



# **Bauxite Hills Mine – Skardon River**

## **EPBC 2014/7305 Annual Compliance Report**

### **2017-2018 Financial Year<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> includes from date of commencement of this action up and to 30 June 2018

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## 1. Purpose

This compliance report details the progress of Metro Mining Limited (MML) against the requirements outlined in approval EPBC 2014/7305. For the purposes of reporting, MML has elected to report on a financial year basis. The additional months are included in this report due to the project still being in construction phase at the time.

## 2. Project Description

### 2.1. Project Name and Location

MML operates the Bauxite Hills Mine (BHM) comprising the tenements controlled by three entities, Aldoga Minerals Pty Ltd, Cape Alumina Pty Ltd and Gulf Alumina Pty Ltd. For reporting and administration purposes, Gulf Alumina Pty Ltd tenements will be referenced to as Skardon River (SR) and Aldoga Minerals Pty Ltd and Cape Alumina Pty Ltd tenements will be known collectively as Bauxite Hills (BH).

This Plan is specifically for the BHM-SR tenements (SR). All are located on Cape York Peninsula, in the Parish of Skardon within the Cook Shire. The Mine site is located approximately 85km north of Weipa and approximately 35 km to the north of Mapoon.

SR tenements are operated under an environmental authority for mining, EPML00967013.

The SR tenements includes open cut operations, haul roads, Barge Loading Facility (BLF), Materials Offloading Facility (MOF), transshipping activities, a 113-person camp, and future open cut operations.

Bauxite product from BH and SR tenements are transported via haul roads to the infrastructure at the Port of Skardon River and transhipped by barge to bulk carriers in deep water beyond the mouth of the river for export.

The BHM-SR tenements consist of three mining leases:

- ML 6025,
- ML 40069, and
- ML 40082

### 2.2. Proposed Action under the EPBC Act

To construct and operate a bauxite mine in ML 40069, ML 40082 and ML 6025, and associated bed levelling, barge loading facility and floating harbour, approximately 100km north of Weipa, Queensland [See EPBC Act referral 2014/7305, Notifications of Variation to Proposal on 18 February 2015 and 22 April 2015, and the Skardon River Bauxite Project Environmental Impact Statement published October 2015 and amended March 2016].

Date of decision is 21/9/2016, with construction activities commencing in September 2017 and mining commencing in April 2018. A decision to vary the conditions attached to approval was received on the 28 July 2017. This variation revoked conditions 4, 6, 7 and 8

and deleted and replaced conditions 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, and 28. This was to align the approval with the Bauxite Hills EPBC approval as the project spans both approval areas and operations are run as one operation under the name of the Bauxite Hills Mine.

Changes were also made to definitions of approval holder, survey guidelines and project stage. New definitions were made to habitat, port Area Pre-clearance Hollows Survey Report and proposed methodology for habitat assessment, as well as management plan guidelines.

### 2.3. Controlling Provision

This decision is made under sections 130(1) and 133 of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. and approved under the following sections:

- Listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 & 18A)
- Listed migratory species (sections 20 & 20A)
- Commonwealth marine areas (sections 23 & 24A)

#### EPBC threatened species means the following:

- Red goshawk (*Erythrotriorchis radiatus*);
- Masked owl (*Tyto novaehollandiae kimberli*);
- Bare-rumped sheath-tail bat (*Saccolaimus saccolaimus nudicluniatu*);
- Northern quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*); and
- Golden shouldered parrot (*Psephotus chrysopterygius*).

Impact is as defined in section 527E of the EPBC Act. Listed dolphin species means the migratory Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin (*Sousa sahalensis*) and Australian snubfin dolphin (*Orcaella heinsohn*).

Listed sawfish and river shark species means the vulnerable Dwarf Sawfish (*Pristis clavata*), vulnerable Green Sawfish (*Pristis zijsron*), Large Sawfish (*Pristis pristis*) and the critically endangered Speartooth Shark (*Glyphis glyphis*).

Listed turtle species means the vulnerable Flatback Turtle (*Natator depressus*), endangered Olive Ridley Turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) and vulnerable Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*). Compliance with conditions

## 3. Compliance with Conditions

### 3.1. Condition 1

The approval holder must not take the action outside of the project area.

**Compliance Statement:** All actions have been undertaken within the lease area.

### 3.2. Condition 2

Prior to the commencement of the action, the approval holder must undertake pre-disturbance surveys in all areas proposed to be cleared to identify areas of habitat for the EPBC Act listed Red Goshawk (*Erythrotriorchis radiatus*), Masked Owl (Northern) (*Tyto novaehollandiae kimberli*) and Bare-rumped Sheathtail Bat (*Saccolaimus saccolaimus nudicluniatu*s).

**Compliance Statement:** Pre-disturbance surveys of the lease area have been completed as part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process. To date, none of the listed species have been located as part of these surveys. Pre-clearing surveys are undertaken prior to all clearing activities and suitably qualified expert spotter catchers are present during all clearing activities.

### 3.3. Condition 3

Pre-disturbance surveys must be undertaken by a suitably qualified person and in accordance with the Proposed Methodology for Habitat Assessment for EPBC Listed Threatened Fauna (Survey Methodology) approved by the Minister in writing.

**Compliance Statement:** The Survey Guidelines for Australia's Threatened Frogs, Threatened Birds, Threatened Fish, Threatened Mammals, Threatened Reptiles and Threatened Bats: (<http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/guidelines-policies.html>) has been followed by those engaged to undertake pre-disturbance surveys.

### 3.4. Condition 5

If habitat for the Red Goshawk, Masked Owl (Northern) and Bare-rumped Sheathtail Bat are found in the areas to be cleared, the approval holder must submit an Offset Management Plan for the written approval of the Minister. The Offset Management Plan must be prepared in accordance with the Department's Environmental Management Plan Guidelines and include:

- a) results from pre-disturbance surveys required at condition 2, including a calculation of the amount of habitat (in hectares) and a map of the areas containing habitat for the Red Goshawk, Masked Owl (Northern) and Bare rumped Sheathtail Bat;
- b) details of indirect offset/s for impacts on the Red Goshawk, Masked Owl (Northern) and Bare-rumped Sheathtail Bat, including:
  - i. justification of how the proposed indirect offset/s provide an environmental outcome for the Red Goshawk, Masked Owl (Northern) and Bare-rumped Sheathtail Bat;
  - ii. a description of the proposed indirect offset/s that will be implemented, including a discussion of how the proposed indirect offset/s take into account relevant approved conservation advices and are consistent with the measures contained in relevant recovery plans and threat abatement plans;

- iii. details of outcomes and performance criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of the proposed indirect offset/s;
  - iv. a program to monitor and report on the effectiveness of the outcomes and performance criteria; and
  - v. a timeline for when the proposed indirect offset/s will be implemented.
- c) details of how the indirect offset/s comply with the principles of the EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy and, if relevant, details of how the indirect offset/s meet the criteria for research and educational programs identified in Appendix A of the EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy.

**Compliance Statement:** This milestone is yet to be reached as no offsets are required at this point in time.

### 3.5. Condition 9

The approval holder must not commence the action until the Offset Management Plan has been approved by the Minister in writing. The approved Offset Management Plan must be implemented.

**Compliance Statement:** This milestone is yet to be reached as no offsets are required at this point in time.

### 3.6. Condition 10

Information obtained during pre-disturbance surveys required at condition 2 must be used to inform the Species Management Plan at condition 11.

**Compliance Statement:** Information obtained in the pre-disturbance surveys of the two EIS documents were used to guide the actions and monitoring requirements of the Significant Species Management Plan.

### 3.7. Condition 11

The approval holder must submit a Species Management Plan for the written approval of the Minister. The Species Management Plan must be prepared in accordance with the Department's Environmental Management Plan Guidelines and include:

- a) details of measures that will be taken to avoid, mitigate and manage impacts to EPBC Act listed threatened species and their habitat during vegetation clearance, construction, operation and decommissioning of the action;
- b) measures to manage areas in the project area, that are not within the disturbance footprint, as habitat for EPBC Act listed threatened species;
- c) details of how rehabilitation and revegetation measures required under the Environmental Authority issued under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 (Qld) provides environmental outcomes for EPBC Act listed threatened species and their habitat;

- d) a monitoring program to determine the success of mitigation and management measures to ensure adaptive management for the duration of this approval; and
- e) details of how proposed management measures take into account relevant approved conservation advices and are consistent with the measures contained in relevant recovery plans and threat abatement plans.

**Compliance Statement:** A significant species management plan that satisfied both approvals EPBC 2015/7538 and EPBC 2014/7305 was submitted to the department as per the condition.

### 3.8. Condition 12

The approval holder must not commence the action until the Species Management Plan has been approved by the Minister in writing. The approved Species Management Plan must be implemented.

**Compliance Statement:** The Significant Species Management Plan was approved by the department prior to construction activities commencing in September 2017 and mining commencing in April 2018.

### 3.9. Condition 13

The approval holder must submit a Marine Management Plan for the written approval of the Minister for marine-related activities. The Marine Management Plan must be prepared in accordance with the Department's Environmental Management Plan Guidelines and include:

- a) details of measures to avoid, mitigate and manage impacts to EPBC Act listed dolphin species, EPBC Act listed sawfish and river shark species, EPBC Act listed turtle species, the EPBC Act listed Dugong (*Dugong dugon*) and the environment of the Commonwealth marine area, including:
  - i) artificial light related impacts from port construction and operation, barge terminals, shipping and barging activities, and anchored/moored vessels;
  - ii) shipping and barging activities, including management of bauxite dust and contamination spills;
  - iii) vessel strike, including restricting vessel speed limits to six (6) knots and the implementation of a transit lane in the Skardon River that follows the greatest water depth;
  - iv) underwater noise, including from pile driving activities, and shipping and barging activities; and
  - v) the risk of introduced marine pest species over the duration of this approval, including ballast water management.
- b) a monitoring program to determine the success of mitigation and management measures to ensure adaptive management for the duration of this approval;

- c) details of how proposed management measures take into account relevant approved conservation advices and are consistent with the measures contained in relevant recovery plans and threat abatement plans; and
- d) details of the timeframe for reviews of the approved Marine Management Plan, including to ensure that the Marine Management Plan is informed by the findings of the Sawfish and River Sharks Research Proposal at condition 15.

**Compliance Statement:** The Marine Management Plan was approved by the department prior to construction activities commencing in September 2017 and mining commencing in April 2018.

### 3.10. Condition 14

The approval holder must not commence marine-related activities until the Marine Management Plan has been approved in writing by the Minister and baseline surveys for EPBC Act listed sawfish and river shark species at condition 15 have been completed as determined in writing by the Department. The approved Marine Management Plan must be implemented.

**Compliance Statement:** The Marine Management Plan was approved by the department prior to construction activities commencing in September 2017 and mining commencing in April 2018.

### 3.11. Condition 15

The approval holder must submit a Sawfish and River Sharks Research Proposal for the written approval of the Minister. The Sawfish and River Sharks Research Proposal must:

- a) be prepared in consultation with the Department;
- b) provide funding in accordance with the Schedule with payments made to a fund agreed to in writing by the Department;
- c) include baseline surveys for EPBC Act listed sawfish and river shark species to be completed prior to the commencement of marine-related activities;
- d) determine the movement patterns and habitat use of EPBC Act listed sawfish and river shark species in the Skardon River and Namaleta Creek;
- e) monitor changes to key environmental water quality parameters (flow, salinity, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, Chlorophyll A) that may influence movement and habitat use of the Skardon River and Namaleta Creek;
- f) contribute to ongoing research and inform knowledge about the distribution and abundance of local populations of EPBC Act listed sawfish and river shark species and identification of habitat utilised by EPBC Act listed sawfish and river shark species; and
- g) inform avoidance, mitigation and management measures required in the Marine Management Plan at condition 13.



h)

**Compliance Statement:** A Sawfish and River Sharks Research Proposal was submitted for approval of the Minister within the condition timeframe.

### **3.12.Condition 16**

The approval holder must not commence marine-related activities until the Sawfish and River Sharks Research Proposal has been approved by the Minister in writing Schedule payment has been made to the fund agreed to by the Department in writing, and the first annual

**Compliance Statement:** The Sawfish and River Sharks Research Proposal was approved and the first payment to the fund processed.

### **3.13.Condition 17**

The findings of the approved Sawfish and River Sharks Research Proposal must be provided to the Department within six months of completion of the research and made available to Queensland Government Authorities on written request.

**Compliance Statement:** This milestone is yet to be reached.

### **3.14.General Conditions 18 - 28**

Metro Mining Limited and Gulf Alumina Ltd. have complied with the general provisions of this approval for the reporting period. No changes to conditions or variations against conditions 18 to 28 have occurred during the reporting period that have triggered any response to the general conditions within approval EPBC 2014/7305.