

APO0001285

Approval to undertake assessable prospecting operations

Big Red

15 May 2024

Application summary

Detail	Application
Reference	APO0001285
Date of approval	15 May 2024
Title	EL 5800 (1992)
Contact	[REDACTED]
Project name	Big Red
Project location	Big Red - EL5800
Activity type	Complying exploration activity

Important note

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Project

Project details

Assessable prospecting activity APO0001285 relates to the Big Red at Big Red - EL5800.

The project has the following approved characteristics.

Detail	Proposal
Activity description	Desktop studies identified several areas of interest within EL5800, with an exploration strategy created to adequately test the region. Northparkes (NPO) Exploration team will commence field reconnaissance of the proposed drill sites at the Big Red Target in early May 2024 to assess each area's suitability for drilling. Assessment criteria includes assessing current land use, density of vegetation and available tracks. Landholders have already been notified of the proposed activities and agreements have been sought. NPO will also undertake an inhouse Level One visual assessment of the drill sites for any unidentified Cultural Heritage artefacts using appropriately experienced/trained personnel. Drilling of up to six (6) surface reverse circulation exploration holes, with a nominal RC: 140mm hole diameter to inclined depths of 150m, for a total of 900m. Please note that drillhole 23P049 observed in the attached appendixes will not be drilled. Holes are to be drilled off level ground in agricultural land, with no ground preparation required, other than the removal of trip-hazards that cannot be made safe by fencing/bunding. Drilling operations will occur with a designed-for-purpose banded PVC drop sheet between the rig and ground surface to prevent surface disturbance and contain any potential hydrocarbon spillages. The maximum extent of any drill pad will be 20x25m. Holes will be cased off into bedrock with 150mm PVC casing, with the hole grouted and casing cut and capped one (1) metre below ground level on completion of the program. Drill collars will be buried and all surface areas rehabilitated in line with industry best practices and landholder requirements. The program will utilise 1x UDR 1000 truck-mounted multi-purpose drill rig. 1x Volvo 8x4 tilt tray support truck for transporting equipment. 1x 4x4 MAN

Detail	Proposal
	water truck (10,000ltr). 1x 400ltr fuel pod. 1x BLY jack up rod sloop. 2x support light vehicles. Further details are shown in Appendix 5.
Earthworks or vegetation clearing	All planned drill pads are in areas currently used for pastoral / cropping purposes. These areas have been extensively disturbed by farming activities. Locations of the proposed drillholes are given with respect to historical drilling in the area in the .pdf map accompanying this form (Appendix 3). Surface disturbance at each of the planned drill sites will be limited to manual clearing of material that poses a hazard to either drill crews or equipment (trip or fire hazards), such as old crop stubble, stones, rotten and fallen timber, to provide a safe working environment. Any such surficial material removed prior to the commencement of works will be replaced on the completion of the program. Apart from the drill collar, no in-ground excavation is anticipated on site, with above ground sumps being available to hold excess water encountered in drilling. All water and fluids created or used in the drilling process will be captured and pumped in the sumps.
Access to exploration activities	Access to the drill sites will be from existing roads and farm tracks. No new roads will be constructed. New access tracks to each drillsite will take off existing tracks around the edges of paddocks at the closest possible point to the drillpad (vehicular access will be the shortest possible direct route from the farm tracks across the paddock along line of furrow). All vehicles will use the same route to and from the drill pad. Vehicular tracks across paddocks will be ripped where necessary after completion of drilling.
Ancillary activities	There shall be no permanent water storage at any site. All ancillary infrastructure shall be temporary and mobile. The drilling contractor may utilise a mobile caravan to provide shelter to the drill crews, however, all personnel shall be accommodated at residences in the nearby township, Parkes (approximately 25min away).
Anticipated start date	23 May 2024
Expected duration (weeks)	Approximately two (2) weeks
Expected rehabilitation completion date	13 June 2024
Proposed hours of operation	Other 12 hours a day, 7 days a week
On-site employee or contractor numbers	5

Exempted areas

The Big Red has not proposed prospecting in an exempted area.

State conservation areas

The Big Red has not proposed prospecting in a State Conservation Area.

Site description and existing environment

The project comprises the following existing land uses:

All planned drill pads are in areas currently used for pastoral / cropping purposes. These areas have been extensively disturbed by farming activities with considerable historical drilling in the area. All activities will be communicated with the landholder to determine any impact on planned agricultural activities. There will be no permanent change to the current land use during the activity. All temporary changes will be rehabilitated as soon as practical to allow normal land use to resume.

The project is located near the following sensitive receptors:

The nearest sensitive receptor, Boonara, is over 4,200m away (to the southeast). This is a homestead occupied by a local landholder. There are no other sensitive receptors within 4km of the proposed work area(s).

The project is located with the following soil types and properties:

The cover is comprised of alluvial soils which have been subject to decades of agricultural activity. The proposed drill program will not impact the local rate of erosion and dispersion, with all holes located on previously disturbed agricultural land. All vehicle tracks will avoid existing contour banks and will use established (agricultural activity) tracks to traverse where necessary. There are no known instances of potential or actual acid sulfate soils in the area, and none of the proposed drilling activities are located on strategic agricultural land.

The project has the following existing surface water sources in the area that are likely to be affected by the activity:

There are no existing surface water sources in the proposed work area that will be affected by the activity. Please refer to Appendix 1 for further details. Drill collars are located on previously disturbed agricultural land. All water collected during drilling operations will be held in above-ground sumps for pumping and disposal at the Northparkes Mine site Surface Surge Dams for recycling.

The project has the following existing groundwater sources that occur in the area that are likely to be affected by the activity:

There are no known groundwater sources in the area that will be affected by the activity. Any drill fluids or ground water encountered through drilling will be captured and pumped from the collar tray to the above ground sumps. This will ensure that no fluids used or encountered through the drilling process can make contact with the local ground or be uncontrollably released into the local environment. As required throughout, and at the end of the program, water will be extracted from the sumps using a vacuum extraction truck and all fluid is deposited in the Surface Surge Dams and processed in accordance with Northparkes Mines 'Operational Water' Management Plan.

The project is in an area with the following topography, vegetation cover type, density and condition:

Local relief in the area is less than 10m, with the locations to be drilled in gently undulating land with relief less than 5m. Land use in the area is dominated by cereal cropping, with minor grazing – the majority of the area having been cleared for these purposes. The proposed work areas for the activity lie on these cleared land. Minor open eucalypt scrub occur nearby, but will not be impacted by the proposed activities.

The project will impact the following matters of national environmental significance:

There is no matter of national environmental significance under the Commonwealth Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 that will be impacted by the activity.

The project is in an area with the following threatened species, ecological communities (or habitats):

There are no threatened species or ecological communities, including their habitats, within the proposed work area. Please refer to the attached BioNet Atlas search (Appendix 6).

The project is in an area with the following historic cultural or natural heritage items:

No items of historic cultural or natural heritage are located within the proposed work area.

The project is in an area with the following critical habitat/area of outstanding biodiversity value:

No critical habitat/area of outstanding biodiversity value is likely to be affected by the activity.

The project is located in an area with the following location, type and distance to the nearest Aboriginal heritage sites:

There are no Aboriginal cultural heritage objects or places listed within the proposed work area. Please see the attached AHIMS search (Appendix 7).

Exploration activities

The following exploration activities have been approved.

Drill holes

Id/ Regulator no.	Type	Surface disturbance (m ²)	Veg. Clearing (m ²)	Excavations (m ³)	Produced water (ml)	Depth (m)	Block number	Unit letters
23P043 EDH00121 80	RC drill hole	500				150	697	b
23P045 EDH00121 82	RC drill hole	500				150	697	b
23P047 EDH00121 84	RC drill hole	500				150	697	b
23P046 EDH00121 83	RC drill hole	500				150	697	b
23P048 EDH00121 85	RC drill hole	500				150	697	b
23P044 EDH00121 81	RC drill hole	500				150	697	b

Other exploration activities

Id/ Regulator no.	Type	Surface disturbance (m ²)	Veg. Clearing (m ²)	Excavations (m ³)	Produced water (ml)	Block number	Unit letters
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Impact management

The project includes the following measures to manage surface water impacts:

As reverse circulation (RC) drilling is by air methods, bulk water is not required for drilling operations, and as such there will be no need to draw water from surface sources on the exploration site during this program. Minor water to be used for dust suppression during drilling will be provided by the contractor, and held in dedicated tanks. Water returns during drilling operations will be collected in above-ground sumps for pumping and disposal at the Northparkes Mine site Surface Surge Dams for recycling.

The project includes the following measures to manage groundwater impacts:

Any drill fluids or ground water encountered through drilling will be captured and pumped from the collar tray to the above ground sumps. This will ensure that no fluids used or encountered through the drilling process can make contact with the local ground or be uncontrollably released into the local environment. As required throughout, and at the end of the program, water will be extracted from the sumps using a vacuum extraction truck and all fluid is deposited in the Surface Surge Dams and processed in accordance with Northparkes 'Operational Water' Management Plan. In the case of water being intersected during aircore drilling operations, holes will be terminated once bulk water is encountered, to prevent surface flow.

The project includes the following measures to manage waste and excess materials:

No Special Waste as defined by the EPA Waste Classification Guidelines will be created during the completion of the exploration program. Waste bins are provided onsite. Any contaminated or general waste will be returned to Northparkes mine site and disposed of in accordance with Northparkes 'Non Mineral Waste' Management Plan. Recyclable items are separated onsite and deposited in Northparkes recycling bins. Training is provided for all contractors and employees during general inductions on characterisation of waste and methods of disposal. Upon completion of the work any grid pegs or survey tape placed by Northparkes shall be removed. The drill site shall be cleared of any refuse as soon as practicable after completion of operations. General solid waste (non-putrescible) that contains or is exposed to hydrocarbons will be collected and disposed of separately from general waste. All drill cuttings will be removed from site and kept for analysis purposes at NPO.

The project includes the following measures regarding the handling, use, storage and transportation of any chemicals and hydrocarbons:

Any hydrocarbons and chemicals stored onsite are to be stored on a bunded pallet or bunded surface in vehicles, to avoid contamination to the local environment. The rig when on the drillsites is underlain by a PVC 'rig nappy' or heavy duty plastic dropsheets, and ground where other equipment is located is lined with plastic and monitored through twice daily checks for rips, tears or breaches. Spill kits are available on each site and contain absorbent matting, socks and Enretech, to be used for any spillages.

The project includes the following measures of how noise impacts will be managed to minimise impacts on nearby sensitive receptors:

The planned drilling sites are located more than 4,200m from the nearest maintained residence mitigating any potential noise impacts from drilling operations. The nearest occupied sensitive receptor is the 'Boonara' homestead, more than 4,200m away from the closest drilling location, with the next closest receptor located approximately 4,800m from the drilling location. Any significant change in noise levels, or notification of noise from sensitive receivers during drilling operations will result in the suspension of drilling operations until rectified to a level acceptable to receivers.

The project includes the following measures to manage air quality impacts:

Sealed collar and sampling system to be used on rig. Dust suppression unit for collecting sample during reverse circulation drilling, with air filter banks and closeable cyclone valves to limit the potential for dust emissions. Water injection to sampling system when drilling to dampen dust/drilling returns and prevent airborne dust. Clean and maintained drilling rig and ancillary equipment with air filters cleaned on a regular basis.

Sensitivity of the land to be disturbed

Question	Yes/no
Conservation areas	
Land reserved under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> ?	No
Land acquired by the Minister under Part 11 of the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> ?	No
Land subject to a 'conservation agreement' under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> and/or the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> ?	No
Land declared as an aquatic reserve under the <i>Marine Estate Management Act 2014</i> ?	No
Land declared as a marine park under the <i>Marine Estate Management Act 2014</i> ?	No
Land within State Forests set aside under the <i>Forestry Act 2012</i> for conservation values, including Flora Reserves or Special Management (and other) Zones?	No
Land reserved or dedicated under the <i>Crown Lands Act 1989/Crown Lands Management Act 2016</i> (as applicable) for the preservation of flora, fauna, geological formations or other environmental protection purposes?	No

