

TRADITIONAL OWNER CONSULTATION

CPM Consultation Details

CPM Works description	S.45C EPA - Dewatering consultation
CPM Project Area	Fortescue River Mouth
Date of Consult	24/03/2021

Consultation agenda

Presentation – S45C	Representatives for the Environment department presented a PowerPoint presentation on the objectives of the S.45C approvals to the Traditional Owner participants.
Field trip to location	The Heritage and Environment departments then escorted Traditional Owner participants to the Fortescue River Mouth dewatering site, in order to further discuss the proposal.
Discussion on site	The data and details presented to the group were discussed at the discharge location, in order for greater detail and an 'on the ground' perspective of the proposal.

Consult summary

CITIC needs to increase the amount of groundwater from within and around the pit pumped into the Fortescue River. CITIC are already approved and licensed to pump water under S.45C of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. There is now more groundwater flowing into the pit than before, CITIC now has an urgent need to pump this extra water into the Fortescue River to keep mining.

The proposed change is to:

- increase the disposal of dewater discharge to the Fortescue River from 8 gegalitres (8GL/a) per year to 12 gegalitres per year (12GL/a) [8,000,000,000 litres up to 12,000,000,000 litres].
- In the medium/longer term CITIC will be looking to obtain approval to accommodate the Life of Mine with increases to the groundwater abstraction from 12 GL/a to 21 GL/a and pump this water into the Fortescue River.

Current approvals

- Initial Project approval Iron Ore Processing (Mineralogy) Agreement Act passed 2002 with subsequent Ministerial Statement 635 approved with Mineralogy as Proponent Oct 2003 for the SAA
- Ministerial Statement 1066: Mine Continuation Proposal 2017 provides for 8 GL/a Pit dewater surplus disposal to the Fortescue River.
- MS1066, Provides for Mine Pit Dewatering abstraction of 12GL/a

Current Water Quality Monitoring

Water quality monitoring is undertaken in the Fortescue River every month, and analysed by a nationally accredited laboratory, in accordance with CITIC's environmental licence to operate (L8308/2008/2). There has been no indication of water quality being affected and there have been no exceedances of the limits in the licence. The water is rapidly diluted and no changes in the overall

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water quality of the river have occurred.

Proposed changes

- Increase discharge of dewater surplus to the Fortescue River, from 8 GL/a to 12 GL/a.
- The same infrastructure will be used (nothing else is required).
- The current 8 GL/a is discharged on outgoing tides only.
- The increase to 12 GL/a will require pumps to run a little longer predominantly on the outgoing tides.
- Does not introduce any different or significant detrimental environmental factors or impacts (detailed in the S.45C application (CITIC, 2020 Increased discharge of dewater to Fortescue River)
- CITIC will continue to monitor the water quality and report it to the Department responsible for administration of Part V of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (currently Department of Water and Environment Regulation).

All information provided was consistent with the previous approvals process and well received. The consultation aim was to provide informed consent to the proposal. Mardudhunera participants were asked if there were any objections to the proposal and a response of no objection was received.

Mardudhunera participants

Lawrence Kerr	Melissa Boona
Latiffa Jones	Jade Wescombe
Sharna Edgar	Kasey Sam