rare or priority flora and threatened ecological communities will be required. Please contact DEC for more information.

- \* Are there any known occurrences of rare or priority flora or threatened ecological communities on the site? #

✓ Yes

□ No

**If yes**, please indicate which species or communities are involved and provide copies of any correspondence with DEC regarding these matters.

No Declared Rare Flora, or threatened ecological communities, were recorded within the Proposal boundary, or are expected. Nine Priority species were recorded within the Proposal boundary, and could potentially be impacted by the Proposal:

- *Dampiera anonyma* – Priority 3;
- *Eremophila magnifica* subsp. *velutina* – Priority 3;
- *Goodenia* sp. East Pilbara (A.A. Mitchell PRP 727) – Priority 3;
- *Indigofera* sp. Bungaroo Creek (S. van Leeuwen 4301) – Priority 3;
- *Nicotiana umbratica* – Priority 3;
- *Ptilotus subspinescens* – Priority 3;
- *Sida* sp. Barlee Range (S. van Leeuwen 1642) - Priority 3;
- *Eremophila magnifica* subsp. *magnifica* – Priority 4;
- *Goodenia nuda* – Priority 4.

Further information is provided in Section 4.2 of the supporting documentation (Attachment 2).









## 2.6 Marine Areas and Biota

- \* Is the development likely to impact on an area of sensitive benthic communities, such as seagrasses, coral reefs or mangroves?  
 Yes       No      **If yes**, please describe the extent of the expected impact.
- \* Is the development likely to impact on marine conservation reserves or areas recommended for reservation (as described in *A Representative Marine Reserve System for Western Australia*, CALM, 1994)?  
 Yes       No      **If yes**, please describe the extent of the expected impact.
- \* Is the development likely to impact on marine areas used extensively for recreation or for commercial fishing activities?  
 Yes       No      **If yes**, please describe the extent of the expected impact, and provide any written advice from relevant agencies (e.g. Fisheries WA).

## 2.7 Water Supply and Drainage Catchments

- \* Are you in a proclaimed or proposed groundwater or surface water protection area?  
(You may need to contact the Department of Water (DoW) for more information on the requirements for your location, including the requirement for licences for water abstraction. Also, refer to the DoW website)  
 Yes       No      **If yes**, please describe what category of area.

The Proposal is located within the Pilbara Groundwater Area proclaimed under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*, in which licences will be required for construction of wells to access groundwater and to abstract groundwater. Dewatering will be required to access ore below the watertable. The water abstracted will be used for mine operations such as processing and excess disposed to a local watercourse(s).

Further information is provided in Section 4.5 of the supporting documentation (Attachment 2).

- \* Are you in an existing or proposed Underground Water Supply and Pollution Control area?  
(You may need to contact the DoW for more information on the requirements for your location, including the requirement for licences for water abstraction. Also, refer to the DoW website)  
 Yes       No      **If yes**, please describe what category of area.
- \* Are you in a Public Drinking Water Supply Area (PDWSA)?  
(You may need to contact the DoW for more information or refer to the DoW website. A proposal to clear vegetation within a PDWSA requires approval from DoW.)  
 Yes       No      **If yes**, please describe what category of area.

- \* Is there sufficient water available for the proposal?  
(Please consult with the DoW as to whether approvals are required to source water as you propose. Where necessary, please provide a letter of intent from the DoW)

- Yes       No      (please tick)
- \* Will the proposal require drainage of the land?
- Yes       No      **If yes**, how is the site to be drained and will the drainage be connected to an existing Local Authority or Water Corporation drainage system? Please provide details.
- \* Is there a water requirement for the construction and/ or operation of this proposal?
- (please tick)       Yes      ***If yes, complete the rest of this section***
- No      ***If no, go to the next section***
- What is the water requirement for the construction and operation of this proposal, in kL/year?
- Average water requirement of 6000 kL/year.
- \* What is the proposed source of water for the proposal? (eg dam, bore, surface water etc.)
- Water supply during construction and operation will be preferentially sourced from mine dewatering.

## 2.8 Pollution

- \* Is there likely to be any discharge of pollutants from this development, such as noise, vibration, gaseous emissions, dust, liquid effluent, solid waste or other pollutants?
- (please tick)       Yes      ***If yes, complete the rest of this section***
- No      ***If no, go to the next section***
- \* Is the proposal a prescribed premise, under the Environmental Protection Regulations?
- (Refer to the EPA *General Guide for Referral of Proposals to the EPA under section 38(1) of the EP Act 1986* for more information)
- Yes       No      **If yes**, please describe what category of prescribed premise.
- The proposal involves:
- construction of a crushing facility (Category No. 5)
  - mine dewatering (Category No. 6)
  - construction of a wastewater treatment facility (Category No. 54)
  - potentially, the provision of a Class II putrescible landfill (Category No. 64).
- The Proponent will obtain the required Works Approval licences under Part V of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* prior to construction of these prescribed premises.
- \* Will the proposal result in gaseous emissions to air?
- Yes       No      **If yes**, please briefly describe.
- The proposal will result in exhaust emissions to air from light and heavy vehicles and machinery.

- \* Have you done any modelling or analysis to demonstrate that air quality standards will be met, including consideration of cumulative impacts from other emission sources?

Yes       No      **If yes**, please briefly describe.

- \* Will the proposal result in liquid effluent discharge?

Yes       No      **If yes**, please briefly describe the nature, concentrations and receiving environment.

A wastewater treatment plant will be constructed at the camp to treat effluent produced at the site. Appropriate wastewater treatment facilities will be installed.

- \* If there is likely to be discharges to a watercourse or marine environment, has any analysis been done to demonstrate that the State Water Quality Management Strategy or other appropriate standards will be able to be met?

Yes       No      **If yes**, please describe.

Excess dewatering product will be discharged to the environment via local watercourse(s). A water quality monitoring program was undertaken to provide baseline surface and groundwater quality data for the area and compared data to ANZECC/ARMCANZ (2000) default trigger values (TVs) for the protection of aquatic ecosystems.

Further information is provided in Sections 4.5 and 4.6 of the supporting documentation (Attachment 2).

- \* Will the proposal produce or result in solid wastes?

Yes       No      **If yes**, please briefly describe the nature, concentrations and disposal location/ method.

Waste rock will be produced over the life of the proposal and will be directed to surface waste dumps and, utilised to progressively backfill S17 mine pits where practical. Further information is provided in Section 2 of the supporting documentation (Attachment 2).

A Class II landfill facility will potentially be established for the disposal of putrescible and inert waste.

- \* Will the proposal result in significant off-site noise emissions?

Yes       No      **If yes**, please briefly describe.

- \* Will the development be subject to the Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations?

Yes       No      **If yes**, has any analysis been carried out to demonstrate that the proposal will comply with the Regulations?

Please attach the analysis.

Blasting will be subject to the Regulations. Noise analysis has not been undertaken to date.

- \* Does the proposal have the potential to generate off-site, air quality impacts, dust, odour or another pollutant that may affect the amenity of residents and other “sensitive premises” such as schools and hospitals (proposals in this category may include intensive agriculture, aquaculture, marinas, mines and quarries etc.)?  
 Yes       No      **If yes**, please describe and provide the distance to residences and other “sensitive premises”.
- \* If the proposal has a residential component or involves “sensitive premises”, is it located near a land use that may discharge a pollutant?  
 Yes       No       Not Applicable **If yes**, please describe and provide the distance to the potential pollution source

## 2.9 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- \* Is this proposal likely to result in substantial greenhouse gas emissions (greater than 100 000 tonnes per annum of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions)?  
 Yes       No      **If yes**, please provide an estimate of the annual gross emissions in absolute and in carbon dioxide equivalent figures.

Greenhouse gas emissions associated with the Project are estimated to average approximately 190 000 tonnes per annum of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions, based on preliminary estimates of energy and fuel use and clearing requirements.

- \* Further, if yes, please describe proposed measures to minimise emissions, and any sink enhancement actions proposed to offset emissions.

Greenhouse gas emissions will be managed in accordance with the Rio Tinto Environment Standard E4 – Greenhouse Gas Emissions. A greenhouse gas and energy efficiency assessment will be conducted during the Feasibility Study for the project, to investigate opportunities for emission reduction and energy efficiency improvement, including operational and engineering controls.

## 2.10 Contamination

- \* Has the property on which the proposal is to be located been used in the past for activities which may have caused soil or groundwater contamination?  
 Yes       No       Unsure      **If yes**, please describe.
- \* Has any assessment been done for soil or groundwater contamination on the site?  
 Yes       No      **If yes**, please describe.
- \* Has the site been registered as a contaminated site under the Contaminated Sites Act 2003? (on finalisation of the CS Regulations and proclamation of the CS Act)  
 Yes       No      **If yes**, please describe.

## 2.11 Social Surroundings

- \* Is the proposal on a property which contains or is near a site of Aboriginal ethnographic or archaeological significance that may be disturbed?  
 Yes       No       Unsure      **If yes**, please describe.

Aboriginal heritage surveys of the Proposal area are at various stages of completion. Initial archaeological surveys of the area in proximity to the B1 deposit have been completed with 18 new sites identified. Further information is provided in Section 4.8 of the supporting documentation (Attachment 2).

- \* Is the proposal on a property which contains or is near a site of high public interest (for example, a major recreation area or natural scenic feature)?  
 Yes       No      **If yes**, please describe.
- \* Will the proposal result in or require substantial transport of goods, which may affect the amenity of the local area?  
 Yes       No      **If yes**, please describe.

### 3. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT

#### 3.1 Principles of Environmental Protection

- Have you considered how your project gives attention to the following Principles, as set out in section 4A of the EP Act? (For information on the Principles of Environmental Protection, please see EPA Position Statement No. 7, available on the EPA web.)
  1. The precautionary principle.  Yes       No
  2. The principle of intergenerational equity.  Yes       No
  3. The principle of the conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity.  Yes       No
  4. Principles relating to improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms.  Yes       No
  5. The principle of waste minimisation.  Yes       No
- Is the proposal consistent with the EPA's Environmental Protection Bulletins/Position Statements and Environmental Assessment Guidelines/Guidance Statements (available on the EPA web)?  
 Yes       No

A discussion on the principles is provided in Section 5 of the supporting documentation (Attachment 2).

Further information is provided in Section 4 of the supporting documentation (Attachment 2).

#### 3.2 Consultation

- Has public consultation taken place (such as with other government agencies, community groups or neighbours), or is it intended that consultation shall take place?  
 Yes       No      **If yes**, please list those consulted and attach comments or summarise response on a separate sheet.

Further information is provided in Section 1 of the supporting documentation (Attachment 2).