Question	Yes/no
Land identified as wilderness or declared a wilderness area under the <i>Wilderness Act 1987</i> ?	No
Land subject to a Biobanking agreement (established under the now repealed <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i>) or a Biodiversity Stewardship agreement established under the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> ?	No
Land subject to a Wildlife Refuge agreement under the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> ?	No
Land subject to existing conservation agreements on private land under repealed legislation that continue to have effect (e.g. trust agreements under <i>Native Conservation Trust Act 2001</i> , Property vegetation plans under <i>Native Vegetation Act 2003</i> , Registered property agreements under <i>Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997</i>)?	No
Drinking water catchment protection areas	
Land declared to be a 'controlled area' or a 'special area' under the <i>Water NSW Act 2014</i> ?	No
Land declared to be a 'special area' under the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i> or <i>Hunter Water Act 1991</i> ?	No
Sensitive areas	
Land declared as area of outstanding biodiversity value under the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> or critical habitat under Part 7A of the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> ?	No
Wetlands of international significance listed under the Ramsar Wetlands Convention?	No
Land designated as a nationally important wetland in the Directory of Important Wetlands?	No
Coastal wetlands mapped under <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021</i> ?	No
Littoral rainforests mapped under <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021</i> ?	No
Coastal zone as defined in the <i>Coastal Management Act 2016</i> ?	No
Land identified in an environmental planning instrument as being of biodiversity/conservation significance or zoned for environmental conservation, protection and/or management?	No
Waterfront land defined under the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i> ?	No
Land with a slope greater than 18 degrees measured from the horizontal?	No
Land with potential for soil and water contamination	
Land mapped as Actual Acid Sulfate Soils (AASS) or Potential Acid Sulfate Soils (PASS) on the Acid Sulfate Soils Risk Maps for NSW?	No
Aboriginal protection areas	
Land identified in an environmental planning instrument (such as a State Environmental Planning Policy or Local Environment Plan) as being of Aboriginal cultural significance?	No
Land declared as an Aboriginal place under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> ?	No
Historic or natural heritage protection areas	
Land listed on the World Heritage List, National Heritage List or Commonwealth Heritage List?	No
Land, places, buildings or structures listed on the NSW State Heritage Register?	No
Land identified in an environmental planning instrument (such as a State Environmental Planning Policy or Local Environment Plan) as being of heritage significance or a heritage conservation area?	No
Critical industry clusters	
Land identified as Critical Industry Cluster under <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Resources and Energy) 2021</i> ?	No
Community land	
Public land classified as community land under the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> ?	No
Other areas	

Question	Yes/no
Land identified on the authority (e.g. exploration licence or assessment lease) as environmentally sensitive land?	No
Ecology	
Will the activity have a significant effect on threatened species or their habitats?	No
Will the activity have a significant effect on threatened ecological communities or their habitats?	No
Will vegetation be removed as part of access track upgrade works in waterfront land?	No
Aboriginal and European heritage	
Will the activity harm Aboriginal objects as defined under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> ?	No
Will the activity damage any listed heritage items?	No

Attachment 1 – Statement of commitments

Item	Commitment
Activity type	<p>Exploration activity comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0 diamond drill holes • 6 reverse circulation drill holes • 0 other drill holes • 0 cubic metres of bulk sampling • 0 square metres of new access tracks • 0 lines of seismic testing • 0 square metres of air core drilling • 0 square metres of other drilling
Activity location	Big Red - EL5800, within EL 5800 (1992).
Activity scope (including any ancillary activities)	<p>Desktop studies identified several areas of interest within EL5800, with an exploration strategy created to adequately test the region. Northparkes (NPO) Exploration team will commence field reconnaissance of the proposed drill sites at the Big Red Target in early May 2024 to assess each area's suitability for drilling. Assessment criteria includes assessing current land use, density of vegetation and available tracks. Landholders have already been notified of the proposed activities and agreements have been sought. NPO will also undertake an inhouse Level One visual assessment of the drill sites for any unidentified Cultural Heritage artefacts using appropriately experienced/trained personnel. Drilling of up to six (6) surface reverse circulation exploration holes, with a nominal RC: 140mm hole diameter to inclined depths of 150m, for a total of 900m. Please note that drillhole 23P049 observed in the attached appendixes will not be drilled. Holes are to be drilled off level ground in agricultural land, with no ground preparation required, other than the removal of trip-hazards that cannot be made safe by fencing/bunding. Drilling operations will occur with a designed-for-purpose banded PVC drop sheet between the rig and ground surface to prevent surface disturbance and contain any potential hydrocarbon spillages. The maximum extent of any drill pad will be 20x25m. Holes will be cased off into bedrock with 150mm PVC casing, with the hole grouted and casing cut and capped one (1) metre below ground level on completion of the program. Drill collars will be buried and all surface areas rehabilitated in line with industry best practices and landholder requirements. The program will utilise 1x UDR 1000 truck-mounted multi-purpose drill rig. 1x Volvo 8x4 tilt tray support truck for transporting equipment. 1x 4x4 MAN water truck (10,000ltr). 1x 400ltr fuel pod. 1x BLY jack up rod sloop. 2x support light vehicles. Further details are shown in Appendix 5.</p> <p>There shall be no permanent water storage at any site. All ancillary infrastructure shall be temporary and mobile. The drilling contractor may utilise a mobile caravan to provide shelter to the drill crews, however, all personnel shall be accommodated at residences in the nearby township, Parkes (approximately 25min away).</p>
Hours of operation	Other 12 hours a day, 7 days a week
Expected duration (weeks)	Approximately two (2) weeks
Anticipated start date	23 May 2024
Expected rehabilitation completion date	Estimated 13 June 2024
Maximum area of disturbance	3,000 square metres

Item	Commitment
Air quality	The title holder must implement all measures to prevent, so far as practicable, pollution caused by dust and other air pollutants.
Protection of water sources	<p>The title holder must implement all measures to prevent, so far as practicable, causing adverse impacts on water quality and quantity, including groundwater levels and pressure.</p> <p>Prior to the construction and use of any borehole, the holder of a coal prospecting title must prepare a Groundwater Monitoring and Modelling Plan in consultation with the Water Division of the NSW Department of Planning and Environment.</p>
Erosion, sediment and soil controls	<p>The title holder must implement all measures to prevent, so far as is practicable, causing any land degradation or pollution of land or water.</p> <p>The title holder must implement all practicable measures to prevent harm to the environment when disturbing land in areas of potential acid sulfate soils and actual acid sulfate soils.</p>
Noise and vibration	<p>The titleholder must implement all practicable noise management measures to ensure that noise levels meet acceptable noise criteria for sensitive receivers.</p> <p>Unless otherwise agreed with relevant landholders, the title holder must notify any potentially affected landholders at least 24 hours prior to detonating explosives.</p>
Use of chemicals, fuels and lubricants	<p>The titleholder must implement all measures to prevent, so far as is practicable, causing contamination of the environment by the release of chemicals, fuels, lubricants and other potential pollutants.</p> <p>The title holder must ensure that all chemicals, fuels and lubricants, excluding those contained within plant and equipment, are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> stored and handled in accordance with any relevant Safety Data Sheet and Australian Standards for the material, and stored in appropriate containers that are in good condition and labelled to clearly identify the stored product, and kept in a facility or area which is capable of containing at least 110% of the largest container capacity stored within that area. <p>The title holder must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ensure that adequate spill prevention and absorbent materials required to manage spills and leaks for all potential pollutants which are on site are readily available at all times, and use appropriate equipment and materials to capture any drips and spills which occur during the transfer of potential pollutants, and when carrying out maintenance of hydrocarbon filled plant and equipment.
Waste	The titleholder must manage all waste in a manner which does not cause harm to the environment.
Vegetation clearing and surface disturbance	<p>The title holder must minimise the extent of any vegetation clearing and surface disturbance to as low as practicable.</p> <p>The boundaries of any areas of vegetation clearing and surface disturbance must be demarcated.</p> <p>The title holder must implement all measures to prevent, so far as practicable, adverse impacts to fauna caused by vegetation clearing or surface disturbance.</p> <p>The title holder must inspect trees and canopy branches for fauna prior to felling or branch removal, and clearly demarcate any hollows or active bird nests.</p> <p>The title holder must not proceed with tree felling or branch removal until any resident fauna have been relocated by an ecologist or other competent party.</p>

Item	Commitment
Roads and tracks	<p>The title holder must consult with relevant landholders prior to establishing any new roads or tracks.</p> <p>The title holder must plan, design, construct, maintain and use roads and tracks in a manner which minimises the area and duration of disturbance to the environment and landholders to as low as practicable.</p> <p>The title holder must construct any crossings of rivers, permanent and intermittent water lands and wetlands to prevent, so far as practicable, impacts on fish habitats.</p> <p>The title holder must refrain from using any unsealed road or track during wet conditions to prevent damage to that road or track, unless the road or track has been designed and constructed for use in wet conditions, or the landholder expressly consented to the use of that road or track in wet conditions.</p> <p>Unless otherwise agreed with the relevant landholder, the title holder must repair all damage to existing roads and tracks resulting from exploration activities.</p>
Aboriginal and other cultural heritage	The titleholder must implement all measures to prevent, so far as practicable, harm to Aboriginal cultural heritage and non-indigenous cultural heritage.
Weeds, pest animals and diseases	The titleholder must implement all practicable measures to prevent the introduction and spread of weeds, pest animals and animal and plant diseases.
Livestock protection	The title holder must implement all measures to prevent, so far as practicable, causing adverse impacts to livestock.
Fire prevention	The title holder must implement all measures to prevent, as far as practicable, the ignition and spread of fire.
Rehabilitation commitments	The activity will be undertaken in accordance with the rehabilitation objectives and targets provided for this project.
Risk assessments	The title holder must monitor the risks associated with activities and, if the risk associated with an activity changes, implement revised environmental management controls.
Incident management	The NSW Resources Regulator will be notified of all incidents in accordance with the requirements of EL 5800 (1992).
Reporting	Reporting to the NSW Resources Regulator and Mining, Exploration and Geoscience – Department of Regional NSW will be in accordance with the legislation and conditions of EL 5800 (1992).
Codes of Practice	<p>Big Red will be operated in accordance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploration Code of Practice: Environmental Management Exploration Code of Practice: Rehabilitation
Other (as applicable)	1. No additional terms specified.

Attachment 2 – Definitions

To search for NSW legislation, visit www.legislation.nsw.gov.au. Commonwealth legislation can be found at www.legislation.gov.au.

Word	Definition
Aboriginal object	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> .
Aboriginal place	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> .
Acid Sulfate Soils	Sediments and soils containing iron sulfides which, when exposed to oxygen, generate sulfuric acid. Acid sulfate soils include actual acid sulfate soils (AASS) or potential acid sulfate soils (PASS).
Activity	Any activity carried out in connection with exploration, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the use of land means of accessing land the carrying out of a work.
Activity approval	An approval to carry out assessable prospecting operations granted under the <i>Mining Act 1992 / Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991</i> – as relevant.
Actual Acid Sulfate Soils (AASS)	Sediments and soils containing highly acidic soil horizons or layers resulting from the aeration of sediments and soils that are rich in iron sulfides, primarily sulphide.
Applicant	In relation to an exploration activity, the person proposing to carry out the exploration activity.
Aquatic reserve	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Marine Estate Management Act 2014</i> .
Areas of Outstanding Biodiversity Value (AOBVs)	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> . Note: Areas of declared critical habitat under the now repealed <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i> have become Areas of Outstanding Biodiversity Value (AOBVs) under the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> .
Assessable prospecting operation	Any prospecting operation that is not exempt development within the meaning of <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Resources and Energy) 2021</i> .
Clearing of vegetation	Any one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cutting down, felling, thinning, lopping, logging or removing vegetation, or killing, destroying, poisoning, ringbarking, uprooting or burning vegetation.
Complying exploration activities (CEA)	Exploration activities that are considered unlikely to significantly affect the environment as set out in <i>Exploration guideline: Application and assessment process for exploration activities</i> .
Critical habitat	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> . Areas of declared critical habitat under the now repealed <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i> have become Areas of Outstanding Biodiversity Value (AOBVs) under the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> .
Drill hole	A hole made by drilling or boring, but excludes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sampling and coring using handheld equipment petroleum wells.
Drilling	The perforation of the earth's surface crust by mechanical means to form a hole, whether the hole caused by the perforation is vertical, inclined or horizontal, and

Word	Definition
	includes all operations for preventing collapse of the sides of such hole or for preventing it from being filled with extraneous materials including water
Environment	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Mining Act 1992 / Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991</i> – as relevant.
Environmentally sensitive area of State significance	Has the same meaning as it has in <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Resources and Energy) 2021</i> .
Excavation	The removal of the surface layer to a depth greater than 500 mm from the natural surface level.
Exempt development	Has the same meaning as it has in <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Resources and Energy) 2021</i> .
Exploration	Has the same meaning as it has in <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Resources and Energy) 2021</i> .
Fauna	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> .
Groundwater	Water that occurs beneath the ground surface in the saturated zone.
Habitat	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> or the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> (as relevant).
Harm	<p>In relation to matters of national environmental significance, has the same meaning as 'significant impact' as provided by the 'Significant Impact Guidelines' used to determine whether assessment and approval is required under the <i>Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>.</p> <p>In relation to the environment, has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997</i>.</p> <p>In relation to threatened species or ecological communities, has the same meaning as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'harm an animal' in the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> • 'pick a native plant' in the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> • 'harm' in the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i>. <p>In relation to an aquifer or waterfront land, has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i>.</p> <p>In relation to Aboriginal places or Aboriginal objects has the same meaning as it has in the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>.</p> <p>In relation to items of heritage significance, has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Heritage Act 1977</i>.</p> <p>In relation to protected marine vegetation, has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i>.</p>
Items of heritage significance	<p>Means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • any heritage items listed in one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — the Commonwealth Heritage List — the World Heritage List — the National Heritage List — the State Heritage Register — an Environmental Planning Instrument

Word	Definition
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • any relic (being any deposit, object or material evidence which relates to the settlement of the area that comprises New South Wales, not being Aboriginal settlement, and which is 50 or more years old), or • within State Conservation Areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — items that are listed on the DECC Historic Heritage Information Management System, or — any deposit, object or material evidence relating to the settlement or occupation of New South Wales or a part of New South Wales (not being Aboriginal settlement or occupation) if the deposit, object or material evidence is more than 25 years old at the date of the interference or removal.
Land	<p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the sea or an arm of the sea • a bay, inlet, lagoon, lake or body of water, whether inland or not and whether tidal or non-tidal • a river, stream or watercourse, whether tidal or non-tidal, and • a building erected on the land
Marine vegetation	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> .
Matters of national environmental significance	'Matters of national environmental significance' protected under the <i>Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> .
Minister	The Minister administering the <i>Mining Act 1992 / Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991</i> – as relevant.
Native vegetation	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Local Land Services Act 2013</i> .
Potential acid sulphate soils (PASS)	Sediments and soils that contain iron sulfides or sulfidic material which have not been exposed to air and oxidised
Produced water	Any form of groundwater that is actively extracted from a borehole or excavation, excluding incidental groundwater mixed with drilling fluids.
Rehabilitation	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Mining Act 1992 / Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991</i> – as relevant.
Seismic survey	The use of shock waves (generated in the ground using either small explosive charges detonated below the surface, hand-held mechanical hammers or vehicle-mounted hammers) and an array of geophones, which are connected to measuring instruments, to differentiate the geophysical properties of the subsurface of the earth.
Sensitive receiver	<p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dwellings • libraries • educational and research institutions (including schools, colleges and universities) • childcare centres • kindergartens • hospitals, surgeries and other medical institutions • places of worship

Word	Definition
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> milking sheds and holding yards associated with dairies animal boarding or training establishments aquaculture intensive livestock agriculture
Site	The land on which an activity is located.
State Conservation Area	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> .
Surface disturbance	Means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> disturbance or exposure of the soil or surface rock layer, or degradation or deterioration in any manner of the physical surface of land.
Terms	In relation to activity approvals, the terms imposed by the decision-maker on the grant of an activity approval.
Threatened species or ecological communities	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> or <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> (as relevant).
Title	An authority under the <i>Mining Act 1992</i> / a title under the <i>Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991</i> – as relevant.
Titleholder	A person or company to whom a title has been issued.
Track	All unsealed routes that will be traversed multiple times, but does not include single pass (ingress and egress) routes or seismic shot and receiver lines.
Waste	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997</i> .
Water source	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i> .
Water land	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> .
Waterfront land	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i> .
Wetlands	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> .
Wilderness	Lands identified as wilderness under the <i>Wilderness Act 1987</i> .
Wilderness area	Lands (including subterranean lands) declared to be a wilderness area under the <i>Wilderness Act 1987</i> or the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> .

Attachment 3 – List of supporting documents

- APO0001285_Submission Report_3 May 2024 3:35pm.pdf
 - Appendix4_BigRed_RC_Terrestrial_Diversity_231016.pdf
 - Appendix6_BigRed_DD_BioNet_Search_230714.pdf
 - Appendix7_BigRed_RC_AHIMS_231015.pdf
 - Appendix9_BigRed_RC_Proposed_drilling_statement.pdf
 - Appendix9_BigRed_RC_Proposed_drilling_statement.pdf
 - Big_Red_APO_Predisturbance_Photos.zip
 - Site Plan and Location Details.zip

FORM: APO_C_Appl v3.1