

APO0001755

Approval to undertake assessable prospecting operations

Sulcor Mine Definition Drilling (in addition to APO0001578 & APO0001690)

23 May 2024

Application summary

Detail	Application
Reference	APO0001755
Date of approval	23 May 2024
Title	ML 1470 (1992)
Contact	[REDACTED]
Project name	Sulcor Mine Definition Drilling (in addition to APO0001578 & APO0001690)
Project location	Sulcor located in the Attunga area, NSW
Activity type	Non-complying exploration activity

Important note

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Project

Project details

Assessable prospecting activity APO0001755 relates to the Sulcor Mine Definition Drilling (in addition to APO0001578 & APO0001690) at Sulcor located in the Attunga area, NSW.

The project has the following approved characteristics.

Detail	Proposal
Activity description	For drilling: 1. Plan drillholes (3dys). 2. Locate drillholes onsite using GPS (3dys). 3. Confirm drill sites - take new GPS locations (3 dys). 4. Ground disturbances - build tracks and drill pads (3-5 dys). 5. Mobilise drill rig to site (2 dys). 6. Commence drilling (6-8 weeks). 7. Rehabilitation Stage 1 (1 mnth). Rehabilitation Stage 2 (follow-up, 12mnths). Drilling also described in supporting APOs, APO0001578 & APO0001690. For access tracks: 1. Flag tracks so they are clear during clearing/excavations (1day) 2. Move in with dozer and excavate/clear track, spotter onsite to ensure follow flagged route (2-3days). May use gravel to sheet track, but avoid at all cost! 3. Topsoil to be put aside for use later for rehab. 4. Drilling activities (6 weeks) 5. Rehab tracks (a) resurface track/drill site with topsoil, (b) Ensure rehab to avoid erosion, (c) re-grass if necessary (seek advise) 6. Monitor 6-8 months. 7. Complete rehab and be compliant with NSW regulation (12 months or more). Access tracks also described in supporting APOs, APO0001578 & APO0001690.
Earthworks or vegetation clearing	1. Drill sites details given in supporting APOs, APO0001578 & APO0001690. 2. Tracks to be no wider than 3m. 3. ML mostly grass and shrub vegetation, avoid felling any trees. 4. Topsoil must be pushed to the side (preserved) and used later for rehab. 5. All drill sites and tracks must be cleaned of any rubbish, no machinery left after exploration activities. Please kindly refer to the Assessment of Significance in attachments. This assessment was completed 12/04/2024.

Detail	Proposal
Access to exploration activities	ML 1470 has a lot of old/established tracks from previous exploration work and tracks used by farmers. Only existing tracks that lead to exploration activities (drillholes) will be touched or used. Most existing tracks require none to minimal disturbances and excavations. Vegetation on these tracks is mainly grassland and shrubs (refer to attached photos and descriptions). All drill sites applied for in this APO are located on old/existing tracks (refer to individual descriptions of these tracks). New tracks (refer to attachments) are on farming paddocks, therefore will be zero disturbances. Please kindly refer to Assessment of Significance in attachments.
Ancillary activities	There will be No other activities ancillary to the proposed exploration activities.
Anticipated start date	15 May 2024
Expected duration (weeks)	6
Expected rehabilitation completion date	2 May 2025
Proposed hours of operation	Standard Business hours (7AM to 6PM weekdays, 8AM to 1PM Saturdays, no work Sundays and public holidays)
On-site employee or contractor numbers	4

State conservation areas

The Sulcor Mine Definition Drilling (in addition to APO0001578 & APO0001690) has not proposed prospecting in a State Conservation Area.

Site description and existing environment

The project comprises the following existing land uses:

Activity area within ML. No existing crop farming. No intense animal grazing in the area. No changes (temporary or otherwise) to the current land use/s during the activity.

The project is located near the following sensitive receptors:

Any tourism facility, educational establishment, childcare centre, health services facility, place of public worship, animal boarding or training establishment over 1km away. Closest residential area over 500m away from activity - possible noise, but no visual impact. Refer to sensitive receivers map attached.

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

No acid sulfate soils or potential acid sulfate soils. Soils generally not amenable to erosion and dispersion - rocky, grass cover. Existing tracks fairly compacted from previous activity in the area. Overall, area of activity seems to have well compacted soils.

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

No wetlands No watercourses Water settled at bottom of quarry confined to pit area - will not be affected by activity.

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

Groundwater bore within ML will be used for drilling - have water license in place. Minimal effect from activity

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

Low relief generally Highest elevation of drilling 690m Lowest elevation of drilling 470 Mostly grassed in lower areas and sparsely vegetated Denser areas are sparse secondary growth, mainly in rocky limestone areas.

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

Listed Threatened Ecological Communities (4 likely to occur in area). Mitigation: stay within existing tracks, grass to be not completely removed, no trees to be cut/felled. Listed migratory species (10 likely to occur in area). Mitigation: stay within existing tracks, grass to be not completely removed, no trees to be cut/felled, do not interfere with animals in area, do not interfere with nests etc. Ramsar wetlands of international importance (3). More than 1000km away. No impact. Commonwealth marine environment. None! World heritage properties. None National heritage places. None! Nuclear actions. N/A Not a coal deposit!

