



***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 2023

Contents

1	Description of activities	1
2	Audit table	1
3	New environmental risks	11
4	Declaration of accuracy	12

Tables

Table 1: EPBC Approval Conditions Compliance Table - EPBC 2011/5815 – Yandicoogina Junction South West and Oxbow Iron Ore Project, WA	2
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1 Description of activities

EPBC approval number:	2011/5815
Project name:	Yandicoogina Junction South West and Oxbow Iron Ore Project, WA
Approval holder:	Hamersley Iron – Yandi Pty Limited
Approval holder's Australian Business Number:	56 009 181 793
Approved action:	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.
Location of the project:	Central Pilbara region of WA
Reporting period:	1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023
Report preparation date:	30 April 2024
Implementation phase(s) during reporting period:	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	To protect habitat for the Northern Quoll and Pilbara Olive Python disturbance of vegetation must: a) not exceed a total of 2,200 hectares and must only occur within the development footprint ; and b) not exceed 40 hectares within the floodplain and riparian vegetation zone associated with Marillana Creek located within the development footprint .		Up to 31 December 2023: a) 212 hectares (of maximum permitted 2,200 hectares) have been cleared within the development footprint; and b) 0.344 (nil) hectares (of maximum permitted 40 hectares) cleared within the floodplain and riparian vegetation zone associated to Marillana Creek located within the development footprint.
2	The person taking the action must establish and maintain an EPBC Act listed threatened species Register on a publicly available website. The Register must record any sightings of EPBC Act listed threatened species , alive or dead, in the project area no less than every three months during construction , and no less than every 12 months during operation . The web address of the register must be provided to the department within 30 days of establishment.	Compliant	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: https://riotinto.sharepoint.com/sites/IODMSHSESCommunities/Environment_2/RTIO-HSE-0163656.xlsx The register is updated no less than every 12 months (annually).
3	The person taking the action must develop a staff environmental induction to be undertaken by all staff, including contractors, prior to the commencement of their duties and annually thereafter. The induction material must include, but not necessarily be limited to: a) clear colour images and simple descriptions of the ecology and diagnostic features of EPBC Act listed threatened species and their habitat; b) protocols for reporting sightings, including vehicle strike (including GPS coordinates), of EPBC Act listed threatened species within seven days to the officer in charge of implementing the EPBC Act listed threatened species Register described in condition 2; c) reference to the penalties imposed for causing intentional harm to EPBC Act listed threatened species ; and legal and on site environmental responsibilities.	Compliant	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). The induction includes a section on the EPBC Approval, the associated EPBC threatened species, reporting protocols, legal penalties and responsibilities. Section D in Environment section of the YND Essentials Facilitator Guide highlights EPBC listed species. An online EPBC mandatory qualification (Environmental Protection Induction) is also a requirement for Yandicoogina personnel, this is accessed via the Rio Tinto online training system "Scodle". The Yandicoogina EPBC Act Induction (our ref: Q 31009945 Iron Ore (WA)) course is a training requirement, to be reviewed annually for all personnel at Yandicoogina site. Training records are maintained by the approval holder. 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.

Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments
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 Pilbara Olive Python is slow moving and highly susceptible to road strike.	Compliant	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. Yandicoogina MS1038 EPBC Act vehicle information card (our ref: RTIO-HSE-1031413). Yandicoogina MS1038 EPBC Act poster (our ref: RTIO-HSE-1031413).
5	In the event one or more Northern Quoll and/or Pilbara Olive Python individuals are detected within the development footprint , the person taking the action must limit vehicle speeds outside the active pit areas , excluding automated haulage machines, to 40 km per hour on all roads within the development footprint between dusk and dawn until no Northern Quolls and/or Pilbara Olive Python individuals are sighted for a continuous period of four weeks.	Compliant	Pilbara olive python was detected within the development footprint during the reporting period. Speed restrictions were imposed, and information was reported to the Minister. Sighting occurred on 9 May 2023 and notification to the Minister was on 15 May 2023 (our ref: RTIO-0995812). Personnel have access to the Yandicoogina EPBC species reporting procedure on the Health, Safety, Environment and Quality intranet (our ref: RTIO-HSE-0169976).
6	The person taking the action must ensure that all vehicles, machinery, and equipment remain within the development footprint , and must prevent off road driving, unless in case of an emergency.	Compliant	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. 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.
7	Revoked.	Not applicable	Variation of condition attached to EPBC 2011/5815 on 22 August 2022 removing reporting requirements for <i>Hammersley Lepidium</i> .
8	The person taking the action must implement measures to prevent the spread or establishment of feral animal species populations within the project area in a manner that is sympathetic with the conservation of EPBC Act listed threatened species . Measures must include, but not necessarily be limited to:	Compliant	Measures have been undertaken to prevent spread or further establishment of feral animal species. 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.

Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) appropriate waste management associated with staff amenities, construction camps and material/equipment depots; b) a control program which is consistent with current national guidelines for pest control; and annual monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the measures. 		<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 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>
9	<p>The person taking the action must implement measures to prevent the spread or establishment of invasive weeds within the project area in a manner that is sympathetic with the conservation of EPBC Act listed threatened species. Measures must include, but not necessarily be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) baseline surveys and Geographical Information System mapping of target weed species, as determined by a suitably qualified expert; b) a targeted control program; c) weed hygiene measures for vehicles and mining equipment and machinery; and <p>annual monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the measures identified in conditions 9) a) to c).</p>	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 Rio Tinto's Equipment Hygiene Inspection Procedure (our ref: RTIO-HSE-0036005).</p> <p>Targeted weed control activities including bi-annual surveys of weed monitoring sites, were implemented within the project area in the reporting period.</p>
10	<p>The person taking the action must implement measures to prevent and/or control the spread of fires caused by any component of construction and operation.</p>	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 Rio Tinto Iron Ore Bushfire Management Plan (our ref: RTIO-HSE-0335487).</p>
11	<p>In the event the person taking the action becomes aware of new information regarding the presence of any EPBC Act listed threatened species within the development footprint,</p>	Compliant	<p>Detection of Pilbara olive python within the development footprint during the reporting period and relevant information was reported to</p>

Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments
	that information must be reported to the Minister within seven business days of becoming aware of the new information.		<p>the Minister. Sighting occurred on 9 May 2023 and notification to the Minister was on 15 May 2023 (our ref: RITO-0995812).</p> <p>Yandi_EPBC_National Matters of Environmental Significance Register (our ref: RTIO-HSE-0163656).</p>
12	<p>The person taking the action must implement measures to minimise potential impacts from dewatering and discharge of surplus 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. Measures must include, but not necessarily be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) baseline data surveys to be undertaken prior to dewatering and the discharge of surplus water, for Northern Quoll and Pilbara Olive Python habitat, including vegetation abundance, health, foliage cover and diversity; b) appropriate monitoring (including annual surveys) to detect changes, occurring as a result of the action, to Northern Quoll and Pilbara Olive Python habitat, including vegetation abundance, health, foliage cover and diversity; 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; 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; protocols for reporting to the Minister 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. 	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 the updated Condition Environmental Management Plan (our ref: RTIO-HSE-0307300) was approved by the CEO on 16 September 2021 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. Threshold criteria were not exceeded in the reporting period and reporting to the Minister was not required. Although thresholds were not exceeded, temporary irrigation spurs have been proactively installed in Weeli Wolli Creek in response to an observed decline in canopy cover.</p>

Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments
13	<p>The person taking the action must rehabilitate all potentially suitable habitat for EPBC Act listed threatened species that is disturbed during construction and operation. The rehabilitation must be developed in consultation with a suitably qualified expert and must include, but not necessarily be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) baseline data of the characteristics of the pre-mining ecosystems within the development footprint; b) use of plant species of local provenance that are compatible with land system units that provide suitable habitat for EPBC Act listed threatened species; and <p>monitoring and evaluation annually for three years or until establishment.</p>	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 2023 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 Northern Quoll and Pilbara Olive Python, a Threatened Species Offset Plan (TSOP) must be submitted to the Minister for approval. The TSOP must include, but not necessarily be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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; b) details of measures to control and/or manage, for the benefit of the Northern Quoll and Pilbara Olive Python: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. introduced predators; ii. feral herbivores; iii. wild fires; and iv. invasive weeds. c) for each threat identified in condition 14) b), the TSOP must define: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. how the control/management measures are expected to benefit the Northern Quoll and Pilbara Olive Python; 	Not Applicable	<p>Allocation of project expenditure of \$3,000,038.60 was completed at the end of 2020. Therefore, this condition is considered completed.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. details of the location and area of land to be managed which must be mapped and provided to the department in a shapefile(s); iii. details of methodology, timing, frequency and intensity (effort) of management measures; iv. responsibility for management measures; 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 EPBC Act known to occur in the area identified under 14) c) ii). <p>d) details of a monitoring program, including but not necessarily limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. methodology, timing, frequency, scope and survey effort for/of monitoring; ii. baseline surveys of the area to be managed; iii. monitoring during and post land management actions to determine the effectiveness of land management actions; iv. performance indicators, which will determine the effectiveness of the land management program; and v. measures to make the results of the monitoring made publically available. <p>The TSOP must be submitted to the Minister for approval by 31 December 2014. Should the TSOP be approved then the approved TSOP must be implemented.</p>		
15	<p>Documentary evidence must be submitted to the department 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.</p>	Not Applicable	<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>

Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments
16	Annually on 30 April, after commencement of the action, a report must be submitted to the Minister detailing how condition 14) is, or has been, met including: a) whether the timeframes for undertaking the management actions identified in condition 14) c) and d) have been met; and b) whether the performance indicators required for condition 14) c) have been met.	Not Applicable	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.
17	Within 10 days after the commencement of the action, the person taking the action must advise the Department in writing of the actual date of commencement .	Not Applicable	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 department . Such records may be subject to audit by the department or an independent auditor in accordance with section 458 of the EPBC Act , or used to verify compliance with the conditions of approval. Summaries of audits will be posted on the department's 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	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; 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	Compliant	Annual reports as published on the Rio Tinto website and provided to DoE at the time of publication. a) The 2022 annual compliance report (our ref: RTIO-HSE-0989970) was published on 28 April 2023. b) The Department was notified on 28 April 2023 that the 2022 annual compliance report was published on Rio Tinto's website. c) All annual compliance reports under the approval are publicly available the website. d) Not required. e) Not required.

Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments
	<p>compliance report to the Department within 5 business days of publication.</p> <p>Note: Compliance reports may be published on the Department's website.</p>		
19A)	<p>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 7 business days after becoming aware of the incident or non-compliance. The notification must specify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) any condition which is or may be in breach; b) a short description of the incident and/or non-compliance; and c) the location (including co-ordinates), date, and time of the incident (or the date the incident became known of) and/or non-compliance. In the event the exact information cannot be provided, provide the best information available. 	Not Applicable	No incidents or non-compliance with the conditions; or non-compliance with the commitments made in plans occurred during the reporting period.
19B)	<p>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 21 business days after becoming aware of the incident or non-compliance, specifying:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) any corrective action or investigation which the approval holder has already taken or intends to take in the immediate future; b) the potential impacts of the incident or non-compliance; and c) the method and timing of any remedial action that will be undertaken by the approval holder. 	Not Applicable	No incidents or non-compliance with the conditions; or non-compliance with the commitments made in plans occurred during the reporting period
20	<p>Upon the direction of the Minister, 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 Minister. The independent auditor must be approved by the Minister prior to the commencement of the audit. Audit</p>	Not applicable	No directions were received from the Minister during the reporting period.

Condition Number	Condition	Compliance status	Evidence/Comments
	criteria must be agreed to by the Minister and the audit report must address the criteria to the satisfaction of the Minister .		
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 department for the Minister's written approval a revised version of that plan(s). The varied activity shall not commence until the Minister has approved the varied plan(s) in writing. The Minister 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 Minister 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.
22	If the Minister believes that it is necessary or convenient for the better protection of listed threatened species and communities to do so, the Minister 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 Minister's written approval. The person taking the action must comply with any such request. The revised approved plan(s) must be implemented. Unless the Minister 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 substantially commenced the action, then the person taking the action must not substantially commence the action without the written agreement of the Minister .	Not applicable	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 Minister , 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: www.riotinto.com

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: