

**PROPOSED YEELIRRIE URANIUM PROJECT, WESTERN AUSTRALIA (EPBC 2009/4906)**

1. The Department is currently finalising its assessment of the proposed Yeelirrie uranium project, WA, for a proposed decision by the Minister or a delegate of the Minister.

**Issues/Sensitivities**

2. The proposal has the potential to lead to the extinction of 12 subterranean fauna species that are only known to occur within the impact area.
3. The proposed action was approved, subject to a set of conditions, by the former Western Australia Environment Minister, the Hon Albert Jacobs MLA, on 16 January 2017 on social and economic grounds.
4. The WA conditions allow commencement of the action and accept the risk that it is likely to result in the extinction of subterranean fauna species.
5. The Environment Defenders Office (on behalf of the WA Conservation Council and members of the Tjwarl Native Title group) unsuccessfully challenged the decision by the former WA Environment Minister to approve the project in the WA Supreme Court.
6. The Conservation Council and Tjwarl Native Title group have filed an appeal against the WA Supreme Court's decision. The decision has yet to be heard. These groups are also campaigning for the Commonwealth to refuse the proposed action.
7. Given the action is a nuclear action under the EPBC Act, the subterranean fauna are considered as part of the environment.
8. Following a visit to the proposed Yeelirrie site in November 2017, the Department is of the view that impacts that may lead to the extinction of subterranean fauna species are unlikely to be avoided.
9. Currently the science regarding subterranean fauna is uncertain. Research indicates that WA subterranean fauna have high species richness and high levels of endemism and provide important ecosystem service functions, including the maintenance of water quality in groundwater aquifers.
10. A feature within the proposed uranium site is a calcrete outcrop. Calcrete is considered to be the main subterranean fauna habitat found within the development footprint. The calcrete is considered to represent an island, therefore species dispersal to other calcrete systems is considered low.
11. Where existing science is incomplete or where no consensus exists regarding a particular threat, the Department is obliged to consider the precautionary principle under the EPBC Act.

*Conditions of Approval*

12. The Department are of the view that the risk of extinction can be minimised by taking the following approach:
  - a. Attaching a condition of approval that will require the proponent (Cameco) to provide evidence that the 12 species will not become extinct as a result of the proposed uranium mine. This would be achieved by Cameco demonstrating that the species of subterranean fauna exist outside the proposed impact area and the water drawdown limits will effectively avoid impacts.
13. Cameco have stated that the Department's preferred approach will prevent the proposed uranium mine from going ahead.

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14. The issue for Cameco is that due to restricted access to subterranean fauna habitat locations, current sampling methods are limited and result in low capture rates. Consequently, survey efforts are expensive and produce inefficient results.
15. For this reason, there is a body of research being undertaken on subterranean fauna that within the next 5 – 10 years will identify survey and sampling protocols for subterranean fauna that are efficient and effective to more accurately document species in the Yeelirrie area.
16. In accordance with section 136(1) of the EPBC Act, the Minister may decide to:
  - a. Agree with the Department's approach to manage the risk by attaching the condition discussed at paragraph 12 - noting that there is no certainty that the subterranean fauna species will become extinct; or
  - b. Accept the environmental risk and conclude on the basis of social and economic evidence that the proposal is acceptable and should proceed. In this scenario, the Department would recommend you attach conditions that require the Cameco to implement avoidance, mitigation and offset measures, to limit the impact where possible.

### *Senator Rachel Siewert – Request for Additional Information*

17. On 26 February 2018 at the Senate Estimates hearing, Senator Rachel Siewert requested a copy of the information provided by Cameco Australia to the Department during a site visit to the proposed Yeelirrie Uranium Mine.
18. The additional information contains material about the Yeelirrie uranium project, the plant species *Atriplex yeelirrie* and subterranean fauna species. The additional information also makes reference to the Department's proposed recommended condition of approval.
19. The Department is obliged to provide information requested during Senate Estimates unless the information is considered a matter of policy; material that is subject to public interest immunity claim; or information where camera evidence is desirable.
20. Legal advice on the matter states that in their view, there doesn't seem any reasonable argument for how this information could fall within any of the above grounds. On this basis the Department proposes to provide a copy of the additional information received to the Committee at the next Estimates in October 2018.
21. However, it is ultimately a matter for the Minister as to whether he is satisfied that, in the circumstances, one of these grounds could be made out.

### **Background**

22. The proposal involves the mining and processing of up to 7,500 tonnes of uranium oxide concentrate per year, for a 22-year period, and construction of associated infrastructure at Yeelirrie, located 70 kilometres (km) south-west of Wiluna, Western Australia.
23. The proposal is located within a 4,875 hectare (ha) development envelope, within which, there would be 2,422 ha of direct disturbance, including two open pits totalling approximately 9 km in length, up to 1.5 km wide, and up to 15 metres deep.
24. The capital expenditure for the proposal is estimated to cost between \$580 and \$1,077 million.
25. The proposal is expected to generate 739 – 1,339 full time jobs during the 2.5 year construction period, and between 230 – 410 jobs during operation.

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26. The proposal is expected to have an economic impact on the region generating between \$77 - \$145 million a year of economic activity. It is also expected to generate between \$226 and \$424 million in economic activity for the State.
27. The proposed action has been comprehensively assessed through an accredited assessment with the (WA EPA). The WA EPA released an assessment report and recommendations in August 2016.
28. The WA EPA concluded the proposal cannot meet the State environmental objective for subterranean fauna and recommended the proposal not be approved. The Western Australia appeals convenor upheld this recommendation.
29. Development of the proposed action has the potential to lead to the extinction of subterranean fauna species and clearance of one of the two remaining populations of the plant *Atriplex yeelirrie*.
30. Subterranean fauna are not listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The impact of the action on this matter has been considered in the assessment of the environment under the Nuclear Actions (ss 21, 22A) controlling provision.

s22

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**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 2 April 2019 9:32 AM  
**To:** DLO Price  
**Cc:** Dean Knudson; James Tregurtha; Gregory Manning; s22 ; s22  
**Subject:** FW: Yeelirrie [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** QB19-000080.docx

**Importance:** High

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Thanks s22 – s22’s edits are fine though I just made a couple of further edits (tracked) for consistency with edits she made.

Thanks

s22

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**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 2 April 2019 9:18 AM  
**To:** s22  
**Cc:** DLO Price ; QTB Officer ; s22  
**Subject:** Yeelirrie [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Importance:** High

Hi s22

As discussed with s22 , I’m sending this QTB to you for a quick check. s22 has asked that you review and that the QTB does not include reference to the proposed decision.

You may call me if you need to discuss. I am doing this via email rather than PDMS as we are not expecting you to make substantial revisions – just check the edits are OK.

I need a response ASAP.

Kind regards,

s22

**Departmental Liaison Officer | Office of the Hon Melissa Price MP  
Minister for the Environment**

Ph: 02 s22 | Mob: s22

E-mail: s22 @environment.gov.au or [dloPrice@environment.gov.au](mailto:dloPrice@environment.gov.au)



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## YEELIRRIE URANIUM MINE, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**ISSUE:** The proposed Yeelirrie uranium mine in Western Australia is ~~currently~~ undergoing assessment under the EPBC Act. The proposal has the potential to lead to the extinction of subterranean fauna species and the clearance of one of the two remaining populations of the plant species *Atriplex yeelirrie*.

### KEY POINTS:

- ~~My Department has assessed the proposal and a decision on whether or not to approve the project will be made shortly.~~
- ~~Following consideration of the package I will provide tThe proponent, and Commonwealth and State Ministers with administrative responsibilities relating to the action, have been given have been given the opportunity to comment on the proposed decision and any conditions, before making a final decision.~~
- ~~I will take into account the comments received when making a final decision.~~
- ~~The proposal has already undergone extensive opportunities for public comment through the WA EPA assessment and appeals processes.~~
- The project is undergoing thorough assessment in accordance with the EPBC Act. The assessment includes consideration of impacts on the environment.
- The proposal was assessed through an accredited assessment with the Western Australian Environmental Protection Authority (WA EPA). ~~In August 2016,~~
- Through the assessment process there have been extensive opportunities for public comment.
- The Minister ~~has~~ have not yet made a final decision on whether or not to approve the mine. My decision will consider a thorough analysis of the mine's impacts as well as comments provided throughout the assessment process.

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Contact Officer: Greg Manning  
Phone: s22 [REDACTED]  
QB19-000080

Last updated:  
24-27 March 2019

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**SUPPLEMENTARY TALKING POINTS:**

***If asked about the Commonwealth's consideration of the WA Supreme Court appeal during the assessment of the Yeelirrie project:***

- On 10 April 2018, former Minister Frydenberg's Office advised the proponent, Cameco, that my Department would await the outcome of the WA Supreme Court appeal before finalising their proposed decision brief.
- On 22 May 2018, Cameco wrote to my Department setting out their reasons why they should proceed with issuing a proposed decision.
- My Department considered, and accepted, Cameco's argument that it is not necessary to delay finalising the assessment. Cameco were advised of this decision on 27 June 2018.
- [The legal challenge relates to the Western Australian Government decision and does not impact on any EPBC Act decision.](#)

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### BACKGROUND [NOT FOR USE]:

- The proposed action involves the mining and processing of uranium ore, and construction of associated infrastructure at the Yeelirrie deposit, located 70 km south-west of Wiluna, Western Australia.
- Departmental officers undertook a visit to the proposed Yeelirrie site in November 2017 to gather information on the likelihood of mitigating impacts on the plant species *Atriplex yeelirrie* and subterranean fauna species.
- Although subterranean fauna are not listed under the EPBC Act, the impact of the action on this matter has to be considered in the assessment of the whole of the 'environment', noting the action is considered a nuclear action under the EPBC Act.
- Cameco Australia went into care and maintenance on 20 December 2017. This is consistent with Cameco's decision to temporarily close the McArthur and Key Lake uranium operations overseas due to a prolonged weakness in the uranium market.
- The proposal was assessed through an accredited assessment with the Western Australian Environmental Protection Authority (WA EPA). In August 2016, the WA EPA released an assessment report and recommended the project not be approved due to impacts on subterranean fauna.
- On 20 January 2017, the former Western Australian Environment Minister approved the project on social and economic grounds.
- The Environmental Defenders Office (on behalf of the Conservation Council of WA and Tjiwarl Native Title group) unsuccessfully challenged the State approval decision in the WA Supreme Court. An appeal [hearing](#) against the WA Supreme Court decision ~~is was held on 5 March 2019. The outcome will be determined at a later date. currently pending.~~

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**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Friday, 5 April 2019 1:34 PM  
**To:** James Tregurtha  
**Cc:** s22 ; Gregory Manning; s22 ; s22 ; s22  
**Subject:** EPBC 2009/4906 - Yeelirrie Final Decision Package [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]  
**Attachments:** Attachment C - Decision Notice - Final.docm; MS19-000243.docx; Attachment E - Dept. Consideration of Comments.docx

Hi James

As s22 would have mentioned, we are seeking your urgent clearance of the Yeelirrie Final Decision Package (MS19-000243) to the Minister. The MO have requested that it be sent up as soon as possible today. The final decision package is too big to attach to the email so we have attached the key documents – if you require other documents please call and we can talk through or email back.

The key documents are: the final brief, decision notice and conditions and the table summarising comments received and any changes made to the proposed decision conditions. Greg is expecting you to give him a call as part of clearing the documents and you can also call s22

This is the full attachments list attached to the brief:

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

- A** Proposed approval decision briefing (refer to linked MS18-001074)
- B** Responses to invitation for comment on proposed decision
  - B1** Proponent – 17 March 2019
  - B2** Minister Scullion – 1 April 2019
- C** Final decision notice [FOR SIGNATURE]
- D** Letters [FOR SIGNATURE]
  - D1** Proponent
    - D1-1** Compliance Monitoring Factsheet
  - D2** Minister for Health
  - D3** Minister for Resources and Northern Australia
  - D4** Minister for Indigenous Affairs
  - D5** WA Minister Environment; Disability Services
- E** Department's consideration of comments

s22

**Environment Assessment Officer – Major Projects West Section**

Assessments (WA, SA, NT) and Post Approvals Branch | Environment Standards Division

Department of the Environment and Energy | GPO BOX 787 Canberra ACT 2600

s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au) | 02 s22

Think before you print





**APPROVAL**

**Yeelirrie Uranium Mine, Shire of Wiluna, WA (EPBC 2009/4906)**

This decision is made under sections 130(1) and 133(1) of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)*. Note that section 134(1A) of the EPBC Act applies to this approval, which provides in general terms that if the approval holder authorises another person to undertake any part of the action, the approval holder must take all reasonable steps to ensure that the other person is informed of any conditions attached to this approval, and that the other person complies with any such condition.

**Details**

<b>Person to whom the approval is granted (approval holder)</b>	Cameco Australia Pty Ltd
<b>ABN of approval holder</b>	65 001 513 088
<b>Action</b>	To develop Yeelirrie open cut uranium ore mine, ore processing plant and associated infrastructure in the Shire of Wiluna, 500 kilometres north of Kalgoorlie, Western Australia. This includes the mining and processing of uranium ore, sourcing and supply of water and electricity, upgrades to roads, accommodation of a workforce and transport of uranium oxide concentrate by road from the mine to Kalgoorlie, as described in the referral received by the department on 21 May 2009 [See EPBC Act referral 2009/4906].

**Proposed Approval decision**

My decisions on whether or not to approve the taking of the action for the purposes of each controlling provision for the action are as follows.

**Controlling Provisions**

<b>Listed Threatened Species and Communities</b>	
Section 18	Approve
Section 18A	Approve

<b>Listed migratory species</b>	
Section 20	Approve
Section 20A	Approve



<b>Nuclear actions</b>	
Section 21	Approve
Section 22A	Approve

***Period for which the approval has effect***

This approval has effect until 31 December 2043

**Decision-maker**

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***Name and position***

The Hon Melissa Price MP  
Minister for the Environment

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***Signature***

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***Date of decision***

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**Conditions of approval**

This approval is subject to the conditions under the EPBC Act as set out in ANNEXURE A.



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## ANNEXURE A – CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

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### Part A – Conditions specific to the action

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1. To avoid and mitigate impacts on the environment, the approval holder must:
  - a. implement conditions 8 – 16 of the **WA approval**, and
  - b. not **clear** more than 2422 hectares within the 4875 hectare **development envelope**.
2. To avoid impacts on the stygofauna species *Atopobathynella* sp. 'line K', *Enchytraeidae* sp. Y4 and *Kinnecaris* 'lined' sp. n., the approval holder must ensure groundwater drawdown at the location of the *Atopobathynella* sp. 'line K', *Enchytraeidae* sp. Y4 and the *Kinnecaris* 'lined' sp. n. is limited to 0.5 metres for the life of the approval.
3. To manage impacts on **subterranean fauna species**, the approval holder must not exceed the 0.5 metre **groundwater drawdown contour**.
4. At least 12 months prior to the commencement of the action, the approval holder must develop a groundwater monitoring program to manage impacts on **subterranean fauna species** and **troglofauna species**. The groundwater monitoring program must be adequate to inform:
  - a. groundwater abstraction rates and groundwater levels to confirm predicted drawdown levels,
  - b. location of production bores to reduce impacts on **subterranean fauna species**,
  - c. trigger levels to reduce impacts on **subterranean fauna species** and avoid impacts on **troglofauna species** within Area 2 defined at Attachment D,
  - d. adaptive management of groundwater abstraction rates and ground water levels,
  - e. the outcomes of conditions 2 and 3 of this approval are being met, and
  - f. the extent of impact on **subterranean fauna species** and **troglofauna species**.
5. The groundwater monitoring program must be reviewed by a **suitably qualified** subterranean fauna ecologist and **suitably qualified** hydrogeologist. Following review of the groundwater monitoring program by a **suitably qualified** subterranean fauna ecologist and **suitably qualified** hydrogeologist, the approval holder must submit the groundwater monitoring program to the **Minister** for approval. If the **Minister** approves the groundwater monitoring program then the groundwater monitoring program must be implemented upon **commencement** of the action.
6. From commencement of the action, the groundwater monitoring program must be reviewed every three (3) years by a **suitably qualified** subterranean fauna ecologist and **suitably qualified** hydrogeologist to ensure it meets the requirements of the groundwater monitoring program set out in condition 4 of this approval. Within thirty (30) days of the





groundwater monitoring program being reviewed by a **suitably qualified** subterranean fauna ecologist and **suitably qualified** hydrogeologist, the approval holder must submit the groundwater monitoring program to the **Minister** for approval. If the **Minister** approves the groundwater monitoring program then the groundwater monitoring program must be implemented within 2-months of being approved in writing.

7. To avoid impacts on **troglofauna species**, the approval holder must submit for the **Minister's** approval, **evidence** from a **suitably qualified** subterranean fauna ecologist that any action taken within **Area 1** will not result in the extinction of **troglofauna species** located in **Area 1**. The approval holder must not commence **clearing** of **Area 1** until the **Minister** has approved the **evidence**.
8. To mitigate impacts on the **Western *Atriplex yeelirrie* population**, the approval holder must:
  - a. implement a detailed **micro-genetic study, translocation trials** and **minimum viable population analysis** to define the reproductive and ecological attributes of the **Western *Atriplex yeelirrie* population** to demonstrate the viability of establishing a self-sustaining population of mature individuals of the **Western *Atriplex yeelirrie* population** that are capable of surviving **long-term** outside the development envelope within the Eastern Murchison (MUR1) **IBRA** subregion.
  - b. submit for the **Minister's** approval, **evidence** from a **suitably qualified** flora ecologist who has been approved in writing by the **Department**, that a **micro-genetic study, translocation trials** and **minimum viable population analysis** has been undertaken; that reproductive and ecological attributes of the **Western *Atriplex yeelirrie* population** have been defined; and that a self-sustaining population of mature individuals of the **Western *Atriplex yeelirrie* population** can be established that is capable of undergoing natural population processes such as producing viable seed and recruitment of subsequent generations.
  - c. avoid any direct or indirect impacts on the **Western *Atriplex yeelirrie* population** within the **development envelope** until the **Minister** has approved the **evidence** referred to in condition 8(b) in writing.
9. Should the **Minister** approve the **evidence**, the approval holder must establish a self-sustaining population of mature individuals of the **Western *Atriplex yeelirrie* population** capable of surviving **long-term**, as defined by **evidence** provided at condition 9, outside the development envelope within the Eastern Murchison (MUR1) **IBRA** subregion.
10. Prior to the **commencement** of the action, the approval holder must engage a **suitably qualified** fauna ecologist to undertake a **Night Parrot** survey within the **development envelope**, in accordance with the **WA DBCA** recommended **Night Parrot** survey methods. Within three months of the **Night Parrot** survey being completed, the approval holder must provide the **Department** with the **Night Parrot** survey results.



11. Should the **Night Parrot** or **evidence** of the **Night Parrot** be recorded during the survey required under condition 9 of this approval, the approval holder must submit a **Night Parrot** Management Plan for the **Minister's** approval. If the **Minister** approves the **Night Parrot** Management Plan then the **Night Parrot** Management Plan must be implemented.
12. If a **Night Parrot** Management Plan is required under condition 10, the approval holder must not **commence the action** unless the **Minister** has approved the **Night Parrot** Management Plan in writing.
13. The **Night Parrot** Management Plan must be consistent with the **Department's** *Environmental Management Plan Guidelines*, and must include:
  - a. The **Night Parrot** Management Plan environmental objectives, relevant **protected matter** and a reference to **EPBC Act** approval conditions to which the **Night Parrot** Management Plan refers,
  - b. A table of commitments made in the **Night Parrot** Management Plan to achieve the objectives, and a reference to where the commitments are detailed in the **Night Parrot** Management Plan,
  - c. Reporting and review mechanisms, and documentation standards to demonstrate compliance with the **Night Parrot** Management Plan,
  - d. An assessment of risks to achieving **Night Parrot** Management Plan environmental objectives and risk management strategies that will be applied,
  - e. Impact avoidance, mitigation and/or repair measures, and their timing; and
  - f. A monitoring program, which must include:
    - i. measurable performance indicators,
    - ii. the timing and frequency of monitoring to detect changes in the performance indicators,
    - iii. trigger values for corrective actions, and
    - iv. proposed corrective actions, if trigger values are reached.
14. To compensate for the loss of **Malleefowl habitat** within the **development envelope**, the approval holder must:
  - a. **legally secure** for the **life of the approval** an offset area(s) containing **Malleefowl habitat** that is equal to or greater in size and quality to the **Malleefowl habitat** to be **cleared** within the **development envelope**; and
  - b. submit for the **Minister's** approval, a **Malleefowl** Offset Strategy detailing the environmental attributes of the offset area(s). The **Malleefowl** Offset Strategy must:
    - i. specify the proposed environmental offset area(s) including, but not limited to:
      - location,



- proximity to high-value ecological corridors,
  - tenure,
  - suitability to offset impacts to the **Malleefowl**, and
  - baseline condition quantified using quality score for area of habitat, and if applicable, the number of **Malleefowl** individuals present.
- ii. provide **evidence** of the capacity of the offset site(s) to meet the requirements and intent of this condition, and the principles of the *EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy (2012)*,
  - iii. detail when and how the offset area(s) will be protected in perpetuity under a conservation mechanism,
  - iv. demonstrate the adequacy of the proposed conservation mechanism proposed to **legally secure** the offset area(s), and describe any means by which a future site owner may seek to amend or remove the mechanism,
  - v. provide a completed *EPBC Act Offsets Assessment Guide* (offset calculator) for the **Malleefowl** offset area(s), and
  - vi. present **evidence** substantiating inputs to the offset calculator, including:
    - confidence in result, time until ecological benefit, start and future condition (scale of 1 - 10), and risk of loss,
    - the specific components used to derive start and future condition (i.e. stocking rate, site context and site condition) of the **Malleefowl habitat** at the offset site, and current condition of the **Malleefowl habitat** at the impact site, and
    - set-out in general terms potential offset management activities considered feasible to achieve future condition and time until ecological benefit.

If the **Minister** approves the **Malleefowl** Offset Strategy then the **Malleefowl** Offset Strategy must be implemented. The approval holder must not **commence the action** unless the **Minister** has approved the **Malleefowl** Offset Strategy in writing.

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## Part B – Standard administrative conditions

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### Notification of date of commencement of the action

15. The approval holder must notify the **Department** in writing of the date of **commencement of the action** within ten (10) **business days** after the date of **commencement of the action**.



### Compliance records

16. The approval holder must maintain accurate and complete **compliance records**.
17. If the **Department** makes a request in writing, the approval holder must provide electronic copies of **compliance records** to the **Department** within the timeframe specified in the request.

**Note: Compliance records** may be subject to audit by the **Department** or an independent auditor in accordance with section 458 of the **EPBC Act**, and or used to verify compliance with the conditions. Summaries of the result of an audit may be published on the **Department's** website or through the general media.

### Preparation and publication of plans

18. The approval holder must:
  - a. submit **plans** electronically to the **Department** for approval by the **Minister**;
  - b. publish each **plan** on the **website** within 20 **business days** of the date the **plan** is approved by the **Minister** or of the date a revised action management plan is submitted to the **Minister**, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the **Minister**;
  - c. exclude or redact **sensitive ecological data** from **plans** published on the **website** or provided to a member of the public; and
  - d. keep **plans** published on the **website** until the end date of this approval.
19. The approval holder must ensure that any **monitoring data** (including **sensitive ecological data**), surveys, maps, and other spatial and metadata required under conditions 4, 12 and 15 of this approval, are prepared in accordance with the **Department's Guidelines for biological survey and mapped data** (2018) and submitted electronically to the **Department** in accordance with the requirements of the **plans**.

### Annual compliance reporting

20. The approval holder must prepare a **compliance report** for each 12 month period following the date of **commencement of the action**, or as otherwise agreed to in writing by the **Minister**. The approval holder must:
  - a. publish each **compliance report** on the **website** within 60 **business days** following the relevant 12 month period;
  - b. notify the **Department** by email that a **compliance report** has been published on the **website** within five **business days** of the date of publication;
  - c. keep all **compliance reports** publicly available on the **website** until this approval expires;
  - d. exclude or redact **sensitive ecological data** from **compliance reports** published on the **website**; and



- e. where any **sensitive ecological data** has been excluded from the version published, submit the full **compliance report** to the **Department** within 5 **business days** of publication.

**Note:** **Compliance reports** may be published on the **Department's** website.

### Reporting non-compliance

21. The approval holder must notify the **Department** in writing of any: **incident**; non-compliance with the conditions; or non-compliance with the commitments made in **plans**. The notification must be given as soon as practicable, and no later than two **business days** after becoming aware of the **incident** or non-compliance. The notification must specify:
  - a. the condition which is or may be in breach; and
  - b. a short description of the **incident** and/or non-compliance.
22. The approval holder must provide to the **Department** the details of any **incident** or non-compliance with the conditions or commitments made in **plans** as soon as practicable and no later than 10 **business days** after becoming aware of the **incident** or non-compliance, specifying:
  - a. any corrective action or investigation which the approval holder has already taken or intends to take in the immediate future;
  - b. the potential impacts of the **incident** or non-compliance; and
  - c. the method and timing of any remedial action that will be undertaken by the approval holder.

### Independent audit

23. The approval holder must ensure that **independent audits** of compliance with the conditions are conducted for the 12 month period from the date of this approval and for every subsequent twelve (12) month period.
24. For each **independent audit**, the approval holder must:
  - a. provide the name and qualifications of the independent auditor and the draft audit criteria to the **Department**;
  - b. only commence the **independent audit** once the audit criteria have been approved in writing by the **Department**; and
  - c. submit an audit report to the **Department** within the timeframe specified in the approved audit criteria.
25. The approval holder must publish the audit report on the **website** within ten (10) **business days** of receiving the **Department's** approval of the audit report and keep the audit report published on the **website** until the end date of this approval.



### Revision of action management plans

26. The approval holder may, at any time, apply to the **Minister** for a variation to an action management plan, program or offset strategy approved by the **Minister** under conditions 5, 11 and 13, or as subsequently revised in accordance with these conditions, by submitting an application in accordance with the requirements of section 143A of the **EPBC Act**. If the **Minister** approves a revised action management plan (RAMP) then, from the date specified, the approval holder must implement the RAMP in place of the previous action management plan.
27. The approval holder may choose to revise an action management plan, program or offset strategy approved by the **Minister** under condition 5, 11 and 13, or as subsequently revised in accordance with these conditions, without submitting it for approval under section 143A of the **EPBC Act**, if the taking of the action in accordance with the RAMP would not be likely to have a **new or increased impact**.
28. If the approval holder makes the choice under condition 27 to revise an action management plan without submitting it for approval, the approval holder must:
  - a. notify the **Department** in writing that the approved action management plan has been revised and provide the **Department** with:
    - i. an electronic copy of the RAMP;
    - ii. an electronic copy of the RAMP marked up with track changes to show the differences between the approved action management plan and the RAMP;
    - iii. an explanation of the differences between the approved action management plan and the RAMP;
    - iv. the reasons the approval holder considers that taking the action in accordance with the RAMP would not be likely to have a **new or increased impact**; and
    - v. written notice of the date on which the approval holder will implement the RAMP (RAMP implementation date), being at least 20 **business days** after the date of providing notice of the revision of the action management plan, or a date agreed to in writing with the **Department**.
  - b. subject to condition 30, implement the RAMP from the RAMP implementation date.
29. The approval holder may revoke their choice to implement a RAMP under condition 27 at any time by giving written notice to the **Department**. If the approval holder revokes the choice under condition 27, the approval holder must implement the previous action management plan approved by the **Minister**.
30. 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 RAMP would be likely to have a **new or increased impact**, then:



- a. condition 27 does not apply, or ceases to apply, in relation to the RAMP; and
- b. the approval holder must implement the action management plan specified by the **Minister** in the notice.

31. At the time of giving the notice under condition 30, the **Minister** may also notify that for a specified period of time, condition 27 does not apply for one or more specified action management plans.

**Note:** conditions 27, 28, 29 and 30 are not intended to limit the operation of section 143A of the **EPBC Act** which allows the approval holder to submit a revised action management plan, at any time, to the **Minister** for approval.

### Completion of the action

32. Within 30 days after the **completion of the action**, the approval holder must notify the **Department** in writing and provide **completion data**.

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### Part C - Definitions

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33. In these conditions, except where contrary intention is expressed, the following definitions are used:

- a. **Area 1** is the area defined in Attachment D that covers the **troglofauna species** located through surveys within bores YYAC0018C, YYAC26, YYAC36 and YYD22.
- b. **Black-flanked rock-wallaby habitat** means habitat for the **EPBC Act** listed *Petrogale lateralis lateralis* comprising rocky outcrops that provide shelter such as caves, cliffs, screes and rockpiles that co-exists with foraging habitat such as grasses, forbs, shrubs and occasionally seeds and fruits.
- c. **Business days** means a day that is not a Saturday, a Sunday or a public holiday in the state or territory of the action.
- d. **Clear, clearing** means the cutting down, felling, thinning, logging, removing, killing, destroying, poisoning, and ringbarking, uprooting or burning of vegetation (but not including weeds – see the Australian weeds strategy 2017 to 2027 for further guidance).
- e. **Cleared area** means an area or areas (in hectares) within the **development envelope** where loss or long-term modification of habitat has occurred.
- f. **Commence the action or commencement of the action** means the first instance of any specified activity associated with the action including clearance of vegetation and **construction** of any infrastructure. Commencement does not include minor physical disturbance necessary to:
  - undertake pre-clearance surveys or monitoring programs;



- install signage and /or temporary fencing to prevent unapproved use of the project area;
  - protect environmental and property assets from fire, weeds and pests, including erection or **construction** of fencing and signage, and maintenance or use of existing surface access tracks, if agreed in writing by the **Department**.
- g. **Completion data** means an environmental report and spatial data information clearly detailing how the conditions of this approval have been met. The **Department's** preferred spatial data format is **shapefile**. The environmental report and spatial data information must include the date, location, approved **development envelope**, actual total **cleared area**, total area and type of **Night Parrot habitat, Malleefowl habitat, Greater bilby habitat, Princess parrot habitat, Great Desert skink habitat and Black-flanked rock-wallaby habitat** cleared, **mine pit** boundary and the **environmental condition** of the groundwater within the **development envelope**.
- h. **Completion of the action** means all specified activities associated with the action have permanently ceased.
- i. **Compliance records** means all documentation or other material in whatever form required to demonstrate compliance with the conditions of approval in the approval holder's possession or that are within the approval holder's power to obtain lawfully;
- j. **Compliance reports** means written reports:
- i. providing accurate and complete details of compliance, **incidents**, and non-compliance with the conditions and the **plans**;
  - ii. consistent with the **Department's Annual Compliance Report Guidelines (2014)**;
  - iii. include a **shapefile** of any **clearance** of any **protected matters**, or their habitat, undertaken within the relevant 12 month period; and
  - iv. annexing a schedule of all **plans** prepared and in existence in relation to the conditions during the relevant 12 month period.
- k. **Construction** means the erection of a building or structure that is or is to be fixed to the ground and wholly or partially fabricated on-site; the alteration, maintenance, repair or demolition of any building or structure; preliminary site preparation work which involves breaking of the ground (including pile driving); the laying of pipes and other prefabricated materials in the ground, and any associated excavation work; but excluding the installation of fences and signage.
- l. **Department** means the Australian Government agency responsible for administering the **EPBC Act**.
- m. **Development envelope** is the 4875 hectare area defined in Attachment A.





- n. **Environmental condition** is the state of the groundwater on **completion of the action**, relative to the baseline environmental data defined in the baseline surveys required under condition 11 of the **WA approval**.
- o. **EPBC Act** means the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth).
- p. **Evidence** means written report, including photographic material.
- q. **Great desert skink habitat** means habitat for the **EPBC Act** listed *Liopholis kintorei* comprising of spinifex (*Triodia* spp.) and scattered shrubs (*Acacia* spp., *Eucalyptus* spp., *Hakea* spp., *Grevillea* spp.) or mulga.
- r. **Greater bilby habitat** means habitat for the **EPBC Act** listed *Macrotis lagotis* comprising of open tussock grassland on uplands and hills, *Acacia aneura* (mulga) woodland/shrubland growing on ridges and rises, and hummock grassland in plains and alluvial areas.
- s. **Groundwater drawdown contour** means the 0.5 m drawdown level defined in Attachment B.
- t. **IBRA** means Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia, version 7.
- u. **Incident** means any event which has the potential to, or does, impact on **protected matter(s)**.
- v. **Independent audit**: means an audit conducted by an independent and **suitably qualified** person as detailed in the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 Independent Audit and Audit Report Guidelines* (2015) available from <http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/publications/independent-audit-report-guidelines>.
- w. **Legally secured** means obtain a long-term protection under a voluntary agreement as provided for under the *Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945* (WA) or *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (WA).
- x. **Life of the approval** means the period for which the approval has effect.
- y. **Long-term** means greater than 20 years.
- z. **Malleefowl** means the **EPBC Act** listed *Leipoa ocellata*.
- aa. **Malleefowl habitat** means habitat for the **EPBC Act** listed **Malleefowl** comprising of shrublands and low woodlands dominated by mallee or acacia and occasionally woodland dominated by eucalypts such as Wandoo *E. wandoo*, Marri *Corymbia calophylla* and Mallet *E. astringens*.
- bb. **Micro-genetic study** means a detailed genetic analysis that will determine the comprehensive micro-genetic diversity of the impacted **Western Atriplex yeelirrie**



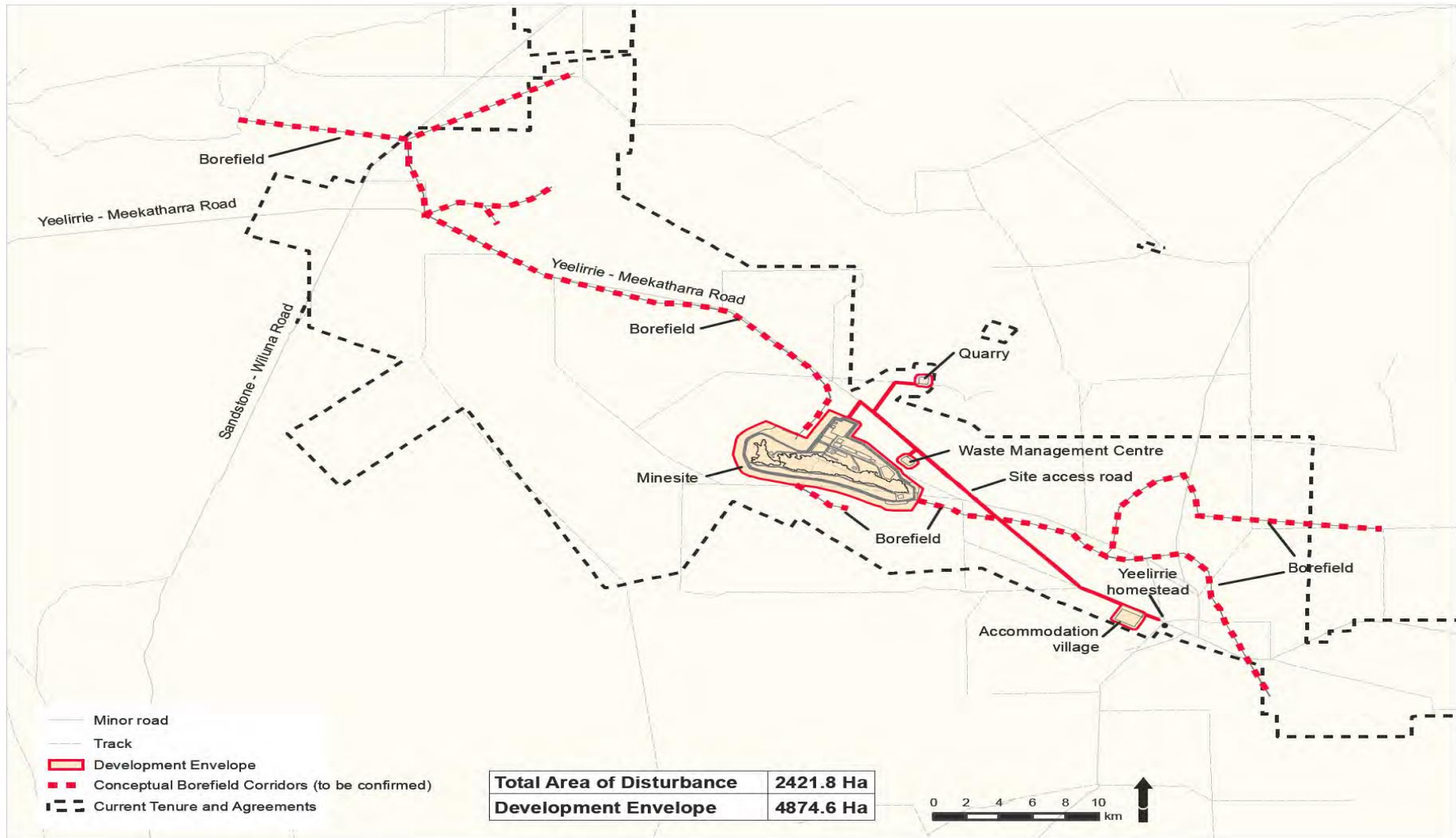
- population**, including the population genetic structure spatially and through sampling of seed generated from the plants.
- cc. **Minimum viable population analysis** means a study to determine the ecological threshold that specifies the smallest number of individuals of **Western *Atriplex yeelirrie* population** capable of persisting **long-term** in the environment.
- dd. **Monitoring data** means the data required to be recorded under the conditions of this approval.
- ee. **Mine Pit** means the areas defined as Pit – East and Pit – West in Attachment C.
- ff. **Minister** means the Australian Government Minister administering the **EPBC Act** including any delegate thereof.
- gg. **New or increased impact** means a new or increased environmental impact or risk relating to any **protected matter**, when compared to the likely impact of implementing the action management plan that has been approved by the **Minister** under condition 12, including any subsequent revisions approved by the **Minister**, as outlined in the *Guidance on 'New or Increased Impact' relating to changes to approved management plans under EPBC Act environmental approvals (2017)* available from <http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/publications/new-increased-impact-guidance>.
- hh. **Night parrot habitat** means the **EPBC Act** listed *Pezoporus occidentalis*.
- ii. **Night parrot habitat** means habitat for the **EPBC Act** listed **Night parrot** comprising of sandplains supporting a mosaic of long-unburnt spinifex hummocked grasslands with supporting vegetation dominated by chenopod and/or grass species.
- jj. **Plan(s)** means any of the documents required to be prepared, approved by the **Minister**, and/or implemented by the approval holder and published on the **website** in accordance with these conditions (includes action management plans and/or strategies);
- kk. **Princess parrot habitat** means habitat for the **EPBC Act** listed *Polytelis alexandrae* comprising of shrubland in swales between sand dunes, with a variety of shrubs (including *Grevillea*, *Hakea*, *Cassia* and *Eremophila* species) among scattered emergent trees and a ground-cover of spinifex *Triodia* species, and breeding habitat consisting of overstorey species with hollows including *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (river red gum), *E. gongylocarpa* (marble gum) and *Allocasuarina decaisneana* (desert oak).
- ll. **Protected matter** means a matter protected under a controlling provision in Part 3 of the **EPBC Act** for which this approval has effect.

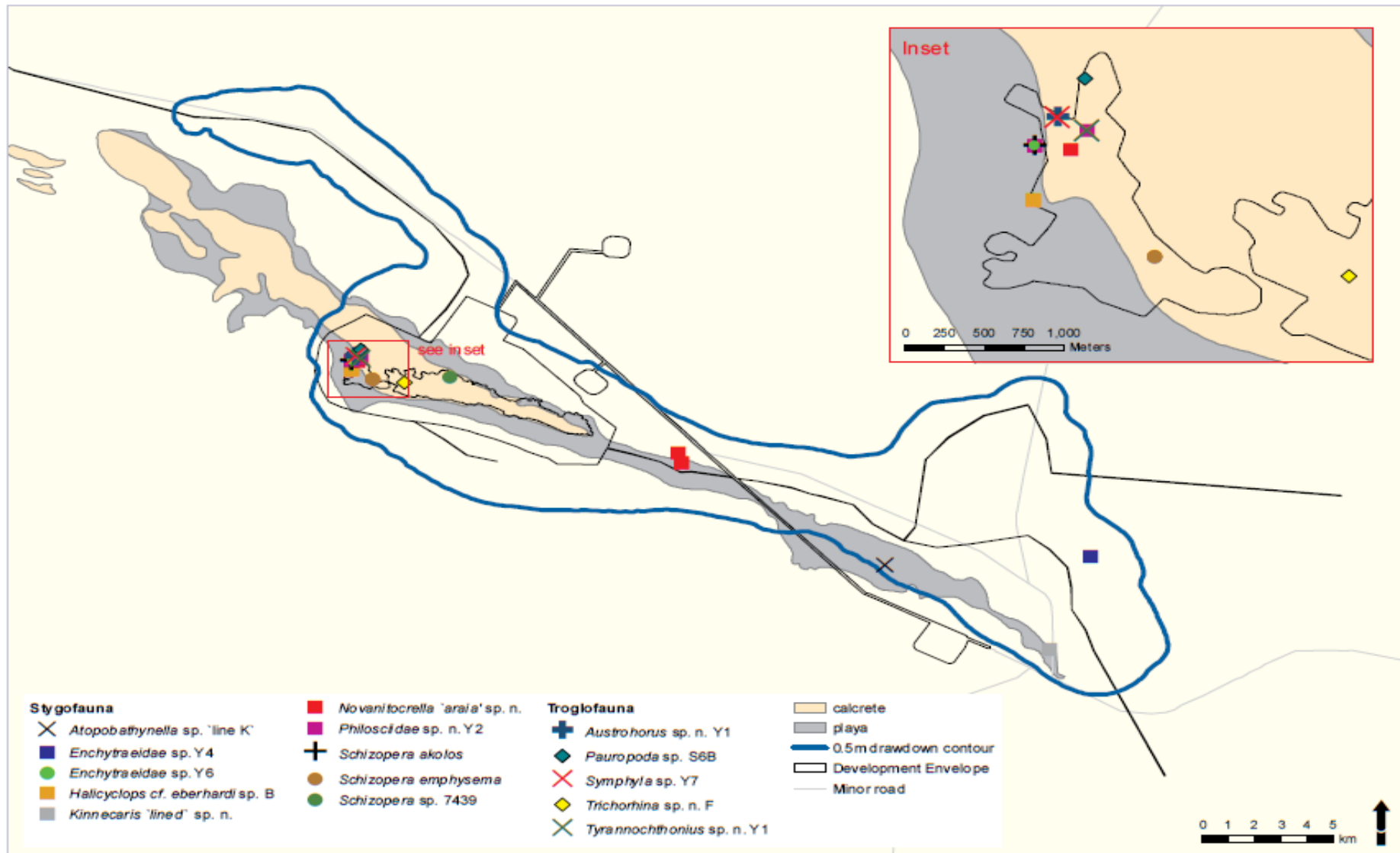


- mm. **Reference community** means the pre-disturbance **Western Atriplex yeelirrie population**.
- nn. **Sensitive ecological data** means data as defined in the Australian Government Department of the Environment (2016) *Sensitive Ecological Data – Access and Management Policy V1.0*.
- oo. **Shapefile** means an ESRI shapefile containing '.shp', '.shx' and '.dbf' files and other files capturing attributes defined in the conditions of approval.
- pp. **Subterranean fauna species** comprises the eight (8) stygofauna species – *Enchytraeidae* sp. Y5, *Enchytraeidae* sp. Y6, *Halicyclops* cf. *eberhardi* sp. B, *Novanitocrella 'araia'* sp. n., *Schizopera akolos*, *Schizopera emphysema*, *Schizopera* sp. 7439, *Philoscidae* sp. n. Y2 and one (1) troglofauna species - *Trichorhina* sp. n. F.
- qq. **Suitably qualified** means a person who has professional qualifications, training, skills and/or experience related to the nominated subject matter and can give authoritative independent assessment, advice and analysis on performance relative to the subject matter using the relevant protocols, standards, methods and/or literature.
- rr. **Translocation trials** means the transfer of genetic material generated from the **micro-genetic study** to a range of recipient sites to determine:
- The genetic representativeness of the translocated plants as assessed to the **reference community**,
  - The population growth, development and demographic diversity matching or exceeding the **reference community**, and
  - The factors influencing seedling recruitment, plant fecundity and seedling establishment as assessed to the **reference community**.
- ss. **Troglofauna species** means *Austrohorus* sp. n Y1, *Pauropoda* sp. S6B, *Symphyla* sp. Y7 and *Tyrannochthonius* sp. n. Y1 that are only known to occur within the **mine pit**.
- tt. **WA approval** means Ministerial Statement 1053 signed 16 January 2017, which states that a proposal may be implemented under the *Environment Protection Act 1986* (WA).
- uu. **WA DBCA** means the Western Australian Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions or any other agency responsible for administering the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (WA) from time to time.
- vv. **Website** means a set of related web pages located under a single domain name attributed to the approval holder and available to the public.

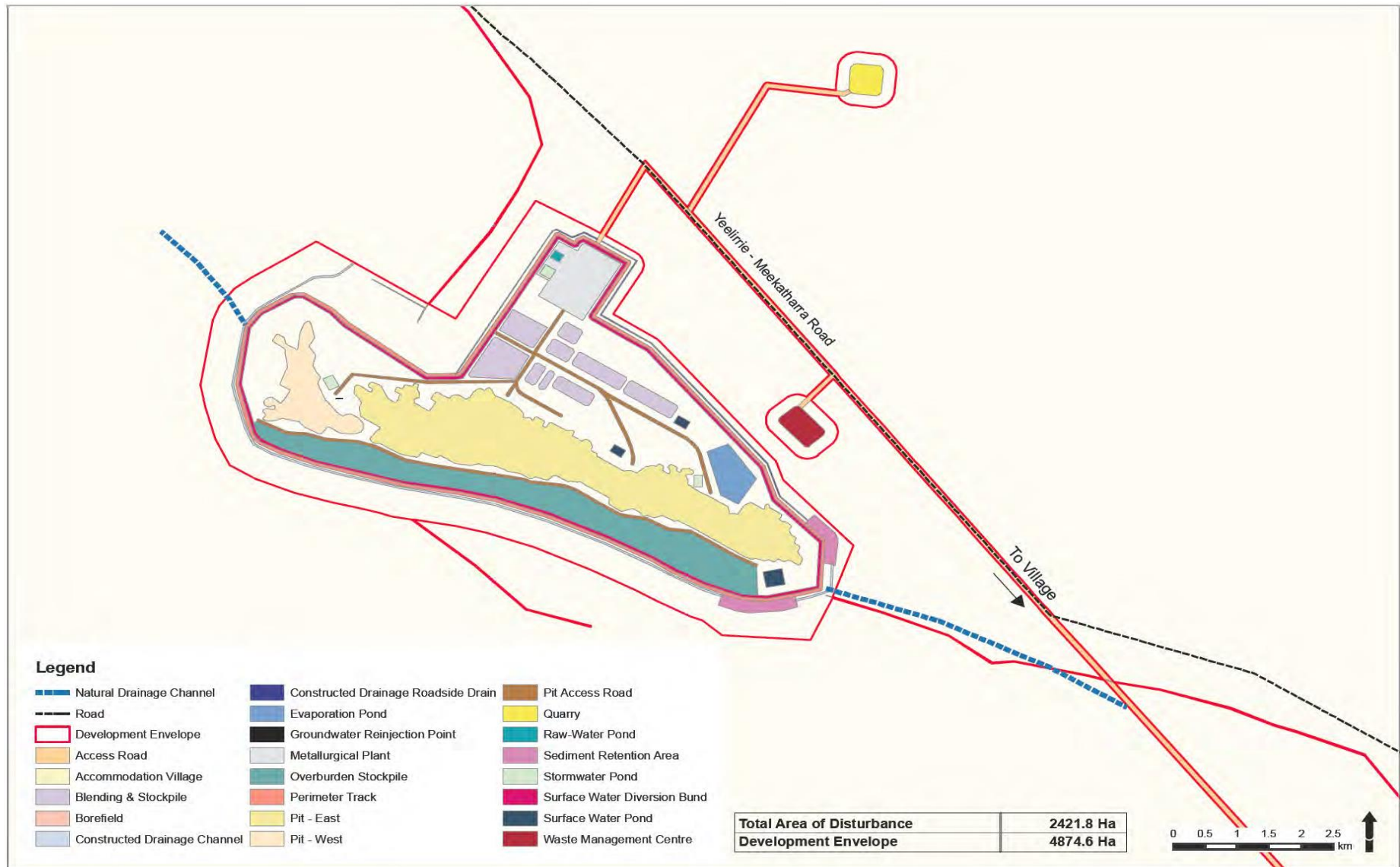


ww. **Western *Atriplex yeelirrie* population** is the western genotype of *Atriplex yeelirrie*. Currently the only known population of this species is located within the **development envelope** and defined in Attachment E as WP01 – WP06.







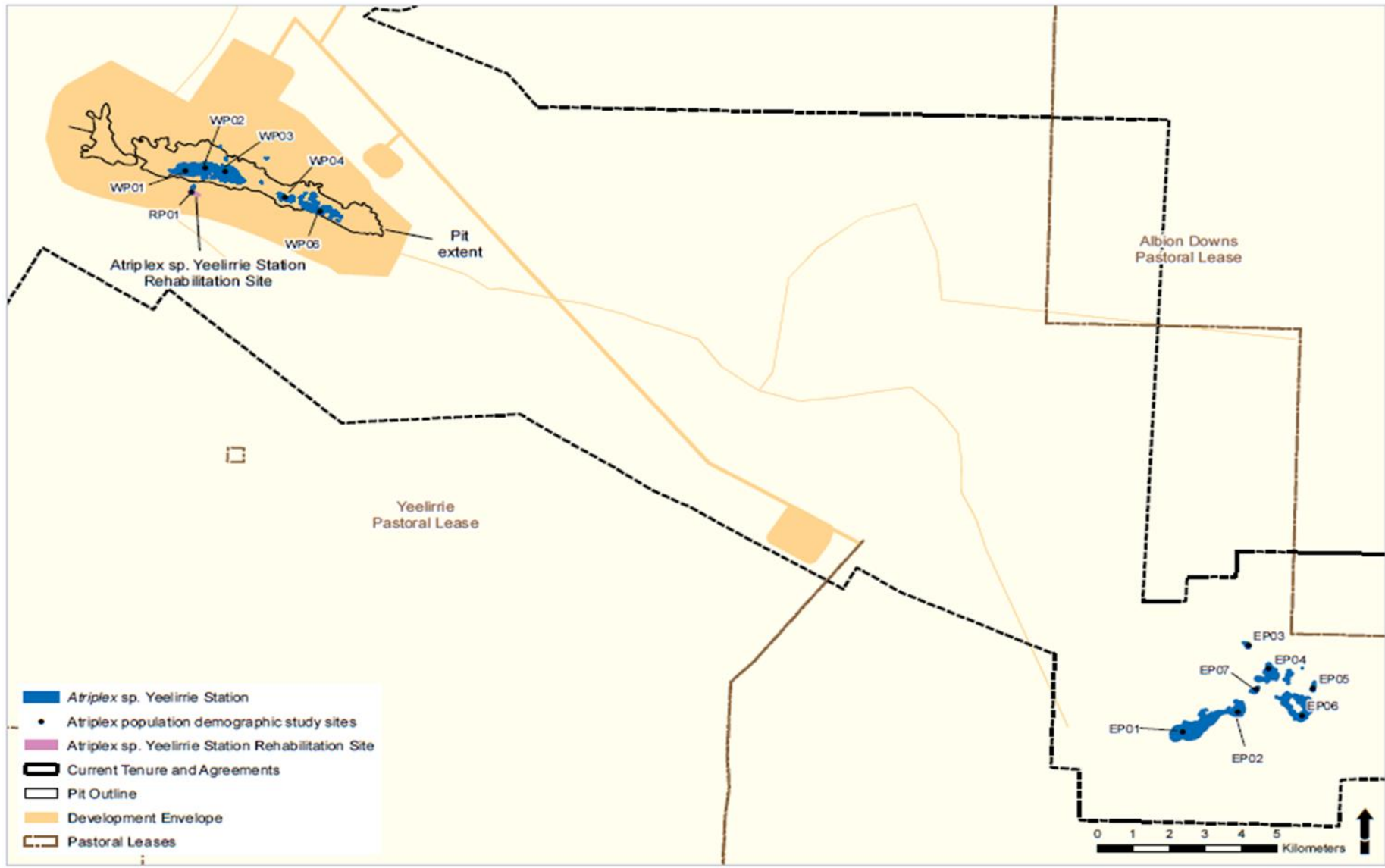








ATTACHMENT E



To: Minister for the Environment (For Decision)

**Approval decision brief – Yeelirrie Uranium Mine, Shire of Wiluna, WA (EPBC 2009/4906)**

**Timing:** The statutory date for a final decision was 3 April 2017 but under section 518 of the EPBC Act a late decision is still valid.

**Recommendations:**

1. Consider the information in this brief and the proposed approval decision briefing package, including the legal considerations report at **Attachment A**.

**Considered / Please discuss**

2. Consider the responses to the invitation for comment on the proposed decision at **Attachment B** and the Department's consideration of these responses at **Attachment E**.

**Considered / Please discuss**

3. Approve, for each controlling provision, the action as summarised in the table below.

**Approved / Not approved**

4. Noting your proposed decision of 5 March 2019, if your view remains that the conditions at **Attachment B2 of the proposed decision brief at Attachment A** should be attached to the approval (subject to amendments from consultation), agree to attach the conditions of approval as set out in **Attachment C**.

**Agreed / Not agreed**

5. If you approve the taking of the proposed action at recommendation 3 and agree to recommendation 4 in respect of the conditions to be attached to the approval, accept the reasoning in the Departmental briefing package as the reasons for your decision.

**Accepted / Not accepted**

6. Sign the notice of your decision at **Attachment C**.

**Signed / Not signed**

7. Sign the letters at **Attachment D** advising the person proposing to take the action, and other relevant parties, of your decision.

**Signed / Not signed**

Summary of recommendations on each controlling provision:			
Controlling Provisions for the action		Recommendation	
		Approve	Refuse to Approve
Listed threatened species and communities (ss 18, 18A)		Approve	
Listed Migratory Species (ss 20, 20A)		Approve	
Nuclear actions (ss 21, 22A)		Approve	
<b>Minister for the Environment</b> <b>The Hon Melissa Price MP</b>		Date:	
<b>Comments:</b>			
<b>Clearing Officer:</b>	Greg Manning	Assistant Secretary, Assessments (WA, SA, NT) and Post Approvals Branch	s22 [REDACTED]
Sent:			s22 [REDACTED]
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	s22 [REDACTED]	Director, Major Projects West Section	s22 [REDACTED] s22 [REDACTED]

## KEY POINTS

### Background:

1. On 5 March 2019, following consideration of the Department's Proposed Approval Decision Brief (**Attachment A**), including the Legal Considerations report, you proposed to approve the taking of the proposed action under s 130(1) and 133 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)*. At the same time, you proposed to attach the conditions of approval set out in Attachment B2 of the Proposed Approval Decision Brief under s 134 of the EPBC Act.
2. Also on 5 March 2019, as recommended in the Proposed Approval Decision Brief (**Attachment A**), you wrote to the proponent, the person proposing to take the action, and relevant Commonwealth and State Ministers, seeking comments on your proposed decision.
3. This brief considers the outcome of the consultation, and seeks your decision on whether or not to approve (and what conditions to attach) the taking of the proposed action, being the construction and operation of the proposed Yeelirrie open cut uranium

ore mine, ore processing plant and associated infrastructure in the Shire of Wiluna, approximately 420 km north of Kalgoorlie, Western Australia (WA) (the proposed action) (EPBC 2009/4906). The proposed action includes the mining and processing of uranium ore, sourcing and use of water and electricity, upgrades to roads, workforce accommodation facilities and transport of uranium oxide concentrate by road from the mine to port of Adelaide, South Australia.

4. As part of the action, mining will be undertaken in stages using conventional open pit mining techniques. A maximum of 7,500 tonnes per annum of uranium oxide concentrate will be produced. The expected life of the mine is 15 years.
5. The designated proponent, and the person proposing to take the action, is Cameco Australia Pty Ltd (the proponent).

**Issues/Sensitivities:**

6. On 4 July 2017, the Environmental Defenders Office (on behalf of the Conservation Council of WA and members of the Tjiwarl Native Title group) commenced proceedings in the Supreme Court of WA for a judicial review of the decision made by the former WA Environment Minister, the Hon Albert Jacob MLA, to approve the Yeelirrie uranium mine. The WA Supreme Court dismissed proceedings on 7 February 2018 (Attachment D of the Proposed Decision Brief at Attachment A).
7. The appeal was heard in the WA Supreme Court on 5 March 2019 and an outcome will be determined at a later date. You are not prevented from deciding whether to approve the taking of the action for EPBC Act purposes because the WA appeal has not yet been finalised.

**Consultation:**

8. The proponent, and Commonwealth and State Ministers were invited to comment on the proposed decision between 5 and 19 March 2019.
9. The proponent met with the Department on 13 and 14 March 2019 to discuss their comments on the proposed conditions of approval, and provided written comments on 17 March 2019 (see Attachment B1). Minister Scullion provided a response to the invitation to comment on 1 April 2019 (see Attachment B2).
10. The Department has considered the comments received, and made the following changes (refer to Attachment E for a detailed summary):
  - a. condition 2 has been amended to ensure the drawdown limit is restricted to the location of the stygofauna species of concern, rather than the broader south-east borefield,

- b. Conditions 4, 5 and 8 (condition 4, 5 and 6 at **Attachment C**) have been amended, and conditions 6 and 7 removed to eliminate unnecessary duplication with the WA approval conditions.
  - c. Condition 9 (condition 7 at **Attachment C**) has been amended to remove potential ambiguity with the definition of ‘action’.
  - d. Condition 11 (conditions 8 and 9 at **Attachment C**) has been revised to ensure the intended environmental outcome for the Western *Atriplex yeelirrie* population could be achieved; there is now the requirement for the approval holder to implement a micro-genetic study, translocation trials and minimum viable population analysis, to demonstrate the viability of establishing a self-sustaining population of the Western *Atriplex yeelirrie* population.
11. The Department has had regard to the EPBC Act Translocation Policy (the policy) in the development of a condition for Western *Atriplex yeelirrie*, and acknowledges the policy affirms that translocation should not be contemplated unless there is clear evidence that demonstrates a high probability of long-term success.
12. The Department has considered the risks associated with translocation, and is of the view that these risks are mitigated by avoiding clearing of the existing Western *Atriplex yeelirrie* until evidence is provided for Minister approval that the establishment of self-sustaining population of mature individuals of Western *Atriplex yeelirrie* population can be achieved.
13. The proponent was consulted on these changes on 2 April 2019.
14. The outcome of the consultation is below and responses to your proposed decision are at **Attachment B**. The Department’s consideration of the comments is at **Attachment E**.

Person	Comment
Person taking action	Received on 17 March 2019 - refer to <b>Attachment B1</b>
Commonwealth Ministers	Received on 1 April 2019 – refer to <b>Attachment B2</b>
State Ministers	No comments

15. General Counsel Branch was consulted in the preparation of this brief.

### Decision

16. In addition to the comments received from the proponent at **Attachment B**, the matters for consideration and factors required to be taken into account when deciding whether to approve the taking of the proposed action, and what conditions to attach to the approval remain as set out in the Department’s Proposed Approval Decision Brief at **Attachment A**.

17. For the reasons set out in the Proposed Approval Decision Brief, the Department recommends that you approve the taking of the proposed action, for the purposes of the controlling provisions in sections 18 and 18A (listed threatened species and ecological communities), 20 and 20A (listed migratory species) and 21 and 22A (protection of the environment from nuclear actions), subject to conditions.
18. As stated in the Proposed Approval Decision Brief (**Attachment A**), the Department notes that there is the potential for subterranean fauna species to become extinct as a result of the proposed action, for this reason, the Department is of the view that the proposed approval conditions at Attachment B2 of the Proposed Approval Decision Brief at Attachment A are the minimum necessary for you to be able to reasonably form a view that the risks to the environment (for the purposes of the controlling provisions at sections 21 and 22A) will be able to be mitigated to an acceptable level – particularly when balanced against the social and economic benefits of the proposed action.
19. However, the Department maintains the view that significant uncertainties remain in regards to whether the proposed approval conditions at Attachment B2 of the Proposed Approval Decision Brief at Attachment A would be effective in ensuring good environmental outcomes in the event that neither the proponent nor a third party are able to successfully demonstrate that additional populations of the subterranean fauna species exist outside the project area.
20. Therefore, the Department considers there is a real chance that even if the proposed action was taken in accordance with the proposed conditions at Attachment B2, one or more of the 12 subterranean fauna species would still be lost. For this reason, the Department’s recommendation was, and remains, that you attach the proposed approval conditions at Attachment B1 of the Proposed Approval Decision Brief at Attachment A.
21. However, the Department notes that your proposed decision of 5 March 2019 was to attach the conditions at Attachment B2 of the Proposed Approval Decision Brief at Attachment A.
22. If this remains your view, and you want to proceed with attaching the conditions at Attachment B2 of the proposed decision brief at Attachment A, the Department recommends you consider the comments received and the subsequent changes made to the proposed conditions of approval (**Attachment E**), and agree to attach the conditions as set out at **Attachment C**.
23. Under section 133(3) you must give a copy of the approval to the person named in the approval notice. Letters are provided at **Attachment D** for your signature, notifying the proponent, and Commonwealth and State Ministers of your decision.
24. Talking points are being developed. The Department’s external engagement team will be in contact with your Office.

25. A Statement of Reasons is currently being prepared and will be provided to you for signature following your decision.

s22  
Director  
Major Projects West Section  
Assessments (WA, SA, NT) and Post Approvals  
Branch  
Ph: s22  
April 2019

s22  
Major Projects West Section  
Ph: s22

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

- A** Proposed approval decision briefing (refer to linked MS18-001074)
- B** Responses to invitation for comment on proposed decision
  - B1** Proponent – 17 March 2019
  - B2** Minister Scullion – 1 April 2019
- C** Final decision notice [FOR SIGNATURE]
- D** Letters [FOR SIGNATURE]
  - D1** Proponent
    - D1-1** Compliance Monitoring Factsheet
  - D2** Minister for Health
  - D3** Minister for Resources and Northern Australia
  - D4** Minister for Indigenous Affairs
  - D5** WA Minister Environment; Disability Services
- E** Department's consideration of comments

s22

---

**From:** James Tregurtha  
**Sent:** Friday, 5 April 2019 3:17 PM  
**To:** s22  
**Cc:** s22; Gregory Manning; s22; s22; s22  
**Subject:** Re: EPBC 2009/4906 - Yeelirrie Final Decision Package [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

[SEC=DLM, DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Thanks all,

For the record I am happy for this brief to be submitted to the Minister as cleared by me, incorporating the changes we ran through over the phone this afternoon.

Regards  
James

Sent from my iPhone

s22, duplicate of Document 20



s22

---

**From:** Gregory Manning  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 17 April 2019 9:35 AM  
**To:** James Tregurtha; s22  
**Subject:** Yeelirrie Talking Points [SEC=OFFICIAL]

James

Talking points as discussed yesterday re Yeelirrie for any concern raised about delay in publication of the decision notice.

- The Minister made the final decision on the Yeelirrie Uranium Mine on 10 April from her Geraldton electorate office.
- Formal notification that the decision had been made was received by the Department on 17 April 2019.
- It is normal practice for the Department to await receipt of the signed decision package before notifying proponents of the outcome of the Minister's decision.
- The decision notice will be published as per the Department's normal procedures, usually within 24 hours of receipt of the decision that has been made.

s22

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**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Friday, 26 April 2019 12:47 PM  
**To:** s22  
**Cc:** s22 ; s22 Gregory Manning; s22 ; James Tregurtha  
**Subject:** Requested documentation: Yeelirrie Approval Decision [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** 2009-4906 Final Decision - Approval Notice - Signed.pdf; MS18-001074 \_ Proposed Decision brief- Signed.pdf; MS19-000243\_Final Decision Brief - Signed.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi s22

Please find attached the following documents:

1. MS18-001074 – Proposed Decision brief
2. MS19-000243 – Final Decision Brief
3. Minister’s Final Approval Decision notice (with conditions)

The attachments to the brief have not been provided, so please let me know if you require any of these also

Cheers

s22

s22

A/g Director – Major Projects West Section  
Department of the Environment and Energy

s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au) | GPO BOX 787 Canberra ACT 2600 | Phone s22

---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Friday, 26 April 2019 12:28 PM  
**To:** s22  
**Subject:** Fwd: Yeelirrie Approval Decision [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)>  
**Date:** 26 April 2019 at 12:20:08 pm AEST  
**To:** s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)>, s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Yeelirrie Approval Decisio

n [SEC=OFFICIAL]

And these please

MS19-000243  
MS18-001074

s22

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**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Friday, 26 April 2019 12:11 PM  
**To:** s22 <[redacted]@environment.gov.au>; s22 <[redacted]@environment.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: Yeelirrie Approval Decision [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi – can I please have a copy of the brief?

s22

---

**From:** Dean Knudson  
**Sent:** Friday, 26 April 2019 12:07 PM  
**To:** s22 <[redacted]@environment.gov.au>  
**Cc:** James Tregurtha <[redacted]@environment.gov.au>; Finn Pratt <[redacted]@environment.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: Yeelirrie Approval Decision [SEC=OFFICIAL]

s22

Can you send a copy of this brief to Finn and I?

Thanks.

---

**From:** James Tregurtha  
**Sent:** Thursday, 25 April 2019 9:01 PM  
**To:** s22 <[redacted]@environment.gov.au>; s22 <[redacted]@environment.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22 <[redacted]@environment.gov.au>; Finn Pratt <[redacted]@environment.gov.au>; Dean Knudson <[redacted]@environment.gov.au>; Gregory Manning <[redacted]@environment.gov.au>; s22 <[redacted]@environment.gov.au>; s22 <[redacted]@environment.gov.au>; James Chisholm <[redacted]@environment.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Yeelirrie Approval Decision [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s22 and s22 ,

As per the request from the Minister's Office earlier this evening I can confirm that paragraph 7 of the final decision brief provided to the Minister for the Yeelirrie Uranium Mine (EPBC 2009/4906) reads as follows:

"The appeal was heard in the WA Supreme Court on 5 March 2019 and an outcome will be determined at a later date. You are not prevented from deciding whether to approve the taking of the action for EPBC Act purposes because the WA appeal has not yet been finalised."

Regards  
James

**James Tregurtha**  
First Assistant Secretary - Environment Standards Division  
**Department of the Environment and Energy**

Tel: s22 [redacted] | Mob: s22 [redacted]

---

The Department acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures and to their elders both past and present.

s22

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**Subject:** FW: Catch-up: Greg Manning / s22 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Location:** MO: M1.19

**Start:** Mon 24/09/2018 11:00 AM  
**End:** Mon 24/09/2018 12:00 PM  
**Show Time As:** Tentative

**Recurrence:** (none)

**Meeting Status:** Not yet responded

**Organizer:** s22

To discuss handling of Yeelirrie and other matters in our patch.

-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 12 September 2018 1:54 PM  
**To:** s22 ; Manning, Gregory  
**Subject:** Catch-up: Greg Manning / s22 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**When:** Monday, 24 September 2018 11:00 AM-12:00 PM (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney.  
**Where:** MO: M1.19

s22

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**Subject:** Brief Minter Price on Yeelirrie Uranium Mine WA - No Papers Needed. Chat Only  
[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Location:** MO  
**Start:** Thu 11/10/2018 10:30 AM  
**End:** Thu 11/10/2018 11:00 AM  
**Show Time As:** Tentative  
**Recurrence:** (none)  
**Meeting Status:** Not yet responded  
**Organizer:** Gregory Manning  
**Required Attendees:** s22

Hi s22

s22 from the MO call to conform this time for briefing Minister Price on Yeelirrie Uranium Mine, she will confirm if 30 mins is adequate if you need to contact her, her number is s22

s22 will also be in attendance

Cheers

s22

s22

---

**From:** Media  
**Sent:** Friday, 19 October 2018 1:36 PM  
**To:** s22 ; s22 ; s22  
**Cc:** Media  
**Subject:** RE: Yeelirrie approvals process [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi s22

Apologies for the delay. Please see our below. Will you respond to the journalist?

**Proposed response:**

The Australian Government is committed to ensuring a comprehensive assessment of the impacts of the Yeelirrie Uranium Mine on matters of national environmental significance.

The assessment has taken time for reasons including the need to ensure the department has all necessary information and because of the legal challenge to the former state Minister's approval decision. My Department advised that it was prudent to wait for the result of the WA Supreme Court proceedings before finalising the assessment.

It is common for the Commonwealth to confirm a state approval decision before making a decision under national environment law. This ensures that we know the state decision is valid and we can avoid overlapping with any state approval conditions.

The assessment is nearing completion and my Department is keeping Cameco Australia informed on its status and timing.

Thanks,

s22

**Media Team**

Communications and Engagement Branch  
Department of the Environment and Energy  
GPO Box 787, CANBERRA ACT 2601  
T: 02 6275 9880



---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Monday, 15 October 2018 3:42 PM  
**To:** Media  
**Subject:** RE: Yeelirrie approvals process [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

That's fine

s22

**Media Adviser | Office of the Hon Melissa Price MP**  
**Minister for the Environment**

**a:** Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600

**t:** (02) s22 (Sitting weeks only) | **m:** s22 | **e:** as22 @environment.gov.au

---

**From:** Media

**Sent:** Monday, 15 October 2018 3:41 PM

**To:** s22 <[REDACTED]> <[\[REDACTED\]@environment.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@environment.gov.au)>

**Cc:** s22 <[REDACTED]> <[\[REDACTED\]@environment.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@environment.gov.au)>; Media <[Media@environment.gov.au](mailto:Media@environment.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: Yeelirrie approvals process [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi s22

Is it possible to delay this response until Wednesday? There are sensitivities around it and the branch head of the relevant line area is currently travelling.

Thanks,

**Media Team**

Communications and Engagement Branch  
Department of the Environment and Energy  
GPO Box 787, CANBERRA ACT 2601  
T: 02 6275 9880



---

**From:** s22 <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Monday, 15 October 2018 2:41 PM

**To:** Media <[Media@environment.gov.au](mailto:Media@environment.gov.au)>

**Cc:** s22 <[REDACTED]> <[\[REDACTED\]@environment.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@environment.gov.au)>

**Subject:** FW: Yeelirrie approvals process [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi all,

See query below – can we have an update on Yeelirrie please? No deadline for this but would like to go back to the reporter this week – let's aim for COB tomorrow.

s22

**Media Adviser | Office of the Hon Melissa Price MP**  
**Minister for the Environment**

**a:** Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600

**t:** (s22) (Sitting weeks only) | **m:** s22 | **e:** s22 <[s22@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)>

s22



s22

---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 7 November 2018 10:39 AM  
**To:** s22 ; Media  
**Cc:** s22 ; James Tregurtha; Gregory Manning  
**Subject:** RE: yeelirrie questions [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**Importance:** High

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi s22 ,

The Australian Government is committed to ensuring a comprehensive assessment of the impacts of the Yeelirrie Uranium Mine on matters of national environmental significance.

The assessment has taken time for reasons including the need to ensure my Department has all necessary information before finalising the assessment.

The Department has not put the assessment of the Yeelirrie project on hold. The assessment is nearing completion and my Department is keeping Cameco Australia informed on its status and timing.

As always, happy to discuss.

s22  
Media Manager  
Communications and Engagement Branch  
Department of the Environment and Energy  
GPO Box 787, CANBERRA ACT 2601  
T 02 s22 M s22  
s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)



The Department acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures and to their elders both past and present.

---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 6 November 2018 5:29 PM  
**To:** Media ; s22  
**Cc:** s22 ; James Tregurtha ; Gregory Manning  
**Subject:** FW: yeelirrie questions [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi s22

Can we have some words that reflect our current position please?

s22  
**Media Adviser | Office of the Hon Melissa Price MP**  
**Minister for the Environment**

**a:** Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600

**t:** (02) s22 (Sitting weeks only) | **m:** s22 | **e:** s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)

# s22

s22

---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 7 November 2018 10:39 AM  
**To:** s22 ; Media  
**Cc:** s22 ; James Tregurtha; Gregory Manning  
**Subject:** RE: yeelirrie questions [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**Importance:** High

Hi s22 ,

The Australian Government is committed to ensuring a comprehensive assessment of the impacts of the Yeelirrie Uranium Mine on matters of national environmental significance.

The assessment has taken time for reasons including the need to ensure my Department has all necessary information before finalising the assessment.

The Department has not put the assessment of the Yeelirrie project on hold. The assessment is nearing completion and my Department is keeping Cameco Australia informed on its status and timing.

As always, happy to discuss.

s22  
Media Manager  
Communications and Engagement Branch  
Department of the Environment and Energy  
GPO Box 787, CANBERRA ACT 2601  
T s22 M s22  
s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)



The Department acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures and to their elders both past and present.

---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 6 November 2018 5:29 PM  
**To:** Media ; s22  
**Cc:** s22 ; James Tregurtha ; Gregory Manning  
**Subject:** FW: yeelirrie questions [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi s22 ,

Can we have some words that reflect our current position please?

s22  
**Media Adviser | Office of the Hon Melissa Price MP**  
**Minister for the Environment**  
a: Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600  
t: (02) s22 (Sitting weeks only) | m: s22 | e: s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)

s22

---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Thursday, 20 December 2018 4:27 PM  
**To:** s22  
**Cc:** Dean Knudson; EA.DeanKnudson; s22; James Tregurtha; Gregory Manning; s22; s22; s22; Parliamentary  
**Subject:** The Department has forwarded the Yeelirrie proposed decision package to the Minister's Office [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi s22 ,  
Just a heads-up, and as per your ph conversation with Greg Manning late on Tuesday, the Department has finalised the Yeelirrie uranium mine proposed decision package and a complete hard copy has been delivered to the Minister's Office.

An electronic copy has also been forwarded to Parliamentary in PDMS.

Happy to discuss if you have any questions in the interim

Thanks

s22  
A/g Assistant Secretary, Assessments (WA, SA, NT) and Post Approvals

Ph. 02 s22  
Mob. s22  
s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)

s22

---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Thursday, 20 December 2018 3:06 PM  
**To:** s22  
**Subject:** boxes for delivery [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi s22 ,

Thinking further about your phone call earlier, if you will have someone driving the car who can stay at the car then there is a closer place to pull up a car (pick up set down only, no parking) near the outside Ministerial Wing entrance. Security is high at that entrance so you definitely cannot leave the car even for 5 minutes. This would mean a shorter walk to Minister Price's office with the boxes. Just let me know what you prefer and tell me where you are when you arrive at Parliament House so I can meet you.

Alternatively you can leave the boxes with the Parliamentary Services Section in JGB and their courier will bring them up in tomorrow morning's run. I'm guessing that they preferred you delivered them directly.

See you later.

s22

**Departmental Liaison Officer | Office of the Hon Melissa Price MP  
Minister for the Environment**

Ph: 02 s22 | Mob: s22

E-mail s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au) or [dloPrice@environment.gov.au](mailto:dloPrice@environment.gov.au)

s22

---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Monday, 1 April 2019 4:22 PM  
**To:** s22 ; s22  
**Cc:** DLO Price; MinisterialCorrespondence  
**Subject:** RE: MC19-016160 - Minister Scullion response to Minister Price [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks s22

Regards

s22

Major Projects West Section | Assessment (WA, SA, NT) & Post Approvals Branch  
Environment Standards Division | Department of the Environment and Energy  
GPO Box 787 Canberra ACT 2601  
Tel: 02 s22

---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Monday, 1 April 2019 4:21 PM  
**To:** s22 ; s22  
**Cc:** DLO Price ; MinisterialCorrespondence  
**Subject:** FW: MC19-016160 - Minister Scullion response to Minister Price [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi s22 and s22 ,

As noted earlier today, please see attached Minister Scullion's response to Minister Price on the Yeelirrie proposed decision.

Corro team – please register for A/A.

Kind regards,

s22

**Departmental Liaison Officer | Office of the Hon Melissa Price MP  
Minister for the Environment**

Ph: 02 s22 | Mob: s22

E-mail: s22 @environment.gov.au or [dloPrice@environment.gov.au](mailto:dloPrice@environment.gov.au)

s22

s22

---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 6 March 2019 12:34 PM  
**To:** s22  
**Subject:** RE: Signed brief return: MS18-001074 - Proposed Decision Briefing - Yeelirrie Uranium Mine, WA [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks s22 .

s22

---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 6 March 2019 10:05 AM  
**To:** s22 ; s22  
**Cc:** Parliamentary ; s22 ; s22 ; s22 ; s22 ; s22 ; DLO Price ; s22 ; James Tregurtha ; Dean Knudson  
**Subject:** Signed brief return: MS18-001074 - Proposed Decision Briefing - Yeelirrie Uranium Mine, WA

**Re: Signed brief return: MS18-001074 - Proposed Decision Briefing - Yeelirrie Uranium Mine, WA**

Dear s22 ,

The Minister has considered the above brief:

Recommendation 1: Considered  
Recommendation 2: Noted  
Recommendation 3: Noted  
Recommendation 4: Noted  
Recommendation 5: Agreed  
Recommendation 6: **Not** agreed  
Recommendation 7: Signed  
Recommendation 8: Agreed

No annotations.

The hardcopy brief will be returned to the Department in the next courier run for processing. Please note that in reading the package some attachments may have been returned to the boxes out of order. Please carefully check the boxes when you receive them.

Please be aware that any signed letters attached to your submission or brief will be processed and posted by Parliamentary Services once returned to the Department. If for any reason, you do not want the letters sent out, please ensure you contact Parliamentary Services **immediately** to make alternative arrangements. **I recommend that you contact Parliamentary Services to ensure that the letters are sent with the correct attachments.**

Kind regards

s22

**Departmental Liaison Officer | Office of the Hon Melissa Price MP  
Minister for the Environment**

Ph: 02 s22 | Mob: s22

E-mail: s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au) or [dloPrice@environment.gov.au](mailto:dloPrice@environment.gov.au)

s22

---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Friday, 8 March 2019 9:46 AM  
**To:** s22  
**Subject:** RE: Letter to Minister Canavan - proposed Yeelirrie mine [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Thanks!

---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Friday, 8 March 2019 9:45 AM  
**To:** s22  
**Cc:** DLO Price ; s22 ; s22 ; s22  
**Subject:** RE: Letter to Minister Canavan - proposed Yeelirrie mine [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Hi s22

It's the correct document, all good.

Thanks for checking,

s22  
Assistant Director  
Major Projects West Section  
Environment Standards Division  
Department of the Environment and Energy  
s22 [environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au) | [www.environment.gov.au](http://www.environment.gov.au) |  
Ph: (02) s22 PO Box 787, CANBERRA ACT 2601

---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Friday, 8 March 2019 9:41 AM  
**To:** s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au); s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au);  
s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)  
**Cc:** DLO Price <[DLOPrice@environment.gov.au](mailto:DLOPrice@environment.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Letter to Minister Canavan - proposed Yeelirrie mine [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

FYI – I took this from PDMS so I'm 99% sure it is correct but given the importance would also like you to check.  
Thanks, s22 r.

---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Friday, 8 March 2019 9:34 AM  
**To:** s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au); s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au);  
s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)  
**Cc:** DLO Price <[DLOPrice@environment.gov.au](mailto:DLOPrice@environment.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Letter to Minister Canavan - proposed Yeelirrie mine [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Hi s22

Can you review the documents and let s22 know if there are any issues (acknowledging that you may need to wait till SPIRE is working again )



Thanks

s22

s22

Assistant Director – Major Projects West Section

Department of the Environment and Energy

s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au) | GPO BOX 787 Canberra ACT 2600 | Phone s22

---

**From:** s22

**Sent:** Friday, 8 March 2019 9:27 AM

**To:** s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au); s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)

**Cc:** DLO Price <[DLOPrice@environment.gov.au](mailto:DLOPrice@environment.gov.au)>

**Subject:** FW: Letter to Minister Canavan - proposed Yeelirrie mine

Hi s22 ,

Please check the attachment that I used to send a copy of the letter to Minister Canavan's Office this morning and advise immediately if I've used the wrong document.

Thanks,

s22

**Departmental Liaison Officer | Office of the Hon Melissa Price MP  
Minister for the Environment**

Ph: 02 s22 Mob: s22

E-mail: s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au) or [dloPrice@environment.gov.au](mailto:dloPrice@environment.gov.au)

s22

s22

---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Monday, 25 March 2019 1:18 PM  
**To:** s22  
**Cc:** DLO Price; s22  
**Subject:** RE: Minister Canavan comments - proposed Yeelirre EPBC decision [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**Categories:** SPIRE SAVED

Hi s22

Thanks for letting me know - I will follow this up today.

Regards - s22

---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Monday, 25 March 2019 12:51 PM  
**To:** s22  
**Cc:** DLO Price ; s22  
**Subject:** RE: Minister Canavan comments - proposed Yeelirre EPBC decision [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi s22

I've just been advised that the letter has not been signed. We have no further information on an ETA or anything so you may want to ask your contacts in Canavan's Department to follow up.

Sorry I couldn't provide the good news you were waiting for – or more details that would help you with planning.

s22

**Departmental Liaison Officer | Office of the Hon Melissa Price MP  
Minister for the Environment**

Ph: 02 s22 | Mob: s22

E-mail: s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au) or [dloPrice@environment.gov.au](mailto:dloPrice@environment.gov.au)

---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Thursday, 21 March 2019 5:04 PM  
**To:** s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** DLO Price <[DLOPrice@environment.gov.au](mailto:DLOPrice@environment.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Minister Canavan comments - proposed Yeelirre EPBC decision [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi s22

Canavan's DLO just called. She's been advised that the letter has been signed but it may take some time to get back to us here in Canberra. Hopefully they will have an electronic copy for you Monday morning.

I did say that a draft would be helpful in the interim however she's waiting for someone to confirm that this is OK and would be unlikely to come through before the electronic copy on Monday morning but if that changes I'll forward it through.

s22

---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Thursday, 21 March 2019 12:30 PM  
**To:** s22 <[REDACTED]@environment.gov.au>  
**Cc:** DLO Price <DLOPrice@environment.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Minister Canavan comments - proposed Yeelirre EPBC decision [SEC=OFFICIAL] [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks for the update s22

I will let you know if anything comes through to us.

s22

Major Projects West Section | Assessment (WA, SA, NT) & Post Approvals Branch  
Environment Standards Division | Department of the Environment and Energy  
GPO Box 787 Canberra ACT 2601  
Tel: 02 s22

---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Thursday, 21 March 2019 12:28 PM  
**To:** s22 <[REDACTED]@environment.gov.au>  
**Cc:** DLO Price <DLOPrice@environment.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Minister Canavan comments - proposed Yeelirre EPBC decision [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s22

I just spoke with Canavan's DLO. They do have a letter waiting to be signed by the Minister. She'll keep me in the loop as to when it will be signed. All the MPs are travelling a lot at the moment so everyone is having trouble getting things signed.

Hopefully I'll have good news for you late tomorrow.

s22

**Departmental Liaison Officer | Office of the Hon Melissa Price MP  
Minister for the Environment**  
Ph: 02 s22 | Mob: s22  
E-mail: s22 <[REDACTED]@environment.gov.au> or <dloPrice@environment.gov.au>

s22

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Monday, 1 April 2019 10:43 AM  
**To:** s22  
**Cc:** DLO Price; Dean Knudson; James Tregurtha; Gregory Manning; s22  
**Subject:** s22  
2009-4906 - Yeelirrie uranium mine, WA - Assessment timeline [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s22,

Following on from our conversation late on Friday afternoon, please see below for the Yeelirrie assessment timeline you requested. Happy to discuss further.

Greg and I'll will be in touch sometime today/tomorrow to discuss next steps and timing with the final decision brief for the Minister.

Regards

s22

s22

Director, Major Projects West  
Environment Standards Division  
Ph. 02 s22  
s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)

### **Assessment history**

- **21 May 2009** – BHP Billiton Yeelirrie Development Company Pty Ltd (BHP Billiton) referred the proposed action to the Department.
- **19 June 2009** - proposed action was determined by a delegate to be a controlled action due to likely significant impacts on listed threatened species and communities (ss 18 and 18A), listed migratory species (ss 20 and 20A), and, as the action is a nuclear action, the environment (ss 21 and 22A). An assessment approach decision was not made at that time.
- **2 January 2013** – Cameco Australia Pty Ltd and BHP Billiton notified the Department of a change to the person proposing to take the action. On 21 January 2013, a delegate published the change of proponent notice.
- **12 November 2014** - original proposal referred to the WA EPA (assessment 1788) was terminated by the proponent and a new referral was submitted (assessment 2032) and assessed by the WA EPA through a public environmental review (PER) under the EP Act.
- **17 November 2014** - proponent submitted a variation request to the Department to increase the annual rate of mining and production of uranium ore concentrate. On 5 December 2014, a delegate decided to accept the varied proposal.
- New WA bilateral agreement made in 2015, as a result the proposed action was no longer able to be assessed under a bilateral agreement, and required an assessment approach decision under section 87 of the EPBC Act.
- **12 March 2015** - a delegate decided that the proposed action would be assessed by an accredited assessment process, being PER under the EP Act. A correction notice was issued on 17 March 2015.

- **21 September 2015** – the public comment period on the PER commenced for a period of 12 weeks, ending on 14 December 2015.
- **3 August 2016** – the WA EPA released an assessment report and recommendations.
- **2 September 2016** – a delegate requested further information from the proponent under section 132 of the EPBC Act.
- **2 September 2016** – a delegate extended the statutory timeframe for making a decision on whether or not to approve the proposed action by 40 days. The statutory timeframe for a final decision was 3 April 2017.
- **2 September 2016** – the Department requested further information from the WA EPA.
- **December 2016** – the WA Appeals Convenor upheld the WA EPA’s decision and recommended that the appeals be dismissed.
- **14 December 2016** – the WA Minister allowed the appeals in part, in respect of flora and vegetation and the public availability of plans and dismissed the other grounds of appeal.
- **16 January 2017** - WA Minister approved the proposed action, subject to conditions, by issuing Ministerial Statement 1053 under section 45 of the EP Act.
- **20 June 2017** – the WA Minister for Mines and Petroleum announced a ban on future uranium mining in WA. The ban does not apply to the four already State approved uranium projects (including the proposed action), namely, Toro Energy’s Wiluna Project, Vimy Resources’ Mulga Rock project, and Cameco’s Kintyre and Yeelirrie projects.
- **4 July 2017** - the Environmental Defenders Office commenced proceedings in the Supreme Court of WA for a judicial review of the decision made by the former WA Environment Minister.
- **8 March 2018** - the Conservation Council of WA lodged an appeal against the WA Supreme Court’s decision. That decision was heard on 5 March 2019. A decision will be made at a later date.
- **5 March 2019** – the Minister made the proposed decision to approve the project with conditions and invited the proponent and relevant Ministers to comment on the proposed decision and conditions

s22

---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Monday, 1 April 2019 12:53 PM  
**To:** s22 ; s22  
**Cc:** DLO Price  
**Subject:** Yeelirrie [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**Categories:** MUST BE SAVED TO SPIRE

Hi s22

FYI – I'm still waiting for a call back from Minister Scullion's Office however s22 is now in the Office for the afternoon should Greg want to talk with her.

s22

**Departmental Liaison Officer | Office of the Hon Melissa Price MP  
Minister for the Environment**

Ph: 02 s22 | Mob: s22

E-mail: s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au) or [dloPrice@environment.gov.au](mailto:dloPrice@environment.gov.au)

s22

---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Friday, 5 April 2019 6:18 PM  
**To:** Gregory Manning; s22  
**Cc:** DLO Price s22 ; s22  
**Subject:** FW: MC19-000980 Correspondence from Minister Canavan [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]  
**Attachments:** 05042019165705-0001.pdf

Hi Greg / s22

FYI - s22 will discuss.

s22  
Departmental Liaison Officer | Office of the Hon Melissa Price MP Minister for the Environment  
Ph: 02 s22 | Mob: s22  
E-mail s22 environment.gov.au or dloPrice@environment.gov.au

-----Original Message-----

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Friday, 5 April 2019 6:17 PM  
**To:** MinisterialCorrespondence <MinisterialCorrespondence@environment.gov.au>  
**Cc:** DLO Price <DLOPrice@environment.gov.au>; s22 @environment.gov.au  
**Subject:** FW: MC19-000980 Correspondence from Minister Canavan [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

For A/A please.  
Thanks, s22

s22

**Senator the Hon Matthew Canavan****Minister for Resources and Northern Australia**

MC19-000980

The Hon Melissa Price MP  
Minister for the Environment  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

05 APR 2019

Dear Minister *Melissa*

Thank you for your letter of 5 March 2019 seeking my views concerning your proposed approval of the Yeelirrie open cut uranium mine in the Shire of Wiluna, Western Australia.

I am pleased a decision is being made regarding the development of the Yeelirrie uranium mine. Mining projects are important to supporting jobs in regional communities across Australia. The Yeelirrie uranium mine will create 1200 construction jobs and 225 operational jobs in regional Western Australia. I understand that the Yeelirrie project is scheduled to produce 7500 tonnes of uranium oxide per year, for nuclear power operations around the world. The Yeelirrie uranium mine will be the first uranium mine to have received both State and Commonwealth approvals in Western Australia.

I understand that the management of the *Atriplex Yeelirrie* was identified in the conditions approved by the Western Australian Environmental Protection Authority. However the conditions suggested by your department (proposed conditions 10, 10a and 10b) go further. I am concerned that these conditions will prevent progressing the development of Cameco Yeelirrie project from anywhere between five to seven years and put at risk its progression as a viable mine.

My department has advised that Cameco has been engaging with your department on the proposed draft conditions, specifically around conditions 10, 10a and 10b and consideration of the revision of these conditions. I understand that Cameco is seeking to make these conditions consistent with the State environmental approval where possible, and are open to it including a set of clear milestones and reporting requirements, similar to the proposed conditions regarding the Night Parrot and Malleefowl habitat.

In addition, Geoscience Australia has advised that it considers the Western Australia Environment Protection Authority conditions for the project are adequate. They suggest that, as an avenue for streamlining reporting and compliance monitoring for the project, the management plans, reports, reviews, updates (State Conditions 6 and 7), including non-compliance notification (State Conditions 4.5 and 4.6), be submitted to your department along with the relevant WA authority.

I would encourage you and your department to continue to engage with Cameco Australia and consider conditions that ensure that potential impacts are carefully managed while still providing certainty for an investment pathway to enable the development and operation of this project.



The contact in my department on this matter is s22 [REDACTED], Manager, Mining and Investment, Resources Division, Department of Industry, Innovation and Science on (02) s22 [REDACTED] or email: s22 [REDACTED]@industry.gov.au.

Thank you for notifying me of your proposed decision.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'm. canavan', written in a cursive style.

Matthew Canavan

s22

---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 April 2019 4:51 PM  
**To:** s22  
**Cc:** DLO Price; Dean Knudson; James Tregurtha; Gregory Manning; s22 ;  
s22 ; s22  
**Subject:** FW: FOR REVIEW: Yeelirrie uranium mine - Talking Points [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** 2009-4906 - Final Decision - Talking Points - April 2019.docx

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi s22

Please see attached for talking points (in case they're needed), should the Minister make the final decision on the proposed Yeelirrie uranium mine. As you know, the final decision package was delivered to the MO on Friday afternoon for a decision.

Please let me know if you need anything in the mean time

Regards

s22

s22

Director, Major Projects West  
Environment Standards Division  
Ph. 02 s22  
Mob. s22  
s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)

## MINISTERIAL TALKING POINTS

### Yeelirrie Uranium Project

- I have approved the Yeelirrie uranium project, subject to 32 strict conditions to avoid and mitigate potential environmental impacts.
- My approval follows a rigorous and comprehensive assessment process that included departmental officials visiting the Yeelirrie site.
- The conditions that I have imposed align with the Western Australian approval conditions where possible, and additional conditions have been included to further protect matters under national environmental law.

#### ***If asked about the social and economic benefits of the project:***

- As a result of this approval the project will deliver significant economic benefits in Western Australia and in particular to the Northern Goldfields region.
- The mine is expected to generate between \$77 million and \$145 million a year of economic activity with a further \$226 million to \$424 million in economic activity for Western Australia.
- It is anticipated the project will employ between 739 – 1,338 people over the 2.5 years of construction, and generate between 230 and 410 jobs during the fifteen years of mining.
- Through delivery of this project, Cameco Australia will be assisting and supporting Aboriginal people in the area by improving education opportunities, sporting pathways, health, and employment prospects.
- It is also likely to have flow-on social and economic benefits through increased use of roads and rail networks between Perth, Esperance, Kalgoorlie and Geraldton, right through to the Port of Adelaide.

#### ***If asked about the plant species *Atriplex yeelirrie****

- Departmental officers undertook a site visit in November 2017 to gather information on the likelihood of mitigating impacts on the environment, including *Atriplex yeelirrie*.
- To manage impacts on *Atriplex yeelirrie*, I have imposed conditions that require Cameco to avoid any impacts on the Eastern *Atriplex yeelirrie* population, and to provide evidence that a detailed study of the Western *Atriplex yeelirrie* population has been undertaken to ensure we understand Western *Atriplex yeelirrie*'s reproductive and ecological attributes and demonstrate that a viable population can be established outside the development envelope.
- Cameco Australia must not clear the Western *Atriplex yeelirrie* population until this evidence has been provided and approved by the Environment Minister.

***If asked about subterranean fauna species***

- The subterranean fauna species have been considered in the assessment of the whole of environment. They are not listed threatened species under national environment law.
- Departmental officers undertook a site visit in November 2017 to gather information on the likelihood of mitigating impacts on the environment, including subterranean fauna species.
- To avoid and mitigate impacts on subterranean fauna species, I have imposed a number of conditions that requires Cameco Australia to develop and implement a comprehensive groundwater management program that will adaptively manage impacts on subterranean fauna species.
- The groundwater management program must be reviewed by a suitably qualified subterranean fauna ecologist and suitably qualified hydrogeologist and submitted for Ministerial approval. It is required to be reviewed every three years.
- In addition, I have imposed a condition that requires Cameco Australia to submit evidence that the project will not lead to the extinction of subterranean fauna species isolated to an area to the north-west of the development. Cameco Australia must not commence clearing of this area until the evidence has been approved by the Environment Minister.

***If asked about impacts on the Night parrot***

- To ensure the project does not lead to adverse impacts on the Night Parrot, I have imposed a condition that requires Cameco Australia to engage a suitably qualified expert to undertake a Night parrot survey prior to commencement of the project.
- The survey must be undertaken in accordance with the Night Parrot Recovery Team survey guidelines.
- Should a Night parrot or evidence of one be recorded during the survey, the approval holder must submit a Night parrot management plan for Ministerial approval.

***If asked about consultation with the Indigenous community***

- In accordance with the EPBC Act, I have taken into consideration the social and cultural aspects of the proposed action, including indigenous people and communities.
- I understand that Cameco Australia has been consulting with the indigenous people of the Leonora and Wiluna regions since 2013 in relation to the project.
- To avoid any impacts on Aboriginal heritage sites, I have reinforced the state approval condition that requires the preparation and implementation of an Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan.

***If asked about the appeal pending in relation to the Supreme Court challenge to this project***

- It is not appropriate that I make any statement about the appeal against the WA Supreme Court's decision, as that is a matter for WA. The appeal does not prevent me from deciding whether to approve this action under national environmental law.

### ***If asked about the proponent's environmental history***

- The Department has assessed the proponent's environmental history including both the parent company and its executive officers, both within Australia and overseas.
- The Department found no adverse environmental history relating to environmental matters by the proponent, Cameco Australia Pty Ltd, Cameco Corporation or associated directors.
- In addition, I have imposed conditions that requires Cameco Australia to submit an annual compliance report and ensure independent audits of compliance are conducted every year.

### **Background**

- The action includes the mining and processing of uranium ore, sourcing and use of water and electricity, upgrades to roads, workforce accommodation facilities and transport of uranium oxide concentrate by road from the mine to port of Adelaide, South Australia.
- It was assessed under an accredited assessment with the Western Australian Environmental Protection Authority (WA EPA).
  - The WA EPA released an assessment report in August 2016 and recommended the proposal not be approved due to impacts on subterranean fauna.
- The former Western Australian Environment Minister approved the project on 20 January 2017 on social and economic grounds.
- The Environmental Defenders Office (on behalf of the Conservation Council of Western Australia and Tjiwarl Native Title group) challenged the state approval decision in the Western Australian Supreme Court. On 8 February 2018 the Court dismissed this challenge.
- The Conservation Council of Western Australia and Tjiwarl Native Title group lodged an appeal against the WA Supreme Court's decision. That decision has yet to be heard.
- This is a nuclear action, which triggers a whole of environment assessment under the EPBC Act.
- A maximum of 7,500 tonnes per annum of uranium oxide concentrate will be produced. The expected life of the mine is 15 years.
- Cameco Australia went into care and maintenance on 20 December 2017. This is consistent with Cameco's decision to temporarily close the McArthur and Key Lake uranium operations overseas due to a prolonged weakness in the uranium market.

s22

**From:** Media  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 April 2019 5:26 PM  
**To:** s22 ; s22  
**Cc:** Media  
**Subject:** FW: FOR REVIEW: Yeelirrie uranium mine - Talking Points [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** 2009-4906 - Final Decision - Talking Points - April 2019.docx

Hi s22 and s22

Please find attached.

Cheers

s22

**Media Team**

Communications and Engagement Branch  
Department of the Environment and Energy  
GPO Box 787, CANBERRA ACT 2601



---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 April 2019 4:51 PM  
**To:** s22 <@environment.gov.au>  
**Cc:** DLO Price <DLOPrice@environment.gov.au>; Dean Knudson s22 <@environment.gov.au>; James Tregurtha s22 <environment.gov.au>; Gregory Manning s22 <@environment.gov.au>; s22 <@environment.gov.au>; s22 <@environment.gov.au>; s22 <@environment.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: FOR REVIEW: Yeelirrie uranium mine - Talking Points [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s22

Please see attached for talking points (in case they're needed), should the Minister make the final decision on the proposed Yeelirrie uranium mine. As you know, the final decision package was delivered to the MO on Friday afternoon for a decision.

Please let me know if you need anything in the mean time

Regards

s22

s22  
Director, Major Projects West  
Environment Standards Division  
Ph. 02 s22  
Mob. s22  
s22 <@environment.gov.au>

s22

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**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Thursday, 11 April 2019 10:47 AM  
**To:** s22  
**Cc:** DLO Price; Gregory Manning  
**Subject:** FW: 2 of 7 emails sent to Minister Price - 10 April 2019 [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** Email 1 | MS18-001074: Proposed Decision Briefing - Yeelirrie Uranium Mine, WA [SEC=OFFICIAL]; Email 2 | MS18-001074: Proposed Decision Briefing - Yeelirrie Uranium Mine, WA [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**Categories:** CC

s22

Copying you in.

s22

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**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Thursday, 11 April 2019 10:41 AM  
**To:** Gregory Manning  
**Cc:** DLO Price ; s22  
**Subject:** 2 of 7 emails sent to Minister Price - 10 April 2019 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Greg

As discussed, last night the Office asked me to send the brief and attachments for MS18-001074 to the Minister. I'm sending you the emails, the automatic replies for each email, and a screenshot of a text message between the Minister and myself where she acknowledged she had received the 7 emails.

Kind regards

s22

s22

**Departmental Liaison Officer | Office of the Hon Melissa Price MP  
Minister for the Environment**

**a:** Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600

**t:** (02) s22 | **m:** s22 | **e:** s22 @environment.gov.au

s22

---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 10 April 2019 8:54 PM  
**To:** 'Price, Melissa (MP)'  
**Cc:** s22 ; s22 ; s22 ; DLO Price  
**Subject:** Email 1 | MS18-001074: Proposed Decision Briefing - Yeelirrie Uranium Mine, WA [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** Signed brief.pdf; MS18-001074.docx; Attachment A - Legal Considerations.docx

Dear Minister

Please find attached files for MS18-001074. I will send you a series of emails with a total of 46 attachments.

Kind regards

s22

s22

**Departmental Liaison Officer | Office of the Hon Melissa Price MP  
Minister for the Environment**

**a:** Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600

**t:** (02) s22 | **m:** s22 | **e:** s22 @environment.gov.au



s22

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**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 10 April 2019 8:59 PM  
**To:** 'Price, Melissa (MP)'  
**Cc:** s22 ; s22 ; s22 ; DLO Price  
**Subject:** Email 2 | MS18-001074: Proposed Decision Briefing - Yeelirrie Uranium Mine, WA [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** Attachment B1 - Decision Notice.docm; Attachment B2 - Decision Notice.docm; Attachment C1 - Letter - Proponent.docx; Attachment C2 - Letter - Health Minister.docx; Attachment C3 - Letter - Resources Minister.docx; Attachment C4 - Letter - Indigenous Affairs Minister.docx; Attachment C5 - Letter - WA Environment Minister.docx; Attachment D - WA Supreme Court Decision.pdf; Attachment E1 - Ministerial Correspondence.pdf

Dear Minister

Please find attached more files for MS18-001074.

Kind regards

s22

s22

**Departmental Liaison Officer | Office of the Hon Melissa Price MP  
Minister for the Environment**

**a:** Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600

**t:** (02) s22 | **m:** s22 | **e:** s22 @environment.gov.au

s22

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**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Thursday, 11 April 2019 10:48 AM  
**To:** Gregory Manning; s22  
**Cc:** DLO Price  
**Subject:** 3rd email sent to Minister Price - 10 April 2019 [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** Email 3 | MS18-001074: Proposed Decision Briefing - Yeelirrie Uranium Mine, WA [SEC=OFFICIAL]

s22

**Departmental Liaison Officer | Office of the Hon Melissa Price MP  
Minister for the Environment**

**a:** Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600

**t:** (02) s22 | **m:** s22 | **e:** s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)

s22

---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 10 April 2019 9:05 PM  
**To:** 'Price, Melissa (MP)'  
**Cc:** s22 ; s22 ; s22 ; DLO Price  
**Subject:** Email 3 | MS18-001074: Proposed Decision Briefing - Yeelirrie Uranium Mine, WA [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** Attachment E2 - Ministerial Corrospodence.pdf; Attachment E3 - Ministerial Corrospodence.pdf; Appendix A - WA Assessment Report.pdf

Dear Minister

Please find attached more files for MS18-001074.

Kind regards

s22

s22

**Departmental Liaison Officer | Office of the Hon Melissa Price MP  
Minister for the Environment**

**a:** Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600

**t:** (02) s22 | **m:** s22 | **e:** s22 @environment.gov.au

s22

---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Thursday, 11 April 2019 10:50 AM  
**To:** Gregory Manning; s22  
**Cc:** DLO Price  
**Subject:** 4th email sent to Minister Price - 10 April 2019 [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** Email 4 | MS18-001074: Proposed Decision Briefing - Yeelirrie Uranium Mine, WA [SEC=OFFICIAL]

s22

**Departmental Liaison Officer | Office of the Hon Melissa Price MP  
Minister for the Environment**

**a:** Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600

**t:** (02) s22 | **m:** s22 | **e:** s22 @environment.gov.au

s22

---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 10 April 2019 9:09 PM  
**To:** 'Price, Melissa (MP)'  
**Cc:** s22 ; s22 ; s22 ; DLO Price  
**Subject:** Email 4 | MS18-001074: Proposed Decision Briefing - Yeelirrie Uranium Mine, WA [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** Appendix B1 - Public Environment Review.pdf; Appendix B2 - WA Appeals Convenor Report.pdf; Appendix B3 - WA Ministers Appeal Determination.pdf; Appendix B4 - WA Ministers Approval.pdf

Dear Minister

Please find attached more files for MS18-001074.

Kind regards

s22

s22

**Departmental Liaison Officer | Office of the Hon Melissa Price MP  
Minister for the Environment**

**a:** Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600

**t:** (02) s22 | **m:** s22 | **e:** s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)

s22

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**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Thursday, 11 April 2019 10:52 AM  
**To:** Gregory Manning; s22  
**Cc:** DLO Price  
**Subject:** 5th email sent to Minister Price - 10 April 2019 [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** Email 5 | MS18-001074: Proposed Decision Briefing - Yeelirrie Uranium Mine, WA [SEC=OFFICIAL]

s22

**Departmental Liaison Officer | Office of the Hon Melissa Price MP  
Minister for the Environment**

**a:** Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600

**t:** (02) s22 | **m:** s22 | **e:** s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)

s22

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**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 10 April 2019 9:14 PM  
**To:** 'Price, Melissa (MP)'  
**Cc:** s22 ; s22 ; s22 ; DLO Price  
**Subject:** Email 5 | MS18-001074: Proposed Decision Briefing - Yeelirrie Uranium Mine, WA [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** Appendix B5 - Atriplex and Enviro History -11 Oct 2016-.pdf; Appendix B5 - Night Parrot -19 June 2017-.pdf; Appendix B5 - Social and Economic Matters - Attachment -18 July 2018-.pdf; Appendix B5 - Social and Economic Matters -17 Jan 2017-.pdf; Appendix B5 - Social and Economic Matters -18 July 2018-.pdf; Appendix B5 - Sub Fauna and Atriplex -21 Nov 2017-.pdf

Dear Minister

Please find attached more files for MS18-001074.

Kind regards

s22

s22

**Departmental Liaison Officer | Office of the Hon Melissa Price MP  
Minister for the Environment**

**a:** Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600

**t:** (02) s22 | **m:** s22 | **e:** s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)

s22

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**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Thursday, 11 April 2019 10:54 AM  
**To:** Gregory Manning; s22  
**Cc:** DLO Price  
**Subject:** 6th email sent to Minister Price - 10 April 2019 [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** Email 6 | MS18-001074: Proposed Decision Briefing - Yeelirrie Uranium Mine, WA [SEC=OFFICIAL]

s22

**Departmental Liaison Officer | Office of the Hon Melissa Price MP  
Minister for the Environment**

**a:** Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600

**t:** (02) s22 | **m:** s22 | **e:** s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)



s22

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**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 10 April 2019 9:20 PM  
**To:** 'Price, Melissa (MP)'  
**Cc:** s22 ; s22 ; s22 ; DLO Price  
**Subject:** Email 6 | MS18-001074: Proposed Decision Briefing - Yeelirrie Uranium Mine, WA [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** Appendix C - Policy Statement - Translocation.pdf; Appendix D1 - Environmental Reporting Tool.pdf; Appendix D2 - Recovery Plan - Malleefowl.pdf; Appendix D3 - Recovery Plan - Greater Bilby.pdf; Appendix D4 - Conservation Advice Princess parrot.pdf; Appendix D5 - Recovery Plan - Black-flanked rock-wallaby.pdf; Appendix D6 - Recovery Plan - Great Desert Skink.pdf; Appendix D7 - Conservation Advice - Night Parrot.pdf; Appendix D8 - TAP Rabbits -Background-.pdf; Appendix D8 - TAP Rabbits -Report-.pdf; Appendix D9 - TAP Goats -Background-.pdf; Appendix D9 - TAP Goats -Report-.pdf; Appendix D10 - TAP Fox -Background-.pdf; Appendix D10 - TAP Fox -Report-.pdf

Dear Minister

Please find attached more files for MS18-001074.

Kind regards

s22

**Departmental Liaison Officer | Office of the Hon Melissa Price MP  
Minister for the Environment**

**a:** Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600

**t:** (02) s22 | **m:** s22 | **e:** s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)

s22

---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Thursday, 11 April 2019 10:55 AM  
**To:** Gregory Manning; s22  
**Cc:** DLO Price  
**Subject:** 7th email sent to Minister Price - 10 April 2019 [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** Email 7 - FINAL EMAIL | MS18-001074: Proposed Decision Briefing - Yeelirrie Uranium Mine, WA [SEC=OFFICIAL]

s22

**Departmental Liaison Officer | Office of the Hon Melissa Price MP  
Minister for the Environment**

**a:** Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600

**t:** (02) s22 | **m:** s22 | **e:** s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)

s22

---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 10 April 2019 9:31 PM  
**To:** 'Price, Melissa (MP)'  
**Cc:** s22 ; s22 ; s22 ; DLO Price  
**Subject:** Email 7 - FINAL EMAIL | MS18-001074: Proposed Decision Briefing - Yeelirrie Uranium Mine, WA [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** Appendix D11 - TAP Cats -Background-.pdf; Appendix D11- TAP Cats -Report-.pdf; Appendix D12 - TAP feral Pigs -Background-.pdf; Appendix D12 - TAP Feral Pigs - Report-.pdf; Appendix E - WABSI Subterranean Fauna Research Program.pdf; Appendix F - Germination Trial of Atriplex sp. Yeelirrie Station -2015-.pdf; Re: Follow-up: Atriplex yeelirrie [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]; Signed letter to Minister Canavan.pdf; Signed letter to Minister Hunt.pdf; Signed letter to Minister Scullion.pdf; Signed letter to Mr Rowe.pdf; Signed letter to Mr Williamson.pdf

Dear Minister

Please find attached more files for MS18-001074.

Note that this email is the **final email**. In addition to the 46 files, I have also **attached 5 more** files – those being the signed letters to Minister Canavan, Minister Hunt, Minister Scullion, Mr Rowe and Mr Williamson.

Kind regards

s22

s22

**Departmental Liaison Officer | Office of the Hon Melissa Price MP  
Minister for the Environment**

**a:** Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600

**t:** (02) s22 | **m:** s22 | **e:** s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)

s22

---

**From:** Gregory Manning  
**Sent:** Thursday, 11 April 2019 11:26 AM  
**To:** s22  
**Cc:** s22 ; James Tregurtha; s22 ; s22  
**Subject:** RE: Ministerial brief -Final Decision [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** Yeelirrie Talking Points.docx

s22

Amendments and comments on the talking points. Happy to discuss further.

Greg.

---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Thursday, 11 April 2019 8:29 AM  
**To:** Gregory Manning <s22@environment.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22@environment.gov.au; James Tregurtha <s22@environment.gov.au>; s22@environment.gov.au  
**Subject:** FW: Ministerial brief -Final Decision [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Good Morning Greg,

Talking points as discussed.

Cheers, s22.

s22

**Acting Adviser | Office of the Hon Melissa Price MP**  
**Minister for the Environment**

**a:** Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600

**t:** (02) s22 | **m:** s22 | **e:** s22@environment.gov.au

**MINISTERIAL BRIEF - Yeelirrie Uranium Project**

**Talking points**

- I have approved the Yeelirrie uranium project, subject to 32 strict conditions to avoid and mitigate potential environmental impacts.
- With these conditions in place, I am satisfied that the risks to the environment will be appropriately managed – particularly when balanced against the social and economic benefits of the action.
- My approval follows a rigorous and comprehensive assessment process that included departmental officials visiting the Yeelirrie site.
- I made the proposed decision to approve this project with conditions on March 5. A consultation period was then undertaken, in accordance with the EPBC Act, where the proponent and relevant Ministers were invited to comment on the decision and conditions.
- Because it is a uranium mine, this project is a 'nuclear action' for the purposes of the EPBC Act. ~~which~~ This triggers a 'whole of environment' assessment ~~under the EPBC Act.~~
- ~~A whole of environment assessment means that~~ Most assessments under the EPBC Act consider impacts on matters of national significance, such as threatened species, but nuclear actions require a much more detailed broader assessment that considers all environmental impacts are taken into account, not just impacts to listed matters of national environmental significance.
- ~~This project received Western Australian State Government approval in January 2017.~~
- The conditions that I have imposed align with the Western Australian approval conditions where possible, and additional conditions have been included to further protect matters under national environmental law.
- Those conditions include:
  - Protections for the endangered *Atriplex yeelirrie*. Cameco must avoid any impacts on the Eastern Atriplex Yeelirrie population, and ~~to~~ undertake ~~a~~ detailed scientific studies on the Western Atriplex population to demonstrate that a viable population can be established outside the development envelope prior to clearing;
  - A requirement that Cameco develop and implement a comprehensive groundwater management program that will adaptively ~~reduce~~ manage impacts on subterranean fauna species. The groundwater management plan must be reviewed by scientific experts and submitted for Ministerial approval. It is required to be reviewed every three years;
  - Cameco Australia must submit evidence the project will not lead to the extinction of subterranean fauna species isolated to an area to the north-west of the development, which must be approved by the Minister for the Environment;
  - To ensure the project does not lead to adverse impacts on the Night Parrot, Cameco must engage a suitably qualified expert to undertake a Night parrot survey before the

**Commented [GM1]:** It should be noted that the condition set that the Minister has chosen accepts a high risk that impacts, particularly to sub-terranean fauna will not be avoided or mitigated.

**Commented [GM2]:** Note this may raise questions about the impacts to other subterranean fauna species.

project commences. If evidence of the Night Parrot is recorded during the survey, a management plan must be submitted for Ministerial approval.

- In addition, I have imposed conditions that requires Cameco Australia to submit an annual compliance report and ensure independent audits of compliance are conducted every year
- ~~The government supports sustainable development subject to strict environmental protections.~~
- The project will deliver significant economic benefits in Western Australia and in particular to the Northern Goldfields region.
- The mine is expected to generate between \$77 million and \$145 million a year of economic activity with a further \$226 million to \$424 million in economic activity for Western Australia.
- It is anticipated the project will employ between 739 – 1,338 people over the 2.5 years of construction, and generate between 230 and 410 jobs during the fifteen years of mining.
- Through delivery of this project, Cameco Australia will be assisting and supporting Aboriginal people in the area by improving education opportunities, sporting pathways, health, and employment prospects.
- It is also likely to have flow-on social and economic benefits through increased use of roads and rail networks between Perth, Esperance, Kalgoorlie and Geraldton, right through to the Port of Adelaide.

## **Background**

- The action includes the mining and processing of uranium ore, sourcing and use of water and electricity, upgrades to roads, workforce accommodation facilities and transport of uranium oxide concentrate by road from the mine to Kalgoorlie.
- The operators then intend to export by way of road transport to Adelaide.
- The West Australian EPA has assessed the above proposal and has not required further conditions on the transport aspects.
- It was assessed under an accredited assessment with the Western Australian Environmental Protection Authority (WA EPA).
  - The WA EPA released an assessment report in August 2016 and recommended the proposal not be approved due to impacts on subterranean fauna.
- The former Western Australian Environment Minister approved the project on 20 January 2017 on social and economic grounds.

- The Environmental Defenders Office (on behalf of the Conservation Council of Western Australia and Tjiwarl Native Title group) challenged the state approval decision in the Western Australian Supreme Court. On 8 February 2018 the Court dismissed this challenge.
- The Conservation Council of Western Australia and Tjiwarl Native Title group lodged an appeal against the WA Supreme Court's decision. That decision has yet to be heard.
- A maximum of 7,500 tonnes per annum of uranium oxide concentrate will be produced. The expected life of the mine is 15 years.
- Cameco Australia went into care and maintenance on 20 December 2017. This is consistent with Cameco's decision to temporarily close the McArthur and Key Lake uranium operations overseas due to a prolonged weakness in the uranium market.

**Timeline:**

- **21 May 2009** – BHP Billiton Yeelirrie Development Company Pty Ltd (BHP Billiton) referred the proposed action to the Department.
- **19 June 2009** - proposed action was determined by a delegate to be a controlled action due to likely significant impacts on listed threatened species and communities (ss 18 and 18A), listed migratory species (ss 20 and 20A), and, as the action is a nuclear action, the environment (ss 21 and 22A). An assessment approach decision was not made at that time.
- **2 January 2013** – Cameco Australia Pty Ltd and BHP Billiton notified the Department of a change to the person proposing to take the action. On 21 January 2013, a delegate published the change of proponent notice.
- **12 November 2014** - original proposal referred to the WA EPA (assessment 1788) was terminated by the proponent and a new referral was submitted (assessment 2032) and assessed by the WA EPA through a public environmental review (PER) under the EP Act.
- **17 November 2014** - proponent submitted a variation request to the Department to increase the annual rate of mining and production of uranium ore concentrate. On 5 December 2014, a delegate decided to accept the varied proposal.
- New WA bilateral agreement made in 2015, as a result the proposed action was no longer able to be assessed under a bilateral agreement, and required an assessment approach decision under section 87 of the EPBC Act.
- **12 March 2015** - a delegate decided that the proposed action would be assessed by an accredited assessment process, being PER under the EP Act. A correction notice was issued on 17 March 2015.
- **21 September 2015** – the public comment period on the PER commenced for a period of 12 weeks, ending on 14 December 2015.
- **3 August 2016** – the WA EPA released an assessment report and recommendations.

- **2 September 2016** – a delegate requested further information from the proponent under section 132 of the EPBC Act.
- **2 September 2016** – a delegate extended the statutory timeframe for making a decision on whether or not to approve the proposed action by 40 days. The statutory timeframe for a final decision was 3 April 2017.
- **2 September 2016** – the Department requested further information from the WA EPA.
- **December 2016** – the WA Appeals Convenor upheld the WA EPA’s decision and recommended that the appeals be dismissed.
- **14 December 2016** – the WA Minister allowed the appeals in part, in respect of flora and vegetation and the public availability of plans and dismissed the other grounds of appeal.
- **16 January 2017** - WA Minister approved the proposed action, subject to conditions, by issuing Ministerial Statement 1053 under section 45 of the EP Act.
- **20 June 2017** – the WA Minister for Mines and Petroleum announced a ban on future uranium mining in WA. The ban does not apply to the four already State approved uranium projects (including the proposed action), namely, Toro Energy’s Wiluna Project, Vimy Resources’ Mulga Rock project, and Cameco’s Kintyre and Yeelirrie projects.
- **4 July 2017** - the Environmental Defenders Office commenced proceedings in the Supreme Court of WA for a judicial review of the decision made by the former WA Environment Minister.
- **8 March 2018** - the Conservation Council of WA lodged an appeal against the WA Supreme Court’s decision. That decision was heard on 5 March 2019. A decision will be made at a later date.
- **5 March 2019** – the Minister made the proposed decision to approve the project with conditions and invited the proponent and relevant Ministers to comment on the proposed decision and conditions
- **April 5 2019** – Brief referred to Minister for the Environment

**Economic benefits**

- The mine is expected to generate between \$77 million and \$145 million a year of economic activity with a further \$226 million to \$424 million in economic activity for Western Australia.
- It is anticipated the project will employ between 739 – 1,338 people over the 2.5 years of construction, and generate between
- This is an area of critically low employment
- Minister is required to take into account social and economic impacts

**Key Issues/sensitivities:**

- Uranium Mine



- West Australian Government has banned Uranium mining other than for four existing mines of which this is considered one
- Tjiwara Native Title
  - Indigenous groups strongly opposed to the mine.
  - Through the Environmental Defender's Office, and with the Australian Conservation Foundation, they have challenged the WA State approval in the Supreme court (unsuccessfully) and run an Appeal through the Supreme Court
- Appeal
  - The Supreme Court is considering its judgement in relation to the appeal of an earlier Supreme Court decision that found in favour of the WA Government
  - This does not preclude the Minister
- Environmental management
  - The proposal intersects the Priority 1 priority ecological community (PEC) no 49 which is considered to have unique assemblages of invertebrates in the groundwater calcretes
  - Stygofauna are minute subterranean fauna that live in water
  - Troglifauna are minute subterranean fauna that live in dry formations
  - Twelve minute, subterranean fauna species have not been identified in any other area and therefore may risk extinction
  - It may well be that they exist in other areas but they have not been detected despite attempts to find them
  - Atriplex Yeelirrie is a plant species now listed under the EPBC Act but which was not listed at the time of the referral decision. Therefore the project needs to be considered in the light of it not being listed. Because the project is assessed for its impacts on the whole environment Atriplex Yeelirrie is subject to protection.
  - Of the two populations on the site, one must be undisturbed and the company needs to demonstrate a further viable population can be established to off-set impacts to the other.

***If asked about the social and economic benefits of the project:***

- As a result of this approval the project will deliver significant economic benefits in Western Australia and in particular to the Northern Goldfields region.
- The mine is expected to generate between \$77 million and \$145 million a year of economic activity with a further \$226 million to \$424 million in economic activity for Western Australia.
- It is anticipated the project will employ between 739 – 1,338 people over the 2.5 years of construction, and generate between 230 and 410 jobs during the fifteen years of mining.
- Through delivery of this project, Cameco Australia will be assisting and supporting Aboriginal people in the area by improving education opportunities, sporting pathways, health, and employment prospects.

- It is also likely to have flow-on social and economic benefits through increased use of roads and rail networks between Perth, Esperance, Kalgoorlie and Geraldton, right through to the Port of Adelaide.

***If asked about the plant species *Atriplex yeelirrie****

- Departmental officers undertook a site visit in November 2017 to gather information on the likelihood of mitigating impacts on the environment, including *Atriplex yeelirrie*.
- To manage impacts on *Atriplex yeelirrie*, I have imposed conditions that require Cameco to avoid any impacts on the Eastern *Atriplex yeelirrie* population, and to provide evidence that a detailed study of the Western *Atriplex yeelirrie* population has been undertaken to ensure we understand Western *Atriplex yeelirrie*'s reproductive and ecological attributes and demonstrate that a viable population can be established outside the development envelope.
- Cameco Australia must not clear the Western *Atriplex yeelirrie* population until this evidence has been provided and approved by the Environment Minister.

***If asked about subterranean fauna species***

- The subterranean fauna species have been considered in the assessment of the whole of environment. They are not listed threatened species under national environment law.
- Departmental officers undertook a site visit in November 2017 to gather information on the likelihood of mitigating impacts on the environment, including subterranean fauna species.
- To avoid and mitigate impacts on subterranean fauna species, I have imposed a number of conditions that requires Cameco Australia to develop and implement a comprehensive groundwater management program that will adaptively manage impacts on subterranean fauna species.
- The groundwater management program must be reviewed by a suitably qualified subterranean fauna ecologist and suitably qualified hydrogeologist and submitted for Ministerial approval. It is required to be reviewed every three years.
- In addition, I have imposed a condition that requires Cameco Australia to submit evidence that the project will not lead to the extinction of subterranean fauna species isolated to an area to the north-west of the development. Cameco Australia must not commence clearing of this area until the evidence has been approved by the Environment Minister.

***If asked about impacts on the Night parrot***

- To ensure the project does not lead to adverse impacts on the Night Parrot, I have imposed a condition that requires Cameco Australia to engage a suitably qualified expert to undertake a Night parrot survey prior to commencement of the project.
- The survey must be undertaken in accordance with the Night Parrot Recovery Team survey guidelines.

- Should a Night parrot or evidence of one be recorded during the survey, the approval holder must submit a Night parrot management plan for Ministerial approval.

***If asked about consultation with the Indigenous community***

- In accordance with the EPBC Act, I have taken into consideration the social and cultural aspects of the proposed action, including indigenous people and communities.
- I understand that Cameco Australia has been consulting with the indigenous people of the Leonora and Wiluna regions since 2013 in relation to the project.
- To avoid any impacts on Aboriginal heritage sites, I have reinforced the state approval condition that requires the preparation and implementation of an Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan.

***If asked about the appeal pending in relation to the Supreme Court challenge to this project***

- It is not appropriate that I make any statement about the appeal against the WA Supreme Court's decision, as that is a matter for WA. The appeal does not prevent me from deciding whether to approve this action under national environmental law.

***If asked about the proponent's environmental history***

- The Department has assessed the proponent's environmental history including both the parent company and its executive officers, both within Australia and overseas.
- The Department found no adverse environmental history relating to environmental matters by the proponent, Cameco Australia Pty Ltd, Cameco Corporation or associated directors.
- In addition, I have imposed conditions that requires Cameco Australia to submit an annual compliance report and ensure independent audits of compliance are conducted every year.

s22

---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Thursday, 11 April 2019 8:29 AM  
**To:** Gregory Manning  
**Cc:** s22 ; James Tregurtha; s22  
**Subject:** FW: Ministerial brief -Final Decision [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** Ministerial brief -Final Decision.docx

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Good Morning s22 ,

Talking points as discussed.

Cheers, s22

s22

**Acting Adviser | Office of the Hon Melissa Price MP  
Minister for the Environment**

**a:** Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600

**t:** (02) s22 | **m:** s22 | **e:** s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)

## MINISTERIAL BRIEF - Yeelirrie Uranium Project

### Talking points

- I have approved the Yeelirrie uranium project, subject to 32 strict conditions to avoid and mitigate potential environmental impacts.
- My approval follows a rigorous and comprehensive assessment process that included departmental officials visiting the Yeelirrie site.
- I made the proposed decision to approve this project with conditions on March 5. A consultation period was then undertaken, in accordance with the EPBV Act, where the proponent and relevant Ministers were invited to comment on the decision and conditions.
- Because it is a uranium mine, this project is a nuclear action, which triggers a whole of environment assessment under the EPBC Act.
- Most assessments under the EPBC Act consider impacts on matters of national significance, such as threatened species, but nuclear actions require a ~~much more detailed~~ broader assessment that considers all environmental impacts.
- This project received Western Australian State Government approval in January 2017.
- The conditions that I have imposed align with the Western Australian approval conditions where possible, and additional conditions have been included to further protect matters under national environmental law.
- Those conditions include:
  - Protections for the endangered *Atriplex yeelirrie*. Cameco must avoid any impacts on the Eastern Atriplex Yeelirrie population, and to undertake a detailed study on the Western Atriplex population to demonstrate that a viable population can be established outside the development envelope;
  - A requirement that Cameco develop and implement a comprehensive groundwater management program that will adaptively manage impacts on subterranean fauna species. The groundwater management plan must be reviewed by scientific experts and submitted for Ministerial approval. It is required to be reviewed every three years;
  - Cameco Australia must submit evidence the project will not lead to the extinction of subterranean fauna species isolated to an area to the north-west of the development, which must be approved by the Minister for the Environment;
  - To ensure the project does not lead to adverse impacts on the Night Parrot, Cameco must engage a suitably qualified expert to undertake a Night parrot survey before the project commences. If evidence of the Night Parrot is recorded during the survey, a management plan must be submitted for Ministerial approval.
- In addition, I have imposed conditions that requires Cameco Australia to submit an annual compliance report and ensure independent audits of compliance are conducted every year
- The government supports sustainable development subject to strict environmental protections.

## **Background**

- The action includes the mining and processing of uranium ore, sourcing and use of water and electricity, upgrades to roads, workforce accommodation facilities and transport of uranium oxide concentrate by road from the mine to Kalgoorlie.
- The operators then intend to export by way of road transport to Adelaide.
- The West Australian EPA has assessed the above proposal and has not required further conditions on the transport aspects.
- It was assessed under an accredited assessment with the Western Australian Environmental Protection Authority (WA EPA).
  - The WA EPA released an assessment report in August 2016 and recommended the proposal not be approved due to impacts on subterranean fauna.
- The former Western Australian Environment Minister approved the project on 20 January 2017 on social and economic grounds.
- The Environmental Defenders Office (on behalf of the Conservation Council of Western Australia and Tjiwarl Native Title group) challenged the state approval decision in the Western Australian Supreme Court. On 8 February 2018 the Court dismissed this challenge.
- The Conservation Council of Western Australia and Tjiwarl Native Title group lodged an appeal against the WA Supreme Court's decision. That decision has yet to be heard.
- A maximum of 7,500 tonnes per annum of uranium oxide concentrate will be produced. The expected life of the mine is 15 years.
- Cameco Australia went into care and maintenance on 20 December 2017. This is consistent with Cameco's decision to temporarily close the McArthur and Key Lake uranium operations overseas due to a prolonged weakness in the uranium market.

## **Timeline:**

- **21 May 2009** – BHP Billiton Yeelirrie Development Company Pty Ltd (BHP Billiton) referred the proposed action to the Department.
- **19 June 2009** - proposed action was determined by a delegate to be a controlled action due to likely significant impacts on listed threatened species and communities (ss 18 and 18A), listed migratory species (ss 20 and 20A), and, as the action is a nuclear action, the environment (ss 21 and 22A). An assessment approach decision was not made at that time.
- **2 January 2013** – Cameco Australia Pty Ltd and BHP Billiton notified the Department of a change to the person proposing to take the action. On 21 January 2013, a delegate published the change of proponent notice.

- **12 November 2014** - original proposal referred to the WA EPA (assessment 1788) was terminated by the proponent and a new referral was submitted (assessment 2032) and assessed by the WA EPA through a public environmental review (PER) under the EP Act.
- **17 November 2014** - proponent submitted a variation request to the Department to increase the annual rate of mining and production of uranium ore concentrate. On 5 December 2014, a delegate decided to accept the varied proposal.
- New WA bilateral agreement made in 2015, as a result the proposed action was no longer able to be assessed under a bilateral agreement, and required an assessment approach decision under section 87 of the EPBC Act.
- **12 March 2015** - a delegate decided that the proposed action would be assessed by an accredited assessment process, being PER under the EP Act. A correction notice was issued on 17 March 2015.
- **21 September 2015** – the public comment period on the PER commenced for a period of 12 weeks, ending on 14 December 2015.
- **3 August 2016** – the WA EPA released an assessment report and recommendations.
- **2 September 2016** – a delegate requested further information from the proponent under section 132 of the EPBC Act.
- **2 September 2016** – a delegate extended the statutory timeframe for making a decision on whether or not to approve the proposed action by 40 days. The statutory timeframe for a final decision was 3 April 2017.
- **2 September 2016** – the Department requested further information from the WA EPA.
- **December 2016** – the WA Appeals Convenor upheld the WA EPA’s decision and recommended that the appeals be dismissed.
- **14 December 2016** – the WA Minister allowed the appeals in part, in respect of flora and vegetation and the public availability of plans and dismissed the other grounds of appeal.
- **16 January 2017** - WA Minister approved the proposed action, subject to conditions, by issuing Ministerial Statement 1053 under section 45 of the EP Act.
- **20 June 2017** – the WA Minister for Mines and Petroleum announced a ban on future uranium mining in WA. The ban does not apply to the four already State approved uranium projects (including the proposed action), namely, Toro Energy’s Wiluna Project, Vimy Resources’ Mulga Rock project, and Cameco’s Kintyre and Yeelirrie projects.
- **4 July 2017** - the Environmental Defenders Office commenced proceedings in the Supreme Court of WA for a judicial review of the decision made by the former WA Environment Minister.
- **8 March 2018** - the Conservation Council of WA lodged an appeal against the WA Supreme Court’s decision. That decision was heard on 5 March 2019. A decision will be made at a later date.

- **5 March 2019** – the Minister made the proposed decision to approve the project with conditions and invited the proponent and relevant Ministers to comment on the proposed decision and conditions
- **April 5 2019** – Brief referred to Minister for the Environment

### **Economic benefits**

- The mine is expected to generate between \$77 million and \$145 million a year of economic activity with a further \$226 million to \$424 million in economic activity for Western Australia.
- It is anticipated the project will employ between 739 – 1,338 people over the 2.5 years of construction, and generate between
- This is an area of critically low employment
- Minister is required to take into account social and economic impacts

### **Key Issues/sensitivities:**

- Uranium Mine
  - West Australian Government has banned Uranium mining other than for four existing mines of which this is considered one
- Tjiwara Native Title
  - Indigenous groups strongly opposed to the mine.
  - Through the Environmental Defender's Office, and with the Australian Conservation Foundation, they have challenged the WA State approval in the Supreme court (unsuccessfully) and run an Appeal through the Supreme Court
- Appeal
  - The Supreme Court is considering its judgement in relation to the appeal of an earlier Supreme Court decision that found in favour of the WA Government
  - This does not preclude the Minister
- Environmental management
  - The proposal intersects the Priority 1 priority ecological community (PEC) no 49 which is considered to have unique assemblages of invertebrates in the groundwater calcretes
  - Stygofauna are minute subterranean fauna that live in water
  - Troglifauna are minute subterranean fauna that live in dry formations
  - Twelve minute, subterranean fauna species have not been identified in any other area and therefore may risk extinction
  - It may well be that they exist in other areas but they have not been detected despite attempts to find them
  - Atriplex Yeelirrie is a plant species now listed under the EPBC Act but which was not listed at the time of the referral decision. Therefore the project needs to be



considered in the light of it not being listed. Because the project is assessed for its impacts on the whole environment *Atriplex yeelirrie* is subject to protection.

- Of the two populations on the site, one must be undisturbed and the company needs to demonstrate a further viable population can be established to off-set impacts to the other.

***If asked about the social and economic benefits of the project:***

- As a result of this approval the project will deliver significant economic benefits in Western Australia and in particular to the Northern Goldfields region.
- The mine is expected to generate between \$77 million and \$145 million a year of economic activity with a further \$226 million to \$424 million in economic activity for Western Australia.
- It is anticipated the project will employ between 739 – 1,338 people over the 2.5 years of construction, and generate between 230 and 410 jobs during the fifteen years of mining.
- Through delivery of this project, Cameco Australia will be assisting and supporting Aboriginal people in the area by improving education opportunities, sporting pathways, health, and employment prospects.
- It is also likely to have flow-on social and economic benefits through increased use of roads and rail networks between Perth, Esperance, Kalgoorlie and Geraldton, right through to the Port of Adelaide.

***If asked about the plant species *Atriplex yeelirrie****

- Departmental officers undertook a site visit in November 2017 to gather information on the likelihood of mitigating impacts on the environment, including *Atriplex yeelirrie*.
- To manage impacts on *Atriplex yeelirrie*, I have imposed conditions that require Cameco to avoid any impacts on the Eastern *Atriplex yeelirrie* population, and to provide evidence that a detailed study of the Western *Atriplex yeelirrie* population has been undertaken to ensure we understand Western *Atriplex yeelirrie*'s reproductive and ecological attributes and demonstrate that a viable population can be established outside the development envelope.
- Cameco Australia must not clear the Western *Atriplex yeelirrie* population until this evidence has been provided and approved by the Environment Minister.

***If asked about subterranean fauna species***

- The subterranean fauna species have been considered in the assessment of the whole of environment. They are not listed threatened species under national environment law.
- Departmental officers undertook a site visit in November 2017 to gather information on the likelihood of mitigating impacts on the environment, including subterranean fauna species.
- To avoid and mitigate impacts on subterranean fauna species, I have imposed a number of conditions that requires Cameco Australia to develop and implement a comprehensive

groundwater management program that will adaptively manage impacts on subterranean fauna species.

- The groundwater management program must be reviewed by a suitably qualified subterranean fauna ecologist and suitably qualified hydrogeologist and submitted for Ministerial approval. It is required to be reviewed every three years.
- In addition, I have imposed a condition that requires Cameco Australia to submit evidence that the project will not lead to the extinction of subterranean fauna species isolated to an area to the north-west of the development. Cameco Australia must not commence clearing of this area until the evidence has been approved by the Environment Minister.

***If asked about impacts on the Night parrot***

- To ensure the project does not lead to adverse impacts on the Night Parrot, I have imposed a condition that requires Cameco Australia to engage a suitably qualified expert to undertake a Night parrot survey prior to commencement of the project.
- The survey must be undertaken in accordance with the Night Parrot Recovery Team survey guidelines.
- Should a Night parrot or evidence of one be recorded during the survey, the approval holder must submit a Night parrot management plan for Ministerial approval.

***If asked about consultation with the Indigenous community***

- In accordance with the EPBC Act, I have taken into consideration the social and cultural aspects of the proposed action, including indigenous people and communities.
- I understand that Cameco Australia has been consulting with the indigenous people of the Leonora and Wiluna regions since 2013 in relation to the project.
- To avoid any impacts on Aboriginal heritage sites, I have reinforced the state approval condition that requires the preparation and implementation of an Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan.

***If asked about the appeal pending in relation to the Supreme Court challenge to this project***

- It is not appropriate that I make any statement about the appeal against the WA Supreme Court's decision, as that is a matter for WA. The appeal does not prevent me from deciding whether to approve this action under national environmental law.

***If asked about the proponent's environmental history***

- The Department has assessed the proponent's environmental history including both the parent company and its executive officers, both within Australia and overseas.
- The Department found no adverse environmental history relating to environmental matters by the proponent, Cameco Australia Pty Ltd, Cameco Corporation or associated directors.
- In addition, I have imposed conditions that requires Cameco Australia to submit an annual compliance report and ensure independent audits of compliance are conducted every year.

s22

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 17 April 2019 8:45 AM  
**To:** s22; Parliamentary  
**Cc:** Gregory Manning; s22  
**Subject:** Re: Signed brief return: MS19-000243 - Final Decision Briefing - Yeelirrie Uranium Mine, Shire of Wiluna, WA [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**Categories:** YEELIRRIE URANIUM

Thanks s22

Parliamentary - please do not post the letters. The department needs to make contact with the proponent first.

Please leave them in the box and we can post them at the appropriate time.

s22

Sent from my iPhone

On 17 Apr 2019, at 8:34 am, s22 <@environment.gov.au> wrote:

**Re: Signed brief return: MS19-000243 - Final Decision Briefing - Yeelirrie Uranium Mine, Shire of Wiluna, WA**

Dear James and s22

The Minister has considered the above brief:

Recommendation 1: Considered

Recommendation 2: Considered

Recommendation 3: Approved

Recommendation 4: Agreed

Recommendation 5: Accepted

Recommendation 6: Signed

Recommendation 7: Signed

The Minister made the following annotation:

*I confirm that I received Attachment "A" by email, which I have considered. Attachments "B" to "E" I confirm that I have opened and considered each of the documents attached to this briefing package as provided to me by USB on 5 April 2019. Further, I note the letter from Hon Matthew Canavan, Minister for Resources and Northern Australia, dated 5/4/19, which I have considered.*

The hardcopy brief will be returned to the Department in the next courier run for processing.

Parliamentary – please note that the signed documents are in the top of Box 1.

Please be aware that any signed letters attached to your submission or brief will be processed and posted by Parliamentary Services once returned to the Department. If for any reason, you do not want the letters sent out, please ensure you contact Parliamentary Services **immediately** to make alternative arrangements.

Kind regards

s22

**Departmental Liaison Officer | Office of the Hon Melissa Price MP  
Minister for the Environment**

Ph: 02 s22 | Mob: s22

E-mail s22 <@environment.gov.au> or <dloPrice@environment.gov.au>

s22

# s22




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**From:** Gregory Manning  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 17 April 2019 4:47 PM  
**To:** s22 <[redacted]@environment.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Finn Pratt <[redacted]@environment.gov.au>; Dean Knudson <[redacted]@environment.gov.au>; James Tregurtha <[redacted]@environment.gov.au>; James Barker <[redacted]@environment.gov.au>; Margaret Tregurtha <[redacted]@environment.gov.au>; s22 <[redacted]>  
 [redacted]  
 [redacted]  
 [redacted]  
 [redacted]

**Subject:** Yeelirrie and s22 [redacted] Talking Points [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s22

I understand you are awaiting some talking points in relation to Yeelirrie and s22 [redacted]. See below and let me know if you would like anything else.

Regards

Greg.

# s22

Yeelirrie (in relation to timeframes for publication of the decision)

- *I have been advised that my Department will publish the decision notice in accordance with normal practice and the requirements of the EPBC Act and regulations.*

s22

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 17 April 2019 10:10 PM  
**To:** Gregory Manning; James Tregurtha  
**Cc:** Dean Knudson; James Chisholm  
**Subject:** RE: FOR REVIEW: Transport of UOC - Yeelirrie Uranium Project, WA [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Greg,

Are you able to simplify? Who regulates transport? Why did we assess at all?

Could you confirm that our assessment covered all transport within WA, or only to Kalgoorlie?

Thanks, s22

---

**From:** Gregory Manning  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 17 April 2019 9:04 PM  
**To:** s22 ; James Tregurtha  
**Cc:** Dean Knudson ; James Chisholm  
**Subject:** Fwd: FOR REVIEW: Transport of UOC - Yeelirrie Uranium Project, WA [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s22

As requested, below is a summary based upon the assessment of the transport of uranium oxide concentrate for the Yeelirrie uranium project that my staff have put together for me this evening. I have not had a chance to go over it with them and would like to note that until I have a chance to do so it should not be taken as definitive. I also don't think it answers all of your questions, at least not fully. I will follow up on this as early as possible tomorrow.

Greg.

- In Western Australia the current regulatory framework for the management of radioactive substances is the Radiation Safety Act (RSA) 1975 with three subsidiary regulations; Radiation Safety (General) Regulations 1983, Radiation Safety (Qualifications) Regulations 1980, and Radiation Safety (Transport of Radioactive Substances) Regulations 2002. The Radiological Council is an independent statutory authority appointed under the RSA to assist the Minister for Health to protect public health and to maintain safe practices in the use of radiation.
- The action is to mine up to 7,500 tonnes of uranium oxide concentrate (UOC) per year over 22 years, to be transported by road for export through the Port of Adelaide (section 8 of the Legal Considerations).
- Potential impacts to human health via an increase in exposure to radiation along the transport route was identified as a key environmental factor in the WA EPA's assessment (section 36 and sections 100 – 107 of the Legal Considerations).

- Radiation doses from radionuclides that may be inhaled or ingested were assessed via air quality modelling and calculation of ingestion and addressed in the Public Environment Review (section 9.6 of the PER).
- The Radiological Council advised that the transport assessment (undertaken by Cameco Australia) and the outcomes are acceptable and that the transport of UOC would be regulated under the *Radiation Safety Act 1975* and its regulations, in particular the Radiation Safety (Transport of Radioactive Substances) Regulations 2002. A Transport Radiation Management Plan (known as a ‘Radiation Protection Programme’) would also be developed which would include an Emergency Response Assistance Plan (page 47 of WA Assessment Report).
- The WA EPA concluded that radiation exposure to members of the public (including along the transport route) would be well within regulatory dose limits and radiation could be adequately regulated. The EPA notes that the Radiological Council would regulate the transport of UOC under the *Radiation Safety Act 1975* and its regulations, in particular the Radiation Safety (Transport of Radioactive Substances) Regulations 2002 (page 47 of the WA Assessment Report).
- Based on the Radiological Council assessment and the conclusions of the WA EPA, there was no need for further assessment by the Department (sections 100 – 107 of the Legal Considerations).

s22

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Friday, 26 April 2019 4:32 PM  
**To:** s22  
**Cc:** Gregory Manning; s22; Parliamentary; Caretaker; DLOTaylor  
**Subject:** FW: Yeelirrie [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**Categories:** CC

Hi s22

I see that MB19-000355 still has a draft status in PDMS. When do you expect it will be provided to Parliamentary to be cleared by the Caretaker team and forwarded up to the Office?

s22

Departmental Liaison Officer | Office of the Hon Melissa Price MP Minister for the Environment  
Ph: 02s22 | Mob:s22  
E-mail: s22@environment.gov.au or dloPrice@environment.gov.au

-----Original Message-----

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Friday, 26 April 2019 3:05 PM  
**To:** s22@environment.gov.au  
**Cc:** s22@environment.gov.au; DLO Price <DLOPrice@environment.gov.au>; Caretaker <Caretaker@environment.gov.au>; Parliamentary <Parliamentary.clearanceofficer@environment.gov.au>; s22@environment.gov.au; Gregory Manning <s22@environment.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: Yeelirrie [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s22

As discussed on the phone, I'll assign MB19-000355 to you in PDMS shortly. Please keep us updated about the ETA for the briefing as both the Caretaker and Parliamentary teams will need to clear it before it is returned to the Office by 5pm.

Kind regards,

s22

Departmental Liaison Officer | Office of the Hon Melissa Price MP Minister for the Environment  
Ph: 02 s22 Mob: s22  
E-mail: s22@environment.gov.au or dloPrice@environment.gov.au

-----Original Message-----

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Friday, 26 April 2019 2:59 PM  
**To:** s22@environment.gov.au  
**Cc:** DLO Price <DLOPrice@environment.gov.au>; s22@environment.gov.au; Gregory Manning <s22@environment.gov.au>; James Tregurtha <s22@environment.gov.au>



Subject: Yeelirrie

Hi s22

I have a couple questions about the Yeelirrie assessment that I'm hoping you can help with. I understand that you'll probably need to come back through the caretaker team.

1. Are you able to confirm that Aboriginal Heritage matters were considered during the assessment by the WA EPA (resulting in condition around Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan)?
2. Are there any nationally listed Aboriginal sites anywhere in the area or are Indigenous matters for his referral state based?
3. You may not be able to respond to this one but generally assuming Indigenous interactions with developments ordinarily matter for proponent and state?

Any chance of a response on these qs before 5pm?

Happy to discuss of course.

Cheers, s22

Sent from my iPhone

PDR: MB19-000355

**FACT BRIEF - YEELIRRIE ABORIGINAL HERITAGE MATTERS**

Minister for the Environment

**REQUEST**

1. Are you able to confirm that Aboriginal Heritage matters were considered during the assessment by the WA EPA (resulting in condition around Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan)?
2. Are there any nationally listed Aboriginal sites anywhere in the area or are Indigenous matters for his referral state based?
3. You may not be able to respond to this one but generally assuming Indigenous interactions with developments ordinarily matter for proponent and state?

**Brief requested by:** s22**Date requested:** 26/04/2019**Date due:** 26/04/2019**Purpose:** <purpose of the brief to be inserted by DLO or PSS>**RESPONSE****Key Points**

1. Are you able to confirm that Aboriginal Heritage matters were considered during the assessment by the WA EPA (resulting in condition around Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan)?
  - The Assessment Report was prepared by the Western Australian Environmental Protection Authority (WA EPA) under an accredited assessment process.
  - The Assessment Report did consider impacts to Aboriginal Heritage matters. The WA EPA concluded that if the proposed action is approved, impacts on heritage could be managed by attaching a condition requiring the preparation and implementation of an Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan to minimise impacts as far as practicable to Aboriginal Heritage (WA approval condition 14).
2. Are there any nationally listed Aboriginal sites anywhere in the area or are Indigenous matters for this referral state based?
  - There are no nationally-listed Aboriginal heritage sites within the project area. However, impacts to Indigenous heritage, including sites registered and unregistered under State legislation, were considered as part of the assessment of impacts to the 'environment' under the EPBC Act as the action is a nuclear action under sections 21 and 22A of the EPBC Act.

3. You may not be able to respond to this one but generally assuming Indigenous interactions with developments ordinarily matter for proponent and state?

- It is responsibility of proponents to manage engagement with Traditional Owners in relation to a proposed development.

<b>Contact officer:</b>	s22 [redacted], Director, Major Projects West Ph. 02 s22 [redacted]	<b>Clearance officer:</b>	s22 [redacted], A/g Assistant Secretary Assessment (WA, SA, NT) and Post Approvals Ph 02 s22 [redacted]
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s22

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**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 25 September 2018 5:20 PM  
**To:** 'Simon Williamson'  
**Subject:** RE: Yeelirrie [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**Categories:** SPIRE SAVED

Hi Simon

I have not yet been briefed on any outcomes from the meeting. I will follow-up tomorrow morning and get back to you.

Regards s22

---

**From:** Simon Williamson [mailto:Simon\_Williamson@cameco.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 25 September 2018 12:46 PM  
**To:** s22  
**Subject:** RE: Yeelirrie [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi s22 How did it go?

Regards  
Simon

---

**From:** s22 @environment.gov.au]  
**Sent:** September 20, 2018 9:46 AM  
**To:** Simon Williamson <Simon\_Williamson@cameco.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Yeelirrie [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Simon

Finalising the Yeelirrie proposal is a priority of the Department's, so consequently the executive have been working hard to find a time to speak with Minister Price but due to other matters she has been unavailable. However, I have been informed that a meeting with the Ministers office has been scheduled for Monday – I hope to be able to provide you with some new information following this discussion.

Regards s22

---

**From:** Simon Williamson [mailto:Simon\_Williamson@cameco.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 19 September 2018 10:44 AM  
**To:** s22 @environment.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Yeelirrie

Hi s22 just wondering whether the Department has had a chance to brief the Minister on Yeelirrie yet?

Regards  
Simon

**Simon Williamson**  
General Manager

## ***Cameco has moved***

***Please note our new address details below***

Cameco Australia  
Lvl 3 1060 Hay St  
West Perth WA 6005

Postal address  
PO Box 1395  
West Perth 6872

Australia  
Tel: +61 (08) 9480 0675  
Mob: s11C(1)(a) [REDACTED]  
Email: [Simon\\_Williamson@Cameco.com](mailto:Simon_Williamson@Cameco.com)  
Web: [www.camecoaustralia.com](http://www.camecoaustralia.com)

---

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s22

---

**From:** Simon Williamson <Simon\_Williamson@cameco.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 17 October 2018 3:46 PM  
**To:** Gregory Manning; s22  
**Subject:** FW: Yeelirrie [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**Categories:** SPIRE SAVED

Hi Greg and s22 could I please get an update by cob tomorrow as I have a meeting early Friday where I would like to be able to report.

Thanks  
Simon

---

**From:** Simon Williamson  
**Sent:** October 15, 2018 9:24 AM  
**To:** 'Gregory Manning'  
**Subject:** RE: Yeelirrie [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks Greg,

I understand your Dept may have met with/be meeting with the Minister last Friday or today.

If possible could I have an update following your meeting as I have a planning/strategy review later this week and it would be good to have an update to consider as part of that process.

Thanks and regards  
Simon

---

**From:** Gregory Manning [<mailto:s22@environment.gov.au>]  
**Sent:** October 12, 2018 10:28 AM  
**To:** Simon Williamson <[Simon\\_Williamson@cameco.com](mailto:Simon_Williamson@cameco.com)>  
**Cc:** s22 <[s22@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)>; s22 <[s22@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Yeelirrie [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hello Simon

And apologies for the delay in getting back to you. I have been on leave and then out of the office in Perth for a number of days. I understand that since contacting me you may have spoken with the Minister's office and s22 or s22 . In any case we are continuing to progress including having now had the opportunity to provide more detailed advice to office.

I will follow-up with s22 and s22 with a view to giving you our best guess on timeframes from here.

Regards

Greg.

---

**From:** Simon Williamson [[mailto:Simon\\_Williamson@cameco.com](mailto:Simon_Williamson@cameco.com)]  
**Sent:** Friday, 5 October 2018 11:26 AM  
**To:** Gregory Manning <[s22@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Yeelirrie

Morning Greg, can you give me an update on the status of the Yeelirire approval.

I understand you meet with the Ministers office on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> Sept, but that it was only a high level briefing.

Are there plans for more meetings? When might we expect to receive draft conditions?

When might we expect any reasonable progress on this matter?

**Simon Williamson**  
General Manager

### ***Cameco has moved***

***Please note our new address details below***

Cameco Australia  
Lvl 3 1060 Hay St  
West Perth WA 6005

Postal address  
PO Box 1395  
West Perth 6872

Australia  
Tel: +61 (08) 9480 0675  
Mob: +61 (0)8 9480 0675  
Email: [Simon\\_Williamson@Cameco.com](mailto:Simon_Williamson@Cameco.com)  
Web: [www.camecoaustralia.com](http://www.camecoaustralia.com)

---

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s22

**From:** Gregory Manning  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 30 October 2018 3:52 PM  
**To:** 'Simon Williamson'; s22  
**Cc:** s22 James Tregurtha  
**Subject:** RE: Federal approval [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hello Simon

Just following on from our discussion on this yesterday to confirm that despite what was reported in the media there is no change in what the Department has previously and most recently advised Cameco regarding proceeding to finalise a proposed decision as soon as possible.

Please let me know if you need anything else.

Regards

Greg.

Greg Manning

Assistant Secretary, Assessments (WA, SA and NT) and Post Approvals

Department of the Environment and Energy

51 Allara Street, CANBERRA CITY ACT 2600

T 02 s22 M s22 s22 [environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)

---

**From:** Simon Williamson [mailto:Simon\_Williamson@cameco.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, 29 October 2018 3:25 PM  
**To:** s22 @environment.gov.au; Gregory Manning  
<s22@environment.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Federal approval

Greg, could you please provide a copy of your response to the questions posed by the Kal Miner.

Thanks  
Simon

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** <[Simon\\_Williamson@cameco.com](mailto:Simon_Williamson@cameco.com)>  
**Date:** 29 October 2018 at 11:06:03 am AWST  
**To:** s22 [t@environment.gov.au](mailto:t@environment.gov.au), ss22 [environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)  
**Subject:** Federal approval

<https://thewest.com.au/business/mining/federal-nod-for-camecos-yeelirrie-uranium-mine-hinges-on-wa-court-challenge-ng-b881003720z>

Could you please advise urgently whether the Kalgoorlie Miner newspaper is correct.

Have you advised the Minister on this?



At this time Cameco has not heard from Minister Price on the approval and based on my meeting in June with the previous Minister and my call to **S22** last week, the report comes as a complete and disappointing surprise.

Please provide some clarification as soon as possible.

Thank you  
Simon Williamson

Sent from my iPhone

---

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s22

---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 7 November 2018 2:47 PM  
**To:** 'Simon Williamson'  
**Subject:** RE: Yeelirrie [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Simon

The proposed decision package has been finalised and currently going through the review process. All going well, I would expect it to be with the Minister's Office by 23 November. I will confirm this closer to the date.

Regards - s22

-----Original Message-----

From: Simon Williamson [mailto:Simon\_Williamson@cameco.com]  
Sent: Wednesday, 7 November 2018 10:32 AM  
To: s22 @environment.gov.au>  
Subject: Yeelirrie

Morning s22 could you pls provide an update on the status of the proposal. Has it gone to the Minister yet?

Thx  
Simon

Sent from my iPhone

---

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s22

---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 21 November 2018 11:52 AM  
**To:** 'Simon Williamson'  
**Subject:** RE: Yeelirrie [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Simon

I can confirm that we are on track to provide the proposed decision package to the Minister early next week. I will confirm via email when it has been provided.

Regards - s22

-----Original Message-----

From: Simon Williamson [mailto:Simon\_Williamson@cameco.com]  
Sent: Monday, 19 November 2018 1:54 PM  
To: s22 @environment.gov.au>  
Subject: Yeelirrie

Good morning s22

Could you please provide an update on your work on the Yeelirrie proposal.

Thanks  
Simon

Sent from my iPhone

---

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s22

---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Friday, 21 December 2018 10:41 PM  
**To:** 'Simon Williamson'  
**Subject:** RE: Yeelirrie [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Simon

I am emailing to confirm that the proposed decision briefing package has been provided to the Minister. We will keep you informed of its progress.

Have a great Christmas; I will be in touch again in the New Year.

Regards s22

-----Original Message-----

From: Simon Williamson [mailto:Simon\_Williamson@cameco.com]  
Sent: Monday, 17 December 2018 3:31 PM  
To: s22 @environment.gov.au>  
Subject: FW: Yeelirrie

Hi s22 , in case Greg is away this week, could I get an update please.

Thanks  
Simon

-----Original Message-----

From: Simon Williamson  
Sent: December 17, 2018 6:14 AM  
To: s22 environment.gov.au  
Subject: Yeelirrie

Morning Greg, could you give me an update please.

Thanks  
Simon

Sent from my iPhone

---

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s22

**From:** Simon Williamson <Simon\_Williamson@cameco.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, 8 February 2019 11:25 AM  
**To:** Dean Knudson  
**Cc:** James Tregurtha; s22 ; Finn Pratt  
**Subject:** RE: Yeelirrie Uranium Project [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi Dean, in your email below you advised that the Department would be providing the Minister with a briefing on the proposed decision in late January. I understand that this has not taken place yet.

Can you advise whether a briefing has been scheduled. If not can you advise the protocol for arranging such a briefing. It is up to the Minister to request the briefing or to the Department to propose. If the latter, can you advise when you might be contacting the Ministers office about providing a briefing.

I am becoming increasingly concerned that we will not see a final decision on this project prior to an election. If the speculation around the timing of calling an election, following the handing down of the budget on 2nd April, is correct there is very little time for the Department and the Minister to finalise a decision. Counting back from the 2<sup>nd</sup> April, and considering the administrative requirement of providing 10 business days to other Ministers to provide comments on the proposed decision, we are rapidly running out of time. I reckon you have about a week to engage the Minister and commence consultation with other Ministers and Cameco.

I will be in Canberra next week and I would appreciate the opportunity to speak to you in relation to the process and timetable. I am available to meet on Tuesday afternoon and anytime Wednesday and Thursday. Could you please contact me to arrange a time to meet.

Regards  
Simon

**Simon Williamson**  
General Manager  
**Cameco Australia**  
Lvl 3 1060 Hay St  
West Perth WA 6005

Postal address  
PO Box 1395  
West Perth 6872

Australia  
Tel: +61 (08) 9480 0675  
Mob: +s11C(1)(a)  
Email: [Simon\\_Williamson@Cameco.com](mailto:Simon_Williamson@Cameco.com)  
Web: [www.camecoaustralia.com](http://www.camecoaustralia.com)

---

**From:** Dean Knudson [mailto:Dean.Knudson@environment.gov.au]  
**Sent:** December 21, 2018 7:49 AM  
**To:** Simon Williamson ; Finn Pratt  
**Cc:** s22 ; James Tregurtha  
**Subject:** RE: Yeelirrie Uranium Project [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hello Simon,

Thank you for your email below regarding status with the Yeelirrie project assessment under the EPBC Act.

Firstly, I want to acknowledge your frustrations about the progress of the Department's assessment of the proposed Yeelirrie uranium mine and the timing of a proposed decision.

As you would appreciate, this is an extremely complex assessment, and the Department has been focussed on ensuring a comprehensive assessment of the proposed impacts on matters of national environmental significance is carried out. Given the sensitivities and strong community interest in the proposal, the Department has also been working to ensure any decision made under the EPBC Act is legally robust.

I can now confirm that the proposed decision briefing package is finalised and has been submitted to the Minister. The Minister's Office has requested a verbal briefing for the Minister on the proposed decision which will take place following the Minister's return in late January.

Following consideration of the package, the Minister will provide you with the opportunity to comment on the proposed decision on whether or not to approve the action and any conditions before making a final decision. The Department will continue to keep you informed of any developments during this time.

Thank you again for contacting me in relation to this matter.

Regards,

Dean Knudson  
Deputy Secretary  
Environment Protection Group

---

**Department of the Environment and Energy**  
John Gorton Building, King Edward Terrace, Parkes Canberra ACT 2600  
Phone: s22 [redacted]  
Email: s22 [redacted]@environment.gov.au  
**Think before printing**

---

**From:** Dean Knudson  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 18 December 2018 2:49 PM  
**To:** 'Simon Williamson' <Simon\_Williamson@cameco.com>; Finn Pratt <s22 [redacted]@environment.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22 [redacted]@environment.gov.au; James Tregurtha <s22 [redacted]@environment.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Yeelirrie Uranium Project [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Thank you for your email, Simon.

I will follow up on the status of this project and come back to you this week.

---

**From:** Simon Williamson [[mailto:Simon\\_Williamson@cameco.com](mailto:Simon_Williamson@cameco.com)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 18 December 2018 1:04 PM  
**To:** Dean Knudson <s22 [redacted]@environment.gov.au>; Finn Pratt <s22 [redacted]@environment.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22 [redacted]@environment.gov.au  
**Subject:** Yeelirrie Uranium Project

Dear Mr Pratt and Mr Knudson, I am writing to express my extreme frustration and anger at your Departments handling of the environmental assessment of the Yeelirrie Uranium Project.

The Project was approved by the Western Australian Minister for the Environment in January 2017 and has been with your Department for assessment since.

During 2017 we worked with your Department to provide them information on two environmental aspects to assist in their assessment. This culminated in a site visit in November 2017 and it was our expectation that an approval decision would follow sometime soon after this event.

In April 2018, your Department advised Cameco by email that it intended to delay the Commonwealth Minister's approval of the Project, because the State approval was the subject of a decision of the WA Supreme Court of Appeal. (This advice was in direct contrast to an answer given by your Department to a question asked by Senator Siewert (*Question on notice no. 49, 2017-18 Supplementary budget estimates, Environment and Communications Committee, Environment and Energy Portfolio*) that *"the court case is not expected or likely to affect the EPBC Act assessment regardless of whether the state approval is upheld or overturned. Similarly the Commonwealth's decision making does not rely on state approval or conditions"*).

In May 2018 Cameco wrote to your Department setting out why the delay was not supported or even permitted by the EPBC Act and requested that the Department reconsiders its approach of further delays to the Commonwealth Minister's approval decision.

In June 2018, I met with the Minister for the Environment and Energy and a representative of your Department to express my concern at the delays and the Minister directed the Department to get on with it. At a subsequent meeting with the Department I was advised you would need a further 6 to 8 weeks to complete the assessment advice.

We are still waiting.

Every week for the last two months I have contacted your Department and have been advised that the assessment will be completed next week, that it requires further legal input and will be available next week. That it needs senior Departmental officer sign off and will be finalised next week. That it is being given the highest priority above other work. But still no progress!

I can only begin to wonder whether the Department is totally incompetent or whether there is some other underlying agenda to the ongoing delays.

Could you please advise when your Department intends to complete the assessment.

**Simon Williamson**  
General Manager

Cameco Australia  
Lvl 3 1060 Hay St  
West Perth WA 6005

Postal address  
PO Box 1395  
West Perth 6872

Australia  
Tel: +61 (08) 9480 0675  
Mob: +61 (0)8 9480 0675  
Email: [Simon\\_Williamson@Cameco.com](mailto:Simon_Williamson@Cameco.com)  
Web: [www.camecoaustralia.com](http://www.camecoaustralia.com)

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s22

---

**From:** James Tregurtha  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 February 2019 5:53 PM  
**To:** 'Simon Williamson'  
**Cc:** s22  
**Subject:** RE: Yeelirrie [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Simon,

Thanks for your email. As discussed with you previously the Department has provided its proposed decision briefing pack to the Minister. Given the stage the process is at I think it would be more appropriate for any further enquiries in relation to the progress of the briefing and the Minister's consideration of this matter to be directed to the Minister's Office.

Of course as you are aware, as soon as a proposed decision is made the Department will immediately advise you of this in order to commence the consideration period required under the EPBC Act.

Kind regards  
James

**James Tregurtha**  
First Assistant Secretary - Environment Standards Division  
**Department of the Environment and Energy**  
Tel: s22 | Mob: s22

---

The Department acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures and to their elders both past and present.

---

**From:** Simon Williamson [mailto:Simon\_Williamson@cameco.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 February 2019 2:23 PM  
**To:** James Tregurtha  
**Subject:** Yeelirrie

Good afternoon James, just wanting to confirm that the planned Ministerial briefing on Yeelirrie is going ahead today.

Could you advise.

Thanks  
Simon

**Simon Williamson**  
General Manager

***Cameco has moved***  
*Please note our new address details below*

Cameco Australia  
Lvl 3 1060 Hay St  
West Perth WA 6005

Postal address  
PO Box 1395  
West Perth 6872

Australia  
Tel: +61 (08) 9480 0675  
Mob: s11C(1)(a)  
Email: [Simon\\_Williamson@Cameco.com](mailto:Simon_Williamson@Cameco.com)  
Web: [www.camecoaustralia.com](http://www.camecoaustralia.com)

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s22

---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 6 March 2019 6:36 PM  
**To:** 'Simon Williamson'  
**Cc:** s22  
**Subject:** EPBC 2009/4906 Yeelirrie Uranium Mine, WA - Invitation to Comment [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Attachments:** Signed letter to Mr Williamson.pdf  
**Categories:** SPIRE SAVED

Hello Simon

I am writing to you in relation to the proposed Yeelirrie uranium mine referred and assessed under the EPBC Act. In accordance with the requirements of the EPBC Act, the Minister invites you to provide comments on the proposed decision of approval, including the conditions which the Minister proposes to attach, within 10 days of the date of the letter (attached). Please forward any response to the following:

Major Projects West Section  
Assessment (WA, SA, NT) & Post Approvals Branch  
Department of the Environment and Energy  
GPO Box 787  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Or email [Assessments.West@environment.gov.au](mailto:Assessments.West@environment.gov.au)

If you have any questions about the process, please contact me via email or phone s22 .

Regards

s22

Major Projects West Section | Assessment (WA, SA, NT) & Post Approvals Branch  
Environment Standards Division | Department of the Environment and Energy  
GPO Box 787 Canberra ACT 2601  
Tel: s22

s22

---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 6 March 2019 7:06 PM  
**To:** 'Simon Williamson'  
**Cc:** s22  
**Subject:** RE: EPBC 2009/4906 Yeelirrie Uranium Mine, WA - Invitation to Comment [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Attachments:** Proposed Approval Decision.pdf  
**Categories:** SPIRE SAVED

My apologies Simon. The proposed approval decision is now attached.

Regards -s22

---

**From:** Simon Williamson [mailto:Simon\_Williamson@cameco.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 6 March 2019 7:01 PM  
**To:** s22  
**Cc:** s22  
**Subject:** RE: EPBC 2009/4906 Yeelirrie Uranium Mine, WA - Invitation to Comment [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi s22 thanks for your email. Only the letter was attached. Could you please forward the draft conditions at your earliest convenience.

Regards

Simon

s22, duplicate Document 62

s22

s22

---

**From:** Simon Williamson <Simon\_Williamson@cameco.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, 16 March 2019 2:49 PM  
**To:** s22  
**Subject:** Yeelirrie Uranium Project - response to proposed approval conditions  
**Attachments:** Letter to Dept\_response to proposed approval conditions\_16Mar19.pdf

**Categories:** SPIRE SAVED

H s22 please find attached our response to the draft approval conditions.

Regards  
Simon

**Simon Williamson**  
General Manager

**Cameco Australia**  
Lvl 3 1060 Hay St  
West Perth WA 6005

Postal address  
PO Box 1395  
West Perth 6872

Australia  
Tel: +61 (08) 9480 0675  
Mob: s11C(1)(a)  
Email: [Simon\\_Williamson@Cameco.com](mailto:Simon_Williamson@Cameco.com)  
Web: [www.camecoaustralia.com](http://www.camecoaustralia.com)

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s22

---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 March 2019 12:05 PM  
**To:** 'Simon Williamson'  
**Subject:** RE: Yeelirrie Uranium Project - response to proposed approval conditions  
[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**Categories:** SPIRE SAVED

Thanks Simon.

I will keep you informed of the outcome.

Regards

s22

Major Projects West Section | Assessment (WA, SA, NT) & Post Approvals Branch  
Environment Standards Division | Department of the Environment and Energy  
GPO Box 787 Canberra ACT 2601  
Tel: s22

s22, duplicate 64

s22

---

**From:** Gregory Manning  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 17 April 2019 4:48 PM  
**To:** James Tregurtha; Margaret Tregurtha  
**Cc:** s22 ; s22  
**Subject:** FW: Yeelirrie [SEC=OFFICIAL]

FYI.

---

**From:** Simon Williamson [mailto:Simon\_Williamson@cameco.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 17 April 2019 3:34 PM  
**To:** Gregory Manning <s22 environment.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Yeelirrie

Hi Greg, thanks for your time this morning. We appreciate the work you and your colleagues have done to finalise the approval.

We are happy for you to proceed as discussed this morning. Could you please let me know when you have uploaded the approval to your website.

Thanks and regards  
Simon

**Simon Williamson**  
General Manager

**Cameco Australia**  
Lvl 3 1060 Hay St  
West Perth WA 6005

Postal address  
PO Box 1395  
West Perth 6872

Australia  
Tel: +61 (08) 9480 0675  
Mob: s11C(1)(a)  
Email: [Simon\\_Williamson@Cameco.com](mailto:Simon_Williamson@Cameco.com)  
Web: [www.camecoaustralia.com](http://www.camecoaustralia.com)

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s22

---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 24 April 2019 2:08 PM  
**To:** 'Simon\_Williamson@cameco.com'  
**Cc:** Gregory Manning; s22 ; s22 ; s22  
**Subject:** 2009-4906 Yeelirrie Uranium Mine, WA - Final Decision [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** 2009-4906 Final Decision - Approval Notice - Signed.pdf; EPBC 2009 - 4906  
\_Decision of Approval letter April 2019.pdf

**Categories:** MUST BE SAVED TO SPIRE

Hello Simon

I am writing to you in relation to the proposal to develop the Yeelirrie open cut uranium mine, ore processing plant and associated infrastructure in the Shire of Wiluna, WA.

The Minister has considered the proposal in accordance with Part 9 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and decided to grant an approval to Cameco Australia. The details of the decision and a letter are attached. The proposal must be undertaken in accordance with the conditions specified in the approval.

If you have any questions please contact me or the project officer, s22 by email to s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au), or telephone s22

Yours sincerely

s22

s22  
Acting Assistant Secretary  
Assessments (WA, SA, NT) and Post Approvals Branch  
Department of the Environment and Energy  
t: 02 s22  
m: s22  
GPO Box 787 Canberra ACT 2601  
Email: s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)

s22

---

**From:** Simon Williamson <Simon\_Williamson@cameco.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 24 April 2019 2:26 PM  
**To:** s22  
**Subject:** Re: 2009-4906 Yeelirrie Uranium Mine, WA - Final Decision [SEC=OFFICIAL]

All received.

Thx s22

Cheers

Simon

Sent from my iPhone

> On 24 Apr 2019, at 12:24 pm, s22 @environment.gov.au> wrote:

>

> <mime-attachment.txt>

> <2009-4906 Final Decision - Approval Notice - Signed.pdf> <EPBC 2009 -

> 4906 \_Decision of Approval letter April 2019.pdf>

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s22

Simon Williamson Queries, 8/3,

Condition 10: Two populations to be managed as separate  
↳ viable pop<sup>n</sup> outside development area  
↳ Concern is deemed viable prior to commencement  
State give 20 years and allow offer a white

Condition 4: <sup>want to</sup> understand what trying to do?  
↳ baseline very appropriate  
One plan for baseline development  
and plan encapsulating all the rest including monitoring & adaptive management.

Condition 3: Better defining abandonment criteria.

Night Parrot & Mallees Eel.

s22

# s22

## Yeelirrie Uranium Mine - Phone conversation with Simon Williamson

Commonwealth

- Decision will v. likely be appealed regardless of the outcome.
- Appeals hearing at the end of January otherwise the end of May 19.
- 18 months

# S22

Simon Williamson phone call

Tuesday, 23/10/18

- boundary of the 10.5 ha trogfauna protection zone
- palaeochannel northwest of mine pit (map?)
- relocating groundwater abstraction wells to minimise groundwater impacts (where within the development area or palaeochannel ~~is this~~)  
~~do you intend to do this~~ and is there a map that illustrates this?
- groundwater <sup>level</sup> threshold criteria? is this in the PER?



# yeelirrie meeting

13/3

- Maps - Groundwater SE bores - <sup>Simon</sup> some do not currently exist
- WA approval drafting condition 4 may be achieved through 11 + 12 of EPA condition
- no timeframe in WA condition
- <sup>Simon</sup> monitoring earlier than management.  
why in 12 months if not commenced for 5+ <sup>2029</sup> years (lead) not producing for 5 years  
condition that requires 2 yrs <sup>after date of</sup> <sup>start</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>work</sup>  
everything from substantial commencement if they can't determine a commencement date then the monitoring needs 2 years.
- funding is a 5 year process.
- 24 months of monitoring before commencement  
↳ Julie we didn't define due to outcomes being set.
- <sup>8-16 conc</sup> WA conditions <sup>not</sup> drawn down, objectives, fauna
- <sup>Simon</sup> 2+3 talks about 0.5m does not say where

s22

drawdown management.

Adakuthamela

- GW 25 m with drawdown of 8 m  
(17)

- 20 m with little water in hole

Kinacora

- 10 m drawdown at 1 m

Refined from docs in appeals

condition 2-3 does not make sense

PER + EPA states curve 0.5 m

drawdown curve should be referred to

Simon  
How  
motify borefield to minimise  
+ manage at that point.

Cond. 3 spatially referenced point to map

9.17 PER

0.5 cond 3 fine if map removed

Simon  
Cond 4. how can we manage when they  
dewater B mine? ecological function

confusing monitoring to management

2 cond - baseline monitoring

- management plan

Review - monitoring why would this occur

Simon  
8 - (17) not 8 @ B EPA cond

s22

objective of groundwater Mf

Simon  
2  
manage GW to 0.5 around location to  
manage habitat.