

Permit

Environmental Protection Act 1994

Environmental authority EPVX00313913

This environmental authority is issued by the administering authority under Chapter 5 of the Environmental Protection Act 1994.

Environmental authority number: EPVX00313913

Environmental authority takes effect on 19 June 2020

Environmental authority holder(s)

Name(s)	Registered address
RIO TINTO EXPLORATION PTY LIMITED	37 Belmont Avenue BELMONT WA 6104

Environmentally relevant activity and location details

Environmentally relevant activity/activities	Location(s)
Non-Scheduled Mining Activity Exploration Permit Mineral - EPM	Non-Scheduled Mining Activity Exploration Permit Mineral - EPM EPM16900

Additional information for applicants

Environmentally relevant activities

The description of any environmentally relevant activity (ERA) for which an environmental authority (EA) is issued is a restatement of the ERA as defined by legislation at the time the EA is issued. Where there is any inconsistency between that description of an ERA and the conditions stated by an EA as to the scale, intensity or manner of carrying out an ERA, the conditions prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.

An EA authorises the carrying out of an ERA and does not authorise any environmental harm unless a condition stated by the EA specifically authorises environmental harm.

A person carrying out an ERA must also be a registered suitable operator under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (EP Act).

Contaminated land

It is a requirement of the EP Act that an owner or occupier of contaminated land give written notice to the administering authority if they become aware of the following:

- the happening of an event involving a hazardous contaminant on the contaminated land (notice must be given within 24 hours); or
- a change in the condition of the contaminated land (notice must be given within 24 hours); or
- a notifiable activity (as defined in Schedule 3) having been carried out, or is being carried out, on the contaminated land (notice must be given within 20 business days);

that is causing, or is reasonably likely to cause, serious or material environmental harm.

For further information, including the form for giving written notice, refer to the Queensland Government website www.qld.gov.au, using the search term 'duty to notify'.

Take effect

Please note that, in accordance with section 200 of the EP Act, an EA has effect:

- a) if the authority is for a prescribed ERA and it states that it takes effect on the day nominated by the holder of the authority in a written notice given to the administering authority-on the nominated day; or
- b) if the authority states a day or an event for it to take effect-on the stated day or when the stated event happens; or
- c) otherwise-on the day the authority is issued.

However, if the EA is authorising an activity that requires an additional authorisation (a relevant tenure for a resource activity, a development permit under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009* or an SDA Approval under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*), this EA will not take effect until the additional authorisation has taken effect.

If this EA takes effect when the additional authorisation takes effect, you must provide the administering authority written notice within 5 business days of receiving notification of the related additional authorisation taking effect.

If you have incorrectly claimed that an additional authorisation is not required, carrying out the ERA without the additional authorisation is not legal and could result in your prosecution for providing false or misleading information or operating without a valid environmental authority.

Department of Environment and Science
Delegate of the administering authority
Environmental Protection Act 1994

Date issued: 26 May 2021

Enquiries:

Minerals Business Centre
Department of Environment and Science

Phone: 07 4222 5352

Email: ESCairns@des.qld.gov.au

Obligations under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*

In addition to the requirements found in the conditions of this environmental authority, the holder must also meet their obligations under the EP Act, and the regulations made under the EP Act. For example, the holder must comply with the following provisions of the Act:

- general environmental duty (section 319)
- duty to notify environmental harm (section 320-320G)
- offence of causing serious or material environmental harm (sections 437-439)
- offence of causing environmental nuisance (section 440)
- offence of depositing prescribed water contaminants in waters and related matters (section 440ZG)
- offence to place contaminant where environmental harm or nuisance may be caused (section 443)

Conditions of Environmental Authority

With the exception of any variations, the conditions of approval for this environmental authority are standard conditions containing within the attached documents entitled:

- Code of environmental compliance for exploration and mineral development projects
- Variations to the standard conditions include:

Agency interest: General

- G1 The conditions of this environmental authority are in force until a surrender of the authority is accepted pursuant to the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. The conditions apply unless an amendment is approved pursuant to the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.
- G2 The environmental authority does not take effect until the grant of tenure to the environmental authority holder, or until each environmental authority has become a holder, under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989*, of each of the relevant mining tenements.
- G3 **Financial assurance**
- The environmental authority holder is to give the administering authority a financial assurance in the amount and form and at the time required by the administering authority.
- G4 The environmental authority holder must comply with each of the Standard Environmental Conditions contained in the Code of Environmental Compliance for Exploration and Mineral Development Projects.

Agency interest: Strategic Environmental Areas and Designated Precinct

- B1 Conditions B1 to B3 are additional conditions imposed on the environmental authority. If there is any inconsistency between a standard environmental condition referred to in condition G4 and an additional condition, the additional condition prevails to the extent of any inconsistency.
- B2 Mining activities are not permitted in the Gulf Rivers Designated Precinct.
- B3 Contaminants must not be directly or indirectly released to waters in the Gulf Rivers Designated Precinct.

Definitions:

Strategic Environmental Area: As defined in the *Regional Planning Interests Regulation 2014*.

Designated Precinct: As defined in the *Regional Planning Interests Regulation 2014*.