



Referral of a Proposal by the Proponent to the Environmental Protection Authority under Section 38(1) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.

PURPOSE OF THIS FORM

Section 38(1) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) provides that where a development proposal is likely to have a significant effect on the environment, a proponent may refer the proposal to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) for a decision on whether or not it requires assessment under the EP Act. This form sets out the information requirements for the referral of a proposal by a proponent.

Proponents are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the EPA’s *General Guide on Referral of Proposals* [see Environmental Impact Assessment/Referral of Proposals and Schemes] before completing this form.

A referral under section 38(1) of the EP Act by a proponent to the EPA must be made on this form. A request to the EPA for a declaration under section 39B (derived proposal) must be made on this form. This form will be treated as a referral provided all information required by Part A has been included and all information requested by Part B has been provided to the extent that it is pertinent to the proposal being referred. Referral documents are to be submitted in two formats – hard copy and electronic copy. The electronic copy of the referral will be provided for public comment for a period of 7 days, prior to the EPA making its decision on whether or not to assess the proposal.

CHECKLIST

Before you submit this form, please check that you have:

	Yes	No
Completed all the questions in Part A (essential).	√	
Completed all applicable questions in Part B.	√	
Included Attachment 1 – location maps.	√	
Included Attachment 2 – additional document(s) the proponent wishes to provide (if applicable).	√	
Included Attachment 3 – confidential information (if applicable).		√
Enclosed an electronic copy of all referral information, including spatial data and contextual mapping but excluding confidential information.	√	

Following a review of the information presented in this form, please consider the following question (a response is optional).

Do you consider the proposal requires formal environmental impact assessment? √ Yes
If yes, what level of assessment? √ Assessment on Proponent Information

PROPONENT DECLARATION (to be completed by the proponent)

I, Tammy Souster declare that I am authorised on behalf of Hamersley Iron Pty Limited submit this form and further declare that the information contained in this form is true and not misleading.

Signature	Tammy Souster
Position	Rio Tinto Iron Ore (on behalf of Hamersley Iron Pty. Limited)
Date	

PART A - PROPONENT AND PROPOSAL INFORMATION

(All fields of Part A must be completed for this document to be treated as a referral)

1 PROPONENT AND PROPOSAL INFORMATION

1.1 Proponent

Name	Hamersley Iron Pty Limited.
Joint Venture parties (if applicable)	Not applicable
Australian Company Number (if applicable)	ABN: 49 004 558 276
Postal Address	GPO Box A42, Perth, WA 6837
Key proponent contact for the proposal:	Tammy Souster Senior Advisor Environmental Approvals Rio Tinto 152-158 St Georges Terrace, Perth WA 6000 Telephone: (08) 6211 6985 Email: tammy.souster@riotinto.com
Consultant for the proposal (if applicable):	Not applicable

1.2 Proposal

Title	Brockman Syncline 4 Iron Ore Project – Revised Proposal
Description	The Brockman Syncline 4 Iron Ore Project is located approximately 60 km west-north-west of Tom Price in the Central Pilbara. Associated infrastructure includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three mining areas; • Dry processing plant; • Associated mine infrastructure and supporting utilities; • A bitumen sealed access road from Brockman 2 to Brockman 4; • A 35 km extension to the existing Brockman 2 rail spur. • Dewatering of up to 6.4GL per year over the life of the B4 project with surplus dewater management including onsite use and discharge to Boolgeeda creek.
Extent (area) of proposed ground disturbance.	Total of 3,560 ha (950 ha in addition to the approved footprint of 2,610 ha)
Timeframe in which the activity or development is proposed to occur (including start and finish dates where applicable).	The Brockman 4 Project is operational and has been since 2010. The surface discharge is required to commence in Q1 2015.
Details of any staging of the proposal.	Not applicable
Is the proposal a strategic proposal?	No
Is the proponent requesting a declaration that the proposal is a derived proposal?	No.
Please indicate whether, and in what way, the proposal is related to other proposals in the region.	This Proposal is a revision of the approved Brockman Syncline 4 Iron Ore Project (MS 717)
Does the proponent own the land on which the proposal is to be established? If not, what other arrangements have been established to access the land?	No, the proponent holds Mining Lease 4SA over most of the Proposal area. Infrastructure related to the B4 project is located on a number of Miscellaneous Licenses and General Purpose

	leases granted under the <i>Mining Act 1978</i> .
What is the current land use on the property, and the extent (area in hectares) of the property?	The current land use on ML4SA (total area approximately 58 800 ha) in the vicinity of the Proposal is mineral exploration. Mining and processing of iron ore occurs on ML4SA at the existing WTS S10 and Tom Price mine sites

1.3 Location

Name of the Shire in which the proposal is located.	Shire of Ashburton
For remote localities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nearest town; and • distance and direction from that town to the proposal site. 	The proposal is located approximately 60km from the town of Tom Price
Electronic copy of spatial data - GIS or CAD, geo-referenced and conforming to the following parameters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GIS: polygons representing all activities and named; • CAD: simple closed polygons representing all activities and named; • datum: GDA94; • projection: Geographic (latitude/longitude) or Map Grid of Australia (MGA); • format: Arcview shapefile, Arcinfo coverages, Microstation or AutoCAD. 	Enclosed: Yes

1.4 Confidential Information

Does the proponent wish to request the EPA to allow any part of the referral information to be treated as confidential?	No
If yes, is confidential information attached as a separate document in hard copy?	NA

1.5 Government Approvals

Is rezoning of any land required before the proposal can be implemented? If yes, please provide details.	No
Is approval required from any Commonwealth or State Government agency or Local Authority for any part of the proposal? If yes, please complete the table below.	Yes
Department of Water	<p>Licences to construct wells and take groundwater under the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i>.</p> <p>No. Requires amendment to existing License GWL164398</p>

PART B - ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND PROPOSED MANAGEMENT

2. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Describe the impacts of the proposal on the following elements of the environment, by answering the questions contained in Sections 2.1-2.11:

- 2.1 flora and vegetation;
- 2.2 fauna;
- 2.3 rivers, creeks, wetlands and estuaries;
- 2.4 significant areas and/ or land features;
- 2.5 coastal zone areas;
- 2.6 marine areas and biota;
- 2.7 water supply and drainage catchments;
- 2.8 pollution;
- 2.9 greenhouse gas emissions;
- 2.10 contamination; and
- 2.11 social surroundings.

These features should be shown on the site plan, where appropriate.

For all information, please indicate:

- (a) the source of the information; and
- (b) the currency of the information.

2.1 Flora and Vegetation

2.1.1 Do you propose to clear any native flora and vegetation as a part of this proposal?

Yes

If yes, complete the rest of this section.

2.1.2 How much vegetation are you proposing to clear (in hectares)?

950 ha

2.1.3 Have you submitted an application to clear native vegetation to the DEC (unless you are exempt from such a requirement)?

No

If yes, on what date and to which office was the application submitted of the DEC?

2.1.4 Are you aware of any recent flora surveys carried out over the area to be disturbed by this proposal?

Yes

Multiple flora and vegetation surveys have been undertaken within the approved B4 Project area and surrounds.

A flora and vegetation survey along Boolgeeda Creek was completed by Biota Environmental Sciences (2013) to support this Proposal. This report is provided as Appendix 5 in the supporting documentation.

2.1.5 Has a search of DEC records for known occurrences of rare or priority flora or threatened ecological communities been conducted for the site?

Yes

2.1.6 Are there any known occurrences of rare or priority flora or threatened ecological communities on the site?

- √ Yes No Declared Rare Flora or Threatened Ecological Communities have been recorded within the Proposal boundary, or are expected to.
- Six Priority species could potentially be impacted by the Proposal:
- *Ptilotus subspinescens* Priority 3
 - *Eremophila magnifica* subsp. *magnifica* Priority 4
 - *Peplidium* sp. Fortescue Marsh (S. Van Leeuwen 4865) Priority 1
 - *Pentalepis trichodesmoides* subsp. *hispida* Priority 2
 - *Indigofera* sp. Bungaroo Creek (S. Van Leeuwen) Priority 3
 - *Goodenia nuda* Priority 4
- Further information is provided in Section 6 of the Environmental Review document

2.1.7 What is the condition of the vegetation at the site?

Vegetation condition is from poor to excellent using the Trudgen scale. Further information on the vegetation condition is contained in the report by Biota Environmental Sciences (2013) Brockman 4 riparian vegetation mapping report located as Appendix 3 in the Environmental Review document.

2.2 Fauna

2.2.1 Do you expect that any fauna or fauna habitat will be impacted by the proposal?

√ Yes

2.2.2 Describe the nature and extent of the expected impact.

The nature and extent of the expected impact is outlined in Section 6 of the Environmental Review document.

2.2.3 Are you aware of any recent fauna surveys carried out over the area to be disturbed by this proposal?

√ Yes Multiple fauna surveys have been undertaken within the approved B4 Project area and surrounds. Details of these studies are provided in Section 6 of the Environmental Review document.

2.2.4 Has a search of DEC records for known occurrences of Specially Protected (threatened) fauna been conducted for the site?

√ Yes

2.2.5 Are there any known occurrences of Specially Protected (threatened) fauna on the site?

√ Yes Four priority vertebrate fauna species have been recorded in the B4 survey area (Biota 2005b):

- Western Pebble –mound Mouse *Pseudomys chapmani*
- Australia Bustard *Ardeotis australis*
- Bush Stonecurlew *Burhinus grallarius*
- A skink *Notoscincus butleri*

2.3 Rivers, Creeks, Wetlands and Estuaries

2.3.1 Will the development occur within 200 metres of a river, creek, wetland or estuary?

√ Yes

2.3.2 Will the development result in the clearing of vegetation within the 200 metre zone?

√ No

2.3.3 Will the development result in the filling or excavation of a river, creek, wetland or estuary?

No

2.3.4 Will the development result in the impoundment of a river, creek, wetland or estuary?

No

2.3.5 Will the development result in draining to a river, creek, wetland or estuary?

Yes

Dewatering in excess of operational requirements will be discharged to Boolgeeda Creek with a maximum wetting front of 37km.

2.3.6 Are you aware if the proposal will impact on a river, creek, wetland or estuary (or its buffer) within one of the following categories? (please tick)

Conservation Category Wetland No

Environmental Protection (South West Agricultural Zone Wetlands) Policy 1998 No

Perth's Bush Forever site No

Environmental Protection (Swan & Canning Rivers) Policy 1998 No

The management area as defined in s4(1) of the *Swan River Trust Act 1988* No

Which is subject to an international agreement, because of the importance of the wetland for waterbirds and waterbird habitats (e.g. Ramsar, JAMBA, CAMBA) No

2.4 Significant Areas and/ or Land Features

2.4.1 Is the proposed development located within or adjacent to an existing or proposed National Park or Nature Reserve?

No

2.4.2 Are you aware of any Environmentally Sensitive Areas (as declared by the Minister under section 51B of the EP Act) that will be impacted by the proposed development?

No **If yes**, please provide details.

2.4.3 Are you aware of any significant natural land features (e.g. caves, ranges etc) that will be impacted by the proposed development?

No **If yes**, please provide details.

2.5 Coastal Zone Areas (Coastal Dunes and Beaches)

2.5.1 Will the development occur within 300metres of a coastal area?

No **If no**, go to the next section.

2.6 Marine Areas and Biota

2.6.1 Is the development likely to impact on an area of sensitive benthic communities, such as seagrasses, coral reefs or mangroves?

No **If yes**, please describe the extent of the expected impact.

2.7 Water Supply and Drainage Catchments

2.7.1 Are you in a proclaimed or proposed groundwater or surface water protection area?

(You may need to contact the Department of Water (DoW) for more information on the requirements for your location, including the requirement for licences for water abstraction. Also, refer to the DoW website)

✓ Yes

The Proposal is located within the Pilbara Groundwater Area proclaimed under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*, in which licences will be required for construction of wells to access groundwater and to abstract groundwater.

Rio Tinto is liaising with DoW regarding amending the existing GWL164398 to increase the abstraction from 4.53GL/a to 6.4 GL/a. The water abstracted will be used for mine operations such as processing and excess disposed to a local watercourse.

2.7.2 Are you in an existing or proposed Underground Water Supply and Pollution Control area?

(You may need to contact the DoW for more information on the requirements for your location, including the requirement for licences for water abstraction. Also, refer to the DoW website)

✓ No

2.7.3 Are you in a Public Drinking Water Supply Area (PDWSA)?

(You may need to contact the DoW for more information or refer to the DoW website. A proposal to clear vegetation within a PDWSA requires approval from DoW.)

✓ No

2.7.4 Is there sufficient water available for the proposal?

✓ Yes

2.7.5 Will the proposal require drainage of the land?

✓ No

2.7.6 Is there a water requirement for the construction and/ or operation of this proposal?

✓ Yes

2.7.7 What is the water requirement for the construction and operation of this proposal, in kilolitres per year?

Ongoing operational demand for water is approximately 8ML/day.

2.7.8 What is the proposed source of water for the proposal? (e.g. dam, bore, surface water etc.)

Water supply during operation will be preferentially sourced from mine dewatering.

2.8 Pollution

2.8.1 Is there likely to be any discharge of pollutants from this development, such as noise, vibration, gaseous emissions, dust, liquid effluent, solid waste or other pollutants?

✓ No

No different or additional pollutants, to those assessed and approved for the B4 Project (via MS 717), will result from implementation of this Proposal.

2.9 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

2.9.1 Is this proposal likely to result in substantial greenhouse gas emissions (greater than 100 000 tonnes per annum of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions)?

✓ No

2.10 Contamination

2.10.1 Has the property on which the proposal is to be located been used in the past for activities which may have caused soil or groundwater contamination?

✓ No

2.10.2 Has any assessment been done for soil or groundwater contamination on the site?

✓ No

2.10.3 Has the site been registered as a contaminated site under the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003*? (on finalisation of the CS Regulations and proclamation of the CS Act)

✓ No

2.11 Social Surroundings

2.11.1 Is the proposal on a property which contains or is near a site of Aboriginal ethnographic or archaeological significance that may be disturbed?

✓ Yes Aboriginal heritage surveys of the Proposal area are at various stages of completion. Heritage surveys will be completed prior to any clearing requested as part of this proposal.

2.11.2 Is the proposal on a property which contains or is near a site of high public interest (e.g. a major recreation area or natural scenic feature)?

✓ No

2.11.3 Will the proposal result in or require substantial transport of goods, which may affect the amenity of the local area?

✓ No

3. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT

3.1 Principles of Environmental Protection

3.1.1 Have you considered how your project gives attention to the following Principles, as set out in section 4A of the EP Act? (For information on the Principles of Environmental Protection, please see EPA Position Statement No. 7, available on the EPA website)

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. The precautionary principle. | Yes |
| 2. The principle of intergenerational equity. | Yes |
| 3. The principle of the conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity. | Yes |
| 4. Principles relating to improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms. | Yes |
| 5. The principle of waste minimisation. | Yes |

A discussion on the Principles is provided in Section 9 of the Environmental Review document.

3.1.2 Is the proposal consistent with the EPA's Environmental Protection Bulletins/Position Statements and Environmental Assessment Guidelines/Guidance Statements (available on the EPA website)?

✓ Yes

3.2 Consultation

3.2.1 Has public consultation taken place (such as with other government agencies, community groups or neighbours), or is it intended that consultation shall take place?

✓ Yes Further information is provided in Section 2 of the Environmental Review document.