Thursday 16 May 2024

Assessable Prospecting Operation Application Decision Briefing and Review of Environmental Factors

Rocklodge | APO0001743

Decision Maker	Christine Fawcett
Prepared by	Stephen Clipperton
Title	EL 9155 (1992)
Authorised Representative	[redacted]
Project name	Rocklodge
Activity type	Non-Complying Exploration Activity

Issue

[redacted] has sought an activity approval in respect of Rocklodge, within EL 9155 (1992), at 26.5 km south of Cooma.

Pursuant to section 2.8 of *State Environmental Planning Policy (Resources and Energy) 2021*, development for the purposes of exploration (i.e. prospecting) may be carried out without development consent.

An authority issued under the *Mining Act 1992* is subject to a condition that the authority holder must not carry out an assessable prospecting operation on land over which the authority is granted unless an activity approval has been obtained for the carrying out of the assessable prospecting operation.

As assessable prospecting operations require approval by the Minister under the *Mining Act 1992*, a duty is imposed on determining authorities under Part 5 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* to:

- examine and take into account to the fullest extent possible all matters affecting or likely to affect the environmental by reason of the proposed activity; and
- if the activity is likely to significantly affect the environment, examine and consider an environmental impact statement in respect of the activity.

The Minister is the determining authority for all exploration activities subject to environmental assessment under Part 5 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

The Decision Maker, under delegation from the Minister, is required to determine whether:

- the proposed activity is not likely to have a significant impact on the environment and is not likely to significantly affect threatened species, populations or ecological communities (or their habitats) or impact biodiversity values and can be approved,
- the proposed activity is likely to have a significant impact on the environment and therefore an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required,

- the proposed activity will be carried out in a declared area of outstanding biodiversity value and is likely to significantly affect threatened species, populations or ecological communities, or their habitats or impact biodiversity values, meaning a Species Impact Statement (SIS) and/or Biodiversity Development and Assessment Report (BDAR) is required, or
- there is insufficient information to make a decision.

Background

This exploration activity approval is being sought under EL 9155 (1992) to undertake assessable prospecting operations.

The current security deposit held for EL 9155 (1992) is $15,000.

Proposed exploration activity

The proposed exploration activity (including details of the site, the existing environment, impact thresholds and impact management) are described in *APPLICATION TO UNDERTAKE ASSESSABLE PROSPECTING OPERATIONS Rocklodge* report and the information provided in support of the application.

The objective of the proposed exploration activity is to carry out works on, or to remove samples from, land for the purpose of testing the resource quality and/or quantity of the land. This is consistent with the objects of the *Mining Act 1992*, including to facilitate the discovery and development of resources in NSW.

No alternatives options to the proposed activity were considered.

Security

The application triggered a review of the assessed deposit to secure funding for the fulfilment of obligations if Rocklodge is approved.

Refer to RCE Record RCE0001919

Assessment of Impacts (Non-complying exploration activity)

An assessment of the significance of environmental impacts associated with the proposed activity was undertaken in accordance with the Department of Planning and Environment's "*Guidelines for Division 5.1 assessments*". The results of this assessment are documented in the attached Review of Environmental Factors document.

The assessment undertaken pursuant to Division 5.1 of the EP&A Act 1979 has determined the proposed activity is not likely to have a significant impact on the environment and therefore an EIS is not required.

The proposed activity will not be carried out in a declared area of outstanding biodiversity value, and with the proposed mitigation measures in place, is not likely to significantly affect threatened species, populations or ecological communities, or their habitats or impact biodiversity values, meaning a SIS and/or BDAR is not required.

Additional terms (if approved)

No additional terms are required.

Summary

Based on the information provided in the *APPLICATION TO UNDERTAKE ASSESSABLE PROSPECTING OPERATIONS Rocklodge* report, and the Review of Environmental Factors document, the proposed activity has been assessed as is not likely to have a significant impact on the environment and therefore an EIS is not required.

The application has been assessed and the recommendation is to Approve the activity.

Certification

I, Stephen Clipperton, certify that I have reviewed and endorsed the contents of the attached Review of Environmental Factors document and, to the best of my knowledge, it is in accordance with the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979,* the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021 and the Guidelines approved under clause 170 of the EP&A Regulation, and the information it contains is neither false nor misleading.

Recommendation

The Decision Maker, under delegation from the Minister:

- Assesses the environmental impact of Rocklodge and determines that the activity is is not likely to have a significant impact on the environment and therefore an EIS is not required under Part 5 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.
- Approve the activity pursuant to the *Mining Act 1992*.

Review of Environmental Factors document

Criteria	Air Impacts: Air quality impacts (including impacts on nearby sensitive receptors).		
Potential impacts	Localised dust from vehicle movements. Exhaust fumes from the running of the earthmoving equipment, drill rig and support vehicles will be dispersed quickly. It is not expected that the dust will have an impact on the environment nor will it impact landholders.		
Proposed management controls	Vehicles will be driven at no more than 50 km/hr on local dirt roads and access tracks. Minor dust is expected as a part of drilling and rehabilitation process. It is not expected that the dust will have an impact on the environment nor will it impact surrounding landholders. The drilling will not release any gasses and/or vapours. Staff will have access to dust masks and appropriate PPE as necessary. Visitors to the site will not be allowed within 25m of the rig		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Low Adverse		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	High	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	No

How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	Medium Resilience	**What is the level of public concern?**	Low
Can the impacts be reversed?	Yes	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	Fully	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	Yes		
Criteria	Air Impacts: Greenhouse or ozone impacts.		
Potential impacts	Localised dust from vehicle movements. Exhaust fumes from the running of the earthmoving equipment, drill rig and support vehicles will be dispersed quickly. It is not expected that the dust will have an impact on the environment nor will it impact landholders.		
Proposed management controls	Vehicles will be driven at no more than 50 km/hr on local dirt roads and access tracks. Minor dust is expected as a part of drilling and rehabilitation process. It is not expected that the dust will have an impact on the environment nor will it impact surrounding landholders. The drilling will not release any gasses and/or vapours. Staff will have access to dust masks and appropriate PPE as necessary. Visitors to the site will not be allowed within 25m of the rig		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Low Adverse		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	High	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	No
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	Medium Resilience	**What is the level of public concern?**	Low
Can the impacts be reversed?	Yes	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	Fully	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	Yes		
Criteria	Air Impacts: Additional impacts on areas with degraded air quality.		
Potential impacts	Localised dust from vehicle movements. Exhaust fumes from the running of the earthmoving equipment, drill rig and support vehicles will be dispersed quickly. It is not expected that the dust will have an impact on the environment nor will it impact landholders.		
Proposed management controls	Vehicles will be driven at no more than 50 km/hr on local dirt roads and access tracks. Minor dust is expected as a part of drilling and rehabilitation process. It is not expected that the dust will have an impact on the environment nor will it impact surrounding landholders. The drilling will not release any gasses and/or vapours. Staff will have access to dust masks and appropriate PPE as necessary. Visitors to the site will not be allowed within 25m of the rig		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Low Adverse		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	High	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	No
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	Medium Resilience	**What is the level of public concern?**	Low
Can the impacts be reversed?	Yes	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	Fully	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	Yes		
Criteria	Water Impacts: Impacts from the use of surface or groundwater.		
Potential impacts	Excavation and other earthworks form part of the proposal and if such activities are not adequately managed, could result in the following impacts: • erosion of exposed soil and any stockpiled materials • dust generation from excavation and vehicle movements over exposed soil • an increase in sediment loads entering the recieving waters and/or local runoff. These impacts are relevant to the activity due to the steepness of the terrain, closeness to Jinny Brother Creek, and sensitivity of the landscape.		

Proposed management controls	Planned drilling will not require additional clearing and will be located 40m away from the top bank of any water source including watercourses and dams. Drilling traverses will not cross / traverse over any watercourses. Any wetland, swamps or other potential habitat areas will also be avoided. No surface water or ground water will be extracted for the drilling program. Water required for diamond drilling will be carted using the drill contractor's water truck. Any groundwater intersected during the drilling process will be contained in above or below ground sumps. Prior to drilling commencing, bunds will be constructed around the perimeter of the drill pads, on the downhill sides, to contain any excess ground water that may be produced during drilling. Groundwater will be collected via pumps and IBC containers at the drill collar, for later disposal. In the event that large quantities of groundwater are produced drill sumps will be required. The drilling contractor has well established procedures to mitigate and resolve any issues if any water is intercepted. Rehabilitation works planned will have no impact on water.		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Low Adverse		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	High	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	No
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	Medium Resilience	**What is the level of public concern?**	Low
Can the impacts be reversed?	Yes	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	Fully	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	Yes		
Criteria	Water Impacts: Impacts from storage of water		
Potential impacts	The proposed rehabilitation work and drilling program will not adversely impact any watercourses or other surface water sources, including farm dams. The drilling program will not extract or use any surface water. Given the short duration of drilling the proposed drilling program will have negligible adverse impact on surface water in the project areas.		
Proposed management controls	Planned drilling will not require additional clearing and will be located 40m away from the top bank of any water source including watercourses and dams. Drilling traverses will not cross / traverse over any watercourses. Any wetland, swamps or other potential habitat areas will also be avoided. No surface water or ground water will be extracted for the drilling program. Water required for diamond drilling will be carted using the drill contractor's water truck. Any groundwater intersected during the drilling process will be contained in above or below ground sumps. The drilling contractor has well established procedures to mitigate and resolve any issues if any water is intercepted. Rehabilitation works planned will have no impact on water.		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Negligible		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	High	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	No
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	Medium Resilience	**What is the level of public concern?**	Low
Can the impacts be reversed?	Yes	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	Fully	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	Yes		
Criteria	Water Impacts: Impacts from changes to natural water bodies, wetlands or runoff patterns.		
Potential impacts	The proposed rehabilitation work and drilling program will not adversely impact any watercourses or other surface water sources, including farm dams. The drilling program will not extract or use any surface water. Given the short duration of drilling the proposed drilling program will have negligible adverse impact on surface water in the project areas.		

Proposed management controls	Planned drilling will not require additional clearing and will be located 40m away from the top bank of any water source including watercourses and dams. Drilling traverses will not cross / traverse over any watercourses. Any wetland, swamps or other potential habitat areas will also be avoided. No surface water or ground water will be extracted for the drilling program. Water required for diamond drilling will be carted using the drill contractor's water truck. Any groundwater intersected during the drilling process will be contained in above or below ground sumps. The drilling contractor has well established procedures to mitigate and resolve any issues if any water is intercepted. Rehabilitation works planned will have no impact on water.		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Negligible		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	High	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	No
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	Medium Resilience	**What is the level of public concern?**	Low
Can the impacts be reversed?	Yes	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	Fully	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	Yes		
Criteria	Water Impacts: Impacts from aquifer interference, including changes to inter-aquifer connectivity.		
Potential impacts	The proposed rehabilitation work and drilling program will not adversely impact any watercourses or other surface water sources, including farm dams. The drilling program will not extract or use any surface water. Given the short duration of drilling the proposed drilling program will have negligible adverse impact on surface water in the project areas.		
Proposed management controls	Planned drilling will not require additional clearing and will be located 40m away from the top bank of any water source including watercourses and dams. Drilling traverses will not cross / traverse over any watercourses. Any wetland, swamps or other potential habitat areas will also be avoided. No surface water or ground water will be extracted for the drilling program. Water required for diamond drilling will be carted using the drill contractor's water truck. Any groundwater intersected during the drilling process will be contained in above or below ground sumps. Prior to drilling commencing, bunds will be constructed around the perimeter of the drill pads, on the downhill sides, to contain any excess ground water that may be produced during drilling. Groundwater will be collected via pumps and IBC containers at the drill collar, for later disposal. In the event that large quantities of groundwater are produced drill sumps will be required. The drilling contractor has well established procedures to mitigate and resolve any issues if any water is intercepted. Rehabilitation works planned will have no impact on water.		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Negligible		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	High	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	No
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	Medium Resilience	**What is the level of public concern?**	Low
Can the impacts be reversed?	Yes	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	Fully	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	Yes		
Criteria	Water Impacts: Impacts from changes to flooding or tidal regimes.		
Potential impacts	The proposed rehabilitation work and drilling program will not adversely impact any watercourses or other surface water sources, including farm dams. The drilling program will not extract or use any surface water. Given the short duration of drilling the proposed drilling program will have negligible adverse impact on surface water in the project areas.		

