

Environmental Effects Report Guidelines (Extractive Industry)

ABx Group Limited
Bauxite Quarry
Porters Bridge Road, Reedy Marsh

December 2022



ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

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Introduction

Purpose of the Guidelines

These Guidelines provide instructions for proponents on how to prepare an Environmental Effects Report (EER) for an activity being assessed by the Board of the Environment Protection Authority (the Board). An EER is a document that provides information about the environmental impacts of the proposed activity and the proposed mitigation measures. The Board uses the EER as a 'case for assessment', to assess the environmental impact of an activity, as required under the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* (EMPC Act).

Guidelines will be adapted for each proposal, where Part B and Part C include project specific information requirements. The EER must be prepared in accordance with the project specific Guidelines, which are issued under section 74(4) of the EMPC Act.

The EER will be advertised during the public consultation period and remain available on the EPA website. After consultation, the proponent may be required to supply additional information in response to public and government agency submissions. This generally takes the form of a Supplement to the EER.

Further information is available on the [EPA Assessment Process¹](#) website.

Preparing an EER

The EER should contain five parts as follows:

- Part A – information about the proponent
- Part B – information about the proposal, site, and area
- Part C – information about potential environmental impacts
- Part D – description of the proposed management measures
- Part E – description of any public consultation undertaken

Other relevant information, such as survey reports, should be attached to the EER as appendices.

The EER must be typed, A4 sized and submitted electronically (in a searchable format). All images must be of high quality, have a descriptive caption, and be capable of being easily copied and pasted into other documents such as a permit (i.e., all objects should be 'grouped'). All maps, plans, and aerial photographs must be oriented in the same direction as far as practicable and include a north arrow and scale.

The content of the EER should be prepared using a risk based approach. The level of detail provided on each issue should be appropriate to the level of significance of that environmental issue to the proposal. Not all issues nominated in these Guidelines will have the same degree of relevance to the proposed activity. Depending on the nature of the proposed activity and its location, some of the issues may be more relevant than others, while others may not be applicable at all.

¹ Available at <https://epa.tas.gov.au/assessment/assessment-process>

Planning Information

Where the proposal is subject to a permit under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* (LUPA Act), information required solely for the purpose of assessment under the relevant Planning Scheme should be supplied to Council either:

- as a separate response to an additional information request from Council under section 54 of the LUPA Act, where the planning application has commenced the environmental assessment process; or
- where it forms part of a combined planning and Environmental Effects Report, distinguished from information supplied for the purpose of the Board's assessment.

Commonwealth Legislation

The Commonwealth Government may also have a role in the environmental assessment and approval of the proposed activity. Approval under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) is required for an action which is on Commonwealth land or is likely to have a significant impact on a matter of national environmental significance.

Information on the EPBC Act can be obtained from the [Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water](#) website², or by calling 1800 803 772.

The EER must include a statement on whether Commonwealth approval is likely to be required.

Environment Protection Authority Contact

For information about the assessment process, contact the Environmental Assessment Branch:

GPO Box 1550

HOBART, TASMANIA 7001

Telephone: 0427743988

Email: assessments@epa.tas.gov.au

Website: www.epa.tas.gov.au

At least one draft of the EER should be submitted for review before it is formally submitted to the Board. This should be emailed, or file shared to assessments@epa.tas.gov.au and your nominated contact officer.

² Available at www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/epbc

Content of EER

Part A – Proponent Information

Provide the following information regarding the proponent:

Proponent entity name	(Consistent with any intended or current permit application for the activity under the LUPA Act)
Proponent trading name	
Registered address of proponent	
Postal address of proponent	
ABN/ACN of proponent	
Contact person's details	Name Telephone number Email address
Consultant's details	Name Telephone number Email address

If a different entity will operate the activity after construction, provide similar details for that entity also.

Part B – Proposal Description

Where the proposal is subject to a permit application under the LUPA Act, the proposal description and specification of the site must be consistent with the intended or current permit application. Any works or activity that are for the purpose of the proposal (e.g., access works) must be included.

I Description of proposed activity

Complete the following tables and provide additional text, diagrams or flowcharts as required.

Proposed Activity

Activity	Provide a general description of the proposed activity, including the classification of the activity under Schedule 2 of the EMPC Act.
New or existing?	State if this is an intensification/modification of an existing activity or a new activity.
Product	Describe the product and forecast life of the activity.
Maximum extraction quantity	Provide in cubic metres and tonnes per year and state the conversion factor. Briefly describe any seasonal variation.
Maximum processing quantity	Provide in cubic metres and tonnes per year (i.e., crushing, grinding, screening).
Method/s	State the method(s) of material extraction and processing and main items of equipment involved.
Transport	Describe the proposed transport route (can refer to figures), vehicle types, number of vehicle movements (per day), and time of day of vehicle movements.
Stockpiling	State the materials that will be stockpiled on site.
Area of disturbance	State: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum area of the site proposed to be disturbed (unrehabilitated) at any time, in hectares. • Total area of land to be cleared over the life of the proposal, in hectares.
Major equipment	List all existing and proposed plant/machinery and other temporary or permanent equipment (distinguish between existing and proposed).
Infrastructure	List the existing and proposed buildings, structures, access roads, internal haul roads, etc. (distinguish between existing and proposed).
Proposal timeline	State the key proposal timeline(s).
Operating hours	State the proposed operating hours and days.

