



Environmental Protection Authority

EPA Referral Form

Form for the referral of a proposal to the Environmental Protection Authority under Section 38 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*

Referrer information			
Who is referring this proposal?		<input type="checkbox"/> Proponent <input type="checkbox"/> Decision-making authority <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community member/third party	
Name Piers Verstegen		Signature	
Position	Director	Organisation	Conservation Council of WA
Email	Piers.verstegen@ccwa.org.au		
Address	2	Delhi St	
	West Perth	WA	6005
Date	14/12/2018		
Does the referrer request that the EPA treat any part of the proposal information in the referral as confidential? <i>Provide confidential information in a separate attachment.</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Referral declaration for organisations, proponents and decision-making authorities: I, Piers Verstegen, declare that I am authorised to refer this proposal on behalf of the Conservation Council of WA and further declare that the information contained in this form is true and not misleading.			
Part A: Proponent and proposal description			
Proponent information			
Name of the proponent/s (including Trading Name if relevant)		Vimy Resources	
Australian Company Number(s) <input type="checkbox"/> OR Australian Business Number(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		56 120 178 949	
Contact for the proposal (if different from the referrer) <i>Please include: name, physical address, phone, and email.</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Julian Tapp Vimy Resources Ground Floor, 10 Richardson Street WEST PERTH WA 6005 +61 (08) 9389 2700 / 0414013836 jtapp@vimyresources.com.au	

<p>Does the proponent have the legal access required for the implementation of all aspects of the proposal?</p> <p><i>If yes, provide details of legal access authorisations / agreements / tenure.</i></p> <p><i>If no, what authorisations / agreements / tenure is required and from whom?</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Mining Proposal including a Mine Closure Plan: <i>Mining Act (1978).</i></p> <p>Radiation Management Plan: <i>Mines Safety and Inspection Act (1994) and Regulations (1995) & Radiation Safety Act (1975)</i></p> <p>Transport licenses: <i>Mines Safety and Inspection Act (1994) and Regulations (1995) & Radiation Safety Transport of Radioactive Materials (2008) Transport Code.</i></p> <p>Export licenses: <i>Commonwealth Safeguards Act (1987) & Section 6 of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Safeguards Act (1987) and transport uranium products & Reg 9 of Customs (Prohibited Exports) Regulations under the Customs Act (1901).</i></p> <p>Building consent: <i>Planning and Development Act (2005) and the Health Act (1911)</i></p> <p>Miscellaneous licenses: <i>Mining Act (1978)</i></p> <p>s.18 Permits: <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act (1972)</i></p>
Proposal type	
<p>What type of proposal is being referred?</p> <p>For a change to an approved proposal please state the Ministerial Statement number/s (MS No./s) of the approved proposal</p> <p>For a derived proposal please state the Ministerial Statement number (MS No.) of the associated strategic proposal</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> significant – new proposal</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> significant – change to approved proposal (MS 1046)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> proposal under an assessed planning scheme</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> strategic</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> derived (Strategic MS No.: _____)</p>
<p>For a significant proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why do you consider the proposal may have a significant effect on the environment and warrant referral to the EPA? 	<p>The revised Mulga Rock Uranium Project proposal is significantly different from the proposal which has been assessed previously by the EPA, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the base metals plant being replaced with a turnkey sulphuric acid plant change from Princess to Ambassador North pit as the initial tailings storage facility; Higher uranium production during

	<p>initial ramp-up period due to higher grade ore being sourced;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uranium production increased from 3.0 to 3.5Mlbs U3O8 per annum. <p>See accompanying letter and attachment for further details.</p>
<p>For a proposal under an assessed planning scheme, provide the following details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scheme name and number <p>For the Responsible Authority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What new environmental issues are raised by the proposal that were not assessed during the assessment of the planning scheme? How does the proposal not comply with the assessed scheme and/or the environmental conditions in the assessed planning scheme? 	
Proposal description	
Title of the proposal	Mulga Rock Uranium Project
Name of the Local Government Authority in which the proposal is located.	Shire of Menzies
<p>Location:</p> <p>a) street address, lot number, suburb, and nearest road intersection; or</p> <p>b) if remote the nearest town and distance and direction from that town to the proposal site.</p>	The proposed Mulga Rock Uranium Project is in the Yellow Sandplain Priority Ecological Community in the Western Part of the Great Victoria Desert, 240 NE of Kalgoorlie. Access to the site is via the Tropicana Gold Mine Access Rd, North East of Pinjin Station.
<p>Proposal description – including the key characteristics of the proposal</p> <p><i>Provide as an attachment to the form</i></p>	The subject of this referral is the development of a Sulphuric Acid Plant for the processing of uranium ore and other changes to the original proposal. *note there are substantial other aspects of the proposal including 4 open cut mines and a temporary above ground tailings storage facility.
<p>Have you provided electronic spatial data, maps and figure in the appropriate format?</p> <p><i>Refer to instructions at the front of the form</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
What is the current land use on the property, and the extent (area in hectares) of the property?	Unallocated Crown Land
Have you had pre-referral discussions with the EPA at DWER Services? If so, quote the reference number and/or the DWER contact.	We have contacted the EPA and organised a meeting with Dr Tom Hatton for January 2019.
Part B: Environmental impacts	
Environmental factors	
What are the likely significant environmental	<input type="checkbox"/> Benthic Communities and Habitat

factors for this proposal?		<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Processes <input type="checkbox"/> Marine Environmental Quality <input type="checkbox"/> Marine Fauna <input type="checkbox"/> Flora and Vegetation <input type="checkbox"/> Landforms <input type="checkbox"/> Subterranean Fauna <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Terrestrial Environmental Quality <input type="checkbox"/> Terrestrial Fauna <input type="checkbox"/> Inland Waters <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality <input type="checkbox"/> Social Surroundings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Health
For each of the environmental factors identified above, complete the following table, or provide the information in a supplementary report		
Potential environmental impacts		
1	EPA Factor	Nuclear Action
2	EPA policy and guidance - What have you considered and how have you applied them in relation to this factor?	<p>The Mulga Rock Uranium Project is a proposal for the mining and milling of uranium. Under section 21, 22 and 22A of the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cth) (EPBC Act) 'uranium mining and milling' are listed as a 'nuclear action' which is a Matter of National Environmental Significance (MNES) and requires assessment under the EPBC Act.</p> <p>The Mulga Rock Uranium Project is also in an area with listed threatened species and communities. Under section 18 and 18A of the EPBC Act listed threatened species and communities are a MNES and require assessment.</p>
3	Consultation – Outline the outcomes of consultation in relation to the potential environmental impacts	We are still trying to find a convenient time to meet with the proponent but are in communication with the them.

4	<p>Receiving environment – Describe the current condition of the receiving environment in relation to this factor.</p>	<p>The Mulga Rock Uranium Project proposal is within the #54 Yellow Sandplain Priority Ecological Community (PEC) in the Goldfields Region. The environment is described as "Undulating yellow sandplain with an open upper stratum of Eucalyptus gongylocarpa, with or without a diverse mallee stratum of E. youngiana, E. mannensis, E. platycorys, over a sparse, though diverse shrubs over hummock grasses, Triodia desertorum or T. scariosa. Very high vertebrate diversity and unusual combinations of species (mixture of south-western and arid inter zones)." Threats to this PEC are listed as mining and exploration, extensive summer wildfires and feral predators. There are a number of rare and threatened species at the site as identified by the proponent in Assessment 1979.</p>
5	<p>Proposal activities – Describe the proposal activities that have the potential to impact the environment</p>	<p>For the purpose of this referral which is specific to the Sulphuric Acid Plant and its impacts and other aspects of the proposal which are different from the original assessment, we identify that the threat to the environment stems from the design, construction and ongoing management of such a facility, added threats of transporting and management of sulphuric acid should be considered. Changes to the waste products from the facility and their short term and long term storage and management pose a significant and long term threat to the environment. Water consumption and contamination and management are all risk factors from the new processing plant. We note that there have been a number of incidents at other processing facilities at uranium mine sites which have led to workplace exposure of radiation levels above legal limits. The changes in proposed tailings storage also have the potential to present different, and significant environmental impacts that have not been assessed by the EPA as part of the original assessment.</p>

6	Mitigation – Describe the measures proposed to manage and mitigate the potential environmental impacts.	We are unaware of the full range of risks or proposed mitigation strategies by the proponent as there is no public information about the features of the sulphuric acid plant.
7	Impacts – Assess the impacts of the proposal and review the residual impacts against the EPA objective.	The impacts of any accident or spillage from the plant could impact workers through exposure of radiation and could cause the spread of contaminated materials beyond the site and into the food chain. Acid on site could also lead to Acid Metalliferous Drainage (AMD). Proceeding without a full environmental assessment and alterations to other aspects of the proposal could lead a range of environmental issues with the management of tailings, water supply, waste rock and storage of chemicals.
8	Assumptions - Describe any assumptions critical to your assessment e.g. particular mitigation measures or regulatory conditions.	<i>Not applicable.</i>

Part C: Other approvals and regulation			
State and Local Government approvals			
Is rezoning of any land required before the proposal can be implemented? If yes, please provide details.		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
If this proposal has been referred by a decision-making authority, what approval(s) are required from you?		NA	
Please identify other approvals required for the proposal:			
Proposal activities e.g. clearing, dewatering, mining, processing, dredging	Land tenure/access e.g. Crown land, Mining lease, specify legislation for access if relevant	Type of approval e.g. Native Vegetation Clearing Permit, licence, mining proposal,	Legislation regulating the activity e.g. <i>EP Act 1986 – Part V, RiWI Act 1914, Mining Act 1979</i>
Mining and Mine Closure.	Mining Lease	Mining Proposal and Mine Closure Plan.	<i>Mining Act (1978).</i>
Uranium mining		Radiation Management Plan	<i>Mines Safety and Inspection Act (1994) and Regulations (1995)</i> <i>Radiation Safety Act (1975)</i>
Transport of Uranium		Transport of uranium oxide	<i>Mines Safety and Inspection Act (1994) and Regulations (1995)</i> <i>Radiation Safety Transport of Radioactive Materials (2008) Transport Code.</i>
Uranium mining, processing and transport		Dangerous Goods Licences	<i>Dangerous Goods Safety Act (2004)</i>
infrastructure		Miscellaneous Licence	<i>Mining Act (1978)</i>
Aboriginal Heritage		S.18 (remove and destroy Aboriginal heritage)	<i>Aboriginal Heritage Act (1972)</i>
Construction		Building applications and consent	<i>Planning and Development Act (2005) and the Health Act (1911)</i>

Part C: Other approvals and regulation			
State and Local Government approvals			
Selling / exporting uranium		export licences	<p>Commonwealth Safeguards Act (1987) and Section 6 of the <i>Nuclear Non-Proliferation Safeguards Act (1987)</i> and transport uranium products.</p> <p>Reg 9 of <i>Customs (Prohibited Exports) Regulations</i> under the <i>Customs Act (1901)</i>.</p>
Commonwealth Government approvals			
Does the proposal involve an action that may be or is a controlled action under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (EPBC Act)?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Has the proposed action been referred? If yes, when was it referred and what is the reference number (EPBC No.)?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: _____ EPBC No.: _____	
If referred, has a decision been made on whether the proposed action is a controlled action? If 'yes', check the appropriate box and provide the decision in an attachment.		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Decision – controlled action <input type="checkbox"/> Decision – not a controlled action	
If the proposal is determined to be a controlled action, do you request that this proposal be assessed under the bilateral agreement or as an accredited assessment?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes - Bilateral <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes - Accredited	
Is approval required from other Commonwealth Government/s for any part of the proposal? <i>If yes, describe.</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Approval: Transport and export licenses... <i>Radiation Safety Transport of Radioactive Materials (2008)</i> Commonwealth Safeguards Act (1987) Section 6 of the <i>Nuclear Non-Proliferation Safeguards Act (1987)</i> and transport uranium products. Reg 9 of <i>Customs (Prohibited Exports) Regulations</i> under the <i>Customs Act (1901)</i> .	