Proposed management controls	Planned drilling will not require additional clearing and will be located 40m away from the top bank of any water source including watercourses and dams. Drilling traverses will not cross / traverse over any watercourses. Any wetland, swamps or other potential habitat areas will also be avoided. No surface water or ground water will be extracted for the drilling program. Water required for diamond drilling will be carted using the drill contractor's water truck. Any groundwater intersected during the drilling process will be contained in above or below ground sumps. The drilling contractor has well established procedures to mitigate and resolve any issues if any water is intercepted. Rehabilitation works planned will have no impact on water.		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Negligible		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	High	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	No
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	Medium Resilience	**What is the level of public concern?**	Low
Can the impacts be reversed?	Yes	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	Fully	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	Yes		
Criteria	Water Impacts: Impacts from changes in surface or groundwater quality and quantity.		
Potential impacts	Excavation and other earthworks form part of the proposal and if such activities are not adequately managed, could result in the following impacts: • erosion of exposed soil and any stockpiled materials • dust generation from excavation and vehicle movements over exposed soil • an increase in sediment loads entering the recieving waters and/or local runoff. These impacts are relevant to the activity due to the steepness of the terrain, closeness to Jinny Brother Creek, and sensitivity of the landscape.		
Proposed management controls	Planned drilling will not require additional clearing and will be located 40m away from the top bank of any water source including watercourses and dams. Drilling traverses will not cross / traverse over any watercourses. Any wetland, swamps or other potential habitat areas will also be avoided. No surface water or ground water will be extracted for the drilling program. Water management structures will be inspected regularly throughout the exploration and works program and particularly following protracted rainfall to ensure integrity and performance. An approved spill kit/oil matting will be on site for use with hydrocarbons such as diesel or oil spills. All chemicals and hydrocarbons will be stored and transported in sealed containers or storage boxes in the vehicles. Should a spillage of fuel or oil occur from vehicles and machinery, immediate response will be undertaken to ensure there is no residual transfer of contaminated soil to surface waters. Any contaminated soil will be removed for disposal at an approved waste facility. All empty containers and dirty rags will be taken off site and disposed at an approved waste facility. Water required for diamond drilling will be carted using the drill contractor's water truck. Any groundwater intersected during the drilling process will be contained in above or below ground sumps. Prior to drilling commencing, bunds will be constructed around the perimeter of the drill pads, on the downhill sides, to contain any excess ground water that may be produced during drilling. Groundwater will be collected via pumps and IBC containers at the drill collar, for later disposal. In the event that large quantities of groundwater are produced drill sumps will be required. The drilling contractor has well established procedures to mitigate and resolve any issues if any water is intercepted. Rehabilitation works planned will have no impact on water.		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Moderate Adverse		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	Medium	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	No
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	Medium Resilience	**What is the level of public concern?**	Low

Can the impacts be reversed?	Yes	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	Fully	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	Yes		
Criteria	Soil & Stability Impacts: Degradation of soil quality (including contamination, salinisation or acidification).		
Potential impacts	Excavation and other earthworks form part of the proposal and if such activities are not adequately managed, could result in the following impacts: • erosion of exposed soil and any stockpiled materials • dust generation from excavation and vehicle movements over exposed soil • an increase in sediment loads entering the recieving waters and/or local runoff. These impacts are relevant to the activity due to the steepness of the terrain, closeness to Jinny Brother Creek, and sensitivity of the landscape.		
Proposed management controls	Only minor surface disturbance is required to facilitate drilling. The rehabilitation and drilling programs will not be undertaken during wet conditions. The drilling rig will be on site for about 2 weeks, which will not cause significant impact on the soil. REHABILITATION Drill pads will be ripped / re-shaped and rehabilitated by respreading the soil / grass sward / vegetation back over the levelled surface to form a stable surface. Rehabilitation methedology will follow those outlined in the RMP (attached) as follows: 1. Re-shaping the drill pads to remove their geometric shape and creating slopes comparable with those natural slopes around the pads. 2. Replacing topsoil set aside during pad construction onto the final landform. (noting that topsoil was not set aside, what alternative measures will be adopted) 3. Installation of any required surface water management structures to protect the disturbed area, including silt-stop fencing. 4. Spreading of any cleared vegetation. 5. Revegetation of the entire disturbed area with a native or pasture seed mix, if necessary. In accordance with the specific requirements of landholders, all access tracks will be graded if required to ensure that they are stable / non-eroding and will be retained for future use as farm tracks and as fire trails. Any damage to existing access tracks will be repaired. Where access tracks have been formed on steeper areas, the battered slopes on either side of the track may be stabilised with jute mesh and silt (Coir) logs if required to control / slow-down surface water run-off. Drill sites that existed prior to the NSW Resource Regulator inspection in April 2022 will be rehabilitated following the same procedure as outlined in this Section 4 including where erosion and sediment issues have been identified such that the areas will be reprofiled back to their pre-existing landform and in-line with the Rehabilitation Objectives & Completion Criteria submitted in September 2021. MONITORING All revegetated areas will be inspected at least every 6 months for a period of up to 2 years and following any substantial storm events, high risk sites would be targeted to identify whether there is a need for any maintenance activities.		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Low Adverse		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	High	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	No
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	Medium Resilience	**What is the level of public concern?**	Low
Can the impacts be reversed?	Yes	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	Fully	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	Yes		
Criteria	Soil & Stability Impacts: Impacts on land with high agricultural capability.		
Potential impacts	The project area is not being undertaken on high ag class land		

Proposed management controls	Only minor surface disturbance is required to facilitate drilling. The rehabilitation and drilling programs will not be undertaken during wet conditions. The drilling rig will be on site for about 2 weeks, which will not cause significant impact on the soil. REHABILITATION Drill pads will be ripped / re-shaped and rehabilitated by respreading the soil / grass sward / vegetation back over the levelled surface to form a stable surface. Rehabilitation methedology will follow those outlined in the RMP (attached) as follows: 1. Re-shaping the drill pads to remove their geometric shape and creating slopes comparable with those natural slopes around the pads. 2. Replacing topsoil set aside during pad construction onto the final landform. (noting that topsoil was not set aside, what alternative measures will be adopted) 3. Installation of any required surface water management structures to protect the disturbed area, including silt-stop fencing. 4. Spreading of any cleared vegetation. 5. Revegetation of the entire disturbed area with a native or pasture seed mix, if necessary. In accordance with the specific requirements of landholders, all access tracks will be graded if required to ensure that they are stable / non-eroding and will be retained for future use as farm tracks and as fire trails. Any damage to existing access tracks will be repaired. Where access tracks have been formed on steeper areas, the battered slopes on either side of the track may be stabilised with jute mesh and silt (Coir) logs if required to control / slow-down surface water run-off. Drill sites that existed prior to the NSW Resource Regulator inspection in April 2022 will be rehabilitated following the same procedure as outlined in this Section 4 including where erosion and sediment issues have been identified such that the areas will be reprofiled back to their pre-existing landform and in-line with the Rehabilitation Objectives & Completion Criteria submitted in September 2021. MONITORING All revegetated areas will be inspected at least every 6 months for a period of up to 2 years and following any substantial storm events, high risk sites would be targeted to identify whether there is a need for any maintenance activities.		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Negligible		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	High	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	No
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	High Resilience	**What is the level of public concern?**	Low
Can the impacts be reversed?	Yes	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	Fully	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	Yes		
Criteria	Soil & Stability Impacts: Loss of soil from wind or water erosion.		
Potential impacts	Excavation and other earthworks form part of the proposal and if such activities are not adequately managed, could result in the following impacts: • erosion of exposed soil and any stockpiled materials • dust generation from excavation and vehicle movements over exposed soil • an increase in sediment loads entering the recieving waters and/or local runoff. These impacts are relevant to the activity due to the steepness of the terrain, closeness to Jinny Brother Creek, and sensitivity of the landscape.		

Proposed management controls	Only minor surface disturbance is required to facilitate drilling. The rehabilitation and drilling programs will not be undertaken during wet conditions. The drilling rig will be on site for about 2 weeks, which will not cause significant impact on the soil. REHABILITATION Drill pads will be ripped / re-shaped and rehabilitated by respreading the soil / grass sward / vegetation back over the levelled surface to form a stable surface. Rehabilitation methedology will follow those outlined in the RMP (attached) as follows: 1. Re-shaping the drill pads to remove their geometric shape and creating slopes comparable with those natural slopes around the pads. 2. Replacing topsoil set aside during pad construction onto the final landform. (noting that topsoil was not set aside, what alternative measures will be adopted) 3. Installation of any required surface water management structures to protect the disturbed area, including silt-stop fencing. 4. Spreading of any cleared vegetation. 5. Revegetation of the entire disturbed area with a native or pasture seed mix, if necessary. In accordance with the specific requirements of landholders, all access tracks will be graded if required to ensure that they are stable / non-eroding and will be retained for future use as farm tracks and as fire trails. Any damage to existing access tracks will be repaired. Where access tracks have been formed on steeper areas, the battered slopes on either side of the track may be stabilised with jute mesh and silt (Coir) logs if required to control / slow-down surface water run-off. Drill sites that existed prior to the NSW Resource Regulator inspection in April 2022 will be rehabilitated following the same procedure as outlined in this Section 4 including where erosion and sediment issues have been identified such that the areas will be reprofiled back to their pre-existing landform and in-line with the Rehabilitation Objectives & Completion Criteria submitted in September 2021. MONITORING All revegetated areas will be inspected at least every 6 months for a period of up to 2 years and following any substantial storm events, high risk sites would be targeted to identify whether there is a need for any maintenance activities.		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Moderate Adverse		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	Medium	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	No
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	Medium Resilience	**What is the level of public concern?**	Low
Can the impacts be reversed?	Yes	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	Fully	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	Yes		
Criteria	Soil & Stability Impacts: Loss of structural integrity of the soil.		
Potential impacts	Excavation and other earthworks form part of the proposal and if such activities are not adequately managed, could result in the following impacts: • erosion of exposed soil and any stockpiled materials • dust generation from excavation and vehicle movements over exposed soil • an increase in sediment loads entering the recieving waters and/or local runoff. These impacts are relevant to the activity due to the steepness of the terrain, closeness to Jinny Brother Creek, and sensitivity of the landscape.al tracks or drill pads will be cleared.		

Proposed management controls	Only minor surface disturbance is required to facilitate drilling. The rehabilitation and drilling programs will not be undertaken during wet conditions. The drilling rig will be on site for about 2 weeks, which will not cause significant impact on the soil. REHABILITATION Drill pads will be ripped / re-shaped and rehabilitated by respreading the soil / grass sward / vegetation back over the levelled surface to form a stable surface. Rehabilitation methedology will follow those outlined in the RMP (attached) as follows: 1. Re-shaping the drill pads to remove their geometric shape and creating slopes comparable with those natural slopes around the pads. 2. Replacing topsoil set aside during pad construction onto the final landform. (noting that topsoil was not set aside, what alternative measures will be adopted) 3. Installation of any required surface water management structures to protect the disturbed area, including silt-stop fencing. 4. Spreading of any cleared vegetation. 5. Revegetation of the entire disturbed area with a native or pasture seed mix, if necessary. In accordance with the specific requirements of landholders, all access tracks will be graded if required to ensure that they are stable / non-eroding and will be retained for future use as farm tracks and as fire trails. Any damage to existing access tracks will be repaired. Where access tracks have been formed on steeper areas, the battered slopes on either side of the track may be stabilised with jute mesh and silt (Coir) logs if required to control / slow-down surface water run-off. Drill sites that existed prior to the NSW Resource Regulator inspection in April 2022 will be rehabilitated following the same procedure as outlined in this Section 4 including where erosion and sediment issues have been identified such that the areas will be reprofiled back to their pre-existing landform and in-line with the Rehabilitation Objectives & Completion Criteria submitted in September 2021. MONITORING All revegetated areas will be inspected at least every 6 months for a period of up to 2 years and following any substantial storm events, high risk sites would be targeted to identify whether there is a need for any maintenance activities.		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Moderate Adverse		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	Medium	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	No
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	Medium Resilience	**What is the level of public concern?**	Low
Can the impacts be reversed?	Yes	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	Fully	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	Yes		
Criteria	Soil & Stability Impacts: Increased land instability with high risks from land slides or subsidence.		
Potential impacts	Excavation and other earthworks form part of the proposal and if such activities are not adequately managed, could result in the following impacts: • erosion of exposed soil and any stockpiled materials • dust generation from excavation and vehicle movements over exposed soil • an increase in sediment loads entering the recieving waters and/or local runoff. These impacts are relevant to the activity due to the steepness of the terrain, closeness to Jinny Brother Creek, and sensitivity of the landscape.		

Proposed management controls	Only minor surface disturbance is required to facilitate drilling. The rehabilitation and drilling programs will not be undertaken during wet conditions. The drilling rig will be on site for about 2 weeks, which will not cause significant impact on the soil. REHABILITATION Drill pads will be ripped / re-shaped and rehabilitated by respreading the soil / grass sward / vegetation back over the levelled surface to form a stable surface. Rehabilitation methedology will follow those outlined in the RMP (attached) as follows: 1. Re-shaping the drill pads to remove their geometric shape and creating slopes comparable with those natural slopes around the pads. 2. Replacing topsoil set aside during pad construction onto the final landform. (noting that topsoil was not set aside, what alternative measures will be adopted) 3. Installation of any required surface water management structures to protect the disturbed area, including silt-stop fencing. 4. Spreading of any cleared vegetation. 5. Revegetation of the entire disturbed area with a native or pasture seed mix, if necessary. In accordance with the specific requirements of landholders, all access tracks will be graded if required to ensure that they are stable / non-eroding and will be retained for future use as farm tracks and as fire trails. Any damage to existing access tracks will be repaired. Where access tracks have been formed on steeper areas, the battered slopes on either side of the track may be stabilised with jute mesh and silt (Coir) logs if required to control / slow-down surface water run-off. Drill sites that existed prior to the NSW Resource Regulator inspection in April 2022 will be rehabilitated following the same procedure as outlined in this Section 4 including where erosion and sediment issues have been identified such that the areas will be reprofiled back to their pre-existing landform and in-line with the Rehabilitation Objectives & Completion Criteria submitted in September 2021. MONITORING All revegetated areas will be inspected at least every 6 months for a period of up to 2 years and following any substantial storm events, high risk sites would be targeted to identify whether there is a need for any maintenance activities.		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Moderate Adverse		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	Medium	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	No
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	Medium Resilience	**What is the level of public concern?**	Low
Can the impacts be reversed?	Yes	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	Fully	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	Yes		
Criteria	Noise & Vibration Impacts: Results in increased noise or vibration.		
Potential impacts	The will be minor noise and vibration during daytime hours with the operation of drill rig and support vehicles. The nearest sensitive receptor is the homestead Rocklodge at 1.5km away. However if drilling is conducted on a split shift 24hr basis, noise will be more intrusive.		
Proposed management controls	Vehicle speeds will be limited to a maximum of 50km/hr. Diamond drilling is proposed to be 12 hours but may be up to 24 hours, but only with landholder permission. The times of operation will be discussed with the closest sensitive receptor before operations commence. Hours of operation will be in strict accordance with landholder requirements.		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Negligible		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	Medium	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	No
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	Medium Resilience	**What is the level of public concern?**	Low
Can the impacts be reversed?	Yes	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low

Can the impacts be mitigated?	Fully	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	Yes		
Criteria	Noise & Vibration Impacts: Affects sensitive receptors.		
Potential impacts	Noise and vibration will be limited to access tracks and drill pads in the work area only and will not significantly impact surrounding landholders or residences. There are no nearby sensitive receptors.		
Proposed management controls	Vehicle speeds will be limited to a maximum of 50km/hr. Diamond drilling is proposed to be 12 hours but may be up to 24 hours, but only with landholder permission. The times of operation will be discussed with the closest sensitive receptor before operations commence. Hours of operation will be in strict accordance with landholder requirements.		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Negligible		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	High	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	No
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	Medium Resilience	**What is the level of public concern?**	Low
Can the impacts be reversed?	Yes	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	Fully	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	Yes		
Criteria	Coastal Location & Processes: Affects coastal processes and coastal hazards, including those under projected climate change conditions.		
Potential impacts	Not applicable		
Proposed management controls	Not applicable		
Duration	3		
Application ranking			
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	N/A	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	N/A
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	N/A	**What is the level of public concern?**	N/A
Can the impacts be reversed?	N/A	**Ranking of potential significance**	
Can the impacts be mitigated?	N/A	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	No		
Criteria	Hazardous substances or chemicals: Impacts associated with the use, generation, storage or transport of hazardous substances or chemicals.		
Potential impacts	Use of fuel and oil in drill rig, earthmoving equipment and support vehicles may potentially result in localised impact if spillage occurs.		
Proposed management controls	Diesel stored only in truck tanks. All chemicals and hydrocarbons will be stored and transported in sealed containers or storage boxes in the vehicles. All chemicals used are biodegradable and approved for drilling. No dangerous chemicals will be used on site. Appropriate chemical spill kits / oil matting will be available on site for use with hydrocarbons such as diesel or oil spills and any waste will be disposed of in the nearest appropriate waste facility. The drilling contractor will have safety data sheets for all chemicals and hydrocarbons used on site, as well as safe work method statements as part of the contractor's OH&S policy for the use of these chemicals. An approved spill kit/oil matting will be on site for use with hydrocarbons such as diesel or oil spills. All chemicals and hydrocarbons will be stored and transported in sealed containers or storage boxes in the vehicles. Should a spillage of fuel or oil occur from vehicles and machinery, immediate response will be undertaken to ensure there is no residual transfer of contaminated soil to surface waters. Any contaminated soil will be removed for disposal at an approved waste facility.		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Low Adverse		

What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	High	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	No
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	Medium Resilience	**What is the level of public concern?**	Low
Can the impacts be reversed?	Yes	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	Fully	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	Yes		
Criteria	Wastes & Emissions: Impacts to the environment resulting from the generation or disposal of wastes.		
Potential impacts	Reverse circulation drilling fines will be collected and then used to backfill the holes if possible or removed from site. Drilling cuttings and waste water from the diamond drilling are contained in above ground or inground sumps. Fugitive emissions from diesel powered equipment will be negligible and of short duration.		
Proposed management controls	Any excess RC drill cuttings will be removed from the site and disposed off site appropriately if they cannot be put back down the hole. Standard exhaust systems are required for all diesel powered equipment. All general waste will be contained in large heavy-duty bags and removed from site immediately and disposed of at the local land-fill site. Diesel stored only in truck tanks. All chemicals and hydrocarbons will be stored and transported in sealed containers or storage boxes in the vehicles. All chemicals used are biodegradable and approved for drilling. No dangerous chemicals will be used on site. Appropriate chemical spill kits / oil matting will be available on site for use with hydrocarbons such as diesel or oil spills and any waste will be disposed of in the nearest appropriate waste facility. The drilling contractor will have safety data sheets for all chemicals and hydrocarbons used on site, as well as safe work method statements as part of the contractor's OH&S policy for the use of these chemicals. An approved spill kit/oil matting will be on site for use with hydrocarbons such as diesel or oil spills. All chemicals and hydrocarbons will be stored and transported in sealed containers or storage boxes in the vehicles. Should a spillage of fuel or oil occur from vehicles and machinery, immediate response will be undertaken to ensure there is no residual transfer of contaminated soil to surface waters. Any contaminated soil will be removed for disposal at an approved waste facility.		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Low Adverse		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	High	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	No
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	Medium Resilience	**What is the level of public concern?**	Low
Can the impacts be reversed?	Yes	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	Fully	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	Yes		
Criteria	Wastes & Emissions: Impacts on drinking water catchments, wetlands, natural water bodies, riparian zones or flood prone areas.		
Potential impacts	Use of fuel and oil in drill rig, earthmoving equipment and support vehicles may potentially result in localised impact if spillage occurs.		

Proposed management controls	Any excess RC drill cuttings will be removed from the site and disposed off site appropriately if they cannot be put back down the hole. Standard exhaust systems are required for all diesel powered equipment. All general waste will be contained in large heavy-duty bags and removed from site immediately and disposed of at the local land-fill site. Diesel stored only in truck tanks. All chemicals and hydrocarbons will be stored and transported in sealed containers or storage boxes in the vehicles. All chemicals used are biodegradable and approved for drilling. No dangerous chemicals will be used on site. Appropriate chemical spill kits / oil matting will be available on site for use with hydrocarbons such as diesel or oil spills and any waste will be disposed of in the nearest appropriate waste facility. The drilling contractor will have safety data sheets for all chemicals and hydrocarbons used on site, as well as safe work method statements as part of the contractor's OH&S policy for the use of these chemicals. An approved spill kit/oil matting will be on site for use with hydrocarbons such as diesel or oil spills. All chemicals and hydrocarbons will be stored and transported in sealed containers or storage boxes in the vehicles. Should a spillage of fuel or oil occur from vehicles and machinery, immediate response will be undertaken to ensure there is no residual transfer of contaminated soil to surface waters. Any contaminated soil will be removed for disposal at an approved waste facility.		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Low Adverse		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	High	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	No
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	Medium Resilience	**What is the level of public concern?**	Low
Can the impacts be reversed?	Yes	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	Fully	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	Yes		
Criteria	Wastes & Emissions: Impacts on groundwater recharge areas or areas with high water table.		
Potential impacts	Use of fuel and oil in drill rig, earthmoving equipment and support vehicles may potentially result in localised impact if spillage occurs.		
Proposed management controls	Any excess RC drill cuttings will be removed from the site and disposed off site appropriately if they cannot be put back down the hole. Standard exhaust systems are required for all diesel powered equipment. All general waste will be contained in large heavy-duty bags and removed from site immediately and disposed of at the local land-fill site. Diesel stored only in truck tanks. All chemicals and hydrocarbons will be stored and transported in sealed containers or storage boxes in the vehicles. All chemicals used are biodegradable and approved for drilling. No dangerous chemicals will be used on site. Appropriate chemical spill kits / oil matting will be available on site for use with hydrocarbons such as diesel or oil spills and any waste will be disposed of in the nearest appropriate waste facility. The drilling contractor will have safety data sheets for all chemicals and hydrocarbons used on site, as well as safe work method statements as part of the contractor's OH&S policy for the use of these chemicals. An approved spill kit/oil matting will be on site for use with hydrocarbons such as diesel or oil spills. All chemicals and hydrocarbons will be stored and transported in sealed containers or storage boxes in the vehicles. Should a spillage of fuel or oil occur from vehicles and machinery, immediate response will be undertaken to ensure there is no residual transfer of contaminated soil to surface waters. Any contaminated soil will be removed for disposal at an approved waste facility.		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Low Adverse		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	High	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	No
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	Medium Resilience	**What is the level of public concern?**	Low
Can the impacts be reversed?	Yes	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low

Can the impacts be mitigated?	Fully	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	Yes		
Criteria	Wastes and Emissions: Impacts on coastlines or dunes, alpine areas, karst features or other unique landforms.		
Potential impacts	N/A		
Proposed management controls	N/A		
Duration	N/A		
Application ranking	N/A		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	N/A	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	N/A
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	N/A	**What is the level of public concern?**	
Can the impacts be reversed?	N/A	**Ranking of potential significance**	N/A
Can the impacts be mitigated?	N/A	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	N/A		
Criteria	Wastes & Emissions: Impacts on erosion prone areas, areas with slopes of greater than 18 degrees.		
Potential impacts	N/A		
Proposed management controls	N/A		
Duration	N/A		
Application ranking	N/A		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	N/A	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	N/A
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	N/A	**What is the level of public concern?**	
Can the impacts be reversed?	N/A	**Ranking of potential significance**	N/A
Can the impacts be mitigated?	N/A	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	N/A		
Criteria	Wastes & Emissions: Impacts on subsidence or slip areas.		
Potential impacts	The locality is not prone to land slips or subsidence.		
Proposed management controls	NA		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Low Adverse		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	N/A	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	N/A
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	N/A	**What is the level of public concern?**	N/A
Can the impacts be reversed?	N/A	**Ranking of potential significance**	
Can the impacts be mitigated?	N/A	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	No		
Criteria	Wastes & Emissions: Impacts on areas with acid sulphate, sodic or highly permeable soils.		
Potential impacts	NA		
Proposed management controls	NA		
Duration	NA		
Application ranking			

What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	N/A	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	N/A
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	N/A	**What is the level of public concern?**	N/A
Can the impacts be reversed?	N/A	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	N/A	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	No		
Criteria	Wastes & Emissions: Impacts on areas with salinity or potential salinity problems.		
Potential impacts	NA		
Proposed management controls	NA		
Duration	NA		
Application ranking			
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	N/A	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	N/A
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	N/A	**What is the level of public concern?**	N/A
Can the impacts be reversed?	N/A	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	N/A	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	No		
Criteria	Wastes & Emissions: Impacts on areas with degraded or contaminated land.		
Potential impacts	NA		
Proposed management controls	NA		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Negligible		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	N/A	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	N/A
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	N/A	**What is the level of public concern?**	N/A
Can the impacts be reversed?	N/A	**Ranking of potential significance**	
Can the impacts be mitigated?	N/A	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	No		
Criteria	Wastes & Emissions: Impacts on areas with degraded or contaminated water (ground or surface).		
Potential impacts	NA		
Proposed management controls	NA		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Negligible		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	N/A	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	N/A
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	N/A	**What is the level of public concern?**	N/A
Can the impacts be reversed?	N/A	**Ranking of potential significance**	
Can the impacts be mitigated?	N/A	**Justification for ranking**	

Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	No		
Criteria	Vegetation: Any clearing or modification of vegetation (including impacts on wildlife corridors, remnant vegetation & habitat for species of conservation significance).		
Potential impacts	The rehabilitation works and drill sites have been inspected and access routes determined in consultation with landholders to mininise surface disturbance. Access to the drill sites will be via existing farm and exploration tracks. The diamond holes will be sited on existing drill pads. The critically endangered Plant Community Type PCT3341 - Monaro-Gourock Frost Hollow Grassy Woodland that exists in part of the project area will not be impacted because no additional clearing is required.		
Proposed management controls	To protect the Monaro Tableland Cool Temperate Grassy Woodland CEEC, this portion of the site should be excluded from any further clearing and exploration. • Locally occurring native plant species typical of the two PCTs found on site should be used in revegetation of the site that would ensure from any remediation plan prepared in relation to the clearing and disturbance associated with the exploration drilling hole sites and/or future works should the suspension notice be lifted. • A weed management plan should be prepared to control and prevent further spread of Serrated Tussock, a weed of national significance and a major threat to natural temperate grassland and the BC Act listed Monaro Tableland Cool Temperate Grassy Woodland CEEC, which is represented on site.		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Moderate Adverse		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	Medium	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	No
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	Medium Resilience	**What is the level of public concern?**	Medium
Can the impacts be reversed?	Yes	**Ranking of potential significance**	High
Can the impacts be mitigated?	Fully	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	Yes	The project area includes a small stand of the Monaro Tableland Cool Temperate Grassy Woodland in the South-eastern Highlands Bioregion (MTCTGW) critically endangered ecological community (CEEC) listed under the BC Act.	
Criteria	Threatened Fauna Species: Any adverse effect on the life cycle of any threatened species such that a viable local population of the species is likely to be placed at risk of extinction.		
Potential impacts	The proposed rehabilitation works and drilling program will not impact any potential habitat of vulnerable species that may use the area because no additional clearing is required. The drilling program will not impact any water courses and will therefore not impact threatened aquatic species.		
Proposed management controls	Suitable hollow-bearing limbs/branches that are present within the felled trees that have been stockpiled adjacent to the exploration pads should be collected and salvaged. These should be: o modified (if needed) to be suitable for occupation by hollow-dependent native fauna o erected within those part of the mining lease area that are not to be cleared in the future ▪ these should be placed in those trees present at a height of 4 m to 5 m and on the side of the plant that is not exposed to storm events (generally the north to north-west side) o monitored at biannual intervals for a period of three years. o Replaced or repaired if damaged or occupied by exotic species (such as European Bees). A minimum of 10 purpose-built habitat boxes suitable for occupation by hollow-dependent microbats and small arboreal mammals/birds should be erected within those portions of the mining lease area that are not to be cleared in the future: o These boxes should be included in the three-year monitored period. o Any boxes damaged or occupied by exotic species should be repaired or replaced.		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Low Adverse		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	High	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	No
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	Medium Resilience	**What is the level of public concern?**	Medium
Can the impacts be reversed?	Yes	**Ranking of potential significance**	Medium
Can the impacts be mitigated?	Fully	**Justification for ranking**	

Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	Yes	The locality is of significant importance as a woodland refuge within a large area of naturally treeless plains. The site could be used on occasion by highly mobile fauna species such as birds and bats, or used seasonally by other more cryptic species.	
Criteria	Threatened Flora Species: Any adverse effect on the life cycle of any threatened species such that a viable local population of the species is likely to be placed at risk of extinction.		
Potential impacts	The proposed rehabilitation works and drilling program will not impact any potential habitat of vulnerable species that may use the area because no additional clearing is required. The drilling program will not impact any water courses and will therefore not impact threatened aquatic species.		
Proposed management controls	Suitable hollow-bearing limbs/branches that are present within the felled trees that have been stockpiled adjacent to the exploration pads should be collected and salvaged. These should be: o modified (if needed) to be suitable for occupation by hollow-dependent native fauna o erected within those part of the mining lease area that are not to be cleared in the future ▪ these should be placed in those trees present at a height of 4 m to 5 m and on the side of the plant that is not exposed to storm events (generally the north to north-west side) o monitored at biannual intervals for a period of three years. o Replaced or repaired if damaged or occupied by exotic species (such as European Bees). A minimum of 10 purpose-built habitat boxes suitable for occupation by hollow-dependent microbats and small arboreal mammals/birds should be erected within those portions of the mining lease area that are not to be cleared in the future: o These boxes should be included in the three-year monitored period. o Any boxes damaged or occupied by exotic species should be repaired or replaced.		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Low Adverse		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	High	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	No
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	Medium Resilience	**What is the level of public concern?**	Medium
Can the impacts be reversed?	Yes	**Ranking of potential significance**	Medium
Can the impacts be mitigated?	Fully	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	Yes	The locality is of significant importance as a woodland refuge within a large area of naturally treeless plains.	
Criteria	Areas of outstanding biodiversity value/Critical habitat: This includes: a. declared areas of outstanding biodiversity value under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 b. areas declared critical habitat under the Fisheries Management Act 1994.		
Potential impacts	The project area covers two Plant Community Types: PCT3341 - Monaro-Gourock Frost Hollow Grassy Woodland PCT3741 - Monaro Mountains Peppermint Shrub Forest. PCT3341 is listed as a Critically endangered ecological community. There will be no impact on the PCT because there will be no additional clearing.		
Proposed management controls	Access to the site and use of on site access tracks and drill pads will be under the direction of the landholder and precautions will be taken to ensure that vehicular movements are restricted to cleared or existing tracks. All vehicles will be equipped with UHF radio/mobile, fire extinguishers and a minimum of 15L of water.		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Negligible		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	High	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	No
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	Medium Resilience	**What is the level of public concern?**	Medium
Can the impacts be reversed?	Yes	**Ranking of potential significance**	Medium
Can the impacts be mitigated?	Fully	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	Yes	The locality is of significant importance as a woodland refuge within a large area of naturally treeless plains. The site could be used on occasion by highly mobile fauna species such as birds and bats, or used seasonally by other more cryptic species.	

Criteria	Endangered ecological community or critically endangered ecological community: Whether the activity: is likely to have an adverse effect on the extent of the ecological community such that its local occurrence is likely to be placed at risk of extinction, or is likely to substantially and adversely modify the composition of the ecological community such that its local occurrence is likely to be placed at risk of extinction.		
Potential impacts	The project area includes the Plant Community Type: PCT3341 - Monaro-Gourock Frost Hollow Grassy Woodland. This PCT is part of the the Monaro Tableland Cool Temperate Grassy Woodland in the South-eastern Highlands Bioregion (MTCTGW) critically endangered ecological community (CEEC) listed under the BC Act.		
Proposed management controls	To protect the Monaro Tableland Cool Temperate Grassy Woodland CEEC, this portion of the site should be excluded from any further clearing and exploration. No additional clearing is required for the proposed works. Inductions and procedures will clearly state that all works must be conducted on existing cleared areas. Locally occurring native plant species typical of the two PCTs found on site should be used in revegetation of the site that would ensure from any remediation plan prepared in relation to the clearing and disturbance associated with the exploration drilling hole sites and/or future works should the suspension notice be lifted. A weed management plan should be prepared to control and prevent further spread of Serrated Tussock, a weed of national significance and a major threat to natural temperate grassland and the BC Act listed Monaro Tableland Cool Temperate Grassy Woodland CEEC, which is represented on site.		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Negligible		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	Medium	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	No
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	Medium Resilience	**What is the level of public concern?**	Medium
Can the impacts be reversed?	Uncertain	**Ranking of potential significance**	High
Can the impacts be mitigated?	Partly	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	Yes	The project area includes a small stand of the Monaro Tableland Cool Temperate Grassy Woodland in the South-eastern Highlands Bioregion (MTCTGW) critically endangered ecological community (CEEC) listed under the BC Act.	
Criteria	Habitat of a threatened species or ecological community		
Potential impacts	The project area includes the Plant Community Type: PCT3341 - Monaro-Gourock Frost Hollow Grassy Woodland. This PCT is part of the the Monaro Tableland Cool Temperate Grassy Woodland in the South-eastern Highlands Bioregion (MTCTGW) critically endangered ecological community (CEEC) listed under the BC Act.		

Proposed management controls	No additional clearing is required for the proposed works. Inductions and procedures will clearly state that all works must be conducted on existing cleared areas. To protect the Monaro Tableland Cool Temperate Grassy Woodland CEEC, this portion of the site should be excluded from any further clearing and exploration. • Locally occurring native plant species typical of the two PCTs found on site should be used in revegetation of the site that would ensure from any remediation plan prepared in relation to the clearing and disturbance associated with the exploration drilling hole sites and/or future works should the suspension notice be lifted. • A weed management plan should be prepared to control and prevent further spread of Serrated Tussock, a weed of national significance and a major threat to natural temperate grassland and the BC Act listed Monaro Tableland Cool Temperate Grassy Woodland CEEC, which is represented on site. Suitable hollow-bearing limbs/branches that are present within the felled trees that have been stockpiled adjacent to the exploration pads should be collected and salvaged. These should be: o modified (if needed) to be suitable for occupation by hollow-dependent native fauna o erected within those part of the mining lease area that are not to be cleared in the future ▪ these should be placed in those trees present at a height of 4 m to 5 m and on the side of the plant that is not exposed to storm events (generally the north to north-west side) o monitored at biannual intervals for a period of three years. o Replaced or repaired if damaged or occupied by exotic species (such as European Bees). A minimum of 10 purpose-built habitat boxes suitable for occupation by hollow-dependent microbats and small arboreal mammals/birds should be erected within those portions of the mining lease area that are not to be cleared in the future: o These boxes should be included in the three-year monitored period. o Any boxes damaged or occupied by exotic species should be repaired or replaced.		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Negligible		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	High	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	No
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	Medium Resilience	**What is the level of public concern?**	Medium
Can the impacts be reversed?	Yes	**Ranking of potential significance**	High
Can the impacts be mitigated?	Fully	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	Yes	The project area includes the Plant Community Type: PCT3341 - Monaro-Gourock Frost Hollow Grassy Woodland. This PCT is part of the the Monaro Tableland Cool Temperate Grassy Woodland in the South-eastern Highlands Bioregion (MTCTGW) critically endangered ecological community (CEEC) listed under the BC Act.	
Criteria	Habitat of protected aquatic species or those with conservation status.		
Potential impacts	NA		
Proposed management controls	NA		
Duration	3		
Application ranking			
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	N/A	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	N/A
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	N/A	**What is the level of public concern?**	N/A
Can the impacts be reversed?	N/A	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	N/A	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	No		
Criteria	Key Threatening Processes: As outlined in Schedule 4 of Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016. Includes: a. alteration, removal, clearly or degradation of habitat and native vegetation b. loss of hollow bearing trees c. removal of dead wood and dead trees d. invasion and establishment of exotic species.		

Potential impacts	The following KTPs are relevant to the activity area: The clearing of native vegetation Bushrock removal Loss of hollow bearing trees Removal of dead wood and dead trees		
Proposed management controls	The activity will not impacts on the KTPs above as no further surface disturbing or vegetation clearing has been approved.		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Low Adverse		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	High	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	No
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	Medium Resilience	**What is the level of public concern?**	Low
Can the impacts be reversed?	Yes	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	Fully	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	Yes		
Criteria	Barriers to movement of fauna: Any potential to endanger, displace or disturb fauna (including fauna of conservation significance) or create a barrier to their movement.		
Potential impacts	Access tracks may generate a minor and temporary barrier to some fauna.		
Proposed management controls	All drill pads will be rehabilitated. Access tracks will be retained at the Landholders request.		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Low Adverse		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	High	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	No
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	Medium Resilience	**What is the level of public concern?**	Low
Can the impacts be reversed?	Yes	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	Fully	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	Yes		
Criteria	Ecological & Biosecurity Impacts: Any threat to the biological diversity or ecological integrity of an ecological community.		
Potential impacts	The disturbance of an important as a woodland refuge within a large area of naturally treeless plains is a risk to biodiversity that use the site. Clearing of portions of the small area places a risk on the biological divsersity of the locality.		
Proposed management controls	Access to the site and use of on site access tracks and drill pads will be under the direction of the landholder and precautions will be taken to ensure that vehicular movements are restricted to cleared or existing tracks. All vehicles will be equipped with UHF radio/mobile, fire extinguishers and a minimum of 15L of water.		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Negligible		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	High	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	No
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	Medium Resilience	**What is the level of public concern?**	Medium
Can the impacts be reversed?	Yes	**Ranking of potential significance**	Medium
Can the impacts be mitigated?	Fully	**Justification for ranking**	

Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	Yes	The disturbance of an important as a woodland refuge within a large area of naturally treeless plains is a risk to biodiversity that use the site. Clearing of portions of the small area places a risk on the biological divsersity of the locality.	
Criteria	Ecological & Biosecurity Impacts: Creates a biosecurity risk or introduces genetically modified organisms into an area. Includes impacts from the introduction of: a. mobilisation of pollutants b. animal pests, c. plant pests and diseases, d. animal diseases, e. noxious weeds, or f. genetically modified organisms.		
Potential impacts	Biosecurity risks include the introduction of noxious weeds.		
Proposed management controls	Access to the site and use of on site access tracks and drill pads will be under the direction of the landholder and precautions will be taken to ensure that vehicular movements are restricted to cleared or existing tracks. All vehicles will be equipped with UHF radio/mobile, fire extinguishers and a minimum of 15L of water. All three activities will take place on existing exploration tracks or farm tracks and do not require any additional clearing. All work will be conducted with the landholders approval and will have a negligible impact on the agricultural resources. Vehicles will be cleaned before use on site and regularly inspected before they enter and after they leave the project areas to ensure that there is no adhering weed matter. This will mitigate the spread of any noxious weeds either to or from the project areas.		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Negligible		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	High	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	No
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	Medium Resilience	**What is the level of public concern?**	Low
Can the impacts be reversed?	Yes	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	Fully	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	Yes		
Criteria	Ecological & Biosecurity Impacts: Likely to cause a significant bushfire risk.		
Potential impacts	Very low possibility of fire starting in dry grass.		
Proposed management controls	Access to the site and use of on site access tracks and drill pads will be under the direction of the landholder and precautions will be taken to ensure that vehicular movements are restricted to cleared or existing tracks. All vehicles will be equipped with UHF radio/mobile, fire extinguishers and a minimum of 15L of water.		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Negligible		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	High	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	No
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	Medium Resilience	**What is the level of public concern?**	Low
Can the impacts be reversed?	Yes	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	Fully	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	Yes		
Criteria	Community Resources: Any degradation of infrastructure or significant increase in the demand for services and infrastructure resources.		
Potential impacts	NA		
Proposed management controls	NA		
Duration	3		
Application ranking			
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	N/A	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	N/A

How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	N/A	**What is the level of public concern?**	N/A
Can the impacts be reversed?	N/A	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	N/A	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	No		
Criteria	Community Resources: Any diversion of resources to the detriment of other communities or natural systems.		
Potential impacts	NA		
Proposed management controls	NA		
Duration	3		
Application ranking			
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	N/A	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	N/A
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	N/A	**What is the level of public concern?**	N/A
Can the impacts be reversed?	N/A	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	N/A	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	No		
Criteria	Natural Resources: Any disruption, depletion or destruction of natural resources.		
Potential impacts	Rehabilitation works and drilling will cause temporary minor disturbance of the ground surface.		
Proposed management controls	At the completion of drilling, the drill pads will be ripped / re-shaped and rehabilitated to form a stable, non-eroding surface. The access tracks will be graded if required to ensure that they are stable and not prone to erosion. Cor logs/mats will be used to control erosion as required.		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Negligible		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	High	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	No
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	Medium Resilience	**What is the level of public concern?**	Low
Can the impacts be reversed?	Yes	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	Fully	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	Yes		
Criteria	Natural Resources: Any disruption of existing activities which rely on natural resources, including forestry, farming or extractive industries (or reduction of options for future activities).		
Potential impacts	NA		
Proposed management controls	NA		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Negligible		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	N/A	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	N/A
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	N/A	**What is the level of public concern?**	N/A
Can the impacts be reversed?	N/A	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	N/A	**Justification for ranking**	

Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	No		
Criteria	Natural Resources: Any use which results in the degradation of any area reserved for conservation purposes.		
Potential impacts	NA		
Proposed management controls	NA		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Negligible		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	N/A	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	N/A
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	N/A	**What is the level of public concern?**	N/A
Can the impacts be reversed?	N/A	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	N/A	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	No		
Criteria	Sensitive Land Impacts: Impacts on National parks and other areas reserved or dedicated or acquired under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974.		
Potential impacts	N/A		
Proposed management controls	N/A		
Duration	N/A		
Application ranking	N/A		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	N/A	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	N/A
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	N/A	**What is the level of public concern?**	N/A
Can the impacts be reversed?	N/A	**Ranking of potential significance**	N/A
Can the impacts be mitigated?	N/A	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	N/A		
Criteria	Sensitive Land Impacts: Land subject to a 'conservation agreement' under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 and/or the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016. This includes: a. Biobanking agreement (established under the now repealed Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995) or a Biodiversity Stewardship agreement established under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016. b. Wildlife Refuge agreement established under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016. c. Existing conservation agreements that continue to have effect even where legislation has been repealed: Trust agreements under the now repealed Nature Conservation Trust Act 2001 Property vegetation plans made under the now-repealed Native Vegetation Act 2003 Registered property agreements under the repealed Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997		
Potential impacts	N/A		
Proposed management controls	N/A		
Duration	N/A		
Application ranking	N/A		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	N/A	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	N/A
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	N/A	**What is the level of public concern?**	N/A
Can the impacts be reversed?	N/A	**Ranking of potential significance**	N/A
Can the impacts be mitigated?	N/A	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	N/A		

Criteria	Sensitive Land Impacts: Impacts on aquatic reserves or marine parks declared under the Marine Estate Management Act 2014. Impacts on Coastal Zone as defined in the Coastal Management Act 2016.		
Potential impacts	N/A		
Proposed management controls	N/A		
Duration	N/A		
Application ranking	N/A		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	N/A	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	N/A
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	N/A	**What is the level of public concern?**	N/A
Can the impacts be reversed?	N/A	**Ranking of potential significance**	N/A
Can the impacts be mitigated?	N/A	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	N/A		
Criteria	Sensitive Land Impacts: Fishing grounds and commercial fish breeding or nursery areas.		
Potential impacts	NA		
Proposed management controls	NA		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Negligible		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	N/A	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	N/A
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	N/A	**What is the level of public concern?**	N/A
Can the impacts be reversed?	N/A	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	N/A	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	N/A		
Criteria	Sensitive Land Impacts: Impacts on other sensitive lands including: a. Land within a state forest set aside under the Forestry Act 2012 for conservation values. This includes flora reserves and special management (and other) zones. b. Drinking water catchment protection areas - land declared to be a 'controlled area' or a 'special area' under the Water NSW Act 2014, or a 'special area' under the Water Management Act 2000 or Hunter Water Act 1991. c. Waterfront land as defined under the Water Management Act 2000.		
Potential impacts	NA		
Proposed management controls	NA		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Negligible		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	N/A	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	N/A
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	N/A	**What is the level of public concern?**	N/A
Can the impacts be reversed?	N/A	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	N/A	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	No		
Criteria	Sensitive Land Impacts: Impacts on land reserved or dedicated within the meaning of the Crown Lands Act 1989/Crown Lands Management Act 2016 for preservation of the environment or other environmental protection purposes.		
Potential impacts	N/A		
Proposed management controls	N/A		
Duration	N/A		
Application ranking	N/A		

What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	N/A	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	N/A
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	N/A	**What is the level of public concern?**	N/A
Can the impacts be reversed?	N/A	**Ranking of potential significance**	N/A
Can the impacts be mitigated?	N/A	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	N/A		
Criteria	Sensitive Land Impacts: Impacts on land identified as wilderness or declared a wilderness area under the Wilderness Act 1987.		
Potential impacts	N/A		
Proposed management controls	N/A		
Duration	N/A		
Application ranking	N/A		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	N/A	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	N/A
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	N/A	**What is the level of public concern?**	N/A
Can the impacts be reversed?	N/A	**Ranking of potential significance**	N/A
Can the impacts be mitigated?	N/A	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	N/A		
Criteria	Sensitive Lands: Impacts on wetlands of international significance designated under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and those designated as a nationally important wetland in the Directory of Important Wetlands of Australia.		
Potential impacts	N/A		
Proposed management controls	N/A		
Duration	N/A		
Application ranking	N/A		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	N/A	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	N/A
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	N/A	**What is the level of public concern?**	N/A
Can the impacts be reversed?	N/A	**Ranking of potential significance**	N/A
Can the impacts be mitigated?	N/A	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	N/A		
Criteria	Sensitive Land Impacts: Impacts on land identified in an environmental planning instrument as being of biodiversity / conservation significance or zoned for environmental conservation, protection and/or management. Includes Coastal Wetlands and Littoral rainforests under State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021.		
Potential impacts	The site is listed under the Snowy River Local Environmental Plan 2013 administered by SNOWY MONARO REGIONAL COUNCIL. It is included in the Terrestrial Biodiversity Map and the Riparian Lands and Watercourses Map.		

Proposed management controls	TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY To protect the Monaro Tableland Cool Temperate Grassy Woodland CEEC, this portion of the site will be excluded from any further clearing. Locally occurring native plant species typical of the two PCTs found on site will be used in revegetation of the site. A weed management plan will be prepared to control and prevent further spread of Serrated Tussock, a weed of national significance and a major threat to natural temperate grassland and the BC Act listed Monaro Tableland Cool Temperate Grassy Woodland CEEC, which is represented on site. Rehabilitation will involve the following component activities. 1. Re-shaping the drill pads to remove their geometric shape and creating slopes comparable with those natural slopes around the pads. 2. Replacing topsoil set aside during pad construction onto the final landform. (noting that topsoil was not set aside, what alternative measures will be adopted) 3. Installation of any required surface water management structures to protect the disturbed area, including silt-stop fencing. 4. Spreading of any cleared vegetation. 5. Revegetation of the entire disturbed area with a native or pasture seed mix, if necessary. Suitable hollow-bearing limbs/branches that are present within the felled trees that have been stockpiled adjacent to the exploration pads should be collected and salvaged. These should be modified (if needed) to be suitable for occupation by hollow-dependent native fauna erected within those parts of the mining lease area that are not to be cleared in the future. A minimum of 10 purpose-built habitat boxes suitable for occupation by hollowdependent microbats and small arboreal mammals/birds should be erected within those portions of the mining lease area that are not to be cleared in the future. These boxes should be included in the three-year monitored period. Any boxes damaged or occupied by exotic species should be repaired or replaced. To protect the Monaro Tableland Cool Temperate Grassy Woodland CEEC, this portion of the site should be excluded from any further clearing. Locally occurring native plant species typical of the two PCTs found on site will be used in revegetation of the site. A weed management plan will be prepared to control and prevent further spread of Serrated Tussock, a weed of national significance and a major threat to natural temperate grassland and the BC Act listed Monaro Tableland Cool Temperate Grassy Woodland CEEC, which is represented on site. Should further exploration works be undertaken that requires new clearing, a pre-clearing survey will be undertaken by an ecologist or similar qualified person to determine the location/alignment of any tracks/mature trees (particular those that are hollow bearing) within the required clearing and to salvage any fauna habitats if necessary (e.g. hollow limbs). The value of the existing mine shaft for cave-dependent microbats, particularly as an over wintering hibernation roosting site, will be determined prior to any exploration activity being conducted in, or close to, the shaft entrance. WATERCOURSES All drill sites will be located more than 40m from the top banks of watercourses. Where access tracks cross watercourses, silt-stop fencing and/or straw bales may be required on the downslope side of the access track to act as temporary sediment dams. Water management structures will be inspected regularly throughout the exploration and works program and particularly following protracted rainfall to ensure integrity and performance. An approved spill kit/oil matting will be on site for use with hydrocarbons such as diesel or oil spills. All chemicals and hydrocarbons will be stored and transported in sealed containers or storage boxes in the vehicles. Should a spillage of fuel or oil occur from vehicles and machinery, immediate response will be undertaken to ensure there is no residual transfer of contaminated soil to surface waters. Any contaminated soil will be removed for disposal at an approved waste facility.		
Duration	N/A		
Application ranking	N/A		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	Medium	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	No
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	Medium Resilience	**What is the level of public concern?**	Medium

Can the impacts be reversed?	Uncertain	**Ranking of potential significance**	Medium
Can the impacts be mitigated?	Partly	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	Yes	The site is listed under the Snowy River Local Environmental Plan 2013 administered by SNOWY MONARO REGIONAL COUNCIL. It is included in the Terrestrial Biodiversity Map and the Riparian Lands and Watercourses Map.	
Criteria	Sensitive Land Impacts: Impacts on Aboriginal heritage protection areas: a. Aboriginal places and objects under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 b. Areas of Aboriginal cultural significance identified in an environmental planning instrument.		
Potential impacts	N/A		
Proposed management controls	N/A		
Duration	N/A		
Application ranking	N/A		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	N/A	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	N/A
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	N/A	**What is the level of public concern?**	N/A
Can the impacts be reversed?	N/A	**Ranking of potential significance**	N/A
Can the impacts be mitigated?	N/A	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	N/A		
Criteria	Sensitive Land Impacts: Impacts on heritage protection areas (historic or natural): a. Nationally and internationally recognised heritage sites or areas (World Heritage List, National Heritage List of Commonwealth Heritage List) b. Items listed on State Heritage c. Heritage items and conservation areas identified in an environmental planning instrument		
Potential impacts	N/A		
Proposed management controls	N/A		
Duration	N/A		
Application ranking	N/A		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	N/A	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	N/A
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	N/A	**What is the level of public concern?**	N/A
Can the impacts be reversed?	N/A	**Ranking of potential significance**	N/A
Can the impacts be mitigated?	N/A	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	N/A		
Criteria	Sensitive Land Impacts: Impacts on community land classified under the Local Government Act 1993 (for which a plan of management has been prepared).		
Potential impacts	N/A		
Proposed management controls	N/A		
Duration	N/A		
Application ranking	N/A		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	N/A	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	N/A
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	N/A	**What is the level of public concern?**	N/A
Can the impacts be reversed?	N/A	**Ranking of potential significance**	N/A

Can the impacts be mitigated?	N/A	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	N/A		
Criteria	Sensitive Land Impacts: Impacts on bushfire prone areas.		
Potential impacts	There is the small possibility of fire starting caused by ignition source from exhaust on drilling vehicles.		
Proposed management controls	Access to the site and use of on site access tracks and drill pads will be under the direction of the landholder and precautions will be taken to ensure that vehicular movements are restricted to cleared or existing tracks. All vehicles will be equipped with UHF radio/mobile, fire extinguishers and a minimum of 15L of water.		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Negligible		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	High	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	No
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	Medium Resilience	**What is the level of public concern?**	Low
Can the impacts be reversed?	Yes	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	Fully	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	Yes		
Criteria	Social Impacts: Any impacts which result in a change in the demographic structure of the community, including changes to workforce or industry structure of the area/region. Including change in demand for community resources (eg community facilities, community services and labour force).		
Potential impacts	NA		
Proposed management controls	NA		
Duration	3		
Application ranking			
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	N/A	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	N/A
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	N/A	**What is the level of public concern?**	N/A
Can the impacts be reversed?	N/A	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	N/A	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	No		
Criteria	Social Impacts: Any environmental impact that may cause substantial change or disruption to the community (including loss of facilities or loss of community identity).		
Potential impacts	NA		
Proposed management controls	NA		
Duration	3		
Application ranking			
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	N/A	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	N/A
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	N/A	**What is the level of public concern?**	N/A
Can the impacts be reversed?	N/A	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	N/A	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	No		
Criteria	Social Impacts: Any impacts which result in some individuals or communities being significantly disadvantaged (e.g. change to community facilities, services or labour force).		
Potential impacts	NA		
Proposed management controls	NA		

Duration	3		
Application ranking			
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	N/A	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	N/A
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	N/A	**What is the level of public concern?**	N/A
Can the impacts be reversed?	N/A	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	N/A	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	No		
Criteria	Social Impacts: Any impacts on the health, safety, privacy or welfare of individuals or communities caused by factors such as pollution, odour, noise, vibration, lighting, visual impacts, etc).		
Potential impacts	NA		
Proposed management controls	NA		
Duration	3		
Application ranking			
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	N/A	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	N/A
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	N/A	**What is the level of public concern?**	N/A
Can the impacts be reversed?	N/A	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	N/A	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	No		
Criteria	Social Impacts: Effect on a locality, place or building having aesthetic, anthropological, archaeological, architectural, cultural, historical, scientific or social significance or other special value for present or future generations?		
Potential impacts	NA		
Proposed management controls	NA		
Duration	3		
Application ranking			
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	N/A	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	N/A
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	N/A	**What is the level of public concern?**	N/A
Can the impacts be reversed?	N/A	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	N/A	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	No		
Criteria	Social Impacts: Impacts on communities with strong sense of identity.		
Potential impacts	NA		
Proposed management controls	NA		
Duration	3		
Application ranking			
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	N/A	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	N/A

How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	N/A	**What is the level of public concern?**	N/A
Can the impacts be reversed?	N/A	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	N/A	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	No		
Criteria	Social Impacts: Impacts on disadvantaged communities.		
Potential impacts	NA		
Proposed management controls	NA		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Negligible		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	N/A	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	N/A
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	N/A	**What is the level of public concern?**	N/A
Can the impacts be reversed?	N/A	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	N/A	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	No		
Criteria	Economic Impacts: Any impacts which may affect economic activity (positive or negative), including a decrease to net economic welfare.		
Potential impacts	Landholder will receive compensation payment in accordance with the land access agreement.		
Proposed management controls	Compensation will be paid in a timely manner to ensure a good relationship is maintained between explorer and landholder.		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Negligible		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	High	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	No
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	Medium Resilience	**What is the level of public concern?**	Low
Can the impacts be reversed?	Yes	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	Fully	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	Yes		
Criteria	Economic Impacts: Any impacts that result in a decrease in the economic stability of the community.		
Potential impacts	NA		
Proposed management controls	NA		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Negligible		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	N/A	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	N/A
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	N/A	**What is the level of public concern?**	N/A
Can the impacts be reversed?	N/A	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	N/A	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	No		
Criteria	Economic Impacts: Any impacts which result in a change to the public sector revenue or expenditure base.		

Potential impacts	NA		
Proposed management controls	NA		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Negligible		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	N/A	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	N/A
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	N/A	**What is the level of public concern?**	N/A
Can the impacts be reversed?	N/A	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	N/A	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	No		
Criteria	Heritage Impacts: Any impacts on a locality, place, landscape, building or archaeological relic of heritage significance.		
Potential impacts	NA		
Proposed management controls	NA		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Positive		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	N/A	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	N/A
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	N/A	**What is the level of public concern?**	N/A
Can the impacts be reversed?	N/A	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	N/A	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	No		
Criteria	Aesthetic Impacts: Any impacts on the visual or scenic landscape, including lighting, venting or flaring of gas.		
Potential impacts	The impact from drill rigs undertaking exploration programs on the highly appealing Monaro High plains landscape.		
Proposed management controls	The activity will be undrtaken over very short timeframe (3 days) so the impact will be minimal.		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Positive		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	High	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	No
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	Medium Resilience	**What is the level of public concern?**	Low
Can the impacts be reversed?	Yes	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	Fully	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	Yes		
Criteria	Aesthetic Impacts: Areas or items of high aesthetic or scenic value.		
Potential impacts	The impact from drill rigs undertaking exploration programs on the highly appealing Monaro High plains landscape.		
Proposed management controls	The activity will be undrtaken over very short timeframe (3 days) so the impact will be minimal.		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Positive		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	High	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	No

How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	Medium Resilience	**What is the level of public concern?**	Low
Can the impacts be reversed?	Yes	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	Fully	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	Yes		
Criteria	Cultural Impacts: Any disturbance of the ground surface or any culturally modified trees (e.g. a scar tree).		
Potential impacts	Ground disturbing activities such as excavation have the potential to impact Aboriginal sites. An AHIMS search has shown that 16 Aboriginal heritage sites are recorded within the project area. A recent survey by CHMA identified an additional 107 Aboriginal artefacts. The RC drilling program in late 2021 impact some of the 16 recorded sites.		
Proposed management controls	Aboriginal artefacts that are recorded in the AHIMS database or identified in a subsequent CHMA heritage surveys that are located on access tracks or drill pads will be salvaged by the representative Aboriginal parties following grant of an AHIP permit. All Aboriginal artefacts on tracks and drill pads to be used for the planned rehabilitation works and diamond drilling will be salvaged before work commences.		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Negligible		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	Medium	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	No
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	LowResilience	**What is the level of public concern?**	High
Can the impacts be reversed?	No	**Ranking of potential significance**	High
Can the impacts be mitigated?	Partly	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	Yes	Ground disturbing activities such as excavation have the potential to impact Aboriginal sites. An AHIMS search has shown that 16 Aboriginal heritage sites are recorded within the project area. A recent survey by CHMA identified an additional 107 Aboriginal artefacts. The RC drilling program in late 2021 impact some of the 16 recorded sites.	
Criteria	Cultural Impacts: Any impacts on known Aboriginal objects or Aboriginal places.		
Potential impacts	Ground disturbing activities such as excavation have the potential to impact Aboriginal sites. An AHIMS search has shown that 16 Aboriginal heritage sites are recorded within the project area. A recent survey by CHMA identified an additional 107 Aboriginal artefacts. The RC drilling program in late 2021 impact some of the 16 recorded sites.		

Proposed management controls	Aboriginal artefacts that are recorded in the AHIMS database or identified in a subsequent CHMA heritage surveys that are located on access tracks or drill pads will be salvaged by the representative Aboriginal parties in accordance with AHIP permit. All Aboriginal artefacts on tracks and drill pads to be used for the planned rehabilitation works and diamond drilling will be salvaged before work commences. Salvage of Aboriginal artefacts in disturbed areas has been approved by a Section 90 Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit that was granted 31 Jan 2024. All work will be monitored by the Representative Aboriginal Persons (RAPs) and supervised by a qualified archaeologist from consulting group Cultural Heritage Management Australia (CHMA). The Approved methodology is as follows: 1. In recognition of the broader community's wish to have cultural material left where it is or returned to country wherever possible, all artefacts collected during the current investigation will be returned to country at an established relocation point. 2. The artefacts will be collected along the varying access tracks and drill sites. 3. The salvage will be completed by a suitably qualified professional archaeologist in collaboration with the Representative Aboriginal Persons 4. The locations of all artefacts subject to movement are to be recorded prior to collection, with a full catalogue of artefacts to be produced on site, including photographic records for diagnostic stone artefacts; 5. Analysis is to occur onsite in order to keep materials on country throughout this process; 6. Artefacts salvaged will be returned to country separately, resulting in eight separate RTC locations. These locations will be nominated on site by the RAPs and located as close as possible to the original survey unit, area confirmed by the landowner/proponent to be protected from any future harm. 7. A smoking ceremony will be recorded at each of the RTC locations in accordance with TO's stated wishes. 8. A full record of each of the final locations will be made, including grid coordinates, site plan/mud map referring to permanent features for re-identification, depth of burial and a photographic record of the disposition; 9. The eight new relocation points will be individually recorded and registered on AHIMS and accordingly become new locations in need of protection into the future. The RAPs and archaeologist will access the site by 4WD vehicle along existing tracks and walk to the individual heritage sites. No powered equipment will be used.		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Negligible		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	Low	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	No
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	LowResilience	**What is the level of public concern?**	High
Can the impacts be reversed?	No	**Ranking of potential significance**	High
Can the impacts be mitigated?	Partly	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	Yes	Ground disturbing activities such as excavation have the potential to impact Aboriginal sites. An AHIMS search has shown that 16 Aboriginal heritage sites are recorded within the project area. A recent survey by CHMA identified an additional 107 Aboriginal artefacts. The RC drilling program in late 2021 impact some of the 16 recorded sites.	
Criteria	Cultural Impacts: Affects areas where the landscape features indicate the likely presence of Aboriginal objects.		
Potential impacts	The project area is on a small hill adjacent to the Jinny Brother Creek. Areas along the creek may have been used for hunting with the adjacent ridge a possible campsite. This explains the concentration of Aboriginal artefacts that were accumulated over a long period.		

Proposed management controls	Aboriginal artefacts that are recorded in the AHIMS database or identified in a subsequent CHMA heritage surveys that are located on access tracks or drill pads will be salvaged by the representative Aboriginal parties in accordance with AHIP permit. All Aboriginal artefacts on tracks and drill pads to be used for the planned rehabilitation works and diamond drilling will be salvaged before work commences. Salvage of Aboriginal artefacts in disturbed areas has been approved by a Section 90 Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit that was granted 31 Jan 2024. All work will be monitored by the Representative Aboriginal Persons (RAPs) and supervised by a qualified archaeologist from consulting group Cultural Heritage Management Australia (CHMA). The Approved methodology is as follows: 1. In recognition of the broader community's wish to have cultural material left where it is or returned to country wherever possible, all artefacts collected during the current investigation will be returned to country at an established relocation point. 2. The artefacts will be collected along the varying access tracks and drill sites. 3. The salvage will be completed by a suitably qualified professional archaeologist in collaboration with the Representative Aboriginal Persons 4. The locations of all artefacts subject to movement are to be recorded prior to collection, with a full catalogue of artefacts to be produced on site, including photographic records for diagnostic stone artefacts; 5. Analysis is to occur onsite in order to keep materials on country throughout this process; 6. Artefacts salvaged will be returned to country separately, resulting in eight separate RTC locations. These locations will be nominated on site by the RAPs and located as close as possible to the original survey unit, area confirmed by the landowner/proponent to be protected from any future harm. 7. A smoking ceremony will be recorded at each of the RTC locations in accordance with TO's stated wishes. 8. A full record of each of the final locations will be made, including grid coordinates, site plan/mud map referring to permanent features for re-identification, depth of burial and a photographic record of the disposition; 9. The eight new relocation points will be individually recorded and registered on AHIMS and accordingly become new locations in need of protection into the future. The RAPs and archaeologist will access the site by 4WD vehicle along existing tracks and walk to the individual heritage sites. No powered equipment will be used.		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Negligible		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	Medium	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	No
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	Medium Resilience	**What is the level of public concern?**	High
Can the impacts be reversed?	No	**Ranking of potential significance**	High
Can the impacts be mitigated?	Partly	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	Yes	Ground disturbing activities such as excavation have the potential to impact Aboriginal sites. An AHIMS search has shown that 16 Aboriginal heritage sites are recorded within the project area. A recent survey by CHMA identified an additional 107 Aboriginal artefacts. The RC drilling program in late 2021 impact some of the 16 recorded sites.	
Criteria	Cultural Impacts: Affects areas subject to native title claims, indigenous land use agreements or joint management arrangements.		
Potential impacts	NA		
Proposed management controls	NA		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Negligible		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	N/A	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	N/A
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	N/A	**What is the level of public concern?**	N/A
Can the impacts be reversed?	N/A	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low

Can the impacts be mitigated?	N/A	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	No		
Criteria	Cultural Impacts: Impacts on Aboriginal communities or areas subject to land rights claims.		
Potential impacts	NA		
Proposed management controls	NA		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Negligible		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	N/A	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	N/A
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	N/A	**What is the level of public concern?**	N/A
Can the impacts be reversed?	N/A	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	N/A	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	No		
Criteria	Cultural Impacts: Impacts on areas or items of high anthropological, archaeological, architectural, cultural, heritage, historical, recreational or scientific value.		
Potential impacts	Ground disturbing activities such as excavation have the potential to impact Aboriginal sites. An AHIMS search has shown that 16 Aboriginal heritage sites are recorded within the project area. A recent survey by CHMA identified an additional 107 Aboriginal artefacts. The RC drilling program in late 2021 impact some of the 16 recorded sites.		
Proposed management controls	Aboriginal artefacts that are recorded in the AHIMS database or identified in a subsequent CHMA heritage surveys that are located on access tracks or drill pads will be salvaged by the representative Aboriginal parties in accordance with AHIP permit. All Aboriginal artefacts on tracks and drill pads to be used for the planned rehabilitation works and diamond drilling will be salvaged before work commences. Salvage of Aboriginal artefacts in disturbed areas has been approved by a Section 90 Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit that was granted 31 Jan 2024. All work will be monitored by the Representative Aboriginal Persons (RAPs) and supervised by a qualified archaeologist from consulting group Cultural Heritage Management Australia (CHMA). The Approved methodology is as follows: 1. In recognition of the broader community's wish to have cultural material left where it is or returned to country wherever possible, all artefacts collected during the current investigation will be returned to country at an established relocation point. 2. The artefacts will be collected along the varying access tracks and drill sites. 3. The salvage will be completed by a suitably qualified professional archaeologist in collaboration with the Representative Aboriginal Persons 4. The locations of all artefacts subject to movement are to be recorded prior to collection, with a full catalogue of artefacts to be produced on site, including photographic records for diagnostic stone artefacts; 5. Analysis is to occur onsite in order to keep materials on country throughout this process; 6. Artefacts salvaged will be returned to country separately, resulting in eight separate RTC locations. These locations will be nominated on site by the RAPs and located as close as possible to the original survey unit, area confirmed by the landowner/proponent to be protected from any future harm. 7. A smoking ceremony will be recorded at each of the RTC locations in accordance with TO's stated wishes. 8. A full record of each of the final locations will be made, including grid coordinates, site plan/mud map referring to permanent features for re-identification, depth of burial and a photographic record of the disposition; 9. The eight new relocation points will be individually recorded and registered on AHIMS and accordingly become new locations in need of protection into the future. The RAPs and archaeologist will access the site by 4WD vehicle along existing tracks and walk to the individual heritage sites. No powered equipment will be used.		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Negligible		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	Medium	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	No

How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	Medium Resilience	**What is the level of public concern?**	High
Can the impacts be reversed?	No	**Ranking of potential significance**	High
Can the impacts be mitigated?	Partly	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	Yes	Ground disturbing activities such as excavation have the potential to impact Aboriginal sites. An AHIMS search has shown that 16 Aboriginal heritage sites are recorded within the project area. A recent survey by CHMA identified an additional 107 Aboriginal artefacts. The RC drilling program in late 2021 impact some of the 16 recorded sites.	
Criteria	Land Use Impacts: Any major changes in land use, including curtailment of other beneficial land uses.		
Potential impacts	NA		
Proposed management controls	NA		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Positive		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	N/A	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	N/A
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	N/A	**What is the level of public concern?**	N/A
Can the impacts be reversed?	N/A	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	N/A	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	No		
Criteria	Transportation Impacts: Substantial impacts on existing transportation systems (road, rail, pedestrian) which alter present patterns of circulation or movement.		
Potential impacts	Additional traffic will occur on the local roads because employees and contractors will be travelling to and from Cooma to site each day.		
Proposed management controls	The limited number of vehicles involved in the rehabilitation and drilling program will not cause significant impact to the local transport system. Site personnel will mobilise to site in light vehicles in the morning and then return at the end of the 12 hour shift over a 2-3 week period. Vehicle movements will be limited to only that necessary.		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Negligible		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	High	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	No
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	Medium Resilience	**What is the level of public concern?**	Low
Can the impacts be reversed?	Yes	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	Fully	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	Yes		
Criteria	Transportation Impacts: Impacts associated with direct or indirect additional traffic.		
Potential impacts	Additional traffic will occur on the local roads because employees and contractors will be travelling to and from Cooma to site each day.		
Proposed management controls	The limited number of vehicles involved in the rehabilitation and drilling program will not cause significant impact to the local transport system. Site personnel will mobilise to site in light vehicles in the morning and then return at the end of the 12 hour shift over a 2-3 week period. Vehicle movements will be limited to only that necessary.		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Negligible		

What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	High	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	No
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	Medium Resilience	**What is the level of public concern?**	Low
Can the impacts be reversed?	Yes	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	Fully	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	Yes		
Criteria	Consistency with applicable local strategic planning statements, regional strategic plans or district strategic plans.		
Potential impacts	Snowy Monaro Local Strategic Planning Statement , Planning Priority 3 states: 3. Identify, protect and encourage restoration of environmental values in the Snowy Monaro Region. The strategy outlines the region has 18 endangered ecological communities protected under state legislation, six of which are listed as nationally important and protected under federal legislation. In addition there are more than 200 threatened species found within the region, some of which face particularly unique challenges in association with the Snowy Mountains and the effects of climate change. Ongoing human activity and climate change has the potential to further harm the region's natural environment and at present the Snowy River, riparian areas and creek corridors, and wildlife corridors are particularly vulnerable. Under this priority, high value terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems are protected to enhance biodiversity and protect environmental values.		

Proposed management controls	TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY To protect the Monaro Tableland Cool Temperate Grassy Woodland CEEC, this portion of the site will be excluded from any further clearing. Locally occurring native plant species typical of the two PCTs found on site will be used in revegetation of the site. A weed management plan will be prepared to control and prevent further spread of Serrated Tussock, a weed of national significance and a major threat to natural temperate grassland and the BC Act listed Monaro Tableland Cool Temperate Grassy Woodland CEEC, which is represented on site. Rehabilitation will involve the following component activities. 1. Re-shaping the drill pads to remove their geometric shape and creating slopes comparable with those natural slopes around the pads. 2. Replacing topsoil set aside during pad construction onto the final landform. (noting that topsoil was not set aside, what alternative measures will be adopted) 3. Installation of any required surface water management structures to protect the disturbed area, including silt-stop fencing. 4. Spreading of any cleared vegetation. 5. Revegetation of the entire disturbed area with a native or pasture seed mix, if necessary. Suitable hollow-bearing limbs/branches that are present within the felled trees that have been stockpiled adjacent to the exploration pads should be collected and salvaged. These should be modified (if needed) to be suitable for occupation by hollow-dependent native fauna erected within those parts of the mining lease area that are not to be cleared in the future. A minimum of 10 purpose-built habitat boxes suitable for occupation by hollowdependent microbats and small arboreal mammals/birds should be erected within those portions of the mining lease area that are not to be cleared in the future. These boxes should be included in the three-year monitored period. Any boxes damaged or occupied by exotic species should be repaired or replaced. To protect the Monaro Tableland Cool Temperate Grassy Woodland CEEC, this portion of the site should be excluded from any further clearing. Locally occurring native plant species typical of the two PCTs found on site will be used in revegetation of the site. A weed management plan will be prepared to control and prevent further spread of Serrated Tussock, a weed of national significance and a major threat to natural temperate grassland and the BC Act listed Monaro Tableland Cool Temperate Grassy Woodland CEEC, which is represented on site. Should further exploration works be undertaken that requires new clearing, a pre-clearing survey will be undertaken by an ecologist or similar qualified person to determine the location/alignment of any tracks/mature trees (particular those that are hollow bearing) within the required clearing and to salvage any fauna habitats if necessary (e.g. hollow limbs). The value of the existing mine shaft for cave-dependent microbats, particularly as an over wintering hibernation roosting site, will be determined prior to any exploration activity being conducted in, or close to, the shaft entrance. WATERCOURSES All drill sites will be located more than 40m from the top banks of watercourses. Where access tracks cross watercourses, silt-stop fencing and/or straw bales may be required on the downslope side of the access track to act as temporary sediment dams. Water management structures will be inspected regularly throughout the exploration and works program and particularly following protracted rainfall to ensure integrity and performance. An approved spill kit/oil matting will be on site for use with hydrocarbons such as diesel or oil spills. All chemicals and hydrocarbons will be stored and transported in sealed containers or storage boxes in the vehicles. Should a spillage of fuel or oil occur from vehicles and machinery, immediate response will be undertaken to ensure there is no residual transfer of contaminated soil to surface waters. Any contaminated soil will be removed for disposal at an approved waste facility.		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Positive		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	Medium	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	No
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	Medium Resilience	**What is the level of public concern?**	Medium

Can the impacts be reversed?	Uncertain	**Ranking of potential significance**	Medium
Can the impacts be mitigated?	Partly	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	Yes	The project site falls under the Snowy Monaro Local Strategic Planning Statement instrument.	
Criteria	Matters of National Environmental Significance: Impacts on MNES under the Commonwealth Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999:		
Potential impacts	NA		
Proposed management controls	NA		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Positive		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	N/A	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	N/A
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	N/A	**What is the level of public concern?**	N/A
Can the impacts be reversed?	N/A	**Ranking of potential significance**	Low
Can the impacts be mitigated?	N/A	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	No		
Criteria	Cumulative Impacts: Cumulative environmental effects with other existing or likely future activities.		
Potential impacts	The combination of agricultural and mineral exploration activities on a sensitive location such as this can have a compunding impact. The ecological values become threatened by the activities and there is uncertainty how these values will react to the pressure.		

Proposed management controls	TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY To protect the Monaro Tableland Cool Temperate Grassy Woodland CEEC, this portion of the site will be excluded from any further clearing. Locally occurring native plant species typical of the two PCTs found on site will be used in revegetation of the site. A weed management plan will be prepared to control and prevent further spread of Serrated Tussock, a weed of national significance and a major threat to natural temperate grassland and the BC Act listed Monaro Tableland Cool Temperate Grassy Woodland CEEC, which is represented on site. Rehabilitation will involve the following component activities. 1. Re-shaping the drill pads to remove their geometric shape and creating slopes comparable with those natural slopes around the pads. 2. Replacing topsoil set aside during pad construction onto the final landform. (noting that topsoil was not set aside, what alternative measures will be adopted) 3. Installation of any required surface water management structures to protect the disturbed area, including silt-stop fencing. 4. Spreading of any cleared vegetation. 5. Revegetation of the entire disturbed area with a native or pasture seed mix, if necessary. Suitable hollow-bearing limbs/branches that are present within the felled trees that have been stockpiled adjacent to the exploration pads should be collected and salvaged. These should be modified (if needed) to be suitable for occupation by hollow-dependent native fauna erected within those parts of the mining lease area that are not to be cleared in the future. A minimum of 10 purpose-built habitat boxes suitable for occupation by hollowdependent microbats and small arboreal mammals/birds should be erected within those portions of the mining lease area that are not to be cleared in the future. These boxes should be included in the three-year monitored period. Any boxes damaged or occupied by exotic species should be repaired or replaced. To protect the Monaro Tableland Cool Temperate Grassy Woodland CEEC, this portion of the site should be excluded from any further clearing. Locally occurring native plant species typical of the two PCTs found on site will be used in revegetation of the site. A weed management plan will be prepared to control and prevent further spread of Serrated Tussock, a weed of national significance and a major threat to natural temperate grassland and the BC Act listed Monaro Tableland Cool Temperate Grassy Woodland CEEC, which is represented on site. Should further exploration works be undertaken that requires new clearing, a pre-clearing survey will be undertaken by an ecologist or similar qualified person to determine the location/alignment of any tracks/mature trees (particular those that are hollow bearing) within the required clearing and to salvage any fauna habitats if necessary (e.g. hollow limbs). The value of the existing mine shaft for cave-dependent microbats, particularly as an over wintering hibernation roosting site, will be determined prior to any exploration activity being conducted in, or close to, the shaft entrance. WATERCOURSES All drill sites will be located more than 40m from the top banks of watercourses. Where access tracks cross watercourses, silt-stop fencing and/or straw bales may be required on the downslope side of the access track to act as temporary sediment dams. Water management structures will be inspected regularly throughout the exploration and works program and particularly following protracted rainfall to ensure integrity and performance. An approved spill kit/oil matting will be on site for use with hydrocarbons such as diesel or oil spills. All chemicals and hydrocarbons will be stored and transported in sealed containers or storage boxes in the vehicles. Should a spillage of fuel or oil occur from vehicles and machinery, immediate response will be undertaken to ensure there is no residual transfer of contaminated soil to surface waters. Any contaminated soil will be removed for disposal at an approved waste facility.		
Duration	3		
Application ranking	Positive		
What is the confidence in predicting impacts?	Low	**Are further studies required on impacts or mitigation?**	No
How resilient is the environment to cope with impacts?	LowResilience	**What is the level of public concern?**	Medium

Can the impacts be reversed?	Uncertain	**Ranking of potential significance**	Medium
Can the impacts be mitigated?	Partly	**Justification for ranking**	
Do the operations comply with standards, plans, policies?	Yes	The combination of agricultural and mineral exploration activities on a sensitive location such as this can have a compunding impact. The ecological values become threatened by the activities and there is uncertainty how these values will react to the pressure.	

FORM: Brief NonCEA (v3.4)