Location and planning context

Location	State the address of the site, and CTs and PIDs (as applicable) for all titles on which the activity will take place.
Planning permit	Confirm whether a Planning Permit is required under the LUPA Act. As an appendix, provide written advice from Council stating the requirement, if a planning application has not already been lodged.
Land zoning and tenure	Describe the land zoning and tenure of the site and surrounds. If rezoning of the site is required, provide details.
Use Class and Permissibility	If a permit is required under the LUPA Act, state the Use Class and Permissibility of the activity under the relevant Planning Scheme.

Mining lease (ML)	Provide the ML reference number(s) and status (granted/applied for).
Lease area	State the size of the lease area(s).

Description of site and surrounds

Land use	Describe the land use of the site and surrounds, distance to the nearest residences, and any nearby conservation reserves or recreation areas.
Topography	Describe the topography of the site and surrounds.
Climate	State the annual rainfall, average temperatures, and predominant wind direction (provide wind roses if possible).
Geology	Describe the geology of the site, including the likelihood that potentially acid forming (PAF) material will be found on site. It is noted that granophyres in dolerite can contain acid mine drainage (AMD) materials. Describe any geoconservation values on or near the site (e.g., karst).
Soils	Describe the soils on the site (including erodibility), and state whether there is potential to encounter acid sulphate soils and/or contaminated soil.
Hydrology	Describe the waterbodies and aquatic values on site and in the surrounding area. State the distance from the activity to the nearest waterbody.
Natural Values	State the vegetation types on and near the site. List the threatened fauna, flora and vegetation communities known to occur on or near the site (use the Natural Values Atlas, TASVEG 4.0 ³ or results of a relevant survey).

2 Maps and site plan/s

To enhance understanding of the proposal, spatial information should be presented in maps, plans, diagrams, and photographs. These must be of high quality and reproducible in monochrome with all text and relevant features clearly visible. Maps and plans should include a north arrow and scale. When spatial data (including maps, plans, grid coordinates and heights) are provided or referred to, the coordinate reference system must be specified. At a minimum, provide the following:

- **General Location Map** (1:25,000 or other suitable scale), showing the Mining Lease, the nearest residences in other ownership, other sensitive uses⁴ and residential zones within 1.5 km of the proposed activity and within the applicable attenuation distance⁵, and the transport route(s) to and from the activity.
- **Map of the Land** on which the activity will take place and its boundary; by means of mining lease, land title information, map coordinates or other. The Land as defined by this figure must be consistent with any permit application submitted under the LUPA Act (i.e., the Land cannot extend beyond the land titles referenced in the permit application). This figure may be combined with the Site Plan. The boundary of the Land should also be provided to the Board in a geospatial vector format (shapefile or DXF).
- **Site Plan(s)** showing:
 - the boundary of the site;

³ Both can be accessed at: <https://www.naturalvaluesatlas.tas.gov.au/>

⁴ Defined in the State Planning Provisions as 'a residential use or a use involving the presence of people for extended periods except in the course of their employment such as a caravan park, childcare centre, dwelling, hospital or school.'

⁵ Refer to relevant planning scheme or State Planning Provisions

- the location of existing and proposed buildings/structures and plant and machinery;
- the location of product, overburden, soil, and waste stockpiles;
- the planned development (staging) of the quarry or extractive pit;
- the location and orientation of benches and development of infrastructure at key stages;
- watercourses on and near the site;
- site water management (drains, settling ponds, bunding and monitoring points, as relevant);
- vegetation types, clearly marking areas to be cleared, and records of any threatened species/vegetation communities.

3 Project rationale and alternatives

- Explain the rationale for the proposal.
- Evaluate the benefits and disadvantages of any alternative options that have been considered.

Part C – Environmental Impacts and Management

The EER should evaluate all potential impacts of the proposal, with the level of detail provided on each issue reflecting its level of significance. For each issue, describe how the impact assessment has been performed (for example, surveys or desktop studies). Describe the existing environment in relation to the impact, including the vulnerability of the potentially affected environment. Clearly articulate the potential impacts, identifying plausible worst case scenarios and the reversibility of the impact. Then, describe the management or contingency measures proposed to avoid, mitigate, or offset potential adverse impacts. Detail any specialist recommendations which have/will be implemented or justify otherwise. Finally, analyse how and to what degree the impacts will have been avoided, minimised, or offset, and any residual impacts.

I Air quality

The air quality assessment should detail potential impacts of the proposal on local air quality and provide evidence that the activity would not cause environmental nuisance or harm. In addition to assessing the aspects of air pollution and dust control described in section 7.5 of the *Quarry Code of Practice* the air quality assessment should:

- Identify and show on a site map all sensitive receptors that could potentially be affected by fugitive dust and particulate matter emissions from activities at the quarry, especially during unfavourable meteorological conditions.
- Identify (on a site map) and characterise all possible sources of dust emissions from the site. This includes dust generated from the disturbed topsoil, stockpiles, excavating, screening, loading, and traffic movements on and off site.
- Provide details of the materials handled and equipment used on the site. Provide the location(s) of the equipment.
- Discuss and assess the potential impact of fugitive dust and particulate matter emissions from the proposed activity on the environment and the likelihood for the activity to cause environmental nuisance or harm at or beyond the site boundary. Consider local terrain and meteorological conditions including annual rainfall, the direction and strength of prevailing winds, and land use in the vicinity of the quarry.
- Describe any measures to reduce dust movement from the site, especially during unfavourable meteorological conditions. This may include but is not limited to watering or sealing roads, covering of truck loads, reduced vehicle speed, road surfacing/maintenance details, enclosures, water sprays, windbreaks, and revegetation/stabilisation. Discussion of the ongoing requirement to provide an adequate water supply should be included.

Legislative and policy requirements – Air quality

- Consideration should be given to the requirements of the Tasmanian Environment Protection Policy (Air Quality) (see <http://epa.tas.gov.au/policy-site/Pages/Air-Quality-EPP.aspx>) and any supplementary documents.

2 Water quality (surface, discharge, and groundwater)

- Describe the potential impacts of the activity on the receiving environment, with specific consideration of sediment and waterway disturbance, environmental values and downstream water uses.
- Describe the management measures that will be employed to control surface water and reduce the potential for erosion and sediment loss. Control measures include minimisation of areas of disturbance; minimisation of stormwater ingress and sediment mobilisation through the use of

perimeter drains, cut-off drains and bunding; sediment basins or stilling areas to capture entrained sediment; and swales, rock filters, wetlands or vegetated discharge zones to remove fine suspended sediment.

- Describe any other management measures proposed to minimise impact on waterways and aquatic values.
- Identify the dimensions, capacity and other relevant design features of key stormwater infrastructure such as drains and sediment basins, with reference to design rainfall frequency (average recurrence interval) and intensity. For sediment basins provide the sediment capture particle size, settling volume and surface area calculations and design rationale⁶.
- Describe the waterbodies and aquatic values on site and in the surrounding area, including relevant Protected Environmental Values as per the *State Policy on Water Quality Management 1997*: <https://epa.tas.gov.au/environment/water/pevs-for-tasmanian-surface-waters>
- State the distance from the activity to the nearest waterbody.
- Provide details of any proposed water monitoring activities.
- Is the proposal consistent with the *State Policy on Water Quality Management 1997*?

3 Noise emissions and blasting

- Describe all noise sources, including the size and sound power level for each main piece of equipment (e.g., crusher/screen, loader, excavator, haul truck, rock drill).
- Provide a map of the location of all major sources of noise and any noise sensitive premises⁷ within 3km of the boundary of the Land.
- Describe the potential impacts of noise generated by the activity.
- Provide a statement as to whether blasting will be undertaken, and if so, the likely blast charge, frequency of blast events (per year) and discussion of potential for blast effects (ground vibration and air-blast overpressure) to impact nearby residences.
- Evaluate the potential for the activity to create a noise nuisance, taking into consideration the:
 - distance to nearest residences and other noise sensitive premises;
 - acceptable standards described in section 7 of the *Quarry Code of Practice*⁸;
 - hours of operation;
 - method of excavation and processing/handling on site;
 - topography; and
 - site layout showing locations of activities (refer to the Site Plan).
- Describe the noise attenuation measures that will be implemented.
- Is the proposal consistent with the *Environment Protection Policy (Noise) 2009*⁹?

⁶ Suitable design approaches for sediment basins include those detailed in Best Practice Erosion and Sediment Control – Appendix B (June 2018 revision), International Erosion Control Association (Australasia) and Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction - Volume 2e: Mines and Quarries, Department of Environment and Climate Change, NSW Government (2008).

⁷ 'Noise sensitive premise' is defined as: residences and residential zones (whether occupied or not), schools, hospitals, caravan parks and similar land uses involving the presence of individual people for extended periods, except in the course of their employment or for recreation.

⁸ Available at <https://epa.tas.gov.au/business-industry/regulation/industrial-activities/mining-and-extractive>

⁹ Available on the EPA website at [https://epa.tas.gov.au/policy/statutory-policies/state-policies-and-environment-protection-policies/environment-protection-policy-\(noise\)-2009](https://epa.tas.gov.au/policy/statutory-policies/state-policies-and-environment-protection-policies/environment-protection-policy-(noise)-2009)

4 Natural values

- Provide records from the Natural Values Atlas and TASVEG 4.0¹⁰ of any listed threatened flora/fauna species or threatened vegetation communities on or near the site. If any are present, or if the site has potential habitat for any such species, a detailed survey is likely to be required and the results should be presented in the EER.
 - Provide details and results of any flora or fauna surveys undertaken on the site. Surveys must comply with the requirements of the *Guidelines for Terrestrial Natural Values Surveys related to Development Proposals*¹¹ and any relevant species-specific guidelines. The survey report must be appended to the EER.
 - Detail any proposed clearing or disturbance of native vegetation or potential habitat for native fauna as part of the proposal, including details of the nature of vegetation and habitat values to be cleared or disturbed, and the area of vegetation affected (in hectares).
 - Describe the potential impacts to threatened fauna, flora, and vegetation communities, taking into account:
 - The clearance or disturbance of native vegetation or other potential habitat. Provide details of the vegetation and habitat values to be cleared or disturbed, and the area to be affected, in hectares;
 - Movement, noise, or lights during sensitive avifauna breeding seasons;
 - Roadkill from vehicles¹².
 - Describe the potential impacts to geoconservation sites (e.g., karst systems), aquatic or riparian environments and other natural values, and the management measures proposed to mitigate these impacts.
 - Describe the management measures that will be implemented to mitigate or avoid impacts to threatened fauna, flora and vegetation communities or other natural values.

5 Weeds, pests and pathogens

- List the weeds¹³, pests and pathogens occurring on or near the site.
- Evaluate the potential for the activity to introduce or spread weeds and diseases to, from and within the site.
- Discuss the proposed management measures for preventing the spread of weeds, pests and pathogens (e.g., vehicle washdown procedures).

6 Waste

- Describe the solid and liquid waste that will be produced by the activity (e.g., overburden, Potentially Acid Forming material, metal and machinery service wastes, used oils, general refuse).
- Describe the proposed methods for avoidance, reuse, recycling, treatment and disposal of waste.

¹⁰ Both can be accessed at: <https://www.naturalvaluesatlas.tas.gov.au/>

¹¹ Available at: <https://nre.tas.gov.au/conservation/development-planning-conservation-assessment/survey-guidelines-for-development-assessments>

¹² Information on roadkill risk for Tasmanian Devils is available at:

<https://nre.tas.gov.au/Documents/Devil%20Survey%20Guidelines%20and%20Advice.pdf>

¹³ Plant species declared as a weed under the *Weed Management Act 1999*.

7 Environmentally hazardous substances

- Detail the nature and quantity of any environmentally hazardous substances¹⁴ that will be stored (permanently or temporarily) and/or handled on site. This includes fuels, oils, waste and chemicals.
- Describe the storage method and location of any environmentally hazardous substances and discuss the proposed management measures to prevent release and respond to accidental spills (e.g., provision of spill kits).
- Identify any dangerous goods¹⁵ and controlled wastes¹⁶ that will be present on the site, with reference to standard classification. Detail how they will be managed.

8 Site contamination

- Has the site been used in the past for activities which may have caused soil or groundwater contamination? If so, provide details. Include details of any assessments of soil or groundwater contamination on the site.

9 Environmental impacts of traffic

- Provide details of the vehicle types, number of vehicle movements, times of movements and route(s).
- Evaluate the potential for transport to and from the site to cause a noise nuisance to residences and other noise sensitive premises in proximity to the Land, considering the type, volume and time of traffic associated with the proposal.
- Evaluate the potential to cause a dust nuisance as a result of traffic in proximity to the Land.
- Will the activity result in a night time (between one hour before dusk and one hour after dawn) traffic increase of more than 10% on roads in proximity to the Land? If so, roadkill mitigation measures for Tasmanian Devils may need to be addressed. See the *Survey Guidelines and Management Advice for Development Proposals that may impact on the Tasmanian Devil (Sarcophilus harrisii)*¹⁷ for more information.

10 Other off site impacts

- Does the activity have the potential to generate any other off site impacts that may affect the amenity of residences or other sensitive uses (such as schools and hospitals)? If yes, provide details. The location of all nearby residences or other sensitive uses must be clearly shown on the area map (see Part B).

11 Monitoring

- Describe any proposed environmental monitoring and reporting for the activity.
- Show all proposed monitoring points on the site plan (see Part B).

¹⁴ 'Environmentally hazardous substance' is defined as: any substance or mixture of substances of a nature or held in quantities which present a reasonably foreseeable risk of causing serious or material environmental harm if released to the environment.

¹⁵ As defined in the Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail.

¹⁶ Information on controlled waste identification and classification is available at: <https://epa.tas.gov.au/business-industry/regulation/waste-management/controlled-waste>

¹⁷ Available at [Devil Survey Guidelines and Advice.pdf \(nre.tas.gov.au\)](https://www.nre.tas.gov.au/Devil-Survey-Guidelines-and-Advice.pdf)

12 Decommissioning and rehabilitation

- Describe the proposed decommissioning and rehabilitation measures in the event of cessation of the activity.
- Describe any proposed progressive rehabilitation measures, with reference to the staged development of the quarry/extractive pit (refer to the Site Plans as relevant).

13 Greenhouse gas emissions and climate change

- Describe how the proposal will implement best practice environmental management in energy consumption and in transport of materials to and from the proposed activity, to minimise greenhouse gas emissions.
- Discuss the impacts of the proposed activity in relation to Tasmania's climate change strategy¹⁸.
- Describe the potential impacts of climate change upon the proposal. For example, it may be appropriate to plan for more intense storm events, more severe fire weather, long-term sea level rise, etc.

¹⁸ Available at: <http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/climatechange>

Part D – Summary of Proposed Management Measures

This section should contain a table of the proposed measures for avoiding, minimising, and managing the potential environmental impacts of the proposal (as identified in Part C). These should be written as specific, unambiguous statements of action (see example below).

Table 1. Proposed management measures

No.	Proposed Management Measure	Timeframe
1	Design and install a sediment settling pond capable of containing runoff from a 1-in-20-year storm event as described in Part C, paragraph 2.6 [of the EER].	At least 30 days prior to commencement of operations.
2	Develop a solid waste management plan as described in Part C, paragraph 8.4 [of the EER].	Within three months of approval and prior to treatment or removal of any waste.
3	Erect a noise attenuation barrier as described in Part C, paragraph 9.2 [of the EER]	At least 30 days prior to commencement of operations.

Part E – Public and Stakeholder Consultation

- Describe any public or stakeholder consultation that has taken place or is intended (such as with other government agencies, community groups or neighbours).
- Provide details of the outcome or main findings of any community consultation.
- *Guidance on Community Engagement* is available on the EPA website at [Guidance Documents | EPA Tasmania](#).

Appendix A: Other issues and agency contacts

In addition to a permit under the LUPA Act and the EMPC Act, there may be other legal requirements to allow your proposal to proceed. These may include other permits, licences or landowner consent. You may also need to contact other Government agencies to obtain information for the purpose of assessment under the LUPA Act or the EMPC Act.

Your proposal may have been referred to other agencies in the process of preparing Guidelines. Should assessments or approval outside of the Board's responsibilities be required, you should engage with the respective agency to progress them. The following list identifies some of the key agencies you may need to contact.

Conservation Assessments

Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania

Telephone: (03) 6165 4396

Email: conservationassessments@nre.tas.gov.au

Website: www.nre.tas.gov.au/conservation

Purpose: Natural values including flora, fauna, and geoconservation values, or permits to deal with threatened species.

Conservation Assessments Section ('CAS') made the following comments:

Please note that CAS comments are restricted to the provisions of Tasmanian legislation. If there are any matters listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBCA), including habitat for threatened species, that may be impacted by the proposed development, the proponent should make themselves aware of their obligations under that Act.

Threatened Native Vegetation Communities

The *Natural Values Assessment of Proposed Bauxite Mine DL-130, Reedy Marsh, Tasmania. Report by Environmental Consulting Options Tasmania (ECOtas) for ABx Group, 24 October 2022* (the report) states that TASVEG 4.0 native vegetation community *Eucalyptus ovata* forest and woodland (DOV) is in good condition.

CAS supports the report recommendation that the *Eucalyptus Ovata* forest and woodland be excluded from disturbance and be managed to minimise the risk of degradation (e.g., institution of barrier fencing or similar; maintain drainage regime). To support the intent of the DOV exclusion measures, CAS recommends that an alternative access route be considered to support the long term health and viability of this patch of DOV for landscape connectivity and future habitat values for threatened species such as Tasmanian devil, Swift Parrot and Masked Owl.

Native Vegetation Communities

It is noted that the report updates the TASVEG classification for the native vegetation within the parcel title 214055/1 associated with Mine Stage I from *Eucalyptus amygdalina* - *Eucalyptus obliqua* damp sclerophyll forest TASVEG 4.0 code DSC to *Eucalyptus obliqua* dry forest (DOB). The report also states that potential nesting habitat is present in the north along the boundary with Brushy Rivulet Conservation Area - scattered suitable large individuals of *Eucalyptus obliqua* with large hollows were noted. The report states that up to 4.8 ha of DOB may be cleared in the north of the development footprint.

It is recommended that a targeted survey of the DOB is undertaken prior to clearance for Mine Plan Stage I and should include a check of mature trees for hollows that may potentially provide nests for masked owls, swift parrot and denning habitat. The report states that the density of trees is sparse with evidence of use by brush-tailed possums. It is noted that the presence of brush tailed possums does not exclude the presence of Masked Owls. Masked owls can and will nest and roost in both intact forest and modified land, even tree inhabited by other species such as brushtail possums.

If surveys identify any threatened fauna nests, dens or hollows, further information should be sought from CAS before any development works commence.

Threatened Flora

It is noted that *Pimelea curviflora* var. *gracilis* (slender curved riceflower) listed as rare under the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* (TSPA), was observed within the development proposal alongside the southern access road. CAS supports the Notice of Intent commitments of avoidance, fencing, hygiene and weed management protocols to protect the slender curved riceflower.

If it is not possible to avoid direct impacts to the slender curved riceflower then a permit to take threatened flora will be required under the TSPA. The processing of permit applications may take up to four weeks. Information on applying for a permit, including application forms, can be found on the NRE Tas website: [Permit to Take Threatened Species \(for Consultants & Development-related Activities\) | Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania \(nre.tas.gov.au\)](#).

Threatened Fauna

Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*)

There are records in the area for Swift Parrots (*Lathamus discolor*), listed as endangered under the TSPA and Critically Endangered under the EPBCA and the site has potential foraging habitat. CAS supports the NOI recommendation to exclude the *Eucalyptus ovata* forest and woodland (TASVEG code – DOV) from development as it is potential foraging habitat. In addition, it is noted that potential nesting habitat (eucalypt forests that contain hollow-bearing trees) was observed along the boundary with Brushy Rivulet Conservation Area.

The species nests in tree hollows that are within foraging range of their food source – the flowers of *Eucalyptus globulus* and *E. ovata*, as such, CAS recommends that the DOB native vegetation proposed for clearing for Mine Plan Stage 1 is subject to a targeted survey a check for tree hollows.

Any tree in this area which is 70 cm diameter at breast height (DBH) or more has the capacity to bear hollows large enough to be suitable nesting habitat for Swift Parrots. Any nesting habitat within 10 km of foraging habitat may be used for breeding.

Clearing of this vegetation type should be avoided during Swift Parrot breeding season (September to January) if the species is breeding in the area. Information on breeding locations is provided to CAS each year with the final update provided in mid to late October each year.

Wedge-tailed Eagle (*Aquila audax* subsp. *fleayi*)

The survey report states that nest # 193 is located ca. 540 m to the southwest of the Porters Bridge Road/southern access road intersection and that this nest was last reported in Sept 2010 as 'in poor condition and has sagged', and that no further nests were located during the survey. The report also states that surveys for nests in the modelled habitat east, northeast, and north of the northern part of the study area, were undertaken by Forico in 2021 with no nests detected,

CAS supports the report recommendation that a new nest search will be required within the modelled potential nesting habitat within a minimum of 500 m from the proposed operational areas (and likely within 1 km line-of-sight of such areas) prior to works commencing, to maintain survey currency requirements.

Tasmanian devil and Spotted-tail Quoll

CAS supports the NOI commitment to undertake targeted den surveys for (*Dasyurus maculatus* subsp. *maculatus* (Spotted-tail quoll) and *Sarcophilus harrisii* (Tasmanian devil) prior to clearance. If any potential dens sites for the Tasmanian devil (*Sarcophilus harrisii*) are recorded at the impact site and are likely to be impacted by the proposal, these should be monitored and managed in accordance with the *Tasmanian Devil Survey Guidelines and Management Advice for Development Proposals: Survey Guidelines for Development Assessments | Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (nre.tas.gov.au)*. Any dens that cannot be avoided will require a permit to take under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*.

Roadkill

There are several records of Tasmanian devil *Sarcophilus harrisii*, in the surrounding area which is listed as endangered under the TSPA and EPBCA, within 5000 m of the proposed development footprint.

The Development Application information provided does not state operating hours. As per the *Tasmanian Devil Survey Guidelines and Management Advice for Development Proposals* (Devil Guidelines), it is recommended that traffic operation occurs during daylight hours, i.e., the hours between one hour after dawn and one hour before dusk.

No Traffic Impact Assessment report was available at time of CAS assessment. If the proposal will generate an increase of night-time traffic on Porters Bridge Road of more than 10%; this is considered significant regarding likely impacts on the Tasmanian devil. It is recommended that roadkill mitigation measures are implemented in accordance with the Devil Guidelines: [Survey Guidelines for Development Assessments | Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania \(nre.tas.gov.au\)](#).

Green and Gold Frog (*Litoria raniformis*)

There is a potential for creeks and dams in the surrounding area to contain aquatic fauna listed under the TSPA, including the green and gold frog (*Litoria raniformis*), which is likely to be affected by changes to water quality from runoff from land-based developments. CAS recommends the proponent implements measure so that runoff is managed, and contained, if necessary, to ensure there is no risk of runoff into nearby waterways.

Weeds and Diseases

There are numerous weeds declared under the *Weeds Management Act 1999* recorded within 5 km of the mining lease and native flora species likely to occur in the area are susceptible to *Phytophthora cinnamomi* (PC). CAS notes increased activity elevates the risk of weed and disease infestation and dispersal, which can adversely impact threatened species and their habitat.

CAS supports the implementation of a weed and hygiene management plan as outlined in the Notice of Intent. Further information on preparing weed and disease management plans is in the NRE (2015) *Weed and Disease Planning and Hygiene Guidelines - Preventing the spread of weeds and diseases in Tasmania*: [Weed and Disease Planning and Hygiene Guidelines | Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania \(nre.tas.gov.au\)](#). Practical information on how to minimise the risks of introducing and spreading PC can be found in the manual [Keeping it clean - A Tasmanian field hygiene manual to prevent the spread of freshwater pests and pathogens](#).

Heritage Tasmania

Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania

Telephone: (03) 6165 3700

Email: enquiries@heritage.tas.gov.au

Website: www.heritage.tas.gov.au

Purpose: Historic cultural heritage, including State-level site listings, impacts and permits as required under the *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995*. Where works are proposed in or in close proximity to a heritage place entered on the Tasmanian Heritage Register or likely to be of heritage significance to the whole of Tasmania, and a permit is required under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*, the proposal will be referred to Heritage Tasmania by the planning authority. There may also be additional sites listed under local planning schemes, impacts on which are assessed by the relevant planning authority.

Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania

Department of Premier and Cabinet

Telephone: 1300 487 045

Email: aboriginal@dpac.tas.gov.au

Website: www.aboriginalheritage.tas.gov.au

Purpose: Aboriginal heritage, including desktop assessment, artefact survey requirements, permits and advice.

Parks and Wildlife – Property Services

Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania

Telephone: (03) 6169 9015

Email: PropertyServices@parks.tas.gov.au

Website: www.parks.tas.gov.au

Purpose: Impacts on parks and reserves managed by Parks and Wildlife ('PWS'), or Crown land.

PWS made the following comments:

- There are no reserve areas or Crown land parcels directly involving the proposal site and likely supporting infrastructure areas.
- There is a 40 – 85m buffer of native forest between the proposed mine and Brushy Rivulet Conservation Area (BRCA).
- The proposal does not appear to include the use of any reserved road or Crown land. Transport routes are on existing private roads leading to public roads.
- Mine drainage would flow towards the BRCA and that would require a mine plan to include silt traps and any outfall filtered by the native forest buffer.
- A raptor nest search should be repeated for the BRCA prior to start-up.

Agriculture and Water

Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania

Telephone: 1300 368 550

Email: Water.Enquiries@nre.tas.gov.au

Website: www.nre.tas.gov.au/water

Purpose: Water licences and works impacting natural waterway flow (e.g., dams or fords).

Transport Services

Department of State Growth

Telephone: (03) 6166 3369

Email: permits@stategrowth.tas.gov.au

Website: www.transport.tas.gov.au

Purpose: State roads, including where any proposal requires works on or access from a State-managed Road.

Mineral Resources Tasmania

Department of State Growth

Telephone: (03) 6165 4800

Email: info@mrt.tas.gov.au

Website: www.mrt.tas.gov.au

Purpose: Mining Leases

TasWater

Telephone: 13 6992

Email: Environment@Taswater.com.au

Website: <http://www.taswater.com.au/>

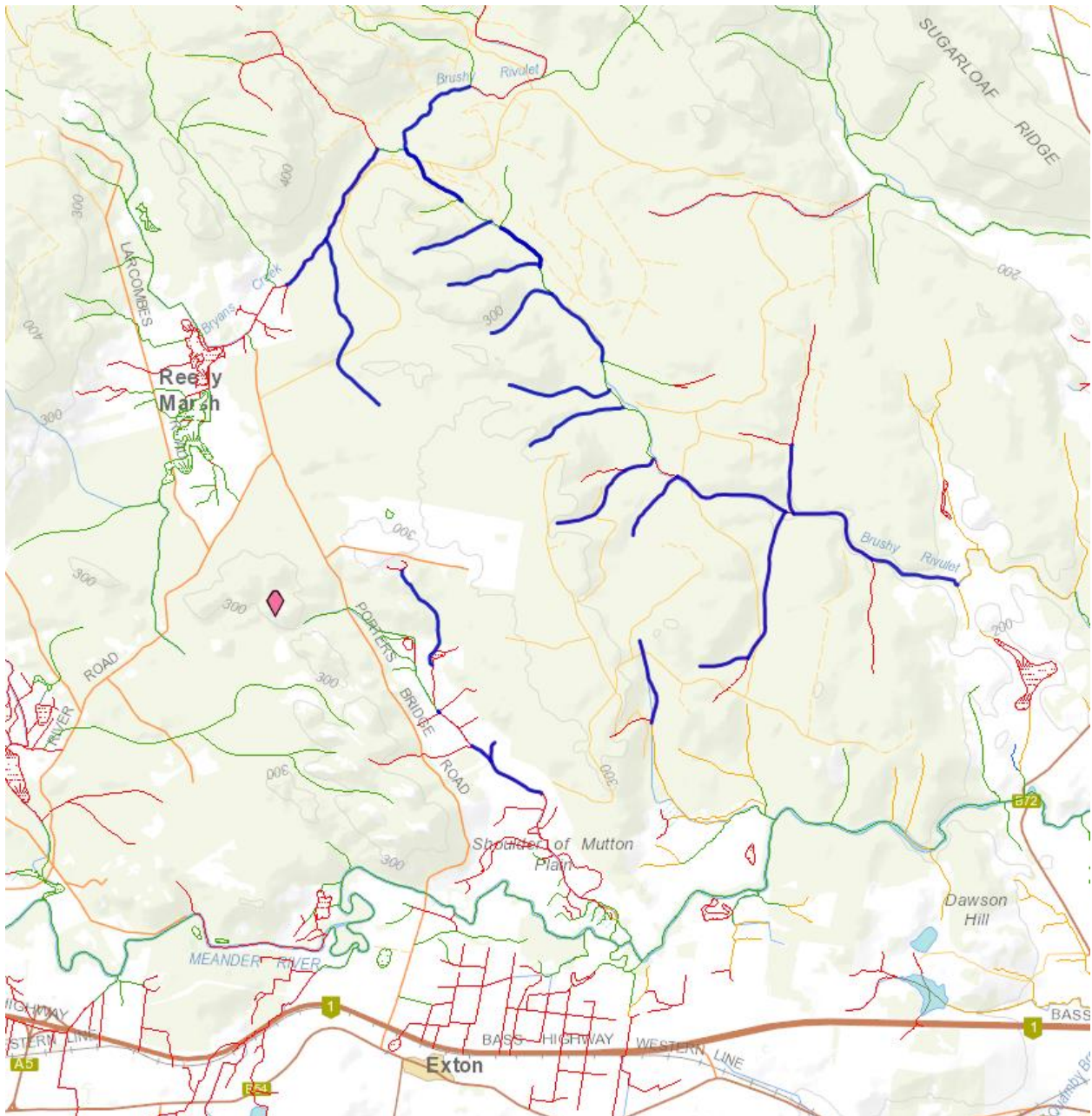
TasWater provided the following comments:

Impact on local Sewage Treatment Plants

- There appears to be no impact on local sewage treatment plants. The EER should confirm whether any wastewater or quarry washdown effluent will be discharged to either Deloraine or Westbury Sewage Treatment Plants.
- The EER should clarify employee/domestic wastewater arrangements (e.g., from staff amenities) on site.

Receiving Environment

- The documentation has indicated no impact expected at the local waterway (Brushy Rivulet). Provide discussion of potential impact to TasWater receiving waterways, e.g., Meander River.
- Describe the potential impacts on the minor tributary to Brushy Rivulet and to Brushy Rivulet itself, especially from potential elevated suspended solids and/or aluminium or other metals. Discussion should include potential impacts from overflow of the sedimentation ponds during normal and/or high rainfall events etc. This should be covered in the EER stormwater and drainage assessment including the surface water management plan.
- Brushy Rivulet is a tributary of the Meander River. Describe how the quarry will ensure that stockpiles are managed effectively to prevent any run-off into Brushy Rivulet.
- Brushy Rivulet has an Integrated Conservation Value (ICV) ranging from High to Low depending on the location. High ICV tributaries should be considered as part of any runoff plan as required.
- All of the tributaries shown below (blue) have either high, medium or low ICVs.



Master-planning perspective (Asset Strategy)

- Describe source(s) of any water for undertaking washdown and dust suppression activities and the likely volumes required. Will there be a dedicated water supply dam, or will connection to a water supply be required?

Water Quality

- The only expected impact from a drinking water perspective will be containment of stormwater runoff on-site.
- Brushy Rivulet enters the Meander downstream of the Westbury Water Treatment Plant offtake, with the next extraction point downstream being Lake Trevallyn. Assuming that basic site stormwater management is employed for the activity, the risk levels should be relatively low.



ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY