

Draft
Environmental Impact
Statement Guidelines

MMG Australia Limited
Bobadil Heights Filtered Tailings Stack,
Rosebery

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ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

DRAFT

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Glossary and abbreviations

Term	Definition
Board	Board of the Environment Protection Authority
Case for assessment	Information required for environmental impact assessment, prepared according to the Board's requirements.
Director	Means the Director, Environment Protection Authority holding office under Section 18 of <i>Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994</i> and includes a delegate or person authorised in writing by the Director to exercise a power or function on the Director's behalf.
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EMPCA	<i>Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994</i>
EMPCS	Environmental Management and Pollution Control System. Objectives found in Schedule 1 of EMPCA.
Environmentally hazardous material	Means 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 and includes fuels, oils, waste and chemicals but excludes sewage.
EPA	Environment Protection Authority. Tasmania's independent principal environmental regulator which administers EMPCA and consists of a Board and a Director.
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Commonwealth)
LUPAA	<i>Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993</i>
MNES	Matters of National Environmental Significance
NCA	<i>Nature Conservation Act 2002</i>
Noise sensitive premises	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.
Planning Authority	Council for relevant local government area
RMPS	Resource Management and Planning System, Tasmania. Objectives found in Schedule 1 of EMPCA.
Suitably qualified person	Means suitably qualified person in the opinion of the Director
TSPA	<i>Threatened Species Protection Act 1995</i>

Part A. Introduction

These Guidelines provide instructions for proponents on how to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for an activity being assessed in Tasmania by the Board of the Environment Protection Authority (the Board). The Board uses an EIS as a ‘case for assessment’, to assess the environmental impact of an activity, as required under the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* (EMPCA).

The role of the EIS

An EIS is generally required for larger scale developments, classed as requiring 2B or 2C assessments under EMPCA. It is a document that provides information about a proposal, its potential impacts and proposed mitigation measures. As a publicly available document, an EIS should facilitate public consultation and informed comment and should contain sufficient information to establish the conditions of approval by authorities, if approved.

The EIS should demonstrate that the proposal is consistent with the objectives of relevant laws and policies, including the Tasmanian Resource Management and Planning System (RMPS) and the Environmental Management and Pollution Control System (EMPCS). These systems are designed to facilitate sustainable development.

Further information on the EPA Assessment Process is available on the [EPA website](#).¹

Refer also to Appendix A *General principles for assessing environmental impacts*, for further information on EIS principles.

How the Board uses the EIS

The Board uses the EIS to inform decision making as part of the environmental impact assessment process. The EIS must be prepared in accordance with guidance provided by the Board under section 74(4) of EMPCA. The staff of the EPA support the Board during the assessment process.

The EIS will be advertised publicly to allow for public consultation. The proponent may then be required to supply additional information in response to public and government agency submissions. This information is generally supplied in the form of a supplement to the EIS.

The Board considers the EIS as well as other relevant information in the context of the objectives of the RMPS and EMPCS. These objectives aim to sustain the environment and avoid or mitigate adverse effects, while considering the economic and social needs of people now and in the future. The Board will endeavour to make the decision which best furthers the objectives of the RMPS and EMPCS. It may approve the proposal with conditions, or in some cases may decide to reject the proposal if the objectives cannot be upheld.

The Environmental Impact Statement Guidelines are adapted for each specific proposal. In general, more detailed studies and information will be required where issues are considered by the Board to involve a higher level of environmental risk.

Other significant matters may emerge while preparing the EIS, from environmental studies, public comments, or other sources. These must also be considered in the EIS. Information collected or generated during the assessment process may also change the understanding of the level of risk associated with some issues. This must also be reflected in the EIS.

¹ See <https://epa.tas.gov.au/business-industry/assessment/assessment-process>

Planning information

The relevant Planning Authority (local Council) will assess planning information if the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* (LUPAA) applies. Information solely for the purpose of assessment under the relevant Planning Scheme should be supplied to the Planning Authority either:

- as required under section 54 of LUPAA where the planning application has started the environmental assessment process; or
- as a combined planning and environmental report where it is intended to submit an EIS with the planning application. Where this option is selected, the information required for the Board's assessment must be clearly distinguished from that supplied for the purposes of LUPAA.

Australian Government environmental assessment

The Australian Government (Commonwealth) may have a role in the environmental assessment and approval of the proposal in addition to Tasmanian requirements. Approval under the Australian *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) is required for an action which has, will have, or is likely to have, a significant impact on a Matter of National Environmental Significance (MNES).

The nine MNES are:

- world heritage properties
- national heritage places
- wetlands of international importance (often called 'Ramsar' wetlands after the international treaty under which such wetlands are listed)
- nationally threatened species and ecological communities
- migratory species
- Commonwealth marine areas
- the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
- nuclear actions (including uranium mining)
- a water resource, in relation to coal seam gas development and large coal mining development.

The Australian and Tasmanian Governments have signed a bilateral agreement for environmental impact assessment under section 45 of the EPBC Act, which accredits the Board's assessment process. This allows a proposal that has been determined to be a controlled action under the EPBC Act to be assessed by the Board on behalf of the Australian Government.

If a proposal is to be assessed under the bilateral agreement, the EIS must specifically describe the implications of the proposal for the relevant EPBC Act controlling provisions. It must also contain a summary table showing that it addresses the matters specified in Schedule 4 of the [Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000](#).²

Information on the EPBC Act can be obtained from the [Australian Government, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water \(DCCEEW\) website](#),³ or by calling 1800 803 772. It is the proponent's responsibility to consult DCCEEW to determine whether the EPBC Act and the bilateral agreement apply to the proposal.

² See http://www8.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdoc/au/legis/cth/consol_reg/epabcr2000697/sch4.html

³ See <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/epbc>

Part B. Instructions

The EIS must present information in a way that can be easily understood. It should provide summaries in non-technical language to give readers a general understanding of the proposal. It must also provide technical detail to allow analysis and understanding of impacts and mitigation measures by technical specialists, regulatory bodies, and people with an interest in specific matters arising from the proposal.

Section C of these Guidelines sets out the structure and **minimum** content requirements of the EIS.

Proponents are advised to consult the EPA during preparation of the EIS, including in the case of any uncertainty in relation to the requirements set out in these Guidelines.

General requirements

- Avoid technical terminology where possible in the main body of the EIS. It should be able to be read as an independent document which provides a general understanding of the proposal.
- Include any detailed technical data or supplementary reports as appendices.
- Consider document accessibility. The Australian Government Style Manual provides information about inclusion and accessibility.
- Use cross-referencing to prevent unnecessary duplication between sections.
- Reference all sources of information using a consistent style.
- Define all key terms and words used.
- Information in the EIS must be relevant.
 - Show reasoning for arguments. Support conclusions with referenced evidence.
 - Indicate how current information is, how reliability has been tested, and the degree of confidence attached to any predictions.
 - Sufficient technical detail must be provided to allow for environmental impact assessment, even when details are not final at the time of preparation.
 - If information is currently unavailable, estimates and alternative options should be provided, however the limitations of available information must be evaluated.
- Provide any sensitive commercial or corporate information in a confidential appendix. Provide a comment in the EIS if this has been done.

The EIS must not include information that is known to be false or misleading, and nothing should be omitted if it is known that without it the EIS would be false or misleading (section 43A of EMPCA).

Spatial and visual information requirements

- Present information in maps, plans, diagrams, and photographs where necessary, to enhance understanding.
- Images must be high quality and reproducible in monochrome, with all text and relevant features clearly visible.
- Maps and plans should include a north arrow and scale.

- Use a consistent base plan throughout the EIS where appropriate, to allow elements to be overlaid and compared. Ensure that detailed information is clear and visible, particularly when using satellite images as background layers. This is best achieved using a geographical information system (GIS).
- Specify the coordinate reference system when providing or referring to spatial information, including maps, plans, grid coordinates and heights. Further information on coordinate reference systems used in Tasmania can be found on the [Land Tasmania website](#)⁴.

Recommended systems are:

- Horizontal – Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994⁵ Map Grid of Australia Zone 55 (GDA94 MGA55)
- Vertical – Australian Height Datum (Tasmania) (AHD83).

Submission

It is strongly recommended that proponents submit the EIS to the EPA for review prior to formal lodgement of the EIS with the Board. The EIS submitted for review must meet the requirements of these Guidelines and be in accordance with Appendix A; incomplete documents will not be accepted for review.

The EIS may be submitted via email to assessments@epa.tas.gov.au and your nominated contact officer. Proponents should contact the EPA if alternative submission methods are deemed necessary.

⁴ See <https://nre.tas.gov.au/land-tasmania/geospatial-infrastructure-surveying/geodetic-survey/coordinate-height-and-tide-datums-tasmania>

⁵ Geocentric Datum of Australia 2020 (GDA2020) is the new official datum for recording the horizontal location of spatial information in Australia, but is not yet fully implemented in Tasmania.

Part C. EIS structure and content

The EIS must follow the structure set out below and must address all requirements unless otherwise agreed following consultation with the EPA. For clarity, organise content with further headings and subheadings as appropriate.

Title page

The title page must include:

- Name of proponent (legal entity)
- Name of proposal (include “expansion” or “upgrade” where appropriate)
- Proposal address or location
- EIS version number
- Month and year of submission

Executive summary

The executive summary must provide a clear and concise overview of the proposal, its environmental implications, and the function of the EIS in the context of the assessment process. For a larger EIS, the executive summary must be written as a stand-alone document for people who may not wish to read or acquire the full EIS.

Table of contents

The EIS must include a table of contents and a list of figures and tables to allow the reader to easily locate information. The table of contents should include hyperlinks to allow documents to be navigated easily.

Glossary and abbreviations

Provide a list of abbreviations and acronyms and a glossary which clearly defines any technical terms used in the EIS.

Proponent information

Proponent details:

- Name of proponent (legal entity)
- Name of proponent (trading name)
- Registered address of proponent
- Postal address of proponent
- ABN
- ACN (where relevant)

Contact person’s details:

- Name
- Telephone
- Email address

Activity Operator details must be provided if the operator will be a different entity to the proponent.

1. Introduction

The introduction should provide:

- General background information on the proponent, including relevant development and operational experience.
- General background information on the proposal, including:
 - current status of the proposal;
 - an overview of the principal components of the proposal;
 - the proposal location; and
 - possibilities for future expansion.
- If the proposal is associated with an existing activity, information on current permits, regulatory approvals and/or licences.
- A discussion about how the proposal relates to any other proposals that have been or are being developed in the same region as the proposal.
- Environmental legislation, standards and guidelines that will be applicable, such as policies, regulations, and industry codes of practice.
- Other relevant Commonwealth, State and Local Government policies, strategies, and management plans with which the proposal would be expected to comply.

2. Proposal description

The scope of the proposal must be clearly described, and must include:

- A summary table,
- A detailed description of proposal,
- Definition of the activity area,
- Maps, plans and visual information,
- A summary of planning aspects,
- Socio-economic context, and
- Off-site infrastructure.

Where a proposal will require a permit application under LUPAA, the proposal description and specification of the site must be consistent with the intended or current permit application.

2.1 Summary table

The summary table provides an overview of the proposal and identifies the key characteristics, including:

- Location and planning context;
- Existing site information, including topography, local climate, geology, geomorphology, soils (e.g. erodibility and acid sulphate soils), vegetation, fauna, groundwater, and surface drainage (e.g. waterways, lakes, wetlands, coastal areas);
- Proposed infrastructure;
- Proposed timeline; and
- Inputs (e.g. water, materials, energy) and outputs (e.g. products, wastes and emissions).

Refer to *Appendix C* for an example of a project description summary table.

2.2 Detailed description of proposal

This section should include information that has not been included in the summary table, or that requires further explanation. Provide detail on the proposed construction, commissioning and operation of the activity, including any ancillary works that are for the purpose of the proposal (e.g. access works). It should provide detailed information on the filtered tailings process, including both the Filter Plant and Filtered Tailing Stack the stack and describe the construction and operational aspects. Where relevant this section should include references to other comparable mining facilities globally and relevant literature.

2.2.1 Project Components

- Describe the physical components required for the proposal to function up to closure.
- Describe the major items of equipment (including pollution control equipment) and onsite facilities. Include detailed technical information on major items of equipment as appendices.
- Detail the total footprint of the proposal.

2.2.2 Construction

- Provide a step-by-step description of significant activities that will occur during the construction phase of the proposal (e.g. liner construction, seepage interception systems, etc.). The description must include:
 - Details of geotechnical investigations to assess foundation conditions and construction material availability, including:
 - Borehole drilling and test pitting to determine subsurface conditions
 - Characterisation of foundation rock lithology, properties and strength
 - Field logging and soil/rock collection for laboratory testing
 - Potential borrow sources
 - A geological model to aid visualisation of the subsurface conditions
- Construction aspects should be supported by geotechnical engineering reports and feasibility designs that are independently peer-reviewed by suitably qualified person(s).
- Provide an indicative timetable for completing major stages of construction.
- Detail the total construction footprint.
- Describe the requirements of any raw materials which are required for the construction, including source locations or borrow areas required for the construction.
- Define the proposed hours within which construction activities will take place (hours per day and specific days per week).

2.2.3 Commissioning

- Provide a step-by-step description of significant commissioning activities that will occur following installation of equipment or infrastructure.
- Provide an indicative timetable for completing major stages of commissioning. Describe the point at which commissioning will be considered complete.

2.2.4 Operation

- Describe the process(es) of operation for the Filter Plant and the FTS in a step-by-step manner, using explanatory diagrams and flow charts where appropriate. This should include information associated with:
 - the target specifications for the filtered tailings produced by the Filter Plant (moisture content, particle size, etc.), taking into consideration the local climatic conditions and seasonal variations.
 - the FTS design and staging, including tailings placement methods and required engineering specifications to be achieved to ensure stack integrity (geochemistry, moisture content, compaction, etc.).

- the monitoring, Quality Assurance/Quality Control framework and engineering controls that will be utilised during ongoing operation of the Filter Plant and FTS to ensure the produced material and FTS meet the design specifications.
- Discuss issues which may occur during the operation of the FTS and filtered tailings placement (e.g. weather conditions, Filter Plant shutdowns, off-specification material etc.) and describe how these issues will be managed and the contingency measures that will be in place to ensure the FTS is constructed to appropriate engineering specifications.

Where available, include references to case studies of failures or operational issues, outlining the causes of these events, corrective actions taken, and the likelihood of similar issues occurring for the proposed activity.

- Discuss how tailings and filtered tailings will be managed during periods where filtered tailings placement cannot occur. Where measures include the temporary storage of materials detail the storage locations and capacities.
- Outline all raw materials (including water) required for operation. Detail sources, quantities, and characteristics.
- Identify and quantify all products, emissions and/or wastes produced.
- Outline all energy requirements for operation. Describe how energy demands will be met.
- Define the production capacity and rate for relevant processes. Include peak rates, daily average rates and annual production rates where applicable.
- Define the proposed hours of operation (hours per day and specific days per week). Specify any seasonal variations.

2.3 Maps, plans and figures

Spatial information should be presented in maps, plans, diagrams and imagery. 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, scale and legend. When spatial data (including maps, plans, coordinates and heights) are provided or referred to, the horizontal and vertical datum must be specified. At a minimum, provide the following:

2.3.1 General location maps

Provide general location maps of the existing environment and surrounding area (of a suitable scale), showing:

- The location of the proposal site;
- Boundaries of the property on which the proposal is located;
- Road access to and from the site;
- The distance(s) to any sensitive uses and residences⁶ within 1.5km of the proposed activity;
- The applicable attenuation distance⁷
- Topographical features, aspect, and direction of drainage;
- Location of waterways and drains (including ephemeral waterbodies and water courses);
- Electricity transmission lines;
- Surrounding land tenure;
- Surrounding land use (including areas of conservation or recreational significance); and
- Surrounding land zoning in the local government planning scheme.

⁶ 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.'

⁷ Refer to relevant planning scheme or State Planning Provisions

2.3.2 Map of the proposed activity area

Provide a map of the proposed activity area clearly showing the physical extent of the proposal. The activity area should encompass all works for construction and areas used for operations, including earthworks, land clearing, existing or proposed structures, stockpiles, laydown areas, parking, amenities and sediment management and other infrastructure.

- The map should include a sufficient number of coordinates at corner points for the activity area boundary; and
- The activity areas boundary should also be provided in a geospatial vector format (shapefile or DXF).
- Where works are proposed in key stages over time, include definitions or boundaries of each of the key stages.

2.3.3 Site plan

Provide site plan(s) showing the detail of proposed works and operations, including:

- Cadastral boundaries and mining lease boundaries (if relevant);
- The boundary of the activity area;
- The location of existing and proposed buildings/structures and plant and machinery;
- Relevant topographic features, including contours and waterways;
- Proposed buildings, structures, major earthworks, major items of equipment, storage areas, loading/unloading areas;
- The locations and extent of extractive areas;
- The location of product, overburden, soil, and waste stockpiles;
- Site water management (drains, settling ponds, bunding and monitoring points, as relevant); and
- Vegetation types, clearly marking areas to be cleared, and records of any threatened species/vegetation communities.

2.3.4 Figures and flowcharts

Present figures such as process flowcharts and images where they are likely to improve readers' understanding of the site and proposal. Any images and photos used must be high-quality, with an accurate description and date.

2.4 Offsite infrastructure

Describe any new infrastructure or offsite ancillary facilities required to enable the proposal to proceed, such as water supply, electricity supply, roads or other infrastructure.

3. Planning and socio-economic context

The planning aspects description should include any additional planning information and data not included in the summary table.

- If a permit is required under LUPAA provide Use Class and Permissibility of the proposed activity under the applicable Planning Scheme.
- Detail land tenure and property boundaries of the proposed site, with certificate of title details.
- Detail land zonings for the proposed site and surrounding areas.
- Describe any rights of way, easements and covenants affecting the site and the feasibility of the proposal if it is located within any of these areas.

- Discuss land use and planning history of the site, including the potential for site contamination⁸, present use and any existing buildings and significant structures.
- Describe land use and ownership in the vicinity of the site and those areas which may be affected by the proposal.
- Detail sensitive uses⁹ and residential zones within applicable attenuation distances including the location of individual residences, schools, hospitals, caravan parks and similar sensitive uses, and the location of any tourist or recreation facilities or routes (such as camping areas, picnic areas, walking tracks, historic routes).
- Consider any proposed or potentially sensitive uses within applicable attenuation distances from the proposal site, which have been or are likely to be granted approval under the local planning scheme.

Briefly describe the existing social and economic environment that may be affected by the proposal. This may include:

- A summary of the social or demographic characteristics of the population living in the vicinity of the proposal site, identifying any special characteristics which may make people more sensitive to impacts from the proposal than might otherwise be expected.
- A summary of the characteristics of the local and regional economy.

4. Project Alternatives

Proponents should provide the rationale for the proposal. Alternatives should consider best practice environmental management, including measures listed under section 4(2) of [EMPCA](#).¹⁰ The rationale should:

- Describe the site selection process and criteria.
- Evaluate any alternative sites considered. Justify the choice of the proposed site in terms of clearly defined environmental, social, economic, and technical considerations, including avoidance of environmental impacts.
- Describe the effect of any community consultation on the selection process.
- Identify and provide an assessment of other available technologies, materials, design options or management practices, where relevant, including how environmental impacts will be avoided. Evaluate the environmental performance of identified alternatives and provide justification for the preferred option.

5. Public Consultation

Describe any public consultation that has taken place during project planning and preparation of the EIS and summarise the results of this consultation. Describe any proposed future public consultation that will take place during project implementation and operation. The Board encourages early community engagement, as it often leads to better outcomes for all parties. Guidance on effective community engagement is available on the [EPA website](#).¹¹

⁸ Information on potentially contaminating activities and contaminated site assessment can be found online at <https://epa.tas.gov.au/Pages/Land.aspx>

⁹ 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.’

¹⁰ See: <https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-1994-044#GS4@EN>

¹¹ See [https://epa.tas.gov.au/Documents/Guidance on Community Engagement.pdf](https://epa.tas.gov.au/Documents/Guidance%20on%20Community%20Engagement.pdf)

6. Potential Impacts and Management

Identify all potential environmental impacts and describe the proposed measures to avoid, mitigate or offset adverse consequences. The detail provided on each issue should reflect its significance. While key issues are identified for the proposal, other issues that emerge as significant while preparing the EIS, through environmental studies, public comments or otherwise, must be considered and addressed.

Address each discrete issue separately, using headings and subheadings where necessary to organise and separate discussions.

Use scientific data to support predictions and evaluate impacts and provide references to the data used. Where specialist reports have been required for key issues, summarise them within the body of the EIS where relevant, and attach the reports as appendices. Detail the qualifications of the authors of any specialist reports. Make sure that the information in the body of the EIS is consistent with the information in the appendices.

General information requirements for each potential impact are described below and are in addition to any specific information requirements detailed later in this section.

Existing Environment

- Describe the existing environment in relation to the impact, including the vulnerability of the potentially affected environment.
- Analyse the issue in relation to the existing environment.

Methodology

- Describe how the assessment of the impact has been undertaken, such as by survey or desktop study.
- Identify any relevant guidelines and standards used.
- Discuss any choice of methodology over alternatives where relevant.

Assessment

- Clearly articulate potential impacts, using tables and figures to aid communication where possible.
- Support assertions and assumptions with adequate argument and/or evidence.
- Identify plausible worst-case scenarios and the reversibility of the impact.
- Summarise the proposal's contribution to any cumulative impacts, where appropriate.

Avoidance and Mitigation Measures

- Describe the measures proposed to avoid, mitigate or offset potential adverse impacts.
- Detail any specialist recommendations which have been/will be implemented. Where specialist recommendations are not to be implemented, justify why. All recommendations made in specialist reports should be addressed.
- Analyse the effectiveness of the mitigation measures. Describe how and to what degree the impacts will have been avoided, minimised or offset.
- Discuss any residual impacts, referring to relevant guidelines or standards.
- Discuss any contingency measures related to pollution control equipment.

Refer to *Appendix A: General principles for assessing environmental impacts*.

Key issues

The key issues identified for this proposal, which should be the focus of the EIS, are:

1. Tailing and waste characterisation.
2. Surface Water
3. Groundwater.
4. Air quality.
5. Closure.
6. Biodiversity and natural values.

6.1 Key issue 1: Tailings and waste characterisation

Detail the physical and chemical characteristics of filtered tailings sufficient to enable assessment of proposed tailings deposition method and management, ongoing stability of the FTS, the potential for the generation of acid and metalliferous drainage (including neutral metalliferous drainage) and any proposed management and mitigation

6.1.1 Assessment

- Detail physical characteristics of tailings and management of tailing specification with respect to the FTS construction and stability including:
 - Target particle size distribution specification, potential variability and sensitivity of design to variable physical characteristics of tailings
 - Relative volumes of non-specification material, and proposed treatment and/or use
 - density, plasticity and hydraulic conductivity testing of filtered tails
 - potential interaction with contact waters (e.g. water absorption, trafficability, erodibility etc.)
- Characterise and classify tailings, and other quarried construction materials where relevant, based on risk of acid and metalliferous drainage and of any other potential contaminants and parameters of concern. Characterisation must be consistent with *Preventing Acid and Metalliferous drainage, Leading Practice Sustainable Development Program for the Mining Industry, 2016*.¹² The assessment should include
 - Tailings mineralogy in relation to the potential to generate AMD or other leachate including potential changes over time
 - Metals, metalloids, acidity, salinity and other chemical elements or ions of potential concern.
 - Static and kinetic testing for all tailings streams to determine the appropriateness of proposed handling and deposition methods (i.e., transportation, storage, deposition and compaction). Consideration must be given to the entire tailings profile and include all elements that have the potential to impact public health and/or the environment via water and air emissions throughout the life of the facility.
 - Ongoing kinetic testing under FTS conditions to evaluate potential leachate under plausible worst case operational and meteorological conditions
 - Acid Base Accounting (NAPP testing) and NAG testing of all waste stream to inform evaluation of AMD risk. Analysis should include all derived parameters and consider specific mineralogy characteristic which may impact conclusions.
 - Estimated quantities of tailings of each type (e.g. PAF, pyrite, non-pyrite, NAF, Uncertain Classification etc. as relevant).
 - Potential for geochemical changes to occur within the FTS over time and the impact of such changes on leachate discharge to surface directly or via liner drainage

¹² See <https://www.industry.gov.au/publications/leading-practice-handbooks-sustainable-mining/preventing-acid-and-metalliferous-drainage>

- Describe the tailings deposition and management methods with reference to geochemical characterisation undertaken, including:
 - Tailing placement and compaction to minimize oxidation of potentially acid forming tailings
 - Rate of oxidation of PAF materials in the tailings, near surface and over time with ongoing stacking.
 - The effects of any disturbance (if relevant) to compacted tailings.
 - The effect of characteristics of changing tailings mineralogy on rates of acidification.
 - Potential impact of extreme weather events on tailing deposition, compaction, erosion and stability and any associated AMD risk including neutral metalliferous or saline drainage.
- Discuss best practice environmental management measures to minimise potential for AMD formation during the tailings placement process.
- Describe any specific design or contingency measures to manage events where there may be elevated potential for AMD emission (e.g. extreme weather, temporary cessation of operation, drainage impacts or operational failures such as miss placement of deposited materials or poor compaction).

