



Environmental Protection Authority

The Atrium,
Level 8, 168 St Georges Terrace,
Perth, Western Australia 6000.
Telephone: (08) 6467 5000.
Facsimile: (08) 6467 5557.

Postal Address: Locked Bag 33,
Cloisters Square, Perth, Western Australia 6850.
Website: www.epa.wa.gov.au

Mr S McGunnigle
Manager Environment Approvals
Fortescue Metals Group
PO Box 6915
EAST PERTH WA 6892

Our Ref A463389
Enquiries Vanessa Angus
Phone 6467 5256

Dear Mr McGunnigle

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 39A(3)
Environmental Protection Act 1986

PROPOSAL: Exploration activities Eliwana Prospect on E47/1301, E47/1302, E47/1195 and E47/2037: Talisman East Project
LOCATION: approximately 75 km north-west of Tom Price
LOCALITY: Pilbara region
PROPONENT: Fortescue Metals Group
DECISION: Not Assessed – Public Advice Given

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) understands that you wish to undertake the above proposal which has been referred to the Authority for consideration of its potential environmental impact.

This proposal raises a number of environmental issues. However, the EPA has decided not to subject this proposal to the environmental impact assessment process and the subsequent setting of formal conditions by the Minister for Environment under Part IV of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). Nevertheless, the staff of the Office of the EPA has provided the attached advice to you as the proponent, and other relevant authorities on the environmental aspects of the proposal.

The EPA's decision to not assess the proposal is open to appeal. There is a 14-day period, closing 24 September 2012, Information on the appeals process is available through the Office of the Appeals Convenor's website, www.appealsconvenor.wa.gov.au, or by telephoning 6467 5190.

Yours sincerely

Anthony Sutton
Director
Assessment and Compliance Division

10 September 2012

Encl

PUBLIC ADVICE UNDER SECTION 39A(7)
Environmental Protection Act 1986

The proposal referred to the EPA and to which this advice applies is for exploration activities on the following mining tenure; E47/1301, E47/1302, E47/1196 and E47/2037 as described in the proponent's application for a Program of Works Permit to the Department of Mines and Petroleum dated 21 September 2011.

The EPA provides the following advice and recommendations regarding environmental issues:

Fauna

There is potential for threatened fauna species to occur in the area, including the Pilbara Leaf-nose bat and the Northern Quoll.

The EPA recommends that, prior to granting of any permit that would allow commencement of drilling, the Department of Mines and Petroleum ensure that adequate information is available to assess potential impacts to any threatened species and that buffer zones be established around critical habitat where required.