

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

**EPBC Approval:** 2011/5815

**Project:** Yandicoogina Junction South West and Oxbow Iron  
Ore Project, WA

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

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## 1 Description of activities

<b>EPBC approval number:</b>	2011/5815
<b>Project name:</b>	Yandicoogina Junction South West and Oxbow Iron Ore Project, WA
<b>Approval holder:</b>	Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd
<b>Approval holder's Australian Business Number:</b>	49 004 558 276
<b>Approved action:</b>	To develop new mine pits and supporting infrastructure, at Yandicoogina, central Pilbara region of WA, as described in the referral received by the department on 20 January 2011.
<b>Location of the project:</b>	Central Pilbara region of 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 2011/5815 are presented in Table 1.

**Table 1: EPBC Approval Conditions Compliance Table - EPBC 2011/5815 – Yandicoogina Junction South West and Oxbow Iron Ore Project, WA**

Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments
1	<p>To protect habitat for the <b>Northern Quoll</b> and <b>Pilbara Olive Python</b> <b>disturbance</b> of vegetation must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) not exceed a total of 2,200 hectares and must only occur within the <b>development footprint</b>; and</li> <li>b) not exceed 40 hectares within the floodplain and riparian vegetation zone associated with Marillana Creek located within the development footprint.</li> </ul>	Compliant	<p>Up to 31 December 2021, 361 hectares (of maximum permitted 2,200 hectares) has been cleared within the development footprint and 7 hectares (of maximum permitted 40 hectares) cleared within the floodplain and riparian vegetation zone associated to Marillana Creek located within the development footprint.</p> <p>Review of aerial imagery, determined that Rio Tinto has previously reported disturbance carried out prior to the approval of the EPBC 2011/5815, disturbance outside the development footprint and non Rio Tinto clearing, resulting in an overall reduction of reportable disturbance of 288 hectares.</p>
2	<p>The person taking the action must establish and maintain an <b>EPBC Act listed threatened species</b> Register on a publicly available website. The Register must record any sightings of <b>EPBC Act listed threatened species</b>, alive or dead, in the <b>project area</b> no less than every three months during <b>construction</b>, and no less than every 12 months during <b>operation</b>. The web address of the register must be provided to the <b>department</b> within 30 days of establishment.</p>	Compliant	<p>The Threatened Species register, Yandi_EPBC_National Matters of Environmental Significance Register (our ref: RTIO-HSE-0163656) was established in 2013 and is publicly available at:  <a href="https://www.riotinto.com/-/media/Content/Documents/Operations/Pilbara/RT-Pilbara-Threatened-species-register.pdf?rev=d0456da8eae148b8b7ac622a36aae3fb">https://www.riotinto.com/-/media/Content/Documents/Operations/Pilbara/RT-Pilbara-Threatened-species-register.pdf?rev=d0456da8eae148b8b7ac622a36aae3fb</a></p> <p>The register is updated no less than every 12 months (annually), and as the project was in an operational phase, it was updated in 2021.</p>
3	<p>The person taking the action must develop a staff environmental induction to be undertaken by all staff, including contractors, prior to the <b>commencement</b> of their duties and annually thereafter. The induction material must include, but not necessarily be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) clear colour images and simple descriptions of the ecology and diagnostic features of <b>EPBC Act listed threatened species</b> and their habitat;</li> <li>b) protocols for reporting sightings, including vehicle strike (including GPS coordinates), of <b>EPBC Act listed threatened species</b> within</li> </ul>	Compliant	<p>All new staff and contractors are required to complete the Yandicoogina Essentials Induction prior to starting work at the site (our ref: RTIO-HR-0056810).</p> <p>The induction includes a section on the EPBC Approval, the associated EPBC threatened species, reporting protocols, legal penalties and responsibilities. An online EPBC mandatory qualification (Environmental Protection</p>

Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments
	<p>seven days to the officer in charge of implementing the <b>EPBC Act listed threatened species</b> Register described in condition 2;</p> <p>c) reference to the penalties imposed for causing intentional harm to <b>EPBC Act listed threatened species</b>; and</p> <p>d) legal and on site environmental responsibilities.</p>		<p>Induction) is also a requirement for Yandi personnel, this is accessed via the Rio Tinto online training system "Scodle".</p> <p>Refresher training for the induction is required annually. Training records are maintained by Learning and Development. Visitors to site are required to complete the Visitors Induction which also includes information on EPBC Act listed threatened species known to exist within the operational area.</p>
4	The person taking the action must display the information required in condition 3) a) on signs or posters around staff amenities, construction camps and material/equipment depots, and on laminated cards for all staff vehicles. The signs, posters and laminated cards must also state that the <b>Pilbara Olive Python</b> is slow moving and highly susceptible to road strike.	Compliant	<p>Signage is on display widely across site including camp and administration offices, and laminated cards with this information are maintained in all Yandicoogina Rio Tinto site vehicles.</p> <p>Yandicoogina MS1038 EPBC Act vehicle information card (our ref: RTIO-HSE-0163384).</p> <p>Yandicoogina MS1038 EPBC Act poster (our ref: RTIO-HSE-0163382).</p>
5	In the event one or more <b>Northern Quoll</b> and/or <b>Pilbara Olive Python</b> individuals are detected within the <b>development footprint</b> , the person taking the action must limit vehicle speeds outside the <b>active pit areas</b> , excluding automated haulage machines, to 40 km per hour on all roads within the <b>development footprint</b> between dusk and dawn until no <b>Northern Quolls</b> and/or <b>Pilbara Olive Python</b> individuals are sighted for a continuous period of four weeks.	Not applicable	<p>No Northern Quolls or Pilbara Olive Pythons were detected in the development footprint during the reporting period.</p> <p>Personnel have access to the Yandicoogina EPBC species reporting procedure on the Health, Safety, Environment and Quality intranet (our ref: RTIO-HSE-0169976).</p>
6	The person taking the action must ensure that all vehicles, machinery, and equipment remain within the <b>development footprint</b> , and must prevent off road driving, unless in case of an emergency.	Compliant	<p>All vehicles, machinery, and equipment remained in the development footprint. Compliance is ensured through designated light vehicle and heavy vehicle access and haul roads. Personnel are not permitted to drive outside of the designated road system.</p> <p>This requirement is included in the Yandicoogina Site Essentials induction which all personnel are required to complete prior to commencing work on site. No emergency situations required vehicle access outside of the development footprint during the reporting period.</p>

Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments
7	The person taking the action must ensure that all vehicles, machinery and equipment are prevented from accessing known locations of the <b>Hamersley Lepidium</b> , as seen in Annexure 1 during <b>construction</b> and <b>operation</b> .	Compliant	<p>Vehicles, machinery, and equipment did not access known locations of Hamersley Lepidium during the report period.</p> <p>The Yandicoogina ground disturbance permitting, and approvals request systems include an avoidance layer in the GIS which covers known locations of Hamersley Lepidium as recorded in Annexure 1 of EPBC 2011/5815.</p> <p>This system highlights the areas that vehicles, machinery, and equipment are prevented from accessing or disturbing in any way.</p>
8	<p>The person taking the action must implement measures to prevent the spread or establishment of feral animal species populations within the <b>project area</b> in a manner that is sympathetic with the conservation of <b>EPBC Act listed threatened species</b>. Measures must include, but not necessarily be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) appropriate waste management associated with staff amenities, <b>construction</b> camps and material/equipment depots;</li> <li>b) a control program which is consistent with current national guidelines for pest control; and</li> <li>c) annual monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the measures.</li> </ul>	Compliant	<p>Measures have been undertaken to prevent spread or further establishment of feral animal species.</p> <p>Appropriate waste management has been implemented to ensure the project infrastructure and accommodation facilities do not encourage or allow the establishment of feral animal populations.</p> <p>Yandicoogina manages landfill facilities in accordance with the <i>Environmental Protection (Rural Landfill) Regulations 2002</i> and Iron Ore (WA) Non-mineral Waste Management Work Practice (our ref: RTIO-HSE-0010849) and the Waste Management Treatment, Storage and Disposal Guidelines (our ref: RTIO-HSE-0011578).</p> <p>Control programs for feral animals have been implemented in line with the Yandicoogina Feral Animal Management Plan (our ref: RTIO-HSE-0187214). Feral animal sightings and trapping activities are recorded in the Pilbara Ops feral animal control datasheet (our ref: RTIO-HSE-0230450).</p>

Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments
9	<p>The person taking the action must implement measures to prevent the spread or establishment of invasive weeds within the <b>project area</b> in a manner that is sympathetic with the conservation of <b>EPBC Act listed threatened species</b>. Measures must include, but not necessarily be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) baseline surveys and Geographical Information System mapping of target weed species, as determined by a <b>suitably qualified expert</b>;</li> <li>b) a targeted control program;</li> <li>c) weed hygiene measures for vehicles and mining equipment and machinery; and</li> <li>d) annual monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the measures identified in conditions 9) a) to c).</li> </ul>	Compliant	<p>Yandicoogina Weed Monitoring Plan was established in 2013 (our ref: RTIO-HSE-0188629) with a baseline weed survey completed. Weed mapping has been included as a layer within the on-site GIS and includes location of weeds found during surveys and timing and location of weed management activities.</p> <p>All machinery and equipment brought to site complete weed hygiene processes to prevent the introduction and spread of weeds as outlined in RTIO Equipment hygiene inspection procedure (our ref: RTIO-HSE-0036005).</p> <p>Targeted weed control activities were implemented within the project area in the reporting period.</p>
10	The person taking the action must implement measures to prevent and/or control the spread of fires caused by any component of <b>construction and operation</b> .	Compliant	<p>Detailed measures to prevent the starting of fires on site as outlined within the Rio Tinto Iron Ore Hot Work Safety Work Practice (our ref: RTIO-HSE-0049936).</p> <p>Measures to control and prevent the spread of any fires are detailed in the RTIO Iron Ore Bushfire Management Plan (our ref: RTIO-HSE-0335487).</p>
11	In the event the person taking the action becomes aware of new information regarding the presence of any <b>EPBC Act listed threatened species</b> within the <b>development footprint</b> , that information must be reported to the <b>Minister</b> within seven business days of becoming aware of the new information.	Not applicable	<p>No EPBC Act listed threatened species were sighted within the development footprint during the reporting period.</p> <p>Yandi_EPBC_National Matters of Environmental Significance Register (our ref: RTIO-HSE-0163656).</p>

Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments
12	<p>The person taking the action must implement measures to minimise potential impacts from <b>dewatering</b> and discharge of surplus water on habitat for the <b>Northern Quoll</b> and <b>Pilbara Olive Python</b> along <b>Marillana Creek</b> and <b>Weeli Wolli Creek</b>, both in the dewatering and surplus water discharge impact areas. Measures must include, but not necessarily be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) baseline data surveys to be undertaken prior to <b>dewatering</b> and the discharge of surplus water, for <b>Northern Quoll</b> and <b>Pilbara Olive Python</b> habitat, including vegetation abundance, health, foliage cover and diversity;</li> <li>b) appropriate monitoring (including annual surveys) to detect changes, occurring as a result of the action, to <b>Northern Quoll</b> and <b>Pilbara Olive Python</b> habitat, including vegetation abundance, health, foliage cover and diversity;</li> <li>c) thresholds appropriate for the changes determined for condition 12) b) that establish when the action is resulting in degradation of habitat taking into consideration climatic variability, seasonal variation and discharge volumes from other relevant mines;</li> <li>d) contingency measures to be implemented, should the thresholds identified in condition 12) c) be exceeded as a result of the action, for addressing current and future exceedances and remediation of habitat degraded by dewatering and discharge activities;</li> <li>e) protocols for reporting to the <b>Minister</b> within seven days if the thresholds developed for condition 12) c) are exceeded, within 30 days for contingency measures implemented and within 6 months on the success the contingency measures.</li> </ul>	Compliant	<p>The potential impacts from dewatering and discharge of surface water on habitat for the Northern Quoll and Pilbara Olive Python along Marillana Creek and Weeli Wolli Creek, both in the dewatering and surplus water discharge impact areas have been identified and outlined within the Water and Discharge Monitoring and Management Plan, and Vegetation and Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems Monitoring and Management Plan (our ref: RTIO-HSE-165556) implemented until 14 July 2021 when the Condition Environmental Management Plan (our ref: RTIO-HSE-0307300) was approved on 16 September 2021 by the CEO and implemented from this date.</p> <p>These plans also outline the environmental performance objectives and the management measures to minimise these potential impacts. Ongoing implementation of these plans during the project demonstrates compliance with this condition.</p> <p>Management activities and monitoring as per the plan were continued during the reporting period. Thresholds were not exceeded in the reporting period therefore contingency measures were not implemented and reporting to the Minister was not required.</p>



Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments
13	<p>The person taking the action must rehabilitate all potentially suitable habitat for <b>EPBC Act listed threatened species</b> that is <b>disturbed</b> during <b>construction</b> and <b>operation</b>. The rehabilitation must be developed in consultation with a <b>suitably qualified expert</b> and must include, but not necessarily be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) baseline data of the characteristics of the pre-mining ecosystems within the <b>development footprint</b>;</li> <li>b) use of plant species of local provenance that are compatible with land system units that provide suitable habitat for <b>EPBC Act listed threatened species</b>; and</li> <li>c) monitoring and evaluation annually for three years or until establishment.</li> </ul>	Compliant	<p>The Yandicoogina Mine Closure Plan (our ref: RTIO-HSE-0208486) outlines the planned rehabilitation for these and other habitat areas that have been disturbed during construction and operations.</p> <p>Baseline data has been collected prior to disturbance to inform rehabilitation activities, and monitoring requirements are included within the closure plan. Rehabilitation trials are undertaken with the results informing closure planning activities and rehabilitation measures.</p> <p>No suitable areas were identified in the reporting period for progressive rehabilitation within the project area however progressive backfilling continued in the Junction South West and Junction South East pits.</p>
14	<p>To compensate for the residual impacts of the action and for the better protection and long-term conservation of the <b>Northern Quoll</b> and <b>Pilbara Olive Python</b>, a Threatened Species Offset Plan (TSOP) must be submitted to the <b>Minister</b> for approval. The TSOP must include, but not necessarily be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) a contribution of no less than \$3,000,000 (GST exclusive) to fund, extend or expand a land management program within the Pilbara bioregion for a period of no less than five years;</li> <li>b) details of measures to control and/or manage, for the benefit of the <b>Northern Quoll</b> and <b>Pilbara Olive Python</b>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. introduced predators;</li> <li>ii. feral herbivores;</li> <li>iii. wild fires; and</li> <li>iv. invasive weeds.</li> </ul> </li> <li>c) for each threat identified in condition 14) b), the TSOP must define: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. how the control/management measures are expected to benefit the <b>Northern Quoll</b> and <b>Pilbara Olive Python</b>;</li> <li>ii. details of the location and area of land to be managed which must be mapped and provided to the <b>department</b> in a <b>shapefile(s)</b>;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Compliant	<p>Allocation of project expenditure of \$3,000,038.60 was completed at the end of 2020. Therefore, this condition is considered completed.</p>

Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>iii. details of methodology, timing, frequency and intensity (effort) of management measures;</li> <li>iv. responsibility for management measures;</li> <li>v. details of how the management actions identified for condition 14) b) will be undertaken in a manner that is sympathetic with the conservation of other relevant threatened species listed under the <b>EPBC Act</b> known to occur in the area identified under 14) c) ii).</li> </ul> <p>d) details of a monitoring program, including but not necessarily limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. methodology, timing, frequency, scope and survey effort for/of monitoring;</li> <li>ii. baseline surveys of the area to be managed;</li> <li>iii. monitoring during and post land management actions to determine the effectiveness of land management actions;</li> <li>iv. performance indicators, which will determine the effectiveness of the land management program; and</li> <li>v. measures to make the results of the monitoring made publically available.</li> </ul> <p>The TSOP must be submitted to the <b>Minister</b> for approval by 31 December 2014. Should the TSOP be approved then the approved TSOP must be implemented.</p>		
15	Documentary evidence must be submitted to the <b>department</b> showing that payments of the total amount required in condition 14) a) have been made to the person(s) responsible for implementation of the land management program within 18 months of the date of approval of the TSOP.	Compliant	<p>A biodiversity offset fund was established with \$3 million deposited into the trust account on 18 February 2014.</p> <p>The TSOP was approved by the Minister on 5 March 2015 (DoE ref: 2011/5815, our ref: RTIO-HSE-0275796).</p>
16	<p>Annually on 30 April, after <b>commencement</b> of the action, a report must be submitted to the <b>Minister</b> detailing how condition 14) is, or has been, met including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) whether the timeframes for undertaking the management actions identified in condition 14) c) and d) have been met; and</li> <li>b) whether the performance indicators required for condition 14) c) have been met.</li> </ul>	Compliant	TSOP compliance report was not required as allocation of project expenditure of \$3,000,038.60 was completed at end of 2020. Therefore, this condition is considered completed.

Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments
17	Within 10 days after the <b>commencement</b> of the action, the person taking the action must advise the <b>Department</b> in writing of the actual date of <b>commencement</b> .	Compliant	Notice of project commencement was provided to DoE on 3 December 2012 (our ref: RTIO-HSE-0165415).
18	The person taking the action must maintain accurate records substantiating all activities associated with or relevant to the conditions of approval, including measures taken to implement the plans required by this approval, and make them available upon request to the <b>department</b> . Such records may be subject to audit by the <b>department</b> or an independent auditor in accordance with section 458 of the <b>EPBC Act</b> , or used to verify compliance with the conditions of approval. Summaries of audits will be posted on the <b>department's</b> website. The results of audits may also be publicised through the general media.	Compliant	Records associated with or relevant to the conditions of this approval are maintained within the Rio Tinto Iron Ore Document Management System and are available upon request.  No requests for information were received from and no audits were conducted by the DoE during the reporting period.
19	Annually on 30 April, after <b>commencement</b> of the action, the person taking the action must publish a report on their website addressing compliance with each of the conditions of this approval, including implementation of any management plans as specified in the conditions. Documentary evidence providing proof of the date of publication and non-compliance with any of the conditions of this approval must be provided to the <b>department</b> at the same time as the compliance report is published.	Compliant	Annual reports as published on the Rio Tinto website and provided to DoE at the time of publication. The 2020 annual compliance report (our ref: RTIO-HSE-0346349) was published on 30 April 2021.
20	Upon the direction of the <b>Minister</b> , the person taking the action must ensure that an independent audit of compliance with the conditions of approval is conducted and a report submitted to the <b>Minister</b> . The independent auditor must be approved by the <b>Minister</b> prior to the commencement of the audit. Audit criteria must be agreed to by the <b>Minister</b> and the audit report must address the criteria to the satisfaction of the <b>Minister</b> .	Not applicable	No directions were received from the Minister during the reporting period.
21	If the person taking the action wishes to carry out any activity otherwise than in accordance with the plan(s) as specified in the conditions, the person taking the action must submit to the <b>department</b> for the <b>Minister's</b> written approval a revised version of that plan(s). The varied activity shall not commence until the <b>Minister</b> has approved the varied plan(s) in writing. The <b>Minister</b> will not approve a varied plan(s) unless the revised plan(s) would result in an equivalent or improved environmental outcome over time. If the <b>Minister</b> approves the revised plan(s), that plan(s) must be implemented in place of the plan(s) originally approved.	Not applicable	No variations were requested during the reporting period.

Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments
22	If the <b>Minister</b> believes that it is necessary or convenient for the better protection of listed threatened species and communities to do so, the <b>Minister</b> may request that the person taking the action make specified revisions to the plan(s) specified in the conditions and submit the revised plan(s) for the <b>Minister's</b> written approval. The person taking the action must comply with any such request. The revised approved plan(s) must be implemented. Unless the <b>Minister</b> has approved the revised plan(s), then the person taking the action must continue to implement the plan(s) originally approved, as specified in the conditions.	Not applicable	No requests were received from the Minister during the report period.
23	If, at any time after five (5) years from the date of this approval, the person taking the action has not <b>substantially commenced</b> the action, then the person taking the action must not <b>substantially commence</b> the action without the written agreement of the <b>Minister</b> .	Compliant	Notice of project commencement was provided to DoE on 3 December 2012 (our ref: RTIO-HSE-0165415). Project substantially commenced in 2013.
24	Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the <b>Minister</b> , the person taking the action must publish all plan(s) referred to in these conditions of approval on their website. Each plan must be published on the website within 1 month of being approved.	Compliant	Threatened Species Offset Plan as required by Condition 14 published on the Rio Tinto website and accessible via the link below: <a href="https://www.riotinto.com">https://www.riotinto.com</a>

### **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: