

Metro Mining

Bauxite Hills Mine | EPBC

2014/7305 | 2020-2021 EPBC

Annual Compliance Report







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Proponent Declaration

In making this declaration, I am aware that section 490 and 491 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act) make it an offence in certain circumstances to knowingly provide false or misleading information or documents. The offence is punishable on conviction by imprisonment or a fine, or both. I declare that all the information and documentation supporting this compliance report is true and correct in every particular.

I am authorised to bind the approval holder to this declaration and that I have no knowledge of that authorisation being revoked at the time of making this declaration.

Signed

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Imber', written in a cursive style.

Mark Imber
Manager Environment and Communities
Metro Mining (ABN 45 117 763 443)

1 Purpose

This compliance report details the progress of Metro Mining Limited (Metro) against the requirements outlined in approval EPBC 2014/7305. For the purposes of reporting, Metro has elected to report on a financial year basis.

1.1 Background

Metro 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 BHM site is located approximately 85 km north of Weipa and approximately 35 km to the north of Mapoon.

SR tenements are operated under a State environmental authority for mining (EPML00967013), and as well as Commonwealth approval, decided under sections 130(i) and 133 of the EPBC Act.

The SR tenements includes open cut operations, haul roads, Barge Loading Facility (BLF), Materials Offloading Facility (MOF), transshipping activities, a 133-person camp, and open cut operations.

Bauxite product from the 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

1.2 Objective

This report addresses condition 20 of EPBC 2014/7305, namely:

Within three (3) months of every 12 month anniversary of the commencement of the action, the approval holder must publish a report (the Annual Compliance Report) on its website addressing compliance with each of the conditions of this approval, during the previous 12 months. Documentary evidence providing proof of the date of publication must be provided to the Department at the same time as the Annual Compliance Report is published. Reports must remain published for the life of the approval. The approval holder must continue to publish the Annual Compliance Report each year until such time as agreed to in writing by the Minister.

1.3 Scope

This report details the approval conditions outlined within EPBC 2014/7305 and assessment of compliance against these conditions for the reporting period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

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.

An additional decision to vary the conditions attached to approval was received on 11 September 2017. This variation revoked conditions 2, 3, 9 and 10 and deleted conditions 5, 19 and 29 and substituted with new conditions 5A and 5B. 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, offset attributes and project stage. New definitions were made to habitat, cleared/clearance, port Area Pre-clearance Hollows Survey Report and proposed methodology for habitat assessment, as well as management plan guidelines.

1.4 Designations to Record Findings

1.4.1 Assessment of Compliance

The terminology used to record findings in the compliance report (see Table 1-1) is consistent with that used by the DAWE Annual Compliance Report Guidelines (2014).

Table 1-1 Compliance Status Terminology

Status	Description
Compliant	'Compliance' is achieved when all the requirements of a condition have been met, including the implementation of management plans or other measures required by those conditions.
Non-compliant	A designation of 'non-compliance' should be given where the requirements of a condition or elements of a condition, including the implementation of management plans and other measures, have not been met.
Not applicable	A designation of 'not applicable' should be given where the requirements of a condition or elements of a condition fall outside of the scope of the current reporting period. For example, a condition which apprise to an activity that has not yet commenced.

1.4.2 Compliance Status

Four Non-Compliances were identified during the Audit (see Conditions 17, 20, 22 and 28). All Non-Compliances have been addressed prior to the preparation of this report.

A detailed assessment of compliance with the conditions of EPBC 2014/7305 is presented in Table 1-2.

Table 1-2 EPBC 2014/7305 Audit table

Condition No.	Description	Compliance Status	Evidence / Comments
1	The approval holder must not take the action outside of the project area.	Compliant	All actions have been undertaken within the project area.
2-4	Revoked		
5	<p>Prior to the commencement of the action, the approval holder must submit an Offset Strategy for the written approval of the Minister. The Offset Strategy must be a framework for how the clearance of habitat for the Red Goshawk, Masked Owl (Northern) and Bare-rumped Sheathtail Bat will be offset, and must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. review relevant approved conservation advices, recovery plans and threat abatement plans; b. identify threats to Red Goshawk, Masked Owl (Northern) and Bare-rumped Sheathtail Bat, and potential recovery actions and research opportunities; and c. outline a process for developing Offset Projects, and a staged process for submitting Offset Projects to the Department for the written approval of the Department. <p>The approval holder must not commence the action until the Offset Strategy has been approved by the Minister in writing. The approved Offset Strategy must be implemented.</p>	Not applicable	<p>The Bauxite Hills Mine Offset Strategy was approved by the Department on 15th September 2017. The revised Offset Strategy and Offset Project 1 were approved 5 May 2020. See Appendix A.</p> <p>The conditions of the EPBC Approvals relating to the provision of offsets, implementation and expenditure on approved Offset Projects and related reporting are currently the subject of ongoing judicial review proceedings in the Federal Court.</p> <p>No actions are required to be taken until such time as the proceeding before the Court and subsequent follow-up actions are finalised.</p>

Condition No.	Description	Compliance Status	Evidence / Comments
5A	<p>Offset Projects submitted to the Department for approval in accordance with Condition 5 must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) specify the location and nature of Offset Project activities; b) include project goal/s, budget and a detailed Offset Project description, including timeframes for implementing the Offset Project, and reporting and publishing of Offset Project results; c) demonstrate how the Offset Project is consistent with the Offset Strategy; d) outline consultations associated with developing the Offset Project, including the outcomes of those consultations; e) outline how the Offset Project complies with the principles of the EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy and, if relevant, details of how the Offset Project meets the criteria for research and educational programs identified in Appendix A of the EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy; and f) identify and manage risks associated with implementing the Offset Project. <p>The approval holder must not commence an Offset Project until the Offset Project has been approved in writing by the Department. The approved Offset Project must be implemented.</p>		
5B	<p>The approval holder must expend on Offset Projects approved in accordance with condition 5A, at least \$2,817 (excluding GST) per hectare of habitat cleared during any financial year, by 30 June of the following financial year. The value of expenditure per hectare of habitat cleared must be annually adjusted in accordance with the Brisbane Consumer Price Index (CPI) fluctuations from 1 July 2017. The first adjustment is to be applied 1 July 2018. The approval holder must prepare and submit to the Department an annual impact reconciliation report by 31 July each year demonstrating compliance with this condition.</p>		

Condition No.	Description	Compliance Status	Evidence / Comments
6 – 10	Revoked		
11	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	Compliant	The Significant Species Management Plan was submitted to DotEE in August 2017.
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.	Compliant	<p>The Significant Species Management Plan was approved by DotEE 11 August 2017 (see Appendix B). Construction activities commencing in September 2017 and mining commencing in April 2018.</p> <p>Implementation of the Significant Species Management Plan continued through this reporting period.</p>

<p>13</p>	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 (<i>Dugong dugon</i>) and the environment of the Commonwealth marine area, including: b. artificial light related impacts from port construction and operation, barge terminals, shipping and barging activities, and anchored/moored vessels; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. shipping and barging activities, including management of bauxite dust and contamination spills; II. 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; III. underwater noise, including from pile driving activities, and shipping and barging activities; and IV. the risk of introduced marine pest species over the duration of this approval, including ballast water management. c. a monitoring program to determine the success of mitigation and management measures to ensure adaptive management for the duration of this approval; d. 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 e. details of the timeframe for reviews of the approved Marine Management Plan, including to ensure that the Marine 	<p>Compliant</p>	<p>The Marine Management Plan was approved by the department on 18 August 2017. See Appendix C.</p>
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Condition No.	Description	Compliance Status	Evidence / Comments
	Management Plan is informed by the findings of the Sawfish and River Sharks Research Proposal at condition 15.		
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.	Compliant	<p>The Marine Management Plan was approved by the department on 18 August 2017.</p> <p>Baseline sawfish and river shark surveys were undertaken prior to construction activities commencing in September 2017 and mining commencing in April 2018.</p> <p>Implementation of the Marine Management Plan continued through this reporting period.</p>

Condition No.	Description	Compliance Status	Evidence / Comments
15	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	Compliant	A Sawfish and River Sharks Research Proposal was submitted for approval of the Minister within the condition timeframe.
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 and the first annual Schedule payment has been made to the fund agreed to by the Department in writing.	Compliant	The Sawfish and River Sharks Research Proposal was approved 15 June 2017 (see Appendix D) and the first payment to the fund processed as per the condition.

Condition No.	Description	Compliance Status	Evidence / Comments
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.	Non-compliant	<p>The following was identified in FY2021-22; however, it is reported here as Metro was non-compliant during the FY2020-21 reporting period.</p> <p>The final report on the Sawfish and River Sharks Research Proposal was believed to have been provided to the DotEE by CSIRO in March 2020, in compliance with this condition. Email advice from DAWE dated 17 August 2021 indicated this action potentially did not occur as no copy of the report could be located. The report has since been submitted to DAWE to rectify this matter.</p>
18	Within 20 days after the commencement of the action, the approval holder must advise the Department in writing of the actual date of commencement.	Compliant	The Department was advised of the actual date of commencement as per the condition.
19	The approval holder must maintain accurate records substantiating all activities associated with or relevant to the conditions of approval, including measures taken to implement the management plans and strategies required by this approval, and make them available upon request to the Department. Such records may be subject to audit by the Department or an independent auditor in accordance with section 458 of the EPBC Act, or used to verify compliance with the conditions of approval. Summaries of audits will be posted on the Department's website. The results of the audits may also be publicised through the general media.	Compliant	Metro retains records as required by this approval condition.

Condition No.	Description	Compliance Status	Evidence / Comments
20	<p>Within three (3) months of every 12 month anniversary of the commencement of the action, the approval holder must publish a report (the Annual Compliance Report) on its website addressing compliance with each of the conditions of this approval, during the previous 12 months. Documentary evidence providing proof of the date of publication must be provided to the Department at the same time as the Annual Compliance Report is published. Reports must remain published for the life of the approval. The approval holder must continue to publish the Annual Compliance Report each year until such time as agreed to in writing by the Minister.</p>	Non-compliant	<p>Metro was non-compliant with this condition during this reporting period as the compliance report was not completed within the required timeframe.</p> <p>DAWE was notified 20 April 2021 of the completion of the compliance report and its availability on the Metro website.</p>
21	<p>Upon the direction of the Minister, the approval holder must ensure that an independent audit of compliance with the conditions of approval is conducted and a report submitted to the Minister. The approval holder must not commence the audit until the Minister approves the independent auditor and audit criteria in writing. The audit report must address the criteria to the satisfaction of the Minister.</p>	Not applicable	<p>Metro were not directed by the Minister to conduct an independent audit in the 2020-21 financial year.</p>
22	<p>The approval holder must report any potential or actual contravention of the conditions of this approval to the Department in writing within two (2) business days of the approval holder becoming aware of a contravention.</p>	Non-compliant	<p>Metro was non-compliant with this condition during this reporting period as it did not report the compliance report was late.</p>

Condition No.	Description	Compliance Status	Evidence / Comments
23	<p>The approval holder may choose to revise a management plan approved by the Minister under conditions 11 and 13 without submitting it for approval under section 143A of the EPBC Act, if the taking of the action in accordance with the revised plan would not be likely to have a new or increased impact. If the approval holder makes this choice it must notify the Department in writing that the approved plan has been revised and provide the Department, at least four (4) weeks before implementing the revised plan, with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. an electronic copy of the revised plan; b. an explanation of the differences between the revised plan and the approved plan; and c. reasons the approval holder considers that the taking of the action in accordance with the revised plan would not be likely to have a new or increased impact. 	Not applicable	All management plans have been submitted and approved by the Minister with no revisions in the reporting period.
24	<p>The approval holder may revoke their choice under condition 23 at any time by notice to the Department. If the approval holder revokes the choice to implement a revised plan, without approval under section 143A of the EPBC Act, the plan approved by the Minister must be implemented.</p>	Not applicable	All management plans have been submitted and approved by the Minister with no revisions in the reporting period.
25	<p>If the Minister gives a notice to the approval holder that the Minister is satisfied that the taking of the action in accordance with the revised plan would be likely to have a new or increased impact, then:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. condition 23 does not apply, or ceases to apply, in relation to the revised plan; and b. the approval holder must implement the plan approved by the Minister. <p>To avoid any doubt, this condition does not affect any operation of conditions 23 and 24 in the period before the day the notice is given.</p> <p>At the time of giving the notice, the Minister may also notify that for a specified period of time that condition 23 does not apply for one or more specified plans required under the approval.</p>	Not applicable	All management plans have been submitted and approved by the Minister with no revisions in the reporting period.

Condition No.	Description	Compliance Status	Evidence / Comments
26	Conditions 23, 24 and 25 are not intended to limit the operation of section 143A of the EPBC Act which allows the approval holder to submit a revised plan to the Minister for approval.	Not applicable	All management plans have been submitted and approved by the Minister with no revisions in the reporting period.
27	If, at any time after five (5) years from the date of this approval, the approval holder has not commenced the action, then the approval holder must not commence the action without the written agreement of the Minister.	Not applicable	The action was commenced within the timeframe outlined by the approval.
28	Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister, the approval holder must publish all management plans referred to in these conditions of approval on its website. Each management plan must be published on the website within one (1) month of being approved by the Minister or being submitted under condition 23. All management plans must remain on the website for the lifetime of the approval unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister.	Non-compliant	During this reporting period Metro was non-compliant with this condition. Metro was under the impression the variation notice dated 28 July 2017 deleted this condition. This has since been rectified and the management plans required as conditions of the approval are now available on the Metro website.



Appendix A: Revised Offset Strategy and Offset Project 1 Approval Letter



Mr Simon Finnis
Chief Executive Officer
Metro Mining Ltd
Lvl 2, 247 Adelaide St
Brisbane QLD 4000

Bauxite Hills Mining and Barging Project (EPBC 2015/7538)
Skardon River Bauxite Mining Project (EPBC 2014/7305)

Dear Mr Finnis

I refer to an email dated 11 September 2017 from Metro Mining Limited (Metro), seeking approval of the *Bauxite Hills Mine Offset Strategy* to meet the requirements of *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* conditions of approval for EPBC 2015/7538 and EPBC 2014/7305.

Officers of this Department have reviewed the *Bauxite Hills Mine Offset Strategy*, with particular regard to the conditions of approval for EPBC 2015/7538 and EPBC 2014/7305.

On the Department's advice, and as a delegate of the Minister for the Environment and Energy, I have decided to approve the *Bauxite Hills Mine Offset Strategy, Version 2*, dated 14 September 2017, in accordance with:

- Condition 5 of EPBC 2015/7538, as meeting the requirements of Condition 5 of EPBC 2015/7538 relating to an Offset Strategy; and
- Condition 5 of EPBC 2014/7305, as meeting the requirements of Condition 5 of EPBC 2014/7305 relating to an Offset Strategy.

The *Bauxite Hills Mine Offset Strategy* dated 14 September 2017 must now be implemented. Should you require any further information please contact Vaughn Cox on 02 6274 2005 or by email at post.approvals@environment.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Charmayne Murray
Acting Assistant Secretary
Assessments and Governance Branch
Environment Standards Division

15 September 2017



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

Ms Colleen Fish
Manager Environment and Communities
Metro Mining Ltd
Level 2, 247 Adelaide Street
Brisbane QLD 4001

Skardon River Bauxite Mining Project (EPBC 2014/7305) and Bauxite Hills Mining and Barging Project (EPBC 2015/7538): Offset Strategy and Offset Project 1

Dear Ms Fish

Thank you for submitting the revised Offset Strategy and Offset Project 1 for approval in accordance with the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) approval for EPBC 2014/7305 and EPBC 2015/7538.

Officers of the Department have advised me on the revised Offset Strategy and on the requirements of the EPBC Act conditions of approval for these projects. On this basis, and as a delegate of the Minister for the Environment, I have decided to approve the *Bauxite Hills Mine Offset Strategy, Revision 6, dated 27 April 2020*, for the purposes of an Offset Strategy as required by Condition 5 of EPBC Act approvals for EPBC 2014/7305 and EPBC 2015/7538. The approved revised Offset Strategy must now be implemented.

Officers of the Department have also advised me the Offset Project 1 proposal, being an Offset Project deliverable identified in the revised Offset Strategy. On this basis, and as Assistant Secretary of the Assessments (WA, SA, NT), Post Approvals and Policy Branch, I have decided to approve Offset Project 1, for the purposes of the approved *Bauxite Hills Mine Offset Strategy, Revision 6, dated 27 April 2020*.

Please note that if you wish to vary the approved Offset Strategy you must submit for the Minister's approval a revised version of the Offset Strategy in accordance with the requirements of section 143A of the EPBC Act.

Should you require any further information please contact Tony Dowd on (02) 6274 1769 or postapproval@awe.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Manning'.

Greg Manning, Assistant Secretary
Assessments (WA, SA, NT), Post Approvals and Policy Branch
Environment Approvals Division

5 May 2020



Appendix B: Significant Species Management Plan Approval Letter



Ms Colleen Fish
Manager Environment and Communities
Metro Mining Ltd
300 Adelaide St
Brisbane QLD 4000

**Skardon River Bauxite Mining Project, Weipa, QLD (EPBC 2014/7305)
Bauxite Hills Mining and Barging Project, Weipa, QLD (EPBC 2015/7538)**

Dear Ms Fish

I refer to the email dated 8 July 2017, from Metro Mining Limited, and for and on behalf of Gulf Alumina Limited, seeking approval of the Species Management Plan specified in the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) conditions of approvals for EPBC 2014/7305 and EPBC 2015/7538.

Officers of this Department have evaluated the Species Management Plan, with particular regard to the approval conditions. On the Department's advice, and as a delegate of the Minister for the Environment and Energy, I have decided to approve the *Bauxite Hills Mine Significant Species Management Plan* dated August 2017, in accordance with approval condition 11 of EPBC 2014/7305 and approval condition 7 of EPBC 2015/7538. The plan must now be implemented.

Approval condition 23 of EPBC 2014/7305 and approval condition 18 of EPBC 2015/7538 allows you, under certain circumstances, to implement revised plans without seeking the Minister's approval. The attached guidance on 'New or Increased Impact' outlines these circumstances. Any other changes to approved plans must be approved in accordance with section 143A of the EPBC Act. When submitting a revised plan to the Department under the above conditions, or under section 143A of the EPBC Act, please provide a document clearly explaining the revisions (such as a 'tracked changes' version or table); reasoning why you believe the revisions will not have a new or increased impact; as well as notification of the publication of the revised plan on your website.

Should you require any further information please contact Tim Kaminskis on 02 6275 9516 or by email at post.approvals@environment.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

James Barker
Assistant Secretary
Assessments and Governance Branch
Environment Standards Division

// August 2017

Encl: 'New or Increased Impact' Guidance



Appendix C: Marine Management Plan Approval Letter



Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Energy

Ms Colleen Fish
Manager Environment and Communities
Metro Mining Ltd
300 Adelaide St
Brisbane QLD 4000

**Skardon River Bauxite Mining Project, Weipa, QLD (EPBC 2014/7305)
Bauxite Hills Mining and Barging Project, Weipa, QLD (EPBC 2015/7538)**

Dear Ms Fish

I refer to the email dated 15 August 2017, from Metro Mining Limited, and for and on behalf of Gulf Alumina Limited, seeking approval of the Marine Management Plan specified in the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) conditions of approvals for EPBC 2014/7305 and EPBC 2015/7538.

Officers of this Department have evaluated the Marine Management Plan, with particular regard to the above conditions of approval. On the Department's advice, and as a delegate of the Minister for the Environment and Energy, I have decided to approve the *Bauxite Hills Project Marine Management Plan (Revision D)* dated 14 August 2017, in accordance with approval condition 13 of EPBC 2014/7305 and approval condition 9 of EPBC 2015/7538. The plan must now be implemented.

Approval condition 23 of EPBC 2014/7305 and approval condition 18 of EPBC 2015/7538 allow you, under certain circumstances, to implement revised plans without seeking the Minister's approval. The attached guidance on 'New or Increased Impact' outlines these circumstances. Any other changes to approved plans must be approved in accordance with section 143A of the EPBC Act. When submitting a revised plan to the Department under the above conditions, or under section 143A of the EPBC Act, please provide a document clearly explaining the revisions (such as a 'tracked changes' version or table); reasoning why you believe the revisions will not have a new or increased impact; as well as notification of the publication of the revised plan on your website.

Should you require any further information please contact Tim Kaminskis on 02 6275 9516 or by email at post.approvals@environment.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

James Barker
Assistant Secretary
Assessments and Governance Branch
Environment Standards Division

18 August 2017

Encl: 'New or Increased Impact' Guidance



Appendix D: Sawfish and River Sharks Research Proposal Approval Letter



Ms Colleen Fish
Manager Environment and Communities
Metro Mining Ltd
300 Adelaide St
Brisbane QLD 4000

Dear Ms Fish

Skardon River Bauxite Mining Project, Weipa, QLD (EPBC 2014/7305)

I refer to the email dated 2 June 2017, from Metro Mining Limited (on behalf of their wholly owned subsidiary Gulf Alumina Limited) seeking approval of the Sawfish and River Sharks Research Proposal required by condition 15 of the approval for this project under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Officers of this Department have evaluated the Sawfish and River Sharks Research Proposal, with particular regard to the approval conditions for EPBC 2014/7305. On the Department's advice, and as a delegate of the Minister for the Environment and Energy, I have decided to approve the:

- *Skardon River Bauxite Mine Research Proposal* attached to the CSIRO Research Agreement signed 21 March 2017.

Should you require any further information please contact Tim Kaminskis on 02 6275 9516 or by email at post.approvals@environment.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Monica Collins
Assistant Secretary
Compliance & Enforcement Branch
Environment Standards Division

15 June 2017