

Audit and Assurance Section  
Compliance and Enforcement Branch  
Environment Assessment and Compliance Division  
Department of the Environment  
GPO Box 787  
Canberra ACT 2601

[EPBCMonitoring@awe.gov.au](mailto:EPBCMonitoring@awe.gov.au)

29 April 2022

Our reference: RTIO-HSE-0356243  
Your reference: 2016/7843

To whom it may concern

**2021 Annual Compliance Report Extension of Mesa A Warramboe Iron Ore Project, West Pannawonica, WA: 2016/7843**

Attached is the 2021 Annual Compliance Report for the Extension of Mesa A Warramboe Iron Ore Project, West Pannawonica, WA as required by *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* approval 2016/7843, Condition 16. This report covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2021.

Please contact Martin Salm, Environment Superintendent, at [Martin.Salm@riotinto.com](mailto:Martin.Salm@riotinto.com) if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely



Joshua Bennett  
General Manager – Robe Valley, Iron Ore

***Environment Protection and Biodiversity  
Conservation Act 1999***  
**Annual Compliance Report**

**EPBC Approval:** 2016/7843

**Project:** Extension of Mesa A Warrambo Iron Ore Project,  
West Pannawonica, WA

**Report period:** 1 January – 31 December 2021

**Contents**

1	Description of activities	1
2	Audit table	1
3	New environmental risks	9
4	Declaration of accuracy	10

**Tables**

Table 1: EPBC Approval Conditions Compliance Table – EPBC 2016/7843 – Extension of Mesa A Warrambo Iron Ore Project, West Pannawonica, WA.....	2
---	---

## 1 Description of activities

<b>EPBC approval number:</b>	2016/7843
<b>Project name:</b>	Extension of Mesa A Warrambo Iron Ore Project, West Pannawonica, WA
<b>Approval holder:</b>	Robe River Mining Co. Pty Ltd
<b>Approval holder's Australian Business Number:</b>	71 008 694 246
<b>Approved action:</b>	To extend the existing Mesa A/Warrambo Iron Ore Project through the development of additional mine pits, mineral waste dumps, water treatment facilities, processing facilities and associated infrastructure, approximately 43 kilometres west of Pannawonica, WA
<b>Location of the project:</b>	Approximately 43 km west of Pannawonica, WA
<b>Reporting period:</b>	1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021
<b>Report preparation date:</b>	29 April 2022
<b>Implementation phase(s) during reporting period:</b>	Operational

## 2 Audit table

Details of compliance with each condition under EPBC approval 2016/7843 are presented in Table 1.

**Table 1: EPBC Approval Conditions Compliance Table – EPBC 2016/7843 – Extension of Mesa A Warramboos Iron Ore Project, West Pannawonica, WA**

Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments
1	To minimise impacts to <b>EPBC Act listed threatened species</b> , the <b>approval holder</b> must not exceed the authorised extent of the proposal as defined in <u>Attachment A</u> .	Compliant	<p>Aerial photography was collected during the reporting period to reconcile ground disturbance and the prescribed clearing limits were not exceeded.</p> <p>Below water table mining commenced in 2020 at Warramboos.</p> <p>3.77GL of water was abstracted from the Warramboos water supply bore field for the purpose of mine water supply and dewatering the deposit.</p> <p>Dewatering at Mesa C did not commence during the reporting period.</p> <p>Surface water discharge did not commence during the reporting period.</p> <p>Deposition of in pit waste fines did not commence during the reporting period.</p>
2	To minimise impacts to <b>EPBC Act listed threatened species</b> , the <b>approval holder</b> must comply with Condition 5 (Condition Environmental Management Plans(s)), Condition 9 (Terrestrial Fauna Habitat – Conservation Significant Fauna Species; Ghost Bat ( <i>Macroderma gigas</i> ) and Northern Quoll ( <i>Dasyurus hallucatus</i> )) and Condition 11 (Inland Waters) of the <b>Western Australia approval</b> where relevant to <b>EPBC Act listed threatened species</b> .	Compliant	<p>Condition 5: The Mesa A Hub Condition Environment Management Plan (our ref: RTIO-HSE-0325456) was approved on 17 December 2020.</p> <p>Condition 9: No irreversible impact occurred to 'breakaways and gullies' habitat of the Mesa escarpments of the Mesa A, B or C MEZ's during the reporting period, other than existing and authorised disturbance.</p> <p>Condition 11: No impact occurred to either Robe River or Warramboos riparian vegetation during the reporting period.</p>

Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments
3	<p>The Condition Environmental Management Plan(s), specified in Condition 2 above, must include environmental outcomes and objectives related to the mitigation and management of the following threatening processes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) fire</li> <li>(b) vehicle and machinery movements</li> <li>(c) fauna encounters/sightings</li> <li>(d) weed management</li> <li>(e) feral animal control</li> <li>(f) noise and vibration</li> <li>(g) dust and light</li> </ul> <p>where relevant to <b>EPBC Act listed threatened species</b>. For 3.(f) noise and vibration, the Condition Environmental Management Plan(s) must include monitoring of the <b>EPBC Act</b> listed Ghost Bat (<i>Macroderma gigas</i>) and include a management target to ensure no significant long term decline in the Ghost Bat population attributable to the action for the purposes of Condition 4.</p>	Compliant	<p>Condition 5: The Mesa A Hub Condition Environment Management Plan (our ref: RTIO-HSE-0325456) was approved on 17 December 2020.</p> <p>The CEMP contains environmental outcomes and objectives as required by Condition 3.</p>
4	<p>To minimise impacts to <b>EPBC Act</b> listed Ghost Bat (<i>Macroderma gigas</i>), the <b>approval holder</b> must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) if the action results in permanent structural damage to a Ghost Bat roost (other than nocturnal roost MBS-05 at Mesa B), or a failure to meet the management target established in Condition 3, Conditions 17 and 18 will apply in respect of that result. If the structural damage cannot be remedied the proponent must provide an offset proposal to the Department for approval within two months.</li> <li>(b) implement a Mining Exclusion Zone and Blast Management Plan to minimise potential impacts to roosting Ghost Bats from noise and vibration associated with mining activities (with the exception of nocturnal roost MBS-05 at Mesa B).</li> </ul>	Compliant	<p>(a) No blasting activities occurred within 300m of potential maternal or diurnal Ghost Bat roosts. No structural damage to Ghost Bat roosts was recorded in the reporting period. A management target was established in the Mesa A Hub Environmental Management Plan, approved December 2020.</p> <p>(b) Mining exclusion Zones at Mesa A, B and C, and Robe Valley Blast Management Plan were implemented as appropriate throughout the reporting period.</p>
5	<p>To compensate for the residual significant impacts to <b>EPBC Act listed threatened species</b>, the <b>approval holder</b> must within six months of the date of this approval, submit an Offset Strategy for the <b>Minister's</b> written approval. The Offset Strategy must be consistent with the principles of the <b>EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy</b> and must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) specify the approach for providing offsets for the clearing of habitat for <b>EPBC Act listed threatened species</b>;</li> <li>(b) identify threats for the <b>EPBC Act listed threatened species</b>;</li> </ul>	Compliant	<p>The Mesa A Hub Offset Strategy (our ref: RTIO-HSE-0342573) was submitted on 23 March 2020 and complies with the requirements as outlined in Condition 5.</p> <p>A revised Mesa A Hub Impact Reconciliation Procedure IRP (our ref: RTIO-HSE-0354023) was submitted on 29 June 2021 to meet both Western Australian and Commonwealth requirements.</p>

Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments
	<p>(c) nominate detailed offset projects that will realise a conservation benefit for <b>EPBC Act listed threatened species</b> in accordance with relevant approved <b>conservation advice, recovery plans</b> and <b>threat abatement plans</b> and regional conservation plans;</p> <p>(d) if the proposed Offset Strategy includes offset(s) that are not land acquisition, specify a financial commitment to offset projects of at least \$3,000 AUD (exclusive of GST) per hectare <b>cleared in Area B</b> as illustrated in <u>Attachment D</u>, and in addition, at least \$821.00 AUD (exclusive of GST) per hectare <b>cleared in Area A</b> as illustrated in <u>Attachment D</u>. Payments need not be made under this approval for clearing which was previously referred under EPBC 2006/2698. Payments in respect of this commitment must be adjusted in accordance with the <b>CPI</b> released in each calendar year from the date of this approval decision until the date on which any particular payment is made;</p> <p>(e) specify the location and nature of each proposed offset, along with detailed objectives, budget, timeframes, performance and completion criteria for evaluating conservation outcomes, monitoring and reporting requirements;</p> <p>(f) include a description of the potential risks to the successful implementation of each proposed offset (including but not limited to environmental, administrative, financial, and governance risks);</p> <p>(g) include a description of the measures that will be implemented to mitigate risks associated with each proposed offset and a description of the contingency measures that will be implemented if triggers arise or completion criteria are not met;</p> <p>(h) include processes to <b>adaptively manage</b> proposed offsets; and</p> <p>(i) include a justification for how the proposed offsets meet the <b>EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy</b>.</p> <p>The <b>approval holder</b> must implement the approved Offset Strategy. The approval holder must implement the proposed offsets under the Offset Strategy within two months of the approval of the Offset Strategy, or another time as agreed in writing by the <b>Department</b>.</p>		<p>Discussions are ongoing with regulators regarding content.</p>

Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments
6	Subject to condition 8, within eight months of approval of the Offset Strategy by the <b>Minister</b> , the <b>approval holder</b> must submit a report to the <b>Department</b> detailing the extent of the <b>EPBC Act listed threatened species</b> habitat <b>cleared</b> , and the total amount of offset funds that have been allocated to the offset projects committed under the Offset Strategy and detail the implementation of offset projects. Subsequent reports will be provided biennially, with each report due by 30 April in the year following the two year reporting period. The second report will be provided by 30 April for a period not exceeding two years from the provision of the first report.	Not applicable	The Offset Strategy is not yet approved.
7	<p>The <b>approval holder</b> may apply to the <b>Department</b> for a variation to the approved Offset Strategy under Condition 5 by submitting an application in writing to the <b>Department</b>. The application must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the <b>approval holders</b> contact details, including referral number and ABN/ACN</li> <li>(b) a draft of the proposed variation</li> <li>(c) a written statement that sets out the reasons why the approval holder considers that the proposed variation is required.</li> </ul> <p>A variation to the approved Offset Strategy must be approved by the <b>Department</b> in writing. If the varied Offset Strategy is approved by the <b>Department</b>, the varied Offset Strategy must be implemented from the date of approval of the varied Offset Strategy.</p>	Not applicable	A revised Mesa A Hub Impact Reconciliation Procedure IRP (our ref: RTIO-HSE-RTIO-HSE-0354023) was submitted 29 June 2021. Discussions are ongoing with regulators regarding content.
8	<p>If a <b>Conservation Offset Fund</b> has been established by the Western Australian Government, and approved by the <b>Minister</b>, then Conditions 5, 6, and 7 may not apply (or may cease to be applied) with the agreement by the <b>Department</b> in writing. In such a case, the <b>approval holder</b> must provide funds biennially to the <b>Conservation Offset Fund</b>. The amount of funds must be based on the area of habitat of <b>EPBC Act listed threatened species</b> <b>cleared</b> in the biennial reporting period as set out below. Biennial reporting periods will be based on calendar years with the first biennial reporting period being inclusive of the calendar year in which <b>commencement of the action</b> begins and the following calendar year. Biennial reports will be submitted to the Department by 30 April following the end of each biennial reporting period. The funds to be paid must be equivalent to the 2018 value of the following amounts by the application of the <b>CPI</b> in each calendar year from the date of this approval decision until the date on which any particular payment is made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) at least \$3,000 AUD (exclusive of GST) per hectare <b>cleared</b> in <b>Area B</b> as illustrated in <u>Attachment D</u>, in addition;</li> </ul>	Not applicable	The Mesa A Hub Impact Reconciliation Procedure IRP (our ref: RTIO-HSE-0354023) was submitted 29 June 2021 to meet both Western Australian and Commonwealth requirements. Discussions are ongoing with regulators regarding content.



Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments
	<p>(b) at least \$821.00 AUD (exclusive of GST) per hectare <b>cleared</b> in <b>Area A</b> as illustrated in <u>Attachment D</u>.</p> <p>Payments need not be made under this approval for clearing which was referred under <b>EPBC 2006/2698</b>. Each payment required by this condition must comprise the total required in respect of the most recently ended biennial reporting period.</p>		
9	<p>Prior to making the payment required by Condition 8, the <b>approval holder</b> must submit written evidence to the <b>Department</b> of the total area, including <b>shapefiles</b>, of <b>EPBC Act listed threatened species</b> habitat <b>cleared</b> during the most recently ended biennial reporting period and the calculation (including working out) of the amount of funding that is required to be contributed to the <b>Conservation Offset Fund</b> for that biennial reporting period. Within 48 hours of the payment into the Conservation Offset Fund, evidence of these payments must be provided to the <b>Department</b> in writing.</p>	Not applicable	Not applicable during the reporting period. Refer to Condition 8.
10	<p>The <b>approval holder</b> must notify the <b>Department</b> in writing of the date of <b>commencement of the action</b> within 10 <b>business days</b> after the date of <b>commencement of the action</b>.</p>	Compliant	Notification of commencement of action submitted on 7 November 2019 (our ref: RTIO-HSE-0337411) and acknowledged on 11 November 2019 (our ref: RTIO-HSE-0337492).
11	<p>If the <b>commencement of the action</b> does not occur within 5 years from the date of this approval, then the <b>approval holder</b> must not <b>commence the action</b> without the prior written agreement of the <b>Minister</b>.</p>	Compliant	Action commenced on 6 November 2019.
12	<p>The <b>approval holder</b> must maintain accurate and complete <b>compliance records</b>.</p>	Compliant	Records associated with or relevant to the conditions of this approval are maintained within the Rio Tinto Iron Ore Document Management System.
13	<p>If the <b>Department</b> makes a request in writing, the <b>approval holder</b> must provide electronic copies of <b>compliance records</b> to the <b>Department</b> within the timeframe specified in the request.</p>	Not applicable	No requests received during the reporting period.
14	<p>The <b>approval holder</b> must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. submit <b>plans</b> electronically to the <b>Department</b> for approval by the <b>Minister</b>;</li> <li>b. publish each <b>plan</b> on the <b>website</b> within 20 <b>business days</b> of the date the <b>plan</b> is approved by the <b>Minister</b> or of the date a revised action management plan is submitted to the <b>Minister</b>, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the <b>Minister</b>;</li> <li>c. exclude or redact <b>sensitive ecological data</b> from <b>plans</b> published on the <b>website</b> or provided to a member of the public; and</li> <li>d. keep <b>plans</b> published on the <b>website</b> until the end date of this approval.</li> </ul>	Compliant	Mesa A Hub Environmental Management Plan submitted to DWER on 19 February 2020, approved by the Minister on 17 December 2020 and published on 15 January 2021.

Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments
15	The <b>approval holder</b> must ensure that any <b>monitoring data</b> (including <b>sensitive ecological data</b> ), surveys, maps, and other spatial and metadata required under a plan is prepared in accordance with the Department's <i>Guidelines for biological survey and mapped data</i> (2018) and submitted electronically to the Department in accordance with the requirements of the plan.	Compliant	There was no requirement during the reporting period to submit data to the Department in accordance with Mesa A Hub Environmental Management Plan (our ref: RTIO-HSE-0325456).
16	Following commencement of the action, the approval holder must prepare a compliance report for each previous 12 month calendar year period. The <b>approval holder</b> must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. publish each <b>compliance report</b> on the <b>website</b> on 30 April for the previous 12 month calendar year period;</li> <li>b. notify the <b>Department</b> by email that a <b>compliance report</b> has been published on the <b>website</b> within five <b>business days</b> of the date of publication;</li> <li>c. keep all <b>compliance reports</b> publicly available on the <b>website</b> until this approval expires;</li> <li>d. exclude or redact <b>sensitive ecological data</b> from <b>compliance reports</b> published on the <b>website</b>; and</li> <li>e. where any <b>sensitive ecological data</b> has been excluded from the version published, submit the full <b>compliance report</b> to the <b>Department</b> within 5 <b>business days</b> of publication.</li> </ul>	Compliant	2020 Annual Compliance Report submitted to the Department and published on Rio Tinto's website on 30 April 2021 (our ref: RTIO-HSE-0346351).
17	The <b>approval holder</b> must notify the <b>Department</b> in writing of any: <b>incident</b> ; non-compliance with the conditions; or non-compliance with the commitments made in <b>plans</b> . The notification must be given as soon as practicable, and no later than two <b>business days</b> after becoming aware of the <b>incident</b> or non-compliance. The notification must specify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the condition which is or may be in breach; and</li> <li>b. a short description of the <b>incident</b> and/or non-compliance.</li> </ul>	Not Applicable	There were no incidents or non-compliances with the conditions during the reporting period.
18	The <b>approval holder</b> must provide to the <b>Department</b> the details of any <b>incident</b> or non-compliance with the conditions or commitments made in <b>plans</b> as soon as practicable and no later than 10 <b>business days</b> after becoming aware of the <b>incident</b> or non-compliance, specifying: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. any corrective action or investigation which the <b>approval holder</b> has already taken or intends to take in the immediate future;</li> <li>b. the potential impacts of the <b>incident</b> or non-compliance; and</li> <li>c. the method and timing of any remedial action that will be undertaken by the <b>approval holder</b>.</li> </ul>	Not Applicable	There were no incidents or non-compliances with the conditions during the reporting period.

Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments
19	The <b>approval holder</b> must ensure that <b>independent audits</b> of compliance with the conditions are conducted as requested in writing by the <b>Minister</b> .	Not Applicable	No audits requested.
20	For each <b>independent audit</b> , the <b>approval holder</b> must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. provide the name and qualifications of the independent auditor and the draft audit criteria to the <b>Department</b>;</li> <li>b. only commence the <b>independent audit</b> once the audit criteria have been approved in writing by the <b>Department</b>; and</li> <li>c. submit an audit report to the <b>Department</b> within the timeframe specified in the approved audit criteria.</li> </ul>	Not Applicable	No audits requested.
21	The <b>approval holder</b> must publish the audit report on the <b>website</b> within 10 <b>business days</b> of receiving the <b>Department's</b> approval of the audit report and keep the audit report published on the <b>website</b> until the end date of this approval.	Not Applicable	No audits requested.
22	Within 30 days after the <b>completion of the action</b> , the <b>approval holder</b> must notify the <b>Department</b> in writing and provide <b>completion data</b> .	Not Applicable	Action not completed.

### **3 New environmental risks**

There are no new environmental risks that have become apparent during the reporting period.

## 4 Declaration of accuracy

In making this declaration, I am aware that sections 490 and 491 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act) make it an offence in certain circumstances to knowingly provide false or misleading information or documents. The offence is punishable on conviction by imprisonment or a fine, or both. I declare that all the information and documentation supporting this compliance report is true and correct in every particular. I am authorised to bind the approval holder to this declaration and that I have no knowledge of that authorisation being revoked at the time of making this declaration.

Signed:



Full name: Joshua Bennett

Position General Manager, Robe Valley

Organisation: Rio Tinto

Date: 27.04.2022