



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

EPBC Approval: 2016/7843

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

Report period: 1 January – 31 December 2022

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1 Description of activities

EPBC approval number:	2016/7843
Project name:	Extension of Mesa A Warrambo Iron Ore Project, West Pannawonica, WA
Approval holder:	Robe River Mining Co. Pty Ltd
Approval holder's Australian Business Number:	71 008 694 246
Approved action:	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
Location of the project:	Approximately 43 km west of Pannawonica, WA
Reporting period:	1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022
Report preparation date:	28 April 2023
Implementation phase(s) during reporting period:	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 Warramboo Iron Ore Project, West Pannawonica, WA

Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments
1	To minimise impacts to EPBC Act listed threatened species , the approval holder must not exceed the authorised extent of the proposal as defined in <u>Attachment A</u> .	Compliant	Aerial photography was collected during the reporting period to reconcile ground disturbance and the prescribed clearing limits were not exceeded. Cumulative clearing within the Development Envelope (MS1112) totalled: • 807 ha within the Development Envelope • 1.00 ha within the Mesa A Mining Exclusion Zone (MEZ) excluding existing and authorised clearing • 3.39 within the Mesa B MEZ • 3.35 within the Mesa C MEZ Below water table mining commenced in 2020 at Warramboo and 8.70 GL was abstracted in 2022, in compliance with the 15 GL/annum limit. Dewatering at Mesa C did not commence during the reporting period. Surface discharge commenced in March 2022. Discharge extent was monitored using cameras and did not exceed further than 8km downstream of the discharge point under natural no-flow conditions. In-pit disposal of waste fines at Warramboo commenced in May 2022.

Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments
2	To minimise impacts to EPBC Act listed threatened species , the approval holder 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 Western Australia approval where relevant to EPBC Act listed threatened species .	Compliant	Condition 5: The Mesa A Hub Condition Environment Management Plan (our ref: RTIO-HSE-0325456) was approved on 17 December 2020. 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. Condition 11: No impact occurred to either Robe River or Warramboe riparian vegetation during the reporting period.
3	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: (a) fire (b) vehicle and machinery movements (c) fauna encounters/sightings (d) weed management (e) feral animal control (f) noise and vibration (g) dust and light where relevant to EPBC Act listed threatened species . For 3.(f) noise and vibration, the Condition Environmental Management Plan(s) must include monitoring of the EPBC Act 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.	Compliant	Condition 5: The Mesa A Hub Condition Environment Management Plan (our ref: RTIO-HSE-0325456) was approved on 17 December 2020. The CEMP contains environmental outcomes and objectives as required by Condition 3.
4	To minimise impacts to EPBC Act listed Ghost Bat (<i>Macroderma gigas</i>), the approval holder must: (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.	Compliant	(a) Blasting activities occurred within 300m of potential or diurnal Ghost Bat roosts A5 and MBC-05. 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. (b) Mining exclusion Zones at Mesa A, B and C, and Robe Valley Blast Management Plan were

Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments
	(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).		implemented as appropriate throughout the reporting period.
5	To compensate for the residual significant impacts to EPBC Act listed threatened species, the approval holder must within six months of the date of this approval, submit an Offset Strategy for the Minister's written approval. The Offset Strategy must be consistent with the principles of the EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy and must: (a) specify the approach for providing offsets for the clearing of habitat for EPBC Act listed threatened species; (b) identify threats for the EPBC Act listed threatened species; (c) nominate detailed offset projects that will realise a conservation benefit for EPBC Act listed threatened species in accordance with relevant approved conservation advice, recovery plans and threat abatement plans and regional conservation plans; (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 cleared in Area B as illustrated in <u>Attachment D</u>, and in addition, at least \$821.00 AUD (exclusive of GST) per hectare cleared in Area A 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 CPI released in each calendar year from the date of this approval decision until the date on which any particular payment is made; (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; (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); (g) include a description of the measures that will be implemented to mitigate risks associated with each proposed offset and a description	Compliant	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. A revised Impact Reconciliation Procedure (IRP) (our ref: RTIO-HSE-0354023) was submitted to DWER on 29 June 2021 to meet both Western Australian and Commonwealth offsets requirements. The IRP was re-submitted on 30 November 2021 and approved by DWER on 18 August 2022 (our ref: RTIO-0210499; DWER ref: DWERT6537). The first Impact Reconciliation Report (our ref: RTIO-0210818) was submitted on 16 September 2022. DWER has not yet issued an invoice for the offset payment.

Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments
	of the contingency measures that will be implemented if triggers arise or completion criteria are not met; (h) include processes to adaptively manage proposed offsets; and (i) include a justification for how the proposed offsets meet the EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy. The approval holder 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 Department.		
6	Subject to condition 8, within eight months of approval of the Offset Strategy by the Minister, the approval holder must submit a report to the Department detailing the extent of the EPBC Act listed threatened species habitat cleared, 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.	Compliant	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. A revised Impact Reconciliation Procedure (IRP) (our ref: RTIO-HSE-0354023) was submitted to DWER on 29 June 2021 to meet both Western Australian and Commonwealth offsets requirements. The IRP was re-submitted on 30 November 2021 and approved by DWER on 18 August 2022 (our ref: RTIO-0210499; DWER ref: DWERT6537). The first Impact Reconciliation Report (our ref: RTIO-0210818) was submitted on 16 September 2022. DWER has not yet issued an invoice for the offset payment.
7	The approval holder may apply to the Department for a variation to the approved Offset Strategy under Condition 5 by submitting an application in writing to the Department. The application must include: (a) the approval holders contact details, including referral number and ABN/ACN (b) a draft of the proposed variation (c) a written statement that sets out the reasons why the approval holder considers that the proposed variation is required. A variation to the approved Offset Strategy must be approved by the Department in writing. If the varied Offset Strategy is approved by the	Not applicable	No application was made during the reporting period; however the submitted IRP consolidates the requirements of both Western Australian and Commonwealth environmental offsets to align with the Memorandum of Understanding in relation to the Pilbara Environmental Offsets Fund between the Commonwealth of Australia and the State of Western Australia, which was signed on 19 November 2020.

Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments
	Department , the varied Offset Strategy must be implemented from the date of approval of the varied Offset Strategy.		
8	If a Conservation Offset Fund has been established by the Western Australian Government, and approved by the Minister, then Conditions 5, 6, and 7 may not apply (or may cease to be applied) with the agreement by the Department in writing. In such a case, the approval holder must provide funds biennially to the Conservation Offset Fund. The amount of funds must be based on the area of habitat of EPBC Act listed threatened species cleared 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 commencement of the action 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 CPI in each calendar year from the date of this approval decision until the date on which any particular payment is made: (a) at least \$3,000 AUD (exclusive of GST) per hectare cleared in Area B as illustrated in <u>Attachment D</u>, in addition; (b) at least \$821.00 AUD (exclusive of GST) per hectare cleared in Area A as illustrated in <u>Attachment D</u>. Payments need not be made under this approval for clearing which was referred under EPBC 2006/2698. Each payment required by this condition must comprise the total required in respect of the most recently ended biennial reporting period.	Not applicable	The approval holder requested approval from DAWE on 7 June 2021 to use the Pilbara Environmental Offset Fund established by the Western Australian Government (our ref: RTIO-HSE-0353523) in relation to meeting EPBC offsets requirements. The Federal Environment Minister has not yet approved this request.
9	Prior to making the payment required by Condition 8, the approval holder must submit written evidence to the Department of the total area, including shapefiles, of EPBC Act listed threatened species habitat cleared 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 Conservation Offset Fund 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 Department in writing.	Not applicable	The approval holder requested approval from DAWE on 7 June 2021 to use the Pilbara Environmental Offset Fund established by the Western Australian Government (our ref: RTIO-HSE-0353523) in relation to meeting EPBC offsets requirements. The Federal Environment Minister has not yet approved this request. The first Impact Reconciliation Report IRR (our ref: RTIO-0210818) was submitted to DWER and DCCEE on 16 September 2022. DWER has not yet issued an invoice for payment.

Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments
10	The approval holder must notify the Department in writing of the date of commencement of the action within 10 business days after the date of commencement of the action .	Not applicable	Notification of commencement of action was submitted on 7 November 2019 (our ref: RTIO-HSE-0337411) and acknowledged on 11 November 2019 (our ref: RTIO-HSE-0337492).
11	If the commencement of the action does not occur within 5 years from the date of this approval, then the approval holder must not commence the action without the prior written agreement of the Minister .	Not applicable	Action commenced on 6 November 2019.
12	The approval holder must maintain accurate and complete compliance records .	Compliant	Records associated with or relevant to the conditions of this approval are maintained within the Rio Tinto Iron Ore Document Management System.
13	If the Department makes a request in writing, the approval holder must provide electronic copies of compliance records to the Department within the timeframe specified in the request.	Not applicable	No requests received during the reporting period.
14	The approval holder must: a. submit plans electronically to the Department for approval by the Minister; b. publish each plan on the website within 20 business days of the date the plan is approved by the Minister or of the date a revised action management plan is submitted to the Minister, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister; c. exclude or redact sensitive ecological data from plans published on the website or provided to a member of the public; and d. keep plans published on the website until the end date of this approval.	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.
15	The approval holder must ensure that any monitoring data (including sensitive ecological data), 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 approval holder must: a. publish each compliance report on the website on 30 April for the previous 12 month calendar year period;	Compliant	2021 Annual Compliance Report submitted to the Department and published on Rio Tinto's website on 29 April 2022 (our ref: RTIO-HSE-0356243).

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	b. notify the Department by email that a compliance report has been published on the website within five business days of the date of publication; c. keep all compliance reports publicly available on the website until this approval expires; d. exclude or redact sensitive ecological data from compliance reports published on the website; and e. where any sensitive ecological data has been excluded from the version published, submit the full compliance report to the Department within 5 business days of publication.		

Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments
17	The approval holder must notify the Department in writing of any: incident; non-compliance with the conditions; or non-compliance with the commitments made in plans. The notification must be given as soon as practicable, and no later than two business days after becoming aware of the incident or non-compliance. The notification must specify: - the condition which is or may be in breach; and - a short description of the incident and/or non-compliance.	Compliant	There were no non-compliances with the conditions during the reporting period. The Department was notified of the following incidents involving the death of a northern quoll during the reporting period: - Vehicle strike on designated light vehicle road (our ref: RTIO-HSE-0360184), reported 17 June 2022 - Vehicle strike on autonomous haul road (our ref: RTIO-0208089) reported 16 August 2022 - Vehicle strike on haul road (our ref: RTIO-0208359) reported 18 August 2022 - Vehicle strike on haul road (our ref: RTIO-0209120) reported 26 August 2022 - Vehicle strike on autonomous haul road (our ref: RTIO-0209565) reported 30 August 2022 - Vehicle strike on designated light vehicle road (our ref: RTIO-0210340) reported 12 September 2022 - Vehicle strike on haul road (our ref: RTIO-0954198) reported 25 October 2022 These incidents were reported within 2 business days of becoming aware of the incident. These incidents did not involve a non-compliance with a condition of EPBC 2016/7843 or commitment made in a plan.

Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments
18	The approval holder must provide to the Department the details of any incident or non-compliance with the conditions or commitments made in plans as soon as practicable and no later than 10 business days after becoming aware of the incident or non-compliance, specifying: - any corrective action or investigation which the approval holder has already taken or intends to take in the immediate future; - the potential impacts of the incident or non-compliance; and - the method and timing of any remedial action that will be undertaken by the approval holder.	Compliant	Details were provided in the incident notifications where appropriate. A consolidated incident report (our ref: RTIO-0210135) for the four incidents which occurred between 14 August and 28 August was submitted on 7 September 2022. This report included three corrective actions which are listed below: - Install northern quoll awareness signage in appropriate areas to increase personnel understanding of fauna vehicle strike risk. - Develop a process to ensure scheduled sitewide communications on fauna vehicle strike risk are delivered prior to northern quoll breeding season each year. - Investigate implementing additional northern quoll studies to improve understanding of movements e.g. radio collaring, microchip, etc. All three actions have been completed. Investigation of the incidents on the 12 September 2022 and 25 October 2022 determined the same incident findings as the report submitted on 7 September 2022.
19	The approval holder must ensure that independent audits of compliance with the conditions are conducted as requested in writing by the Minister .	Not Applicable	No audits requested.
20	For each independent audit, the approval holder must: - provide the name and qualifications of the independent auditor and the draft audit criteria to the Department; - only commence the independent audit once the audit criteria have been approved in writing by the Department; and - submit an audit report to the Department within the timeframe specified in the approved audit criteria.	Not Applicable	No audits requested.

Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments
21	The approval holder must publish the audit report on the website within 10 business days of receiving the Department's approval of the audit report and keep the audit report published on the website until the end date of this approval.	Not Applicable	No audits requested.
22	Within 30 days after the completion of the action , the approval holder must notify the Department in writing and provide completion data .	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:

Position

Organisation:

Date: