RioTinto

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 Annual Compliance Report

EPBC Approval: 2018/8341

Project: Greater Paraburdoo Iron Ore Hub, Pilbara, WA

Report period: 27 October – 31 December 2022

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1 Description of activities

EPBC approval number:	2018/8341		
Project name:	Greater Paraburdoo Iron Ore Hub, Pilbara, WA		
Approval holder:	Hamersley Iron Pty Limited		
Approval holder's Australian Business Number:	49 004 558 276		
Approved action:	To develop a new mine and associated infrastructure at Western Range and extend existing mining operations and associated infrastructure at Paraburdoo and Eastern Range, Pilbara region, Western Australia.		
Location of the project:	Pilbara Region, Western Australia		
Reporting period:	27 October 2022 to 31 December 2022		
Report preparation date:	28 April 2023		
Implementation phase(s) during reporting period:	Pre-construction		

2 Audit table

Details of compliance with each condition under EPBC approval 2018/8341 are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: EPBC Approval Conditions Compliance Table - EPBC 2018/8341 - Greater Paraburdoo Iron Ore Hub, Pilbara, WA

Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments
1	To avoid and mitigate impacts to protected matters , the approval holder must not clear more than 4,300 ha, and in addition not:	Compliant	The proposal is being implemented in accordance with Condition 1.
	 a. clear outside the development envelope b. clear or impact within the Mining Exclusion Zones from proposal activities except for activities associated with the implementation of the Environmental Management Plan. c. clear within the development envelope more than the following critical habitat types: i. 7 hectares of Riverine habitat ii. 36 hectares of Breakaway habitat iii. 257 hectares of Gorge/Gully habitat d. clear more than a total combined 4,000 ha within the development envelope of any of the following supporting habitat types: i. Rocky Hill habitat ii. Drainage Line habitat iii. Alluvial Plain habitat 		No clearing was undertaken within the development envelope during the reporting period.
2	 For the life of the approval, the approval holder must: a. Undertake the measures specified in condition 4-2(2) of the Western Australian Approval to minimise impacts to protected matters from dust emissions and fire. b. Minimise noise, vibration, and artificial lighting impacts to protected matters by only undertaking construction, clearing and/or blasting during daylight hours. c. Ensure that if any protected matter(s) are spotted during clearing, the clearing activity that may impact the protected matter(s) must cease until the protected matter(s) moves out of the way of clearing by its own accord. If the protected matter(s) does not move on its own accord, then a fauna handler shall relocate the protected matter(s) away from clearing before recommencing clearing. d. Ensure that no vehicle travels faster than 60 kilometres per hour on unsealed roads, and no more than 60 kilometres per hour at night within 1 kilometre of Mining Exclusion Zones and Mining Restriction 	Compliant	Measures required in Condition 4-2(2) of the Western Australian Approval was compliant for the reporting period. The Environmental Management Plan (EMP) (our ref: RTIO-HSE-0336947) contains the required environmental outcomes and objectives. The EMP was conditionally endorsed by the Minister on 11 November 2022 (our ref: RTIO-0981208) and approved by OPEA on 15 November 2022 (our ref: RTIO-0981203).

Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments
	 Zones as outlined in the speed restriction zones at Attachment H. except for an emergency incident. e. Not install any barbed wire fences within the development envelope, Mining Exclusion Zones and Mining Restriction Zones excluding the lawful requirement for the intersecting pastoral leases and where barbed wire is required by other legislation. Within 6 months of the approval date, commence the removal of all barbed wire fences from the Mining Exclusion Zones and Mining Restriction Zones. Removal of all barbed wire fences from the Mining Exclusion Zones and Mining Restriction Zones must be completed within 12-months from the date of this approval, except where there are requirements under WA Legislation. All required barbed wire under WA Legislation, within the development envelope must have the top strand replaced with single strand wire and have reflectors installed to deter bat interaction within 12-months from the date of this approval. f. Use directional and/or shielded lighting in all areas where mining is undertaken to avoid direct and permanent light spill within the Mining Exclusion Zones and Mining Restriction Zones. 		
3	To avoid and mitigate impacts to Ghost Bat and Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat , the approval holder must: a. Ensure there is no clearing or impacts on the Ratty Springs Cave as a result of the action. b. Limit sound pressure levels attributed to the action to below 70 dB(Z) at the Ratty Springs Cave entrance. c. Limit clearing only to the removed Ghost Bat Caves . d. Maintain the viability of the retained Ghost Bat Caves and the viability of the Ratty Springs Cave . e. Use the findings and outcomes of findings from condition 7-6 of the Western Australian Approval to inform the <i>Environmental Performance Report</i> required under condition 12 of the Western Australian Approval and condition 6 of this approval.	Not Applicable	No disturbance or action was undertaken in the vicinity of the Ghost Bat and Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat caves during the reporting period.
4	To minimise impacts to protected matter(s) critical habitats and supporting habitats within the development envelope from the dewatering program, the approval holder must not impact protected matter habitats within the Mining Exclusion Zones and Mining Restriction Zones due to changes to surface and groundwater.	Not Applicable	No disturbance or action was undertaken in the vicinity of protected matter habitats within Mining Exclusion Zones and Mining Restriction Zones. No dewatering action was undertaken within the reporting period.

Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments
5	To mitigate impacts to protected matters, the approval holder must develop an Environmental Management Plan in accordance with condition 7 of the Western Australian Approval and Conditions 2, 3 and 4 of this approval. The Environmental Management Plan must be endorsed by the Minister. The approval holder must seek Minister endorsement of any subsequent revisions of the Environmental Management Plan where changes have been made relevant to protected matters prior to any approval by the DWER. The approval holder must implement the endorsed Environmental Management Plan and any subsequently DWER approved Environmental Management Plan must also include: a. Specification of a monitoring program that is suitable to enable impacts from changes to hydrology on protected matter(s) and their habitats to be mitigated. b. Commitments that, if the monitoring and predictive modelling shows that impacts to protected matters and their habitats will, or are likely to, be greater than predicted modelling presented in the Greater Paraburdoo Iron Ore Hub Proposal Environmental Review Document, or that any outcome relevant to protected matter(s) required under condition 7 of the Western Australian Approval may not be achieved, the approval holder will implement condition S(c) of this approval. c. Commitments that, in the event of any exceedance of a threshold criterion related to protected matter(s) specified in the Environmental Management Plan, the approval holder must: i. Notify the Department of the exceedance in the same timeframes as required by condition 7-9 (for exceedance of any threshold criterion) and/or condition 7-9 (for exceedance of any threshold criterion related to protected matters, caused by implementation of the action, submit to the Department for the Minister's approval, a Remediation Plan. If approved, the Remediation Plan must be implemented.	Compliant	The Environmental Management Plan (EMP) (our ref: RTIO-HSE-0336947) contains the required environmental outcomes and objectives. The EMP was conditionally endorsed by the Minister on 11 November 2022 (our ref: RTIO-0981208) and approved by DWER 15 November 2022 (our ref: RTIO-0981203). An updated version of the EMP was submitted to the Minister on 21 December 2022 (our ref: RTIO-0981192) and endorsed on 18 January 2023 (our ref: RTIO-0981202).
	iii. Within 6 months of detecting any exceedance of a threshold criterion related to protected matters, have an independent		

Condition Number	Condition		Compliance status	Evidence/Comments
		suitably qualified person review the Environmental Management Plan to advise how to prevent the exceedance reoccurring as detailed in the report required by conditions 7-8(5) and 7-9(3) of the Western Australian Approval.		
	iv.	Within 10 months of detecting any exceedance of a threshold criterion related to protected matters , submit to the Department the advice of the independent suitably qualified person and a version of the Environmental Management Plan revised to address the advice of the independent suitably qualified person .		
	V.	If a revised Environmental Management Plan has not been endorsed by the Minister within 13 months of detecting any exceedance of a threshold criterion, and the Minister notifies the approval holder that the Environmental Management Plan is not suitable for endorsement, the Minister may, at least two months after so notifying the approval holder, endorse a version of the Environmental Management Plan revised by the Department. The approval holder must implement the endorsed Environmental Management Plan until it is subsequently approved by the DWER.		
	vi.	If the Minister informs the approval holder in writing that it is not possible to adequately remediate the impact(s) on protected matter(s) of one or more exceedance (as referred to in condition 5(c)(ii) of this approval), then the approval holder must, within 3 months of receiving such advice from the Minister, submit to the Department, an Exceedance Offset Management Plan (EOMP) addressing the exceedance(s) as specified by the Minister in writing for the Minister's approval. The EOMP must meet the requirements specified in Attachment G.		
	vii.	If the EOMP has not been approved by the Minister within 6 months of the Minister informing the approval holder in writing as described in condition 5(c)(vi) of this approval, and the Minister notifies the approval holder that the EOMP is not suitable for approval, the Minister may, at least two months after so notifying the approval holder, approve a version of the EOMP revised by the Department . The approval holder must implement the approved EOMP for the remainder of the life of this approval or a revised version of the EOMP is endorsed.		

Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments
6	The approval holder must provide the <i>Environmental Performance Report</i> as required by condition 12 of the Western Australian Approval to the Department every five (5) years commencing from the date of this approval. Should the <i>Environmental Performance Report</i> required by conditions 12-3 to 12-5 of the Western Australian Approval identify any significant change to the state of any protected matter(s) attributed to the action, the approval holder must implement conditions 5(c) of this approval. The approval holder must make each of the <i>Environmental Performance Reports</i> publicly available for the life of the approval .		No Environmental Performance Report was required within the reporting period. The first Environmental Performance Report will be submitted on 30 April 2028.
7	To compensate for the residual significant impacts of clearing habitat for the Northern Quoll, Ghost Bat, Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat and Pilbara Olive Python, the approval holder must make financial contributions to the Pilbara Environmental Offsets Fund.	Not Applicable	Funds were not required to be contributed to the Pilbara Environmental Offsets Fund during the 2022 reporting period.
8	In contributing to the Pilbara Environmental Offsets Fund the approval holder must: a. Contribute funds toward an offset activity or activities that: i. reduces the rate of decline of the Northern Quoll, Ghost Bat, Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat and Pilbara Olive Python. ii. ensures a viable population of Northern Quoll, Ghost Bat, Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat and Pilbara Olive Python remain in the Pilbara region. iii. has specified outcomes and performance indicators. iv. timeframes and milestones for their achievement. v. includes sufficient monitoring to detect achievement of performance indicators, milestones, and the outcomes; and vi. requires regular reporting to the approval holder of the outcomes of the offset activity or activities their funding has contributed towards. b. Prior to approval of the Greater Paraburdoo Iron Ore Hub Proposal Impact Reconciliation Procedure by DWER in accordance with condition 11-5 of the Western Australian Approval, the approval holder must seek written endorsement of the Greater Paraburdoo Iron Ore Hub Proposal Impact Reconciliation Procedure from the Minister. The approval holder must not commence the action until they have been notified by the DWER that the Greater Paraburdoo Iron	Compliant	Endorsement of the Greater Paraburdoo Iron Ore Hub Proposal Impact Reconciliation Procedure (our ref: RTIO-HSE-0345123) was provided by the Minister on 10 November 2022 (our ref: RTIO-0980742). The action was not commenced until after approval of the Greater Paraburdoo Iron Ore Hub Proposal Impact Reconciliation Procedure from DWER on 15 November 2022 (our ref: RTIO-0981240). Prior to the commencement to the action, a payment of 10 per cent of the total contribution was paid into the Pilbara Environmental Offsets Fund on 13 December 2022 (our ref: RTIO-0983725). Evidence of payment into the Pilbara Environmental Offsets Fund was provided to the Department on 16 December 2022 (our ref: RTIO-0983725). No biennial submission of offset payments was required for the reporting period.

Condition Co Number	ondition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments
	Ore Hub Proposal Impact Reconciliation Procedure has been approved. C. The Greater Paraburdoo Iron Ore Hub Proposal Impact Reconciliation Procedure must include the information required by 11-5 of the Western Australian Approval and the financial contributions that will be paid into the Pilbara Environmental Offsets Fund per hectare of protected matter habitat, as per the value described in Condition 8(e) of this approval for each protected matter and the schedule of contributions to be made over the life of the approval. d. Following receipt of the DWER notification of approval of the Greater Paraburdoo Iron Ore Hub Proposal Impact Reconciliation Procedure and prior to commencement of the action, the approval holder must make a payment of 10 per cent of the total contribution that may be paid into the Pilbara Environmental Offsets Fund, which will contribute towards achieving the requirements of condition 8(a) of this approval. e. Make biennial payments to the Pilbara Environmental Offsets Fund based on evidence of the actual clearing footprint in accordance with the timing specified in condition 11-2 of the Western Australian Approval. Biennial payments must be equivalent to or greater than the value of the following amounts, by adjustment in accordance with the CPI from the date of this approval decision until the end of the year during which clearing was undertaken, of: i. A minimum of \$1,653 AUD (excluding GST) per hectare of critical habitat. ii. A minimum of \$1,653 AUD (excluding GST) per hectare of supporting habitat. f. Submit evidence of each payment made to the Department within 10 business days of the date of making the payment. g. Include details of progress towards, or achievement of, the outcomes specified under Condition 8(a) of this approval for the Northern Quoll, Ghost Bat, Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat and Pilbara Olive Python in each compliance report submitted to the Department.		

Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments
9	Write to the Minister, within 10 business days of being aware or having concerns, that the offset outcomes specified for the Pilbara Environmental Offsets Fund project(s) may not be achieved for the Northern Quoll, Ghost Bat, Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat and Pilbara Olive Python.	Not Applicable	The approval holder had no concerns regarding the offset outcomes specified for the Pilbara Environmental Offsets Fund during the reporting period.
10	Should the Minister determine that the Pilbara Environmental Offsets Fund is likely to fail for one or more protected matter(s), the Minister may write to the approval holder asking to provide evidence that failure has not occurred or is unlikely to occur and nominating a deadline by which this must be provided. If after considering any information provided by the approval holder: a. The Minister determines that the Pilbara Environmental Offsets Fund has failed for one or all species named in Condition 7 of this approval, the approval holder must submit for the Minister's approval, within 4 months of being notified by the Minister, an Offset Strategy consistent with the principles of the Environmental Offsets Policy to the satisfaction of the Minister. b. If the Offset Strategy has not been approved by the Minister in writing within 6 months of the notification by the Minister under condition IO(a) of this approval, and the Minister notifies the approval holder that the provided Offset Strategy is not suitable for approval, the Minister may, at least 2 months after so notifying the approval holder, approve a version of the Offset Strategy revised by the Department. The approval holder must commence implementation of the approved Offset Strategy within 2 months of the approval of the Offset Strategy by the Minister in writing, or another time as agreed in writing by the Minister. The approval holder must implement the approved Offset Strategy for the life of the approval. c. The Offset Strategy to be provided for the Minister's approval, if required by Condition IO(a) of this approval, must provide a framework for how the residual significant impacts from the approved action on the Northern Quoll, Ghost Bat, Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat and Pilbara Olive Python will be offset and must detail: i. how the strategy will achieve the outcomes required under condition 8(a) of this approval. ii. how it accounts for relevant approved conservation advices, recovery plans and threat abatement plans;	Not Applicable	No correspondence from the Minister regarding the performance of the Pilbara Environmental Offsets Fund was received during the reporting period.

Condition Number	Condition		Compliance status	Evidence/Comments
	iii.	the party to be responsible for implementing the proposed offset(s).		
	iv.	the location and nature of the proposed offset(s).		
	V.	objectives, outcomes, and timeframes for their achievement.		
	vi.	budget.		
	vii.	performance and completion criteria for evaluating conservation outcomes.		
	viii.	project monitoring (with indicators and measures) capable of detecting progress towards and achievement of the required outcomes.		
	ix.	reporting of specified outputs/offset activities, progress towards and achievement of the required outcomes, and evaluation of appropriateness of measures implemented.		
	X.	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).		
	xi.	a description of the measures that will be implemented to mitigate risk associated with each proposed offset and a description of the contingency actions that will be implemented if performance or completion criteria are not met.		
	xii.	processes to adaptively manage the proposed offset.		
	xiii.	how the proposed offset is consistent with the Environmental Offsets Policy ; and		
	xiv.	how the approval holder will ensure that the measures to be implemented as part of the Offsets Strategy have no detrimental impact on any Matters of National Environmental Significance under the EPBC Act .		
11		val holder must notify the Department electronically of the date of ement of the action, within 10 business days of commencement on.	Compliant	The Department was notified of the commencement of the action on 16 December 2022 (our ref: RTIO-0983725) within 10 business days of commencement of the action (14 December 2022).
12	of this app	nencement of the action does not occur within 5 years from the date roval, then the approval holder must not commence the action prior written agreement of the Minister .	Not Applicable	Action has commenced within 5 years from the date of approval.

Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments
13	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.
14	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.
15	The approval holder must ensure that any monitoring data (including sensitive ecological data), surveys, maps, and other spatial and meta data required under the conditions of this approval are prepared in accordance with the Department's Guidelines for biological survey and mapped data (2018), or any subsequent official version or as otherwise specified by the Minister in writing.	Not applicable	No monitoring data required to be submitted during the reporting period.
16	The approval holder must ensure that any monitoring data (including sensitive ecological data), surveys, maps, and other spatial and metadata required under the conditions of this approval are prepared in accordance with the Department's <i>Guide to providing maps and boundary data for EPBC Act projects</i> (2021), or any subsequent official version or as otherwise specified by the Minister in writing.	Not applicable	No monitoring data required to be submitted during the reporting period.
17	The approval holder must submit all monitoring data (including sensitive ecological data), surveys, maps, other spatial and metadata and all species occurrence record data (sightings and evidence of presence) electronically to the Department in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Management Plan .	Not applicable	No monitoring data required to be submitted during the reporting period.
18	The approval holder must prepare a compliance report by 30 April 2023 addressing the period from the date of issue of this approval until 31 December 2022 and annually thereafter by each 30 April in respect of the preceding calendar year date, or as otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister .	Not applicable	No annual compliance report was required to be submitted during the reporting period.
19	Each compliance report must be consistent with the Department's Annual Compliance Report Guidelines (2014), or any subsequent official version.	Not applicable	No annual compliance report was required to be submitted during the reporting period.
20	Each compliance report must include: - Accurate and complete details of compliance and any non-compliance with the conditions and the plans, and any incidents.	Complaint	There were no incidents or non-compliances with the conditions or commitments during the reporting period.

Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments
	 One or more shapefile showing all clearing of any protected matters, and/or their habitat, undertaken within the 12-month period at the end of which that compliance report is prepared. A schedule of all plans in existence in relation to these conditions and accurate and complete details of how each plan is being implemented. 		No clearing of protected matter and/or their habitat was undertaken within the reporting period. The Greater Paraburdoo Environmental Management Plan was conditionally endorsed by the Minister on 11 November 2022 (our ref: RTIO-0981208) and approved by DWER 15 November 2022 (our ref: RTIO-0981203). An updated version of the EMP was submitted to the Department on 21 December 2022 (our ref: RTIO-0981192) and endorsed on 18 January 2023, outside the reporting period (Our ref: RTIO-0981202). Not all elements of the EMP were required to be implemented during the reporting period in this stage of the project.
21	 The approval holder must: a. Publish each compliance report on the website by 30 April of each year immediately following the 12-month period for which that compliance report is required. b. Notify the Department electronically, within 7 business days of the date of publication that a compliance report has been published on the website. c. Provide the weblink for the compliance report in the notification to the Department. d. Keep all published compliance reports required by these conditions on the website until the expiry date of this approval. e. Exclude or redact sensitive ecological data from compliance reports published on the website or otherwise provided to a member of the public. f. If sensitive ecological data is excluded or redacted from the published version, submit the full compliance report to the Department within 5 business days of its publication on the website and notify the Department in writing what exclusions and redactions have been made in the version published on the website. 	Not applicable	Not applicable as no compliance report was due during the reporting period.

Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments
22	The approval holder must notify the Department electronically, within 7 business days of becoming aware of any incident and/or potential non-compliance and/or actual non-compliance with the conditions or commitments made in a plan .	Not applicable	There were no incidents or non-compliances with the conditions or commitments during the reporting period.
23	 The approval holder must specify in the notification: a. Any condition or commitment made in a plan which has been or may have been breached. b. A short description of the incident and/or potential non-compliance and/or actual non-compliance. c. The location (including co-ordinates), date, and time of the incident and/or potential non-compliance and/or actual non-compliance. 	Not applicable	There were no incidents or non-compliances with the conditions or commitments during the reporting period.
24	The approval holder must provide to the Department in writing, within 21 business days of becoming aware of any incident and/or potential non-compliance and/or actual non-compliance, the details of that incident and/or potential non-compliance and/or actual non-compliance with the conditions or commitments made in a plan. The approval holder must specify: a. Any corrective action or investigation which the approval holder has already taken b. The potential impacts of the incident and/or non-compliance c. The method and timing of any corrective action that will be undertaken by the approval holder.	Not applicable	There were no incidents or non-compliances with the conditions or commitments during the reporting period.
25	The approval holder must ensure that an independent audit of compliance with the conditions is conducted for every five-year period following the commencement of the Action until this approval expires, unless otherwise specified in writing by the Minister .	Not applicable	There were no audits required during the reporting period.
26	For each independent audit, the approval holder must: a. Provide the name and qualifications of the nominated independent auditor, the draft audit criteria, and proposed timeframe for submitting the audit report to the Department prior to commencing the independent audit. b. Only commence the independent audit once the nominated independent auditor, audit criteria and timeframe for submitting the	Not applicable	There were no audits required during the reporting period.
	 audit report have been approved in writing by the Department. c. Submit the audit report to the Department for approval within the timeframe specified and approved in writing by the Department. 		

Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments
	 d. Publish each audit report on the website within 15 business days of the date of the Department's approval of the audit report. 		
	 Keep every audit report published on the website until this approval expires. 		
27	Each audit report must report for the five-year period preceding that audit report.	Not applicable	There were no audits required during the reporting period.
28	Each audit report must be completed to the satisfaction of the Minister and be consistent with the Department's <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 Independent Audit and Audit Report Guidelines</i> (2019), or any subsequent official version.		There were no audits required during the reporting period.
29	The approval holder must notify the Department electronically 60 business days prior to the expiry date of this approval, that the approval is due to expire.	Not applicable	Approval not due to expire within 60 days.
30	Within 30 business days after the completion of the Action, and, in any event, before this approval expires, the approval holder must notify the Department electronically of the date of completion of the Action and provide completion data.	Not applicable	Action not completed.

3 New environmental risks

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