Data requirements

Provide the following:

- Sampling methodology for tailings, construction materials and the geology of the proposal footprint (including borrow areas).
- Sources of samples and rationale for selection.
- Number of samples of each class or lithology.
- Mineralogical description of samples.
- Results of kinetic leach test studies of tails under varying compaction and meteorological conditions

Geochemical assessment should be based on sufficient sampling of suitable representative materials resulting from current production, and expected future changes in materials geochemistry, to give a reliable assessment of the characteristics of the range of tailings/construction materials likely to be received by the proposed FTS during its lifetime.

6.2 Key issue 2: Water quality

Discuss potential impacts of the proposal on surface water during construction and operation, including methodology where appropriate.

6.2.1 Existing Environment

- Provide a description and map of the activity site with respect to topography and preferential surface water flow, existing surface water and stormwater drainage. Identify nearby water bodies and watercourses likely to be impacted by the proposal, including within the vicinity of the filter plant and TSF, the discharge point of the Bobadil TSF treatment ponds to the Pieman and any other potential aquatic receiving environment.
- Provide an overview of receiving environments. Identify all relevant [Protected Environmental Values \(PEVs\)](#), including:
 - sensitive uses and associated water quality considerations.
 - seasonal water quality, hydrological characteristics and biological condition of the receiving environment;
 - reference to published or determined (site-specific) water quality guideline values for receiving environments. For information about the water quality management framework and evaluation criteria in Tasmania, refer to [Technical Guidance for Water Quality Objectives \(WQOs\) Setting for Tasmania, August 2020](#).

- Describe baseline water quality, biological and sediment monitoring undertaken. Detail any other information relevant to assessing potential impacts, such as ecotoxicological data or potential hydrological changes. Where relevant, historic information collated from studies and monitoring associated with the existing Bobadil TSF should be referenced. Include the results of monitoring in the report and provide separately as data.

6.2.2 Assessment

- Identify and characterise all liquid emissions that could arise from the proposal, including from the filter plant, tailings drainage, contact water drainage, stormwater and any other source.
- Detail filter plant effluent and stormwater management including:
 - process capacity, potential process volumes over time and volume of filter wastewater
 - any proposed treatment of wastewater
 - wastewater and stormwater discharge locations
 - stormwater management including control infrastructure design function and ARI and discharge criteria
- Detail the FTS liner system design and function including:
 - Above liner drainage
 - Liner design permeability and construction
 - Under liner drainage layer and potential for groundwater interaction based on hydrogeological investigations and modelling
 - Liner performance evaluation and any ongoing maintenance or adaption
- Provide a quantitative water balance model for the FTS facility including:
 - Long term statistical analysis of rainfall patterns and identified on frequency, duration and intensity of rainfall events.
 - Assessment of surface water run off behaviour during construction stages and final closure of the FTS.
 - Potential surface water and hydrogeological interactions.
 - Conceptual overview and design criteria for the FTS water management system including stormwater diversion drainage, liner drainage, stormwater and leachate treatment pond, conveyance and discharge infrastructure and locations.
 - Estimated discharge volumes and quality to the Bobadil TSF decant management facility and to other surface water environments.
- Describe the existing Bobadil TSF decant water management system and its capacity to manage additional flow from the FTS and filter plant including:
 - Overview of function and relevant design aspects including number and size of ponds, construction materials and treatment flow path.
 - Hydraulic retention times under variable operational and meteorological conditions.
 - Current discharge effluent quality and discharge location.
 - Any proposed changes to the treatment facility for the development including the likely volume and quality of effluent/water that will be discharged to the facility, and potential impacts of the proposal on treated effluent quality.
- Evaluate the water quality impacts associated with discharge over time including:
 - potential changes to water quality based on the detailed tailings characterisation and modelled FTS behaviour and all plausible conditions
 - the water balance model detailing relative volumes of discharge water from each source (surface contact, diverted stormwaters, tailing filter plant, liner drainage, seepage)
 - evaluation should include plausible worst case discharge quantity and quality, and potential periods of temporary shutdown and / or care and maintenance.
- If new point source discharge are proposed or changes of loads and volumes at existing discharge points are significant, undertake dilution/dispersion modelling. This must consider:

- Initial/near-field mixing, including consideration of toxicant parameters secondary mixing and potential far-field impacts,

6.2.3 Avoidance and mitigation measures

- Identify and assess available options for improved effluent management and minimisation of wastewater discharge, according to the hierarchy set out in the [State Policy on Water Quality Management 1997, Division 2: 'Management of Point Sources of Pollution'](#). Viable reduction or reuse options must be implemented. The assessment must include:
 - Details of any investigations undertaken to identify options for beneficial reuse of effluent.
 - Justification for any proposed emission of contaminants to surface water in accordance with the principles outlined in the [State Policy on Water Quality Management 1997](#).
- Provide an overview and evaluation of all measures to manage potential acid or metalliferous drainage formation from tailings generation, filtering, deposition, compaction and capping of tailings including:
 - Management of any in situ geology or quarried materials
 - Potential changes in mining mineralogy over the life cycle of the project
 - Physical characteristic of tails and filtered tailings
 - FTS management during operation, any temporary cessation of operation and at closure and post closure
- Detail all monitoring to be undertaken to assess potential impacts because of storage water, contact water, filter press water or leachate discharge to the receiving environment, either directly or via existing water management infrastructure.

For information about water quality management framework and evaluation criteria in Tasmania refer to [Technical Guidance for Water Quality Objectives \(WQOs\) Setting for Tasmania, August 2020](#).¹³

6.3 Key issue 3: Groundwater

Discuss potential impacts of the proposal on groundwater (quality and quantity). Consider construction and operation phases and include methodology details where appropriate.

6.3.1 Existing Environment

- Where potential groundwater contamination could arise as a result of the activity or where groundwater extraction is proposed, provide a conceptual groundwater model for regional and local aquifer flows including:
 - Review of existing and site specific geological (including structural features such as faults), hydrogeological and hydrological information
 - bore logs associated with any drilling undertaking in relation to the proposal
 - any hydraulic testing of aquifer properties where potential interaction with groundwater flow may occur.
 - Identification any potential interaction with the Bobadil TSF including site specific gap analysis with respect to the existing groundwater monitoring network
- Identify any surface water and groundwater dependent ecosystems that may receive groundwater from areas impacted by the proposal.
- Provide details of any baseline groundwater quality monitoring undertaken. Include the results of monitoring in the report and provide separately as data.

¹³ See

[https://epa.tas.gov.au/Documents/Technical%20Guidance%20for%20Water%20Quality%20Objectives%20\(WQOs\)%20Setting%20for%20Tasmania.pdf](https://epa.tas.gov.au/Documents/Technical%20Guidance%20for%20Water%20Quality%20Objectives%20(WQOs)%20Setting%20for%20Tasmania.pdf)

6.3.2 Assessment

- Discuss the potential impact of the proposal on groundwater (quality and quantity) with reference to groundwater assessments undertaken

6.3.3 Avoidance and mitigation measures

- Describe the measures proposed to avoid or mitigate potential adverse impacts to groundwater. In particular detail FTS liner design criteria to prevent movement of contaminants to groundwater and minimise any potential interaction of FTS leachate with groundwater.
- Identify any groundwater seepage which may be entrained in water captured via water management infrastructure.
- Include a map showing the location of any proposed groundwater bores.
- Provide details of a groundwater monitoring plan to monitor the impact from the activity.
- Justify any potential impact to groundwater in accordance with the principles outlined in the [State Policy on Water Quality Management 1997](#) and with reference to likely groundwater community values, associated guideline values and guideline values for receiving surface waters.

For information about the water quality management framework and evaluation criteria in Tasmania refer to [Technical Guidance for Water Quality Objectives \(WQOs\) Setting for Tasmania, August 2020](#).

6.4 Key issue 4: Air quality

This air quality assessment should detail potential impacts of the proposal on the local and regional air environment during construction, operation, and post-closure stages, including methodology where appropriate. Additionally, it should provide evidence that the activity will not cause environmental nuisance or harm. The air quality assessment should:

6.4.1 Existing Environment

- Provide a location map including the land boundary and the location of nearest receptors.
- Describe the existing environment including climatic/meteorological conditions, terrain, land use and air quality in the vicinity of the proposal.

6.4.2 Assessment

- Provide a site map showing the locations and names of all potential sources of atmospheric emissions from the proposed activities (construction and operation).
- Provide details and location of the materials handled and equipment used on the site during both construction and operation phases.
- With reference to Section 2.2 above, provide an assessment of the construction and operation activities potential to generate atmospheric emissions. This should cover all stages from tailing slurry transfer to the filter plant through to placement, compaction, staged development of FTS and its closure, as well as activities related to site maintenance, especially in unfavourable meteorological conditions. Include details on filter plant operations, handling of off-spec material (including expected frequency, storage, and management), and the height and size of any stockpiles and approximate storage duration of the stockpiles before removal.
- Describe all potential sources (point and fugitive) of atmospheric emissions and characterise the composition of the atmospheric emissions for the construction, operation, and post-closure stages. This should include but is not limited to dust generated from the vegetation clearing, disturbance of topsoil, levelling/compacting, stockpiling, excavation, loading/unloading, wind erosion as well as transport of material and traffic movements on and off site. The description of dust emissions from FTS must take into consideration the characterisation of tailings provided in section 6.1 above, including particle size and chemical composition of the material, with specific consideration of heavy metals and other contaminants of concern.

- Provide a detailed qualitative and quantitative assessment of atmospheric emissions generated during the construction phase of the project. The assessment should identify and characterise emission sources (e.g., plant and equipment, vehicle movements, material handling, etc.), quantify emissions and associated activity rates (including frequency and duration), and evaluate potential impacts on surrounding environment and sensitive receptors. The assessment should provide sufficient detail to demonstrate the likely scale, extent and significance of construction-related emissions.
- Describe and assess the potential impacts of the atmospheric emissions from the proposed activity on the environment in a context of the existing environment (local meteorology, terrain) and land use (particularly proximity of sensitive receptors). The assessment should include a discussion of regional climatology and seasonal influences on dust generation, dispersion, and the effectiveness of mitigation measures. The assessment should cover a variety of conditions including worst case scenario and upset conditions. It should contain information about the time of day, duration, and frequency of the atmospheric emissions from the facility as well as ongoing dust monitoring and on-site meteorological station data to establish suitable parameters for air dispersion modelling.
- Provide results of atmospheric dispersion modelling of air emissions from the facility and an assessment of impacts of emissions from all potential emission sources associated with the proposed activity as well as cumulative impact that include both the existing and proposed activities, against the requirements of the Tasmanian Environment Protection Policy (Air) and any supplementary documents (including the Board Statement Jan 2022). Modelling by a suitably qualified specialist must be conducted in accordance with EPA's Atmospheric Dispersion Modelling Guidelines. The modelling should use conservative emission rates and should consider various possible scenarios of operation of the facility including staged FTS progression through to closure. It is recommended that the scope and method of atmospheric dispersion modelling be discussed with the EPA's Air Modelling Officer prior to the commencement of any modelling work.
- Describe the potential upset or emergency conditions that may arise during construction or operation of the FTS and demonstrate that the air emissions from the site are not likely to cause environmental nuisance or harm.
- Discuss the potential for cumulative dust impact to the local community from the proposed facility and existing activities including operation and closure stage of other Tailing Storage Facilities.
- Describe climate change projections relevant to the project area and assess how the future climate of the region may impact the local meteorology and affect the generation and dispersion of fugitive dust and particulate matter from the site following closure of the stack. Outline how mitigation and management measures would be adapted.
- Discuss the off-site dust monitoring programs to be employed including instrumentation, meteorological monitoring station, location, and parameters to be monitored. The discussion should also describe trigger levels, trigger-action-response plans, the follow-up monitoring and verification measures to be undertaken if dust is detected moving off-site.
- Demonstrate that the assessment is consistent with the requirements of the [Tasmanian Environment Protection Policy \(Air\)](#) and any supplementary documents (including the [Board Statement Jan 2022](#)).

6.4.3 Avoidance and Mitigation Measures

- Describe measures to be implemented during both construction and operation phases to mitigate all atmospheric emissions from the site that may cause environmental nuisance or harm at or beyond the site boundary, including during unfavourable meteorological conditions. This may include, but not be limited to, minimising the drop distance between discharge points and stockpiles, the use of enclosures, water sprays, windbreaks, and dust suppressants, covering of truck loads, reduced vehicle speeds, road watering or sealing, road surfacing and maintenance, removal or stabilisation of exposed erodible material, frequent compaction of loose material, limiting the extent and duration of exposed areas, and timely revegetation, stabilisation, or rehabilitation.

Where measures are proposed which require an ongoing water supply, discuss the requirements to provide an adequate water supply for dust mitigation and consideration of water availability in the

future climate conditions, such as the possibility of increasing unseasonal dry periods should be included, along with consideration of alternative dust suppression methods where water supply may be constrained

- Describe how construction and operational activities will be actively managed and adjusted in response to meteorological conditions to minimise atmospheric emissions. This should include the use of weather forecasting and real-time on-site meteorological monitoring (including wind speed and direction, rainfall and absolute humidity) to guide the timing, intensity, and application of dust mitigation measures. The proposal should define trigger criteria (e.g., wind speed thresholds) for modifying or ceasing activities, and outline procedures for implementing responsive and adaptive dust control under changing weather conditions.
- Provide evidence of the application of Accepted Modern Technology, as defined in the Environment Protection Policy (Air Quality) 2004, to reduce unavoidable emissions to the greatest extent practicable.

6.5 Project closure

To evaluate long-term physical stability, water management and geochemical risk pathways associated with closure of the filtered tailings storage facility, informed by the tailings, surface water and groundwater. Providing a conceptual level of detail for a closure methodology.

6.5.1 Assessment

- Detail the proposed final closure objectives and criteria, including:
 - Long-term physical stability
 - Chemical stability and minimisation of potentially acid or metalliferous drainage forming material
 - Protection of surface water and groundwater quality
 - Minimisation of long-term maintenance requirements
- Provide an assessment of geochemical risks at closure, informed by tailings characterisation studies, including:
 - Expected pollutant types and concentrations
 - Potential rates and pathways of contaminant release to surface water and groundwater
 - Expected long-term seepage quality
- Provide a risk assessment informed by tailings characterisation studies, comparable mining facilities globally and international case studies which evaluates the closure risk and includes the following:
 - Consideration of expected pollutants formed within the FTS
 - The rate and quality of pollutants released from the FTS (dust, surface water, groundwater, and seepage) post closure
 - The structural integrity of the FTS
 - Surface erosion and sediment mobilisation risks
 - Surface water runoff and infiltration behaviour
 - Groundwater interaction and seepage risks
 - Consequences of unanticipated early closure
 - Ongoing maintenance requirements post closure
 - Comparison of conventional TSF and FTS at the proposed location
 - Any other risks identified for FTS closure.
- Provide mitigation and management measures to address identified closure and unanticipated early closure risks, including:
 - Cover systems or surface treatments where required
 - Ongoing water management or treatment requirements, if any
 - Monitoring requirements during post-closure

- Provide details of the approximate quantities, types and sources of any cover materials required for FTS closure including clays, gravels, rock, organic materials or synthetic low permeability barriers.
- Detail the proposed final landform to support rehabilitation and the post mining land use including:
 - Final stack geometry and surface drainage design
 - Integration with surface water management infrastructure
 - Progressive rehabilitation opportunities
 - A description of the vegetation types for the post closure landform and how the cover materials and design(s) encourage the desired vegetation types
 - Consideration of the geotechnical stability of the structure in perpetuity
- Detail the strategies and mechanisms to reduce the long-term potential for the generation of acid and metalliferous drainage, air emissions, and any ongoing water quality management requirements.
- Provide a preliminary post closure water balance to demonstrate that proposed closure strategies are achievable, this must include a range of climatic scenarios
- Provide an estimate of the closure cost and detail the closure infrastructure demobilisation and disposal strategy.

6.6 Key issue 6: Biodiversity and Natural Values

Discuss impacts of the proposal on biodiversity and nature conservation values (terrestrial and aquatic). Include details on how information has been collected or generated where applicable.

6.6.1 Existing Environment

- Specify and map known records of fauna, flora, vegetation communities and habitat, including aquatic as relevant, including reference to threatened species, communities and habitats, including those listed under the relevant Schedules of the Australian Government EPBC Act and the Tasmanian [Threatened Species Protection Act 1995](#) (TSPA)¹⁴ and Tasmanian [Nature Conservation Act 2002](#) (NCA)¹⁵.
- Specify and map known records of weeds, pests and diseases.
- Provide the results of terrestrial and/or aquatic (as relevant) natural values surveys undertaken by a suitably qualified person(s), in accordance with relevant survey guidelines.¹⁶ Note that a field survey that is more than two years old may be considered out of date due to potential natural, artificial, or seasonal changes in the environment and will require re surveying.

Species	Survey advice
Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle (<i>Aquila audax</i> ssp. <i>fleayi</i>) The Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle is listed as endangered under the <i>Threatened Species Protection Act 1995</i> (TSPA) and the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (EPBC Act).	No Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle nests have been recorded within 1 km of the proposal, and no new nests were recorded during the field survey. The NVA notes that approximately 1.5 ha of the study area contains suitable habitat as mapped on the Natural Values Atlas's <i>Wedge-tailed Eagle Nesting Habitat – Low (under 850 m) Elevation Model</i> . The recommendation in the NVA to undertake a targeted aerial nest search is supported. These are valid for two years from the date of completion.
Grey goshawk (<i>Tachyspiza novaehollandiae</i> , formerly <i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>)	One grey goshawk was observed during field surveys, and no nests were recorded. GHD notes

¹⁴ See <https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-1995-083>

¹⁵ See <https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-2002-063>

¹⁶ See <https://nre.tas.gov.au/conservation/development-planning-conservation-assessment/survey-guidelines-for-development-assessments>

<p>The grey goshawk is listed as endangered under the TSPA.</p>	<p>that there is approximately 7.4 ha of high priority nesting habitat within the study area and recommends further targeted surveys within this habitat.</p> <p>If a potential grey goshawk nest is identified, it is recommended that either further investigations are undertaken to confirm whether the nest belongs to grey goshawk, or a permanent buffer distance of 150 m be retained around the nest.</p>
<p>Tasmanian masked owl (<i>Tyto novaehollandiae</i> ssp. <i>castanops</i>)</p> <p>The Tasmanian masked owl is listed as endangered under the TSPA and vulnerable under the EPBC Act.</p>	<p>Biodiversity Maintenance Australia (BMA) has undertaken a Tasmanian masked owl assessment and have provided a Summary Report (Appendix C) while the final report is being completed. BMA recorded a total of 464 trees with a DBH over 100, of which 73 were considered likely to support large hollows and prioritised for inspection by drone or tree climbing. Passive acoustic monitoring data obtained previously by North Barker Ecosystem Services was also analysed. BMA ultimately concludes that while Tasmanian masked owls are present, usage of the study area by the owls is low.</p> <p>Given the high number of hollow-bearing trees and the general presence of Tasmanian masked owls near the study area, it is recommended that the general validity period of two years is strictly observed. Nest tree surveys undertaken by BMA should be repeated if vegetation clearance does not happen within the two-year period (i.e., before 14th August 2027).</p>
<p>Swift parrot (<i>Lathamus discolor</i>)</p> <p>The swift parrot is listed as endangered under the TSPA and critically endangered under the EPBC Act.</p>	<p>Surveys undertaken by GHD recorded minimal suitable foraging habitat for swift parrot within the study area, while previous surveys in surrounding areas identified suitable foraging habitat. The recommendation in the NVA to undertake pre-clearance surveys for swift parrot if the works are proposed during the swift parrot breeding season, which occurs from September to January inclusive are supported.</p>
<p>Blue-winged parrot (<i>Neophema chrysostoma</i>)</p> <p>The blue-winged parrot is listed as vulnerable under the TSPA and the EPBC Act.</p>	<p>While no blue-winged parrots were recorded during surveys, the NVA notes that approximately 17 ha of the study area provides suitable foraging habitat for the species and that there have been species observations within 5 km of the proposal. The EPA supports the recommendation to undertake pre-clearance surveys for blue-winged parrot if works are proposed during the blue-winged parrot breeding season, which occurs from October to February inclusive.</p>
<p>Tasmanian devil (<i>Sarcophilus harrisii</i>) and spotted-tailed quoll (<i>Dasyurus maculatus</i>)</p>	<p>Surveys found some evidence of Tasmanian devil presence, being scats and a single detection from multiple camera traps, and no evidence for</p>

<p>Tasmanian devil (endangered under both the TSPA and the EPBC Act) and spotted-tailed quoll (rare under the TSPA and vulnerable under the EPBC Act)</p>	<p>spotted-tailed quolls. Denning features were also located within the study area. The EPA supports the recommendation to undertake pre-clearance den searches in areas where works are proposed.</p>
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- Identify areas or habitats of conservation significance, including designated conservation areas, areas relating to the requirements of international treaties (e.g. Japan-Australia and China-Australia Migratory Bird Agreements (JAMBA/CAMBA) and Ramsar (wetlands) Convention), or wetlands listed in Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia.¹⁷
- Identify any freshwater ecosystems of high conservation management priority using the [Conservation of Freshwater Ecosystem Values \(CFEV\) database](#),¹⁸ including values in the vicinity of the proposal. The specific CFEV information should be Conservation Management Priority Potential.
- Specify and map known sites of geoconservation significance or natural processes (such as fluvial or coastal features), including sites of geoconservation significance listed on the Tasmanian Geoconservation Database.
- Describe natural processes of particular importance for the maintenance of the existing environment (e.g. fire, flooding, etc).

6.6.2 Assessment

Describe potential impacts of both construction and operation of the proposal on:

- Flora, vegetation communities and habitat, with particular reference to threatened species, communities and habitats listed under the relevant Schedules of the EPBC Act, TSPA and NCA, including consideration of:
 - Direct impacts, such as disturbance, clearing, excavation or burning;
 - Indirect impacts, such as changes in hydrogeological flows, fragmentation of populations or introduction of weeds, pests or diseases;
 - Cumulative impacts with other human activity.
- Fauna, with particular reference to threatened species, communities and habitats listed under the relevant Schedules of the EPBC Act, TSPA and NCA, including consideration of:
 - Direct impacts, such as collision risks from both vehicles¹⁹ and infrastructure, clearing or other physical changes to breeding and hunting or foraging habitat;
 - Indirect impacts, such as changes in disturbances to nesting, impacts of noise and light, changes in prey or food availability or introduction of pests or diseases;
 - Cumulative impacts with other human activity.
- Existing conservation reserves that may be affected by the proposal, with reference to the management objectives of the reserve(s) and the reserve management plan(s) (if any).
- Other species, sites or areas of special conservation significance, including areas of wilderness or scientific value.

¹⁷ See <https://www.environment.gov.au/water/wetlands/australian-wetlands-database/directory-important-wetlands>.

¹⁸ See <https://nre.tas.gov.au/water/water-monitoring-and-assessment/cfev-program>

¹⁹ An increase in night-time (between one hour before sunset and one hour after sunrise as defined by the Bureau of Meteorology) traffic on internal and nearby roads of more than 10% combined with a high abundance of Tasmanian Devils and/or Tasmanian Devil roadkill records in the Natural Values Atlas is considered significant regarding likely impacts on the Tasmanian Devil. See the *Survey Guidelines and Management Advice for Development Proposals that may impact on the Tasmanian Devil (Sarcophilus harrisii)* at <https://nre.tas.gov.au/Documents/Devil%20Survey%20Guidelines%20and%20Advice.pdf>

- The reserve system identified as part of the Tasmanian RFA, including high-quality wilderness areas; maintenance of forest communities under the [Permanent Native Forest Estate Policy](#);²⁰ wildlife habitat strips under the Tasmanian Forest Practices Code 2015;²¹ and non-forest communities.
- Sites of geoconservation significance or natural processes (such as fluvial or coastal features), including sites of geoconservation significance listed on the Tasmanian Geoconservation Database.

6.6.3 Avoidance and Mitigation Measures

- Describe management measures that will be implemented to avoid adverse impacts to threatened fauna, flora and vegetation communities and other natural values, including management of weeds, pests and diseases.
- Include any roadkill management measures as required in the *Survey Guidelines and Management Advice for Development Proposals that may impact on the Tasmanian Devil (Sarcophilus harrisii)*. **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Where impacts cannot be avoided, present proposed measures to minimise and mitigate adverse impacts on biodiversity and nature conservation values.
- Identify potential residual impacts²².
- Discuss any offset²³ proposed for residual impacts, including likely benefits from such an offset.
- Discuss rehabilitation of disturbed areas following the completion of construction activities and cessation of the activity, including any proposed seed collection and progressive rehabilitation program.

6.7 Noise emissions

6.7.1 Existing Environment

- Provide a map showing the location of all major sources of noise and the closest noise sensitive premises in the vicinity of the boundary of the activity.
- Provide a list of nearby identified residences and other noise-sensitive premises in the vicinity of the boundary of the activity.

6.7.2 Assessment

- Describe all major sources of noise, including associated
 - Sizes and power ratings;
 - 1/3 octave source noise data (linear/C-weighted and A-weighted) to assess for low frequency and tonal noise;
 - Noise attenuation features; and
 - Hours of operation.
- Analyse the potential for noise emissions (during both construction and operational phases) to cause nuisance for nearby land users, particularly at noise sensitive premises²⁴. When assessing nuisance at noise-sensitive premises, discuss the [Environment Protection Policy \(Noise\) 2009](#)²⁵ and the existing acoustic environment.