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

New TEC (potential) map attached. Mitigation: Test/Assessment of significance completed. Refer to attached Assessment of Significance Report dated 12/04/2024 (Sulcor Limestone Quarry, Biodiversity Technical Memo). Stay within existing tracks, grass to be not completely removed, no trees to be cut/felled, do not interfere with animals in area, do not interfere with nests etc., flag areas that will potentially be out of bounds regarding TECs.

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

items on the World Heritage List: None! items on the Commonwealth Heritage List: None! items on the National Heritage Register: None! items on the State Heritage Register: None! items listed in the heritage schedules/lists contained within an environmental planning instrument (such as a council's Local Environmental Plan): None! Local heritage items will not be impacted (please refer to attached memorandum from Tamworth Council)

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

No declared AOBV under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 No areas declared as critical habitat under the Fisheries Management Act 1994.

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

Refer to attachment regarding Aboriginal objects in the area - 3 objects found in Sulcor, locations known. APO0001755 drillholes and tracks will not impact these locations. Archaeological reports attached. Activity not within 200m of waterway. Activity not located within a sand dune. Activity will be on ridgetop more than 200m away from known objects. Activity not located within 200m below or above a cliff face. Activity not within 20 metres of or in a cave, rock shelter, or a cave mouth and is on land that is not disturbed land.

Exploration activities

The following exploration activities have been approved.

Drill holes

Id/ Regulator no.	Type	Surface disturbance (m ²)	Veg. Clearing (m ²)	Excavations (m ³)	Produced water (ml)	Depth (m)	Block number	Unit letters
Su_pd06 EDH00152 26	DDH drill hole	20				110	1470	k
Su_pd12 EDH00152 28	DDH drill hole	80	20			150	1470	k

Id/ Regulator no.	Type	Surface disturbance (m²)	Veg. Clearing (m²)	Excavations (m³)	Produced water (ml)	Depth (m)	Block number	Unit letters
Su_pd15 EDH00152 32	DDH drill hole	100	20	20		149	1470	k
Su_pd18 EDH00152 34	DDH drill hole	20				200	1470	k
Su_pd20 EDH00152 36	RC drill hole					100	1470	k
Su_pd05 EDH00152 25	DDH drill hole	150	50			149	1470	k
Su_pd13 EDH00152 30	DDH drill hole	50				150	1470	k
Su_pd07 EDH00152 27	DDH drill hole	150	60			150	1470	k
Su_pd01 EDH00152 24	DDH drill hole	80	20			70	1470	k
Su_pd14 EDH00152 31	DDH drill hole	80				149	1470	k
Su_pd17 EDH00152 33	DDH drill hole	150	100	49		150	1470	k
Su_pd19 EDH00152 35	RC drill hole					100	1470	k

Other exploration activities

Id/ Regulator no.	Type	Surface disturbance (m²)	Veg. Clearing (m²)	Excavations (m³)	Produced water (ml)	Block number	Unit letters
Etwt_3 - established track within TECs, access to SU_PD13 drillhole site EA0005226	Access tracks	50	50			1470	k

Id/ Regulator no.	Type	Surface disturbance (m ²)	Veg. Clearing (m ²)	Excavations (m ³)	Produced water (ml)	Block number	Unit letters
Etwt_5 - established track within TECs, access to SU_PD17, SU_PD18 and SU_PD12 drillhole site EA0005228	Access tracks	150	150	50		1470	k
Etwt_7 - established track within TECs, access to SU_PD01 EA0005230	Access tracks		10			1470	k
Etot_7 - access track outside TECs, access to SU_PD19 and SU_PD20 EA0005223	Access tracks					1470	k
Etwt_6 - alternative established track within TECs to SU_PD10 and SU_PD11 drillhole sites EA0005229	Access tracks	10	10	10		1470	k
Etwt_4 - established track within TECs, access to SU_PD13, SU_PD14, SU_PD15 and SU_PD05 drillhole site EA0005227	Access tracks	50	50			1470	k

Id/ Regulator no.	Type	Surface disturbance (m ²)	Veg. Clearing (m ²)	Excavations (m ³)	Produced water (ml)	Block number	Unit letters
Ntot_2 - new track outside TECs, access to SU_PD19 EA0005231	Access tracks					1470	k
Etw_1 - established track within TECs, access to SU_PD06 drillhole site EA0005224	Access tracks					1470	k
Ntot_3 - new track outside TECs, access track to SU_PD20 EA0005232	Access tracks					1470	k
Etw_2 - established track within TECs, access to SU_PD15 drillhole site EA0005225	Access tracks	50	50			1470	k

Impact management

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

Drilling will use above the ground sumps with water to be sourced from water bore. Where drill sites are located within reach of the standpipes water can be piped. Otherwise, water will be carted using a water truck. Water will be recycled via above ground sumps. Surface water from normal rain /storm will be allowed to take their normal course without impact from activity.

The project includes the following measures to manage groundwater impacts:

Any access water from drillholes can potentially be capped off and piped to other drill sites for use. Holes with water will be kept open and be used for water monitoring for the ML. Wastewater to be recycled for drilling.

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

Water to be recycled. Drill holes to be backfilled with drill cuttings. Access cuttings to be used as rehab materials or disposed of in the right placed designated by the local council. Plan to have as little to no waste as possible. Any hazardous waste, restricted wastes or special wastes, will be disposed of appropriately offsite.

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

Drilling muds are all biodegradable. Chemicals or hydrocarbon spillages will be maintained under company (Graymont) HSE procedures. Any major spillages (if occur) will be reported and managed accordingly by company and following regulator's guidelines (Exploration Code of Conduct). Other chemicals (oils, lubricants, grease etc) will be contained and their use will be strictly as per MSDS. Drillers have spill kits onsite with them.

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

Activity will take place more than 1000m away from sensitive receivers. Drilling (and associated earthworks) to be done only from Monday to Saturday to be compliant to the site DA. No work on Sundays.

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

Water used in drilling will minimize dust. Water truck to be used to water down dusts on tracks. Minimize number of vehicles/plant/equipment to be used for activity. Vehicle/plant operation restricted to daylight hours and weekdays and Saturdays only.

Sensitivity of the land to be disturbed

Question	Yes/no
Conservation areas	
Land reserved under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> ?	No
Land subject to a 'conservation agreement' under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> and/or the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> ?	No
Land subject to a 'conservation agreement' under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> and/or the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> ?	No
Land declared as an aquatic reserve under the <i>Marine Estate Management Act 2014</i> ?	No
Land declared as a marine park under the <i>Marine Estate Management Act 2014</i> ?	No
Land within State Forests set aside under the <i>Forestry Act 2012</i> for conservation values, including Flora Reserves or Special Management (and other) Zones?	No
Land reserved or dedicated under the <i>Crown Lands Act 1989/Crown Lands Management Act 2016</i> (as applicable) for the preservation of flora, fauna, geological formations or other environmental protection purposes?	No
Land identified as wilderness or declared a wilderness area under the <i>Wilderness Act 1987</i> ?	No
Land subject to a Biobanking agreement (established under the now repealed Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995) or a Biodiversity Stewardship agreement established under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016?	No
Land subject to a Wildlife Refuge agreement under the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> ?	No
Land subject to existing conservation agreements on private land under repealed legislation that continue to have effect (e.g., trust agreements under Native Conservation Trust Act 2001, Property vegetation plans under Native Vegetation Act 2003, Registered property agreements under Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997)?	No
Drinking water catchment protection areas	
Land declared to be a 'controlled area' or a 'special area' under the <i>Water NSW Act 2014</i> ?	No
Land declared to be a 'special area' under the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i> or <i>Hunter Water Act 1991</i> ?	No
Sensitive areas	
Land declared as area of outstanding biodiversity value under the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> or critical habitat under Part 7A of the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> ?	No
Wetlands of international significance listed under the Ramsar Wetlands Convention?	No
Land designated as a nationally important wetland in the Directory of Important Wetlands?	No
Coastal wetlands mapped under State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021?	No
Littoral rainforests mapped under State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021?	No
Coastal zone as defined in the <i>Coastal Management Act 2016</i> ?	No

Question	Yes/no
Land identified in an environmental planning instrument as being of biodiversity/conservation significance or zoned for environmental conservation, protection and/or management?	Yes
Waterfront land defined under the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i> ?	No
Land with a slope greater than 18 degrees measured from the horizontal?	No
Land with potential for soil and water contamination	
Land mapped as Actual Acid Sulfate Soils (AASS) or Potential Acid Sulfate Soils (PASS) on the Acid Sulfate Soils Risk Maps for NSW?	No
Aboriginal protection areas	
Land identified in an environmental planning instrument (such as a State Environmental Planning Policy or Local Environment Plan) as being of Aboriginal cultural significance?	No
Land declared as an Aboriginal place under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> ?	No
Historic or natural heritage protection areas	
Land listed on the World Heritage List, National Heritage List or Commonwealth Heritage List?	No
Land, places, buildings or structures listed on the NSW State Heritage Register?	No
Land identified in an environmental planning instrument (such as a State Environmental Planning Policy or Local Environment Plan) as being of heritage significance or a heritage conservation area?	No
Critical industry clusters	
Land identified as Critical Industry Cluster under State Environmental Planning Policy (Resources and Energy) 2021?	No
Community land	
Public land classified as community land under the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> ?	No
Other areas	
Land identified on the authority (e.g., exploration licence or assessment lease) as environmentally sensitive land?	No
Ecology	
Will the activity have a significant effect on threatened species or their habitats?	No
Will the activity have a significant effect on threatened ecological communities or their habitats?	No
Will vegetation be removed as part of access track upgrade works in waterfront land?	No
Aboriginal and European heritage	
Will the activity harm Aboriginal objects as defined under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> ?	No
Will the activity damage any listed heritage items?	No

Attachment 1 – Statement of commitments

Item	Commitment
Activity type	<p>Exploration activity comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 diamond drill holes • 2 reverse circulation drill holes • 0 other drill holes • 0 cubic metres of bulk sampling • 310 square metres of new access tracks • 0 lines of seismic testing • 0 square metres of air core drilling • 0 square metres of other drilling
Activity location	Sulcor located in the Attunga area, NSW, within ML 1470 (1992).
Activity scope (including any ancillary activities)	<p>For drilling: 1. Plan drillholes (3dys). 2. Locate drillholes onsite using GPS (3dys). 3. Confirm drill sites - take new GPS locations (3 dys). 4. Ground disturbances - build tracks and drill pads (3-5 dys). 5. Mobilise drill rig to site (2 dys). 6. Commence drilling (6-8 weeks). 7. Rehabilitation Stage 1 (1 mnth). Rehabilitation Stage 2 (follow-up, 12mnths). Drilling also described in supporting APOs, APO0001578 & APO0001690.</p> <p>For access tracks: 1. Flag tracks so they are clear during clearing/excavations (1day) 2. Move in with dozer and excavate/clear track, spotter onsite to ensure follow flagged route (2-3days). May use gravel to sheet track, but avoid at all cost! 3. Topsoil to be put aside for use later for rehab. 4. Drilling activities (6 weeks) 5. Rehab tracks (a) resurface track/drill site with topsoil, (b) Ensure rehab to avoid erosion, (c) re-grass if necessary (seek advise) 6. Monitor 6-8 months. 7. Complete rehab and be compliant with NSW regulation (12 months or more). Access tracks also described in supporting APOs, APO0001578 & APO0001690.</p> <p>There will be No other activities ancillary to the proposed exploration activities.</p>
Hours of operation	Standard Business hours (7AM to 6PM weekdays, 8AM to 1PM Saturdays, no work Sundays and public holidays)
Expected duration (weeks)	6
Anticipated start date	15 May 2024
Expected rehabilitation completion date	Estimated 2 May 2025
Maximum area of disturbance	1,190 square metres
Agricultural impact	The activity will be undertaken in accordance with Level 1 AIS Sulcor Drilling.docx (17028 bytes)
Air quality	Water used in drilling will minimize dust. Water truck to be used to water down dusts on tracks. Minimize number of vehicles/plant/equipment to be used for activity. Vehicle/plant operation restricted to daylight hours and weekdays and Saturdays only.
Protection of water sources	Drilling will use above the ground sumps with water to be sourced from water bore. Where drill sites are located within reach of the standpipes water can be piped. Otherwise, water will be carted using a water truck. Water will be recycled via above ground sumps. Surface water from normal rain /storm will be allowed to take their normal course without impact from activity.

Item	Commitment
	Any access water from drillholes can potentially be capped off and piped to other drill sites for use. Holes with water will be kept open and be used for water monitoring for the ML. Wastewater to be recycled for drilling.
Soil and land stability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - access tracks will be mostly established farm and previous exploration tracks. - avoid excessive disturbances of these established tracks, unless for safety reasons, grass and soil must not be completely removed, if removed must be reinstalled as soon as practicable - disturbances for drill pads will be minimized as much as possible and any disturbance be done in accordance with the exploration-code-of-practice rehabilitation. - above the ground sumps to be used for drilling. - drilling fluid, cuttings / waste to be contained in sumps - waste disposed of appropriately. - drilling activity will be restricted to flat and gentle sloping areas, and within ML - minimal potential for sediment and erosion - where inevitable, must be managed in accordance with guidelin-eserosion-sediment control-building-sites.
Noise and vibration	Activity will take place more than 1000m away from sensitive receivers. Drilling (and associated earthworks) to be done only from Monday to Saturday to be compliant to the site DA. No work on Sundays.
Coastal processes and hazards	Site not a coastal environment
Hazardous substances or chemicals	Drilling muds are all biodegradable. Chemicals or hydrocarbon spillages will be maintained under company (Graymont) HSE procedures. Any major spillages (if occur) will be reported and managed accordingly by company and following regulator's guidelines (Exploration Code of Conduct). Other chemicals (oils, lubricants, grease etc) will be contained and their use will be strictly as per MSDS. Drillers have spill kits onsite with them.
Wastes and emissions	Water to be recycled. Drill holes to be backfilled with drill cuttings. Access cuttings to be used as rehab materials or disposed of in the right placed designated by the local council. Plan to have as little to no waste as possible. Any hazardous waste, restricted wastes or special wastes, will be disposed of appropriately offsite.
Vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - minimize vegetation clearing to as little as possible by using farm tracks and previous exploration tracks and sites. - no known threatened species. -minimal drill pad ground disturbance and land clearance. - generally, grass and shrub vegetation, not many huge trees. - no big trees will be felled, and no major vegetation clearing to be done
Threatened fauna and flora species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - drilling only on flat areas, avoid removing grass and topsoil completely. - no unnecessary and excessive disturbances. - water fighting equipment on hand to prevent any fires onsite. - avoid cutting trees, move track or drill sites to less dense areas, where possible. - refere to assessment of significance report recently carried out on known areas of TECs to be impacted under APO0001755. - all drillholes will be drilled from established access tracks - tracks must be walked and inspected prior to disturbance. - demarcate clearly areas to be not disturbed to prevent trespassing these areas.
Areas of outstanding biodiversity value/critical habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - minimize excavation. - minimize removing grass, shrubs and trees.

Item	Commitment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -restrict movement to established tracks. - avoid completely removing topsoil and grass, topsoil moved must be reinstalled as soon as practicable
Endangered ecological community or critically endangered ecological community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - determine prior to activity if there are areas of Endangered Ecological Community or Critically Endangered Ecological Community. - avoid carrying out activities in these areas. - adhere to NSW regulations regarding EEC or CEEC management - assessment of significance undertaken (refer to report)
Habitat of a threatened species or ecological community	Assessment of significance undertaken. See attached report.
Key threatening processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - minimize excavation. - minimize removing grass, shrubs and trees. - restrict movement to established tracks.
Barriers to movement of fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - plan activity such that no one particular area is impacted for a long time. - limit vegetation removal and earthworks.
Ecological and biosecurity impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - minimize excavation. - minimize removing grass, shrubs and trees. -restrict movement to established tracks. - avoid completely removing topsoil and grass, topsoil moved must be reinstalled as soon as practicable
Community resources	Activity will be restricted to within the ML and away from community resources.
Natural resources	Restrict activity to within the limits of the ML.
Social impacts	Activity is carried out under Graymont rules and regulations to avoid impact on community.
Economic impacts	Activity good for the local community!
Heritage impacts	Restrict activity to within ML where any impact is non-existent.
Aesthetic impacts	Activity restricted to within ML where any impact is non-existent.
Aboriginal cultural heritage	Personnel working in the area must be made aware of the three Aboriginal sites that occur in the area. This is done through Graymont Attunga site Cultural Heritage Induction.
Land use impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - activity to keep to within old farm tracks and old exploration site, and sites need to be rehabilitated as soon as practicable. - area currently not used for agriculture purposes.
Transportation impacts	Activity occurs within ML where there are no transport services.
Matters of national environmental significance	Activity to be restricted to areas marked out.
Cumulative impacts	Activity to be restricted to within ML.
Rehabilitation commitments	The activity will be undertaken in accordance with the rehabilitation objectives and targets provided for this project.
Risk assessments	The titleholder must monitor the risks associated with activities and, if the risk associated with an activity changes, implement revised environmental management controls.
Incident management	The NSW Resources Regulator will be notified of all incidents in accordance with the requirements of ML 1470 (1992).

Item	Commitment
Reporting	Reporting to the NSW Resources Regulator and Mining, Exploration and Geoscience – Department of Regional NSW will be in accordance with the legislation and conditions of ML 1470 (1992).
Codes of Practice	Sulcor Mine Definition Drilling (in addition to APO0001578 & APO0001690) will be operated in accordance with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="528 432 1453 533">• Exploration Code of Practice: Environmental Management Exploration Code of Practice: Rehabilitation Exploration Code of Practice: Produced Water Management, Storage and Transfer
Other (as applicable)	1. No additional terms specified.

Attachment 2 – Definitions

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

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

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

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

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

Attachment 3 – Review of environmental factors

Air impacts
Provide a brief description of likely impacts to air quality, including the distance to, and impacts on, nearby sensitive receivers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - potential particulates and emissions from vehicle exhausts, plant and machinery. - potential wind erosion and dust from disturbed soils during construction and operations. - potential dust from vehicles travelling over tracks. - potential dust generation from operating plant and machinery.
What is the activity's likely impact due to generation of greenhouse gases emissions or release of chemicals which affect the ozone layer or produce photo-chemical smog?
Negligible
What is the likely level of any impacts?
Negligible
Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.
Exploration diamond core drilling within an existing ML with no impact to residential accommodation, tourism facility, educational establishment, childcare center, health services facility, place of public worship, animal boarding/training, establishment or intensive livestock agriculture. Dust will be minimized through use of water while drilling. Utilize established farm tracks with some grass overgrowth will minimize dust from vehicles. No gas emissions. Tracks with potential wind erosion will be sheeted with gravel where applicable. All disturbed areas will be rehabilitated as soon as reasonably practicable following surface disturbance, after completion of the drilling program for a period of 12 months.
Water impacts
Provide a brief description of the likely impacts to water quality and/quantity.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - excessive ground water usage (bore water) for drilling - negligence of water use, uncontrolled water from drilling to flowing onto land - water used for exploration not available for ecological, stock, domestic or irrigation purposes.
What is the activity's impact due to the storage of water?
Negligible
What is the activity's impact to natural water bodies, wetlands or runoff patterns?
Negligible
What is the activity's impact due to aquifer interference, including changes to inter-aquifer connectivity?
Negligible
What is the activity's impact due to changes to flooding or tidal regimes?
Nil/Not applicable
What are the impacts from any hydraulic fracturing (well stimulation), including through gas and fluid migration?
Nil/Not applicable
What is the activity's impact due to changes in surface or groundwater quality and quantity?
Negligible
What is the likely level of any water impacts?
Negligible
Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

Water impacts

Water source for drilling will be ground/bore water. Water will be recycled during drilling operations through the use of "above the ground" sumps. Use water truck to transport water to remote sites. Adhere to water usage regulations.

Soil and stability impacts

Provide a brief description of the likely impacts to soil quality or land stability.

- potential soil erosion and sediment laden runoff from disturbed areas/areas where vegetation has been removed.
- inappropriate disposal of drilling wastes overflow from drilling sumps.
- activities on erosion prone areas and/or steeper slopes.

What is the activity's impact on the degradation of soil quality including contamination, salinisation or acidification?

Nil/Not applicable

What is the activity's impact on land with high agricultural capability?

Negligible

What is the activity's impact due to loss of soil from wind or water erosion?

Negligible

What is the activity's impact due to the loss of structural integrity of the soil?

Negligible

What is the activity's impact due to increased land instability with high risks from landslides or subsidence?

Negligible

What is the activity's impact due to any induced seismicity or ground movements associated with fracture stimulation or injection or extraction of groundwater?

Nil/Not applicable

What is the likely level of any impacts?

Negligible

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

- access tracks will be mostly established farm and previous exploration tracks.
- avoid excessive disturbances of these established tracks, unless for safety reasons, grass and soil must not be completely removed, if removed must be reinstalled as soon as practicable
- disturbances for drill pads will be minimized as much as possible and any disturbance be done in accordance with the exploration-code-of-practice rehabilitation.
- above the ground sumps to be used for drilling.
- drilling fluid, cuttings / waste to be contained in sumps - waste disposed of appropriately.
- drilling activity will be restricted to flat and gentle sloping areas, and within ML
- minimal potential for sediment and erosion
- where inevitable, must be managed in accordance with guidelin-eserosion-sediment control-building-sites.

Noise and vibration impacts

Provide a brief description of the likely noise and/or vibration impacts.

-noise from vehicles, drilling rigs, plant and machinery impacting on nearby sensitive receivers, such as residences, educational establishments, medical facilities, places of worship, animal boarding/training establishments, intensive livestock agriculture, etc.

What is the likely level of any impacts?

Negligible

Noise and vibration impacts

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

- minimize noise in accordance with POEO (Noise Control) Regulation 2017 & Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (POEO Act).
- drilling to be restricted to weekdays and daylight hours only.
- no drilling on or near places of Aboriginal/Local European heritage significance.
- undertake noise monitoring as part of the program and report findings to authorities/council where appropriate.

Coastal locations and processes

Provide a brief description of likely impacts on coastal environments, coastal processes and coastal hazards.

Site not a coastal environment

What is the likely level of any impacts?

Nil/Not applicable

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

Site not a coastal environment

Hazardous substances and chemicals

Provide a brief description of likely impacts associated with the use, generation, storage or transport of hazardous substances or chemicals.

- mobilization of pollutants (such as hydrocarbons) in soils or waters.
- inappropriate disposal of drilling wastes/overflow from drilling sumps.
- use of non-environmentally friendly materials for drilling

What is the likely level of the impact associated with the use, generation, storage or transport of hazardous substances or chemicals?

Negligible

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

- only water and bio-degradable chemicals to be used for drilling.
- all chemicals and water to be contained in above the ground sumps during drilling.
- any spillages must be cleaned ASAP.
- adhere to site MSDS for bringing chemicals onto site - harmful chemicals not allowed on site

Wastes and emissions

Provide a brief description of likely impacts to the environment from the generation or disposal of gaseous, liquid or solid wastes or emissions.

- mobilization of pollutants (such as hydrocarbons) in soils, air or waters.
- inappropriate disposal of drilling wastes / overflow from drilling sumps.
- excessive use of exhaust gas from machines

Provide a brief description of likely impacts on areas sensitive to this type of impact.

- groundwater recharge areas or areas with high water table
- areas with acid sulfate, sodic or highly permeable soils
- areas with salinity or potential salinity problems
- areas with degraded or contaminated land, and
- areas with degraded or contaminated water (ground or surface).

Wastes and emissions

What is the likely level of the impacts?

Negligible

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

- drilling wastes to be contained - water and chemicals in sumps.
- oils and fuels spillages to be contained in accordance with Graymont and NSW standards for handling hydrocarbon spillages.
- dispose of drilling waste appropriately.
- only drilling activities allowed on site

Vegetation

Provide a brief description of any vegetation clearing or modification and the likely impacts to the environment.

- the status of the species or vegetation community affected (e.g. vegetation of conservation significance, threatened species or ecological community)
- whether the vegetation provides habitat for native species, including threatened species (e.g. hollow bearing trees, critical food resources, roosting sites, etc)
- the nature and extent of vegetation clearing
- the condition and size of the vegetated area to be cleared or modified
- the likely response of the species or vegetation community to the disturbance proposed

What is the likely level of the impacts?

Negligible

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

- minimize vegetation clearing to as little as possible by using farm tracks and previous exploration tracks and sites.
- no known threatened species.
- minimal drill pad ground disturbance and land clearance.
- generally, grass and shrub vegetation, not many huge trees.
- no big trees will be felled, and no major vegetation clearing to be done

Threatened species

Provide a brief description of any likely impacts to threatened fauna and flora species.

- grass and shrubs may be cleared can impact creepy crawlies.
- grass and shrub also a source of food for some animals.
- if tree felling unavoidable can impact on bird nests.
- fire ignition from machinery can cause fire and force fauna from their habitats

What is the likely level of the impacts?

Low adverse

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

- drilling only on flat areas, avoid removing grass and topsoil completely.
- no unnecessary and excessive disturbances.
- water fighting equipment on hand to prevent any fires onsite.
- avoid cutting trees, move track or drill sites to less dense areas, where possible.
- refer to assessment of significance report recently carried out on known areas of TECs to be impacted under APO0001755.

Threatened species

- all drillholes will be drilled from established access tracks
- tracks must be walked and inspected prior to disturbance.
- demarcate clearly areas to be not disturbed to prevent trespassing these areas.

Area of outstanding biodiversity value (AOBV) / Critical habitat

Provide a brief description of any likely impacts to AOBV/critical habitat.

- removing grass and shrubs or felling trees might impact on possible AOBV/Critical habitat in the area.
- possibility earthworks will also impact on creeping fauna habitat.

What is the likely level of the impacts?

Negligible

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

- minimize excavation.
- minimize removing grass, shrubs and trees.
- restrict movement to established tracks.
- avoid completely removing topsoil and grass, topsoil moved must be reinstalled as soon as practicable

Endangered ecological community or critically endangered ecological community

Is the activity likely to have an adverse effect on an endangered ecological community or critically endangered ecological community? Select as relevant:

N/A

Provide a brief description of any impacts.

Excavating new tracks, clearing grass and shrubs could have an impact.

What is the likely level of the impacts?

Low adverse

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

- determine prior to activity if there are areas of Endangered Ecological Community or Critically Endangered Ecological Community.
- avoid carrying out activities in these areas.
- adhere to NSW regulations regarding EEC or CEEC management
- assessment of significance undertaken (refer to report)

Habitat of a threatened species or ecological community

Is the activity likely to have an adverse effect on the habitat of a threatened species or ecological community (including protected aquatic species)? Select as relevant:

N/A

Describe the impacts.

Excavating new tracks, cutting grass and shrubs could have an impact.

What is the likely level of the impacts?

Negligible

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

Assessment of significance undertaken. See attached report.

Key threatening process

Provide a brief description of whether the activity will constitute, or form part of, a key threatening process - or is likely to increase the impact of a key threatening process.

Activity will not significantly affect a threatened species of ecological community.

What is the likely level of any impacts?

Negligible

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

- minimize excavation.
- minimize removing grass, shrubs and trees.
- restrict movement to established tracks.

Barriers to movement of fauna

Provide a brief description regarding the potential of the activity to endanger, displace or disturb fauna or create a barrier to their movement.

- vegetation removal and activities can temporarily impact wildlife corridors and remnant vegetation.
- areas cleared for exploration activities, access tracks, etc not available for flora habitat.
- removal of vegetation, barriers created by access tracks, etc can interrupt movement of fauna species.
- vegetation removal can decrease available foraging/ sheltering/ breeding habitat for species and displace species from regular place of residence.

What is the likely level of any impacts?

What is the likely level of any impacts?

Low adverse

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

- plan activity such that no one particular area is impacted for a long time.
- limit vegetation removal and earthworks.

Ecological and biosecurity impacts

Is the activity likely to have any adverse ecological or biosecurity impacts? Select as relevant:

N/A

Provide a brief description of any impacts.

- sumps and chemicals left overnight on the drill sites can be a threat to moving animals.
- plant and machinery comprises a potential bushfire ignition source.
- vegetation removal can decrease available foraging/ sheltering/ breeding habitat for species and displace species from regular place of residence.
- areas used for exploration activities, access tracks, etc not available for flora / fauna habitat.
- mobilisation of pollutants (such as hydrocarbons) in soils, air or waters can potentially impact fauna / flora.

What is the likely level of any impacts?

Low adverse

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

- minimize excavation.
- minimize removing grass, shrubs and trees.

Ecological and biosecurity impacts

- restrict movement to established tracks.
- avoid completely removing topsoil and grass, topsoil moved must be reinstalled as soon as practicable

Community resources

Describe whether the activity is likely to degrade or significantly increase the demand for services and infrastructure resources.

Activity will not degrade or significantly increase the demand for services and infrastructure resources.

Describe whether the activity is likely to result in any diversion of resources to the detriment of other communities or natural systems.

Activity will not result in any diversion of resources to the detriment of other communities or natural systems.

What is the likely level of the impact?

Negligible

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

Activity will be restricted to within the ML and away from community resources.

Natural resources

Describe any likely impacts that would disrupt, deplete or destroy natural resources.

Activity will not disrupt, deplete or destroy natural resources.

Describe whether the activity is likely to disrupt existing activities which rely upon natural resources, including forestry, farming or extractive industries (or will reduce options for future activities).

Activity will not disrupt existing activities which rely upon natural resources, including forestry, farming or extractive industries (or will reduce options for future activities).

Describe whether the activity is likely to result in the degradation of any area reserved for conservation purposes.

Activity will not result in the degradation of any area reserved for conservation purposes.

What is the likely level of the impact?

Negligible

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

Restrict activity to within the limits of the ML.

Social impacts

Describe whether the activity is likely to result in a change to the demographic structure of the community, including changes to the workforce or industry structure of the area/region.

Activity will unlikely result in a change to the demographic structure of the community, including changes to the workforce or industry structure of the area/region.

Describe whether the activity is likely to have an environmental impact that may cause substantial change or disruption to the community, including loss of facilities, reduced links to other communities or loss of community identity.

Activity will not have an environmental impact that may cause substantial change or disruption to the community, including loss of facilities, reduced links to other communities or loss of community identity.

Describe whether the activity is likely to result in some individuals or communities being significantly disadvantaged, including a change in the level of demand for community resources (e.g. community facilities / services, and labour force).

Social impacts

Activity will not result in some individuals or communities being significantly disadvantaged, including a change in the level of demand for community resources (e.g. community facilities / services, and labour force).

Describe whether the activity likely to result in any impacts on the health, safety, privacy or welfare of individuals or communities because of factors such as pollution, odour, noise, vibration, lighting, visual impacts, etc.

Activity will unlikely result in any impacts on the health, safety, privacy or welfare of individuals or communities because of factors such as pollution, odour, noise, vibration, lighting, visual impacts, etc.

Describe if the activity is likely to have any 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.

Activity will not have any 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.

What is the likely level of any social impacts?

Negligible

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

Activity is carried out under Graymont rules and regulations to avoid impact on community.

Economic impacts

Provide a brief description of any likely economic impacts.

- activity will bring economic benefits to the local community.
- bring jobs to the community!

What is the likely level of any impacts?

Positive

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

Activity good for the local community!

Heritage impacts

Describe whether the activity is likely to cause impacts on localities, places, landscapes, buildings or archaeological relics of heritage significance.

Activity will not cause impacts on localities, places, landscapes, buildings or archaeological relics of heritage significance.

Local European Heritage (old kilns) will not be impacted under TRLEP 5.10 (3) (i) (Tamworth Regional Local Environmental Plan 2010)

What is the likely level of the impact?

Negligible

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

Restrict activity to within ML where any impact is non-existent.

Aesthetic impacts

Describe whether the activity is likely to cause impacts on the visual or scenic landscape, including any lighting, venting or flaring of gas.

- activity will be carried out away from public view.
- drill locations are not seen from the public roads.
- activity carried out in private property.

What is the likely level of any impacts?

Negligible

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

Activity restricted to within ML where any impact is non-existent.

Cultural impacts

Describe the likely impacts associated with any disturbance of the ground surface or any culturally modified trees.

Lack of awareness for cultural items within the area of activity can result in breach of cultural impact under the Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales.

Describe whether the activity will affect known Aboriginal objects or Aboriginal places.

- the known Aboriginal objects site is more than 100m away from the nearest activity (drill site location).
- activity site can be moved if deemed too close to the Aboriginal site.
- AHIP not required under Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales.

Describe whether the activity is located in areas where landscape features indicate the presence of Aboriginal objects.

Activity is not located in areas where landscape features indicate the presence of Aboriginal objects.

Describe whether the activity will affect areas where native title exists or land subject to native title claims, indigenous land use agreements or joint management agreements.

Activity will not affect areas where native title exists or land subject to native title claims, indigenous land use agreements or joint management agreements.

What is the likely level of any cultural impacts?

Negligible

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

Personnel working in the area must be made aware of the three Aboriginal sites that occur in the area. This is done through Graymont Attunga site Cultural Heritage Induction.

Land use impacts

Provide a brief description of any impacts on land use including any major changes to land use and/or curtailment of other beneficial land uses.

Activity will not have any significant impact on land use.

What is the likely level of any impacts?

Negligible

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

- activity to keep to within old farm tracks and old exploration site, and sites need to be rehabilitated as soon as practicable.
- area currently not used for agriculture purposes.

Transportation impacts

Provide a brief description of any significant impacts on transportation.

Activity will have no impact on transport.

What is the likely level of any impacts?

Negligible

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

Activity occurs within ML where there are no transport services.

Consistency with applicable local strategic planning statements, regional strategic plans or district strategic plans

Provide a brief description of any relevant local strategic planning statements, regional strategic plans or district strategic plans and whether the proposed activity is consistent with these.

Activity consistent with Regional Economic Development Strategies (REDS).

What is the likely level of any impacts?

Positive

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

Positive impact bringing jobs into the area.

Matters of national environmental significance

Is the activity likely to impact on any of the following matters of national environmental significance under the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*? Select as relevant:

N/A

Provide further details relating to any impacts on matters of national environmental significance.

Activity of very low to no impact to Matters of National Environmental Significance.

What is the likely level of any impacts?

Nil/Not applicable

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

Activity to be restricted to areas marked out.

Cumulative impacts

Is the activity likely to result in cumulative environmental effects with other existing or likely future activities?

No

Describe the impact.

Activity to occur in Mining Lease area, hence, no impact.

What is the likely level of any impacts?

Nil/Not applicable

Cumulative impacts

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

Activity to be restricted to within ML.

Environmental assessment conclusions

Having regard to the potential significance of the individual impacts of the proposed activity (as well as the aggregation of all the impacts of the activity) determine whether (select as relevant):

the activity is not likely to significantly affect the environment, including threatened species or ecological communities (or their habitats), or declared areas of outstanding biodiversity value/critical habitat.

Provide any further details as relevant.

- activity is of very low impact to the environment.

Attachment 4 – List of supporting documents

- APO0001755_data.zip
 - APO0001755_photos.zip
 - APO0001755_Submission Report_23 May 2024 10:42am.pdf
 - APO0001755_Submission Report_6 May 2024 2:52pm.pdf
 - APO0001755_Submission Report_6 May 2024 5:32pm.pdf
 - Critical habitat.zip
 - Ecological communities.zip
 - Level 1 AIS Sulcor Drilling.docx
 - Matters of environment significance.zip
 - Sulcor CH Awareness.zip
 - Sulcor Heritage search.zip
 - Sulcor Rehabilitation Management Plan 220812.pdf

FORM: APO_Mining_Apvl v3.2