



Information on proposed action (template)

By providing this information including the issues and questions you would like discussed at the pre-referral meeting will ensure that the Department provides the appropriate resources to your project.

	Details
Project name	Irwin Hills Nickel Project (IHP) – Southern Grade Control Drilling
Brief description of the proposal including location (latitude/longitude). <i>If available, any maps should contain the project boundary.</i>	<p>Minara Resources Pty Ltd (Minara) is the parent company for Murrin Murrin Holdings Pty Ltd, the tenement holder for mining lease M 39/1088 for the Irwin Hills Project. The project is located approximately 85 km south east of Laverton, Western Australia. Exploration activities are underway and Minara is proposing an open cut nickel cobalt mine with ore transport via road train to the Murrin Murrin processing plant.</p> <p>In order to investigate the development potential of Irwin Hills, Minara is proposing to complete an exploration programme across the southern pits of the Irwin Hills project. Staged approvals are proposed to allow drilling activities to occur. The exploration will impact an area of approximately 312 hectares (ha).</p> <p>Activities for which approval is sought include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clearing of grade control drilling areas (two open pit areas), given close proximity of drill pads• Topsoil stockpiles• Access roads• Borrow pits as a source of material for roads and laydown areas• Exploration camp and associated waste water treatment plant• Laydown areas• Turkeys nests for storage of fresh water. <p>Key project characteristics are provided below:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mining Lease M39/1088 • Miscellaneous Lease L39/282 • Disturbance Envelope area: 1,826 ha • Proposed Layout : 312 ha • Use of existing exploration disturbance: 29 ha • Total project footprint: 341 ha.
<p>Name of person/company proposing to take the action (Proponent) and contact details</p>	<p>Minara Resources Pty Ltd Level 3, 30 The Esplanade, Perth WA 6000 Locked Bag 4, Welshpool Delivery Centre, Pilbara Street, Welshpool WA 6106</p> <p>Contact person: Luke Vernon – Environmental Superintendent Phone: (08) 9088 5715 Email Address: luke.vernon@glencore.com.au</p>
<p>Purpose of the meeting – what key areas would you like to discuss?</p> <p><i>A suggested Pre-referral meeting agenda template (http://www.environment.gov.au/protection/environment-assessments/assessment-and-approval-process) is available to help as a guide for the pre-referral meeting. Please modify this agenda to suit your requirements.</i></p>	<p>One Matter of National Environmental Significance (MNES) was recorded within a broad survey area encompassing the Development Envelope (DE); namely, Malleefowl (<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>) (VU, EPBC Act & BC Act). Minara Resources is seeking advice as to whether a referral of the project under the EPBC Act is required.</p> <p>It is considered unlikely that the action would result in significant impacts to the Malleefowl due to the sparse nature of species records and the wide area of suitable habitat outside the DE. The management measures proposed in the Malleefowl Management Plan are considered appropriate to minimise the likelihood of any potential significant impacts to the local population. An assessment as to whether the project is likely to have a significant impact on Malleefowl was conducted and is summarised below.</p> <p><u>Summary of significance assessment</u></p> <p>The project was considered unlikely to:</p>

- lead to a long term decrease in the size or area of occupancy of an important population, as the population of Malleefowl in proximity to the Project area is small (sparsely populated) and unlikely to be a regionally important population, and suitable habitat for the species is well represented throughout the bioregion
- fragment an existing population into two or more populations, as clearing for the Project will not:
 - result in extensive fragmentation additional to that which is already present
 - impede movement between habitat areas, as the species is mobile and will utilise a range of habitats which are present throughout the local area
 - result in permanent loss of habitat as the disturbance area will be rehabilitated upon completion
- adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of a species, as a total of 26,448 ha of suitable habitat was recorded within the local area, of which clearing for the project will only impact 1.2%
- disrupt the breeding cycle of an important population, as the nearest Malleefowl mound was recorded 2.5 km away from the DE, and clearing is proposed outside the main breeding season
- result in invasive species or diseases that would impact on the species, as the Malleefowl Management Plan is expected to minimise this risk

Survey history

Phoenix (2020) undertook fauna surveys for the Irwin Hills project in 2019 and 2020. The survey covered an area of 28,819.1 ha. Twelve Malleefowl records across the wider survey area were identified including active (three), dormant (one) and degraded mounds (three) and foraging/tracks scats (five). The evidence was considered to be sparsely distributed across the survey area of 28,819.1 ha. Of these 12 records, four were located within the smaller detailed survey area (DSA) (4,625.4 ha) where exploration work is focused.

Within the DE the closest records of Malleefowl activity to the proposed clearing area are two direct sightings of an individual approximately 85 m to the west of the proposed access road. There are no other records of Malleefowl activity within the DE.

	<p>No records of Malleefowl activity are located within the proposed exploration clearing area of 312 ha. Vegetation types and fauna habitats within the DE are well represented in the Shield and larger Great Victorian Desert IBRA regions.</p> <p><u>Malleefowl Management Plan</u></p> <p>A Malleefowl Management Plan (MMP) was prepared to provide a framework to ensure any potential impacts of the project on Malleefowl are minimised to the maximum extent practicable.</p> <p>The key management actions that are to be adopted to minimise impacts on Malleefowl include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preclearance surveys during the breeding season for any clearing activities to identify and avoid any active (ie. currently being used to incubate eggs (NMRT 2016)) or dormant nest mounds. Surveys will be implemented by a suitably qualified fauna specialist • Avoidance of any active or dormant nest mounds should they be observed during the pre-clearing survey. The proposed exploration drill programme would be modified and a suitable buffer placed around the nest mound (as per the proposed Malleefowl Management Plan) • Water sources to be temporary at this stage and fenced to prevent feral animal population growth • No landfill or waste storage on site with all waste being returned to the main Murrin Murrin site for disposal (at the licenced landfill) • Predator (cat, dog or fox) control will be implemented if required. <p>A Malleefowl monitoring program will be undertaken for the period of grade control drilling for IHP and in anticipation that the project may proceed to the mining phase with a set of early response triggers to ensure investigation of incidents, reporting and review of the management plan.</p>
<p>Preferred meeting date/time (morning/afternoon)</p> <p><i>Provide a range of dates and times to allow for flexibility. The Department will then arrange a meeting and inform you of the final arrangements.</i></p>	<p>As soon as possible, noting Minara is located in Australian Western Standard Time</p>

<p>Meeting attendees</p> <p><i>Please indicate who will be attending and their job titles.</i></p>	<p>Luke Vernon (Environmental Superintendent, Minara Resources)</p> <p>Louise Whitley (Environmental Consultant, Strategen-JBS&G)</p>
<p>Meeting requirements</p> <p><i>What specific equipment can the Department provide for the meeting e.g. laptop and/or projector, whiteboard etc.</i></p>	<p>No specific equipment required. Minara will prepare and present a Powerpoint presentation detailing key Project details</p>
<p>Expected timing of submission of the referral documentation.</p> <p><i>This information can assist the Department with its resource planning.</i></p>	<p>If referral is required, submission within one month is expected.</p>
<p>Expected timeframes for commencement and completion of proposed action (if known).</p> <p><i>Note that we cannot fast track approvals to suit projects; rather we are required to follow statutory processes. Where we can provide advice to ensure a streamlined approach we will do so.</i></p>	<p>Proposed commencement date: April 2021</p> <p>Proposed completion date: December 2022</p>