²⁰ See

[https://www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au/about/divisions/Renewables, Climate and Future Industries Tasmania and resources/forestry/legislative_and_policy_framework/permanent_native_forest_estate_policy](https://www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au/about/divisions/Renewables,_Climate_and_Future_Industries_Tasmania_and_resources/forestry/legislative_and_policy_framework/permanent_native_forest_estate_policy)

²¹ See <https://fpa.tas.gov.au/>

²² As defined in Appendix A of these Guidelines.

²³ See Appendix A of these Guidelines under Residual Impacts.

²⁴ Noise-sensitive premises are 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.'

²⁵ See https://epa.tas.gov.au/Documents/EPP_Noise_2009.pdf

- Discuss noise-related environmental impacts associated with current and altered traffic flows on other road users and on residences adjacent to roads.
- Discuss the potential for noise emissions to affect terrestrial, marine and freshwater wildlife and livestock.
- Provide the results of a noise model for the proposal undertaken by a suitably qualified person. The noise model must include consideration of the potential impacts of noise emitted by the activity on noise-sensitive premises, including under average and worst-case meteorological conditions. Modelling must include the generation of noise contour maps.

6.7.3 Avoidance and mitigation measures

- Describe attenuation measures that will be implemented to avoid or mitigate impacts of noise emitted by the proposal (as relevant).
- Demonstrate that the proposal is consistent with environmental performance requirements, including any identified in the [Environment Protection Policy \(Noise\) 2009](#).²⁵

6.8 Waste management

Discuss the impacts of waste generated by the proposal, during construction and operation.

6.8.1 Assessment

- Describe the source, nature and quantities of all general wastes likely to be generated by the proposal (liquid, gaseous, solid or other), including general refuse and by-products from the various stages of the process.
- Describe the methods and facilities proposed to collect, store, reuse, treat or dispose of general waste.
- Describe the source, nature, quantity, and method of treatment, storage and disposal for each controlled waste arising from the proposal.²⁶ Describe collection or other maintenance requirements where relevant.

6.8.2 Avoidance and mitigation measures

- Demonstrate that any waste management measures follow the following hierarchy of waste management.

6.9 Dangerous goods and environmentally hazardous materials

Dangerous goods and environmentally hazardous materials are 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. This includes fuels, oils, waste and chemicals. Discuss the potential impacts of dangerous goods and environmentally hazardous substances used in or generated by the proposal. The discussion should:

- Describe the nature, quantity and storage location of all environmentally hazardous materials including Dangerous Goods (as defined in the [Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail](#))²⁷ that will be used during the construction and operation of the proposal.
- Provide a map showing the location of temporary and permanent storage areas for fuels, oils, and other dangerous goods or chemicals.

²⁶ Controlled waste is defined in EMPCA and associated regulations. A non-exhaustive listing of categories of controlled waste can be found at <https://epa.tas.gov.au/business-industry/regulation/waste-management/controlled-waste>

²⁷ See <https://www.ntc.gov.au/codes-and-guidelines/australian-dangerous-goods-code>

- Detail measures to be adopted to prevent or control any accidental releases of dangerous goods and environmentally hazardous materials. Examples include bunding or spill trays.
- Provide contingency plans for when control measures fail, equipment breaks down or accidental releases to the environment otherwise occur. Include detail on proposed emergency and clean-up measures and notification procedures. Identify any safety management requirements for the protection of human health and safety where incidents may affect the community.

6.10 Greenhouse gas emissions, ozone depleting substances and climate change

Discuss potential impacts of the proposal in relation to greenhouse gases, ozone-depleting substances and climate change. The discussion should be proportionate to the significance of the potential impacts.

- Describe the direct and indirect effects of the proposal on greenhouse gas production and ozone-depleting substances, as well as any associated benefits of the proposal.
- Provide an inventory of projected scope 1, scope 2 and total greenhouse gas emissions,²⁸ energy production, and energy consumption for a year of operation. Describe the methods used to develop the inventory²⁹. Discuss potential annual variation that may occur.
- Provide an estimate of scope 3 emissions that may occur as a consequence of the proposal.
- Demonstrate that the development will use cost-effective, best practice measures to minimise future greenhouse gas emissions.
- Detail measures proposed to minimise emissions and describe the anticipated effectiveness of these measures. Where less emissions-intensive options are not adopted, provide sufficient justification and/or mechanisms to offset greenhouse gas emissions.
- Estimate ‘whole of life’ greenhouse gas emissions for the proposed development. Include details of the methodology used.
- 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, and/or long-term sea level rise.
- Discuss impacts of the proposal in terms of the evolving national response to climate change and greenhouse gas emissions and the targets set in the [Climate Change \(State Action\) Act 2008](#) (Tas),³⁰ [Tasmania’s Climate Change Action Plan 2023-25](#)³¹ and the [Climate Change Act 2022](#) (Commonwealth).³²

Note: Proponents must determine whether they are required to report to the Commonwealth under the [National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007](#).³³

6.11 Socio-economic issues

Discuss the social and economic impacts of the proposal. This discussion may:

²⁸ More information on categorising emissions can be found at <https://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/NGER/About-the-National-Greenhouse-and-Energy-Reporting-scheme/Greenhouse-gases-and-energy>

²⁹ Calculators are available on the Australian Government Clean Energy Regulator website. See <http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/NGER/Forms-and-resources/Calculators#Emissions-and-Energy-Threshold-Calculator-202021-and-user-guide>

³⁰ See <https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-2008-036>

³¹ See https://recfit.tas.gov.au/climate/climate_change_action_plan

³² See <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2022A00037>

³³ See <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2007A00175>

- Include an estimate of total capital investment for the proposal and where that capital will be expended (particularly in relation to the source of large capital items of processing equipment).
- Provide a summary of operational expenditures and revenues.
- Describe impacts on local and state labour markets for both the construction and operational phases of the proposal. The number and nature of direct and indirect jobs arising from the proposal must be detailed. Skills and training opportunities should also be discussed.
- Describe impacts on upstream/downstream industries, both locally and for the State.
- Detail the extent to which raw materials, equipment, goods and services will be sourced locally.
- Provide a qualitative assessment of impacts on local social amenity and community infrastructure, including recreational, cultural, health and sporting facilities and services. Any proposals to enhance or provide additional community services or facilities should be described.
- Describe community demographic impacts (changes to cultural background, occupation and incomes).
- Describe impacts on land values, and demand for land and housing.
- Describe impacts on the local, regional, state and national economies.
- Detail any publicly funded subsidies or services to be relied upon for the construction or operation of the proposal.
- Detail any impacts on local, state and federal government rate, taxation and royalty revenues.

The extent to which socio-economic considerations need to be described depends on the nature and extent of any negative impacts or risks to the environment from the proposal.

Modest proposals with relatively low-level and localised environmental impacts or risks may be adequately supported by details of intended capital expenditure, operational expenditures, revenues and employment (distinguishing between direct and indirect employment) and a qualitative discussion of other socio-economic aspects of particular relevance.

Proposals with higher-level or broader-scale environmental impacts need more comprehensive analysis of economic and social benefits, to allow the Board to evaluate both the benefits and adverse impacts of the proposal. Methods used to model social and economic impacts should be described where relevant. A description of how the local community has been consulted to determine its needs and aspirations in relation to the proposal should also be included. A social impact assessment and/or economic impact assessment may be required.

6.12 Fire risk

Discuss the potential fire risk associated with the proposal, including:

- Consideration of fire within the site, fire escaping from the site and the impact of wildfire originating outside the development and the environmental impacts that could result from such an event.
- The objectives and management principles to be adopted to prevent and respond to potential fire events.
- Where a fire response plan is appropriate, it should be fully integrated with other relevant documents, such as a Tasmania Fire Service Local Area Fire Management Plan, a Sustainable Timber Tasmania Fire Management Plan and a Parks and Wildlife Service Fire Action Plan for relevant districts.

6.13 Infrastructure and off-site ancillary facilities

Discuss potential environmental impacts of the proposal on any significant off-site infrastructure or facilities (including increased use of existing infrastructure, such as roads, ports and quarries). Identify measures

proposed to avoid and mitigate any possible adverse impacts. Assess the likely overall impacts after implementation of the proposed avoidance and mitigation measures.

Identify roads and other infrastructure to be used by vehicles for the proposal (during both construction and operation). Potential environmental impacts associated with construction and use of such infrastructure should be assessed. Cross-reference to other sections where relevant.

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7. Monitoring and Review

Outline any proposed monitoring, review and reporting programs for the proposal. Include a table of proposed monitoring locations, parameters and frequencies, and a map showing the location of all monitoring sites.

Monitoring, review and reporting programs should be designed to:

- Assess compliance with the proposed management measures;
- Assess compliance with emission standards and other identified performance requirements;
- Assess the effectiveness of the performance requirements and environmental safeguards in achieving environmental quality objectives; and
- Assess the extent to which the potential impacts described in the EIS have eventuated.

8. Decommissioning and Rehabilitation

Describe any proposed rehabilitation of disturbed areas that will follow construction activities or occur upon cessation of the activity. Outline a preliminary Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan or Closure Plan for the proposal. If applicable, describe the stages of site decommissioning and rehabilitation, including any proposed seed collection and progressive rehabilitation.

9. Management Measures Table

Provide a summary table listing all management measures detailed throughout the EIS. Each measure must include a reference number, must be an unambiguous statement of intent, must specify when it is to be implemented (including whether it is to be implemented during construction, operation, maintenance or other phases) and must include a cross-reference to where the measure is described in the EIS.

10. Conclusion

Summarise the proposal and present a balanced overview of its net impacts. Draw together the critical environmental, social and economic impacts. Evaluate the extent to which negative impacts can be avoided, mitigated, remediated or compensated and positive impacts promoted and sustained.

Describe how the proposal meets and furthers the objectives of relevant legislation, policies, plans and strategies. Itemise the RMPS and EMPCS objectives and comment on how the proposal addresses each of the objectives.

11. References

Provide details of authorities consulted, reference documents and other information sources, using a consistent referencing style.

12. Appendices

Detailed technical information which supports the EIS should be included as appendices. The salient features of the appendices should be included in the main body of the EIS. Technical content of appendices must be consistent with information presented in the EIS itself, unless inconsistencies are carefully explained. The EIS may not be accepted where unexplained inconsistencies exist.

Appendix A: General principles for assessing environmental impacts

This Appendix summarises general principles for assessing environmental impacts in EIS documents prepared in accordance with EMPCA.

General Approach

When assessing environmental impacts in an EIS, the proponent should:

- Present information in a clear, well-structured manner appropriate to the audience of the EIS.
- Avoid duplication.
- Base assessments and evaluations on scientifically supportable, referenced data.
- Describe methodologies used and provide supporting research and information wherever relevant.
- State any scientific assumptions, simplifications, or judgements, and define uncertainties.
- Describe impacts and their mitigation to a level of detail that is proportionate to potential consequences and to what extent they can be controlled.

Impact assessment

Impact assessment involves the identification and characterization of the effects of a proposal. When undertaking impact assessment, the proponent should:

- Explain methodologies used to identify and characterise impacts.
- Clearly state the impacts that are expected to result from the development in terms of the aspect of the proposal involved and the environmental receptor affected.
- Characterise those impacts in terms of:
 - The magnitude of impacts, quantified where possible, including spatial extent and timeframe;
 - The vulnerability of the affected environmental receptors to harm or nuisance;
 - Sources of the impacts and pathways by which the impact may occur;
 - Probability of occurrence (if not 100%);
 - The range of scenarios in which the impact may occur, including plausible worst-case consequences;
 - Reversibility of impacts;
 - Any predicted indirect effects; and
 - Any aspects of other proposals examined cumulatively.
- With reference to the project description and alternatives described in the EIS, state what measures to avoid or reduce impacts have been considered as part of this assessment, and which of these have been incorporated into the proposal.

Impact evaluation

Impact evaluation is the determination of the significance of impacts. Proponents should support conclusions about the significance of impacts using a structured argument that clearly describes the magnitude of the impact, the sensitivity of the affected receptors, and how they relate.

Mitigation and Monitoring

Mitigation (planning and design considerations, pollution control technology and management practices) and monitoring are measures additional to those considered during the impact assessment to reduce the impact of the proposal. In presenting mitigation and monitoring the proponent should:

- Describe the measures proposed;

- Describe how mitigation measures function to avoid or reduce the impacts;
- Explain how measures accord with existing guidance, accepted practice or best practice environmental management as defined in EMPCA;
- Discuss contingencies for the breakdown/malfunction of equipment or processes;
- Describe any anticipated impacts resulting from the mitigation actions and how these will be addressed; and
- Identify where control measures are to be carried out, operated and/or maintained by a third party, and how this will be achieved.

Residual impacts

Residual impacts are those that remain after all proposed avoidance and mitigation measures have been taken into account. When assessing residual impacts, the proponent should:

- Revisit the first evaluation of impact, taking into account the effects of the measures to reduce the magnitude of the impacts and present a revised statement of significance, and
- Where required, identify appropriate actions that will offset impacts, based on the relevant guidelines.³⁴ Offset actions must present a measurable, relevant and ongoing net benefit which would not otherwise have been realised, and which is not accounted for by any other project or proposal.

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³⁴ Guidelines include Appendix 4: General Offset Principles from the Guidelines for Natural Values Surveys – Terrestrial Development Proposals, see <https://nre.tas.gov.au/Documents/Guidelines%20for%20Natural%20Values%20Surveys%20related%20to%20Development%20Proposals.pdf> and Offset Guidelines for Impacts to Threatened Eagles from Wind Farm Developments, see <https://nre.tas.gov.au/conservation/development-planning-conservation-assessment/offset-guidelines-for-impacts-to-threatened-eagles-from-wind-farm-developments>

Appendix B: Other issues and agency contacts

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

Your proposal may have been referred to other agencies by EPA. If assessments or approvals outside of the Board's responsibilities are required, you should engage with the respective agency to progress them. The following list identifies some of the 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.

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 near 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: aboriginalheritage@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, or Crown land.

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.

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Appendix C: Example of project description summary table

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.
Land zoning	Describe the land zoning of the site and surrounds. If rezoning of the site is required, provide details.
Land tenure	Provide the land tenure of the proposal.
Use Class and Permissibility	If a permit is required under LUPAA, provide the Use Class of the proposed activity and Permissibility of the activity with reference to the relevant Planning Scheme.

For extractive industries only, delete if not required

Mining lease	
Lease area	
Bond	State the amount of any bond required by MRT (for extractive industries)

Existing site

Land Use	Describe the existing land use of the site and surrounds.
Topography	Describe the topography of the site and surrounds.
Geology	Describe the geology of the site, including the likely presence of potentially acid forming (PAF) material. Describe any geoconservation values on or near the site, e.g. karst.
Soils	Describe the potential to encounter acid sulphate soils and or contaminated soil (from past activities, as relevant).
Hydrology	Describe groundwater and surface drainage (including waterways, lakes, wetlands and coastal areas) 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	List the threatened fauna, flora and vegetation communities, including potential habitat for any such species, that are known to occur on or near the site (use the Natural Values Atlas or results of any relevant survey). State the vegetation types on and near the site.
Potential Hazards	Provide a brief assessment of the vulnerability of the site to natural hazards (e.g. flooding, seismic activity, fire, landslips or strong winds) or climate change.

Local Region

Climate	State the annual rainfall and predominant wind direction.
Surrounding land zoning, tenure and uses	Describe the surrounding land use, distance to the nearest residences in other ownership, note any conservation reserves or recreation areas in the area, and provide a coastal description if the coast is nearby.
Species, sites or areas of conservation significance	Provide information on species, sites or areas of landscape, aesthetic, wilderness, scientific or otherwise special conservation significance which may be affected by the proposal. Relevant information resources include the LIST (www.thelist.tas.gov.au) and the Natural Values Atlas (https://www.naturalvaluesatlas.tas.gov.au).

Proposed Infrastructure

Major equipment	List all existing and proposed plant, machinery, or other major equipment (distinguish between existing and proposed).
Other infrastructure	List the existing and proposed buildings, structures, access roads, internal haul roads (can refer to the Site Plan) (distinguish between existing and proposed).

Inputs

Water	Include quantities and characteristics.
Energy	Include quantities and characteristics.
Other raw materials	Include quantities and characteristics.

Wastes and Emissions

Liquid	Include quantities and characteristics.
Atmospheric	Include quantities and characteristics.
Solid	Include quantities and characteristics.
Controlled wastes	Include quantities and characteristics.
Noise	Include major sources of noise emissions.
Greenhouse gases	Provide a brief description of changes to greenhouse gas emissions that will be caused by the proposal.

Construction, Commissioning and Operations

Proposal timetable	Provide a brief timetable outlining the proposed timeframe(s) for construction, commissioning and commencement of operations. Include significant milestones if applicable.
Construction hours	e.g. xx-xx Monday to Friday xx-xx Saturday
Operating hours (ongoing)	e.g. xx-xx Monday to Friday xx-xx Saturday

Other Key Characteristics

Other	Describe any additional characteristics relevant to the proposal/environment that are likely to provide important context as part of this summary.
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ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY