

From: [Declan O'Connor-Cox](#)
To: [Gregory Manning](#); s47F
Subject: RE: Actions from meeting with Rio Tinto and WA today [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 3 April 2020 4:03:41 PM
Attachments: [WA Rio DAWF Outcome Note - 3 April 2020.docx](#)

Hi Greg, s47F

My notes were not 100% complete – can you have a look at these and make edits to your bits, I will collate.

Declan

From: Michelle Croker
Sent: Friday, 3 April 2020 3:17 PM
To: Declan O'Connor-Cox <Declan.O'connor-Cox@environment.gov.au>; Gregory Manning <Gregory.Manning@environment.gov.au>
Cc: Dean Knudson <Dean.Knudson@environment.gov.au>
Subject: Actions from meeting with Rio Tinto and WA today [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Declan and Greg

Thanks for your work in preparation for our meeting this afternoon with Rio and WA.

Declan is going to write up the key actions – check them with you Greg, myself, and then circulate them more broadly.

Michelle

Michelle Croker
A/g First Assistant Secretary
Environment Approvals Division

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
John Gorton Building, Parkes, Canberra ACT 2601
s47F | E: michelle.croker@awe.gov.au

Outcome note from Rio Tinto Iron Ore approvals in the Pilbara Teleconference 3/4/2020

Participants:

Dean Knudson, Michelle Croker, Greg Manning, Declan O'Connor-Cox DAWE, s47F DAWE, s47F DAWE, Mike Rowe, Anthony Sutton, s47F DWER, s47F WAEPA, s47F and Rowena Albones Rio Tinto.

Outcomes

Facilitation of more immediate projects

- Lead people from each organisation: DAWE – Declan O'Connor-Cox; Rio Tinto – s47F s47F DWER – Anthony Sutton.
- Rio Tinto to populate key dates into DAWE Client Service Charter template
- WA EPA to include DAWE in their regular catch-ups with Rio Tinto

Facilitation of longer-term projects

- DAWE to provide written answers to questions Rio has raised regarding strategic assessments
- DAWE and DWER to agree timeframes to finalise bilateral assessment agreement
- DAWE and WA to continue work exploring bilateral approvals

From: s47F
To: [Declan O'Connor-Cox](mailto:Declan.O'Connor-Cox)
Subject: RE: Actions from meeting with Rio Tinto and WA today [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Monday, 6 April 2020 10:29:00 AM

Hi Declan, just one addition from me:

- Rio Tinto to populate key dates into DAWE Client Service Charter template and to provide likely timing of upcoming referrals

From: Declan O'Connor-Cox <Declan.O'connor-Cox@environment.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 3 April 2020 4:04 PM
To: Gregory Manning <Gregory.Manning@environment.gov.au>; s47F
s47F
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From: [Gregory Manning](#)
To: [Declan O'Connor-Cox](#); s47F
Cc: [Michelle Croker](#)
Subject: RE: Actions from meeting with Rio Tinto and WA today [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 14 April 2020 12:06:31 PM
Attachments: [WA Rio DAWF Outcome Note - 3 April 2020.docx](#)

Declan

Apologies for the delay. See attached my suggested edits and incorporating that you emailed me separately.

s47F note action re organising a separate further discussion re Strategic Assessments. Was that your recollection as well? IF so I suspect we will need to take lead in organising that in discussion with Declan and s47F

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- DAWE to ~~provide written answers to questions Rio has raised~~ schedule further meeting with Rio and WA EPA regarding strategic assessments.
- DAWE and DWER to ~~continue to progress agree timeframes to finalise~~ bilateral assessment agreement update currently aiming for public consultation between May and June 2020.
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To: [Declan O'Connor-Cox](#); [Gregory Manning](#)
Cc: s47F; [Michelle Croker](#)
Subject: FW: Actions from meeting with Rio Tinto and WA today [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 14 April 2020 12:17:15 PM
Attachments: [WA Rio DAWF Outcome Note - 3 April 2020.docx](#)

Thanks Greg. Agreed on the strategic assessments separate chat and we can lead.

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From: Gregory Manning <Gregory.Manning@environment.gov.au>
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From: [Gregory Manning](#)
To: **s47F** [Declan O'Connor-Cox](#)
Cc: [Michelle Croker](#)
Subject: RE: Actions from meeting with Rio Tinto and WA today [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 14 April 2020 12:18:59 PM

That works for me thanks **s47F**

From: **s47F**
Sent: Tuesday, 14 April 2020 12:17 PM
To: Declan O'Connor-Cox <Declan.O'connor-Cox@environment.gov.au>; Gregory Manning <Gregory.Manning@environment.gov.au>
Cc: **s47F** [Michelle Croker](#) <Michelle.Croker@environment.gov.au>
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From: [Declan O'Connor-Cox](#)
To: [Michelle Croker](#)
Cc: s47F [Gregory Manning](#)
Subject: RE: Actions from meeting with Rio Tinto and WA today [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 14 April 2020 1:05:04 PM
Attachments: [WA Rio DAWA Outcome Note - 3 April 2020.docx](#)

Hi Michelle, are you able to clear the attached and I will clean up the track changes and circulate to participants? Declan

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Sent: Tuesday, 14 April 2020 12:17 PM
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Cc: s47F [Michelle Croker](#) <Michelle.Croker@environment.gov.au>
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- Lead people from each organisation: DAWE – Declan O'Connor-Cox; Rio Tinto – s47F DWER – Anthony Sutton.
- Rio Tinto to populate key dates into DAWE Client Service Charter template **and to provide likely timing of upcoming referrals**
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From: [Declan O'Connor-Cox](#)
To: [Gregory Manning](#); [Michelle Croker](#)
Cc: s47F
Subject: RE: Actions from meeting with Rio Tinto and WA today [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Wednesday, 15 April 2020 1:04:32 PM

Our recollection:

1. Rio were to add some dates into our template client service charter, but it does not harm if they prefer to add information to the project list circulated by DWER.
2. Can probably say DWER/EPA

Declan

From: Gregory Manning
Sent: Wednesday, 15 April 2020 1:02 PM
To: Michelle Croker <Michelle.Croker@environment.gov.au>; Declan O'Connor-Cox <Declan.O'connor-Cox@environment.gov.au>
Cc: s47F
s47F
Subject: RE: Actions from meeting with Rio Tinto and WA today [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi

I cant recall either whether it was to be a state template or a commonwealth one. Probably doesn't matter too much in the first instance?

Can probably say DWER / EPA. Pretty sure its just different streams of assessment supported by different DWER folk.

From: Michelle Croker <Michelle.Croker@environment.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 14 April 2020 1:45 PM
To: Declan O'Connor-Cox <Declan.O'connor-Cox@environment.gov.au>
Cc: s47F
s47F Gregory Manning
<Gregory.Manning@environment.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Actions from meeting with Rio Tinto and WA today [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thanks Declan. A couple of questions –

- Rio Tinto to populate key dates into DAWE Client Service Charter template and to provide likely timing of upcoming referrals (was it to populate our template or using the one WA provided? Or were we going to use the WA one to put into our charter and then Rio would add in dates? I can't remember)
- Regular catch-ups with Rio Tinto to be co-ordinated with and involve WA EPA. (should this be with DEWR as well?)

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Sent: Tuesday, 14 April 2020 1:05 PM

To: Michelle Croker <Michelle.Croker@environment.gov.au>

Cc: s47F

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To: Declan O'Connor-Cox <Declan.O'connor-Cox@environment.gov.au>; s47F

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To: [Declan O'Connor-Cox](mailto:Declan.O'Connor-Cox@environment.gov.au)
Subject: RE: Actions from meeting with Rio Tinto and WA today [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 14 April 2020 2:49:00 PM

Technically Yes, but I think both terms would work.

From: Declan O'Connor-Cox <Declan.O'connor-Cox@environment.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 14 April 2020 2:42 PM
To: s47F
Subject: RE: Actions from meeting with Rio Tinto and WA today [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thanks s47F – So our record should show DWER rather than EPA?
Declan

From: s47F
Sent: Tuesday, 14 April 2020 2:17 PM
To: Declan O'Connor-Cox <Declan.O'connor-Cox@environment.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Actions from meeting with Rio Tinto and WA today [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Declan – answers you may wish to use for Michele:

1. Rio were to add some dates into our template client service charter, but it does not harm if they prefer to add information to the project list circulated by DWER.
 2. DWER covers off all the relevant staff (as opposed to EPA which is technically the board of decision makers)
-

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Declan and Greg

Thanks for your work in preparation for our meeting this afternoon with Rio and WA.

Declan is going to write up the key actions – check them with you Greg, myself, and then circulate them more broadly.

Michelle

Michelle Croker
A/g First Assistant Secretary
Environment Approvals Division

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
John Gorton Building, Parkes, Canberra ACT 2601
s47F E: michelle.croker@awe.gov.au

From: [Anthony Sutton](#)
To: [Declan O'Connor-Cox](#)
Cc: [Dean Knudson](#); [Gregory Manning](#); [Michelle Croker](#); [Mike Rowe](#); s47F
Subject: Background Info for Rio Tinto Meeting
Date: Friday, 3 April 2020 1:17:45 PM
Attachments: s47(1)(b)

Declan,

As background information for today's meeting with Rio, I have attached a summary of s47(1)(b). Rio is fine with this information being circulated to meeting participants.

Happy to discuss if you need any clarification.

Regards

[Anthony Sutton](#)
Executive Director, EPA Services

[Department of Water and Environmental Regulation](#)
Prime House, 8 Davidson Terrace, JOONDALUP WA 6027
Locked Bag 10, Joondalup DC, WA 6919

s47F

www.dwer.wa.gov.au



LEX 20784
Document 9a

Rio Tinto

s47(1)(b)

Snapshot - April 2020

MEMBERS

Rowena Albones

s47F

Rio Tinto

Rio Tinto

Rio Tinto

Rio Tinto

Rio Tinto

Dpt. Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety

Dpt. Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation

Dpt. Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation

Dpt. Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation

Dpt. Water and Environmental Regulation

Dpt. Water and Environmental Regulation

Dpt. Water and Environmental Regulation

Dpt. Water and Environmental Regulation

Anthony Sutton

s47F

Dpt. Planning, Lands and Heritage

1. Business arising – forward items / action items:

- Rio Tinto to provide assessment and approvals priorities for the next 6 – 12 months by populating slides 3, 4 and 5.

2. Next meeting – TBC April.

1.

s47(1)(b)

STATUS	
On Track	On Track
At Risk	At Risk
Off Track	Off Track

s47(1)(b)	Project (e.g. Iron Ore Mine)	Project element (e.g. Mine)	Approval type (e.g. Lic)	Approval required by (e.g. April)	Comments	Project Importance
Mesa H/Mesa J Hub		Sustaining Mine Expansion	s38	April 2020	EPA Report and Recommendations complete. No Appeals	Sustaining Project for RTIO and Robe JV.
			State Agreement Proposal	April 2020	Draft State Agreement proposal submitted.	
		Existing Mine Operation (Mesa J)	Mining Proposal	June 2020	Powerline and mine access road upgrade	
			Works Approval	August 2020	Works approval for Mesa J thickener installation submitted 30/3/2020	
Mesa A Hub	Sustaining Mine Expansion	Works Approval	March 2020	New wet processing facility, waste fines storage facility and associated infrastructure. Submitted August – required asap.	Required to enable construction works	
Greater Paraburdoo Hub		Sustaining Mine Expansion	s38	March 2021	Revised ERD submitted 17 March 2020	Sustaining project for RTIO and Baowu JV.
			State Agreement Proposal	May 2021	Proposal to be submitted post Part IV	
		Existing Mine Operation	Works Approval	Jan 2021	Waste fines storage facility embankment raise – to be submitted June 2020	Required to maintain operations
			Mining Proposal	November 2020	Required for borrow material to support WFSF embankment raise. To be submitted June 2020	

1.

s47(1)(b)

STATUS

	On Track
	At Risk
	Off Track

s47(1)(b)	Project (e.g. Iron Ore Mine)	Project element (e.g. Mine)	Approval type (e.g. Lic)	Approval required by (e.g. April)	Comments	Project Importance
	WTS (part of Greater Tom Price)	Existing Mine Operation	Works Approval	April 2020	Additional dry processing plant and associated infrastructure	Required to enable construction works
			Mining Proposal	August 2020		Required to enable construction works
s47(1)(b)		Existing Mine Operation	Water	Aug 2020	Groundwater licence increase to support operations – submitted Mar 2020	Required to maintain operations
		Sustaining Mine Expansion	S38	Q2 2022		Revised ESD presented to EPA Board on 19 March 2020.
Hope Downs 4		Existing Mine Operation	s45c / GWL	Dec 2020	Revised proposal to be submitted	Required to maintain operations
		Existing Mine Operation	Works Approval	Aug 2020		Additional in-pit waste fines storage facility
Hope Downs 2		Satellite mine	S38	Q3 2021	AWT mining of HD2 and BHT deposits. Referral due April 2020. Preparing for ARI, with MNES section.	Sustaining project for RTIO and JV

1.

s47(1)(b)

STATUS

On Track
At Risk
Off Track

s47(1)(b)	Project (e.g. Iron Ore Mine)	Project element (e.g. Mine)	Approval type (e.g. Lic)	Approval required by (e.g. April)	Comments	Project Importance
s47(1)(b)	West Angelas	Sustaining Mine	s38	Q3 2022	Requires pre referral discussion	Sustaining project for RTIO and Robe JV.
		Existing Mine Operation	Mining Proposal	May 2020	Managed aquifer recharge trial, powerline tie-in	Required to maintain operations
	Koodaideri	Existing Mine Operation	s45C / NVCP (DMIRS)	Q4 2020	Approvals pathway tbc	Required to maintain/increase capacity of operations
			State Agreement Proposal	Q4 2020	Approvals pathway tbc	
Greenfield Project	Resource Development	NVCP (DMIRS)	May 2020	CEO approval to disturb priority flora. To be submitted early April 2020	Required to enable resource development activities for key future development option	
	New mine development	s38	TBA	Likely referral end 2021		

Note. This list does not include other non-urgent Part V Works Approvals, Licence Amendments to operate, Water Licences, Mining Proposals, NVCPs or any Programmes of Work.

2. s47(1)(b)

s47(1)(b)	Project (e.g. Iron Ore Mine)	Project element (e.g. Mine)	Approval type (e.g. Lic)	Approval required by (e.g April)	Comments
	West Angelas	Sustaining Mine Expansion	EMP	n/a	EMP as required by Condition 5. Second round of agency comments received 19 Mar
	West Angelas	Sustaining Mine Expansion	Groundwater EMP	May 2021	EMP to be approved prior to dewatering commencing.
	Mesa A Hub EMP	Sustaining Mine Expansion	EMP	n/a	

s47(1)(b)

3.

s47(1)(b)

s47(1)(b)	Project (e.g. Iron Ore Mine)	Project element (e.g. Mine)	Compliance Matter (e.g. Reporting)	Outcome required by (e.g April)	Comments
s47(1)(b)	Hope Downs 2	Existing Mine	s45C/s46	July 2020	s46/s45c/EMP will be simplified to request key changes only and will be re-submitted April 2020.
	Turee Syncline	Greenfields mine	s46	n/a	Recommended conditions received (EPA Report 1667). RT confirmed acceptance of proposed conditions 11 Feb 2020.
	Dampier	Port	s46	n/a	2016 and 2017 noise data provided/sought revised Reg 17 noise limits 2 May.

s47(1)(b)

From: [Declan O'Connor-Cox](#)
To: ["Anthony Sutton"](#); [Declan O'Connor-Cox](#)
Cc: [Dean Knudson](#); [Gregory Manning](#); [Michelle Croker](#); [Mike Rowe](#); s47F
Subject: RE: Background Info for Rio Tinto Meeting [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 3 April 2020 1:31:36 PM

Thanks Anthony, we will look at this in some detail now. It looks as though it will be useful context for our client service charter with Rio, at least those timeframes Rio is looking for.

Declan

Declan O'Connor-Cox
Acting Assistant Secretary
Environment Approvals Division
Department of the Environment and Energy

s47F

GPO Box 787 Canberra ACT 2601
Email: declan.oconnorcox@environment.gov.au

From: Anthony Sutton [mailto:s47F]
Sent: Friday, 3 April 2020 1:18 PM
To: Declan O'Connor-Cox
Cc: Dean Knudson ; Gregory Manning ; Michelle Croker ; Mike Rowe ; s47F
Subject: Background Info for Rio Tinto Meeting

Declan,

As background information for today's meeting with Rio, I have attached a summary of s47(1)(b) Rio is fine with this information being circulated to meeting participants.

Happy to discuss if you need any clarification.

Regards

[Anthony Sutton](#)
Executive Director, EPA Services

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
Prime House, 8 Davidson Terrace, JOONDALUP WA 6027
Locked Bag 10, Joondalup DC, WA 6919

s47F

| www.dwer.wa.gov.au

From: [Gregory Manning](#)
To: [Michelle Croker](#); [s47F](#); [Declan O'Connor-Cox](#); [Bruce Edwards](#)
Subject: Draft annotated agenda - Rio WA meeting 3 April [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 2 April 2020 4:45:37 PM
Attachments: [WA Rio DAWF Annotated Agenda - 3 April 2020.docx](#)

Hello all

As discussed yesterday please find attached a draft annotated agenda for the discussion with Rio and WA tomorrow. Thankyou for your contributions which I have endeavored to incorporate. Welcome your comments or amendments.

Thanks

Greg.

Rio Tinto Iron Ore approvals in the Pilbara

Date: 3 April 2020
Time: 2:30pm AEST (11:30am WA)
Location: Teleconference
Participants: Dean Knudson, Michelle Croker, Greg Manning,
Declan O'Connor-Cox DAWE, s47F [REDACTED] DAWE, s47F
[REDACTED] DAWE, Mike Rowe DWER, s47F [REDACTED] WAEPA, s47F
[REDACTED] Rio Tinto, s47F
[REDACTED] Rio Tinto and Rowena Albones Rio Tinto.

Agenda

1. Introduction and overview

- *Purpose of this meeting is to ensure alignment between regulators and Rio in the handling of environmental assessments for Rio's Pilbara operations over the next 18 months.*

2. s47(1)(b) [REDACTED]

- Co-location of DAWE staff in WA to facilitate joined-up approach
- Development of client service charters
- Scheduling of regular catch-ups

Existing referrals and their status

- **s47(1)(b)** [REDACTED]
- The Department has commenced the assessment of Greater Paraburdoo (EPBC 2018/8341), Brockman Syncline (EPBC 2019/8518) and Mesa H (EPBC 2017/8017); and anticipates the submission of additional projects for approval over the next 12-18 months.
- This is a Major Project and a priority for EAD. The assessments for all off these referrals are on track. Status of current referrals:

- *Greater Paraburdoo Iron Ore Hub WA EPBC 2018/8341* - Accredited assessment. We are awaiting publication of the Environment Review Document for public comment.
- *Brockman Syncline WA EPBC 2019/8515* - Accredited assessment. Waiting on WA EPA to provide final scoping document for the Environment Review Document (i.e. we are awaiting the 'information request')
- *Mesa H WA EPBC 2017/8017* - s47(1)(b) Accredited assessment. We have commented on the draft state conditions. The State has issued its draft decision (published 9 March). We are preparing for the start of our 30 day assessment period by drafting likely conditions.

Colocation of DAWE staff

- Initially this was to be up to two officers for a period of around a month. Due to COVID-19 we now think this should be virtual with each regulator nominating a dedicated officer(s) who share information, timelines and approaches and regularly catch-up through teleconferences.
- Discussion to focus on how to get the most out of s47(1)(b)

Development of client service charters

- Rio has been emailed information on client service charters for them to consider how they may best be utilised.
- Discussion to focus on Rio perception of the value of the charters and how best to integrate state processes into the documents.

Scheduling regular catch-ups

- DAWE has instigated regular monthly catch-ups with Rio focussing on their Pilbara work program since mid 2019.
- Discussion to focus on how best to integrate state into the process and most effective timeframe for meetings.

3. Facilitation of longer-term projects

- Strategic assessments

- Bilateral agreements

Strategic assessments

- DAWE has engaged Rio in discussions regarding the utility of strategic assessments since late 2019.
- Rio continues to express concern about the applicability of the strategic assessment process to their flexible and hub based approach to future mining operation development.
- The Department does not consider this presents any barrier to effective utilisation of strategic assessments for projects to commence in the medium to long term.
- Discussion to focus on Rio's evolving thinking on the value of pursuing a strategic assessment and how this could be integrated with state strategic processes.

Bilateral assessment agreement

- Renegotiation of the WA bilateral assessment agreement is progressing well.
- The updated agreement has been negotiated between officials and is currently subject to legal review.
- Transition arrangements to ensure continuity for assessments currently underway are also being negotiated.
- The amended bilateral agreement is on track to be released for public consultation around mid-April.
- Discussion to note progress and likely timing for finalisation of update agreement.

Bilateral approval agreement (for discussion with Rio and or with state only)

- s47(1)(b) and despite exchanges between the Prime Minister and Premier it is not clear that the Commonwealth and State are aligned in expectations over the development of an approval bilateral agreement and the progression of legislative amendments.
- In particular WA appear to be expecting imminent progression of legislation despite the Prime Minister's references to the need to ensure bi-partisan support and alignment with the EPBC review.
- The Department's considers that:
 - the priority is to support speedy approvals – particularly noting the economic fallout of COVID-19
 - bi-lat approvals will not assist projects seeking approval now or within the next 6 months.
 - the quickest pathway being pursued to support that is Congestion busting (high priority focus on immediate projects) and strategic assessments.
 - for joined up assessments with WA the priority is on getting the assessments bilateral moving (this is a pre-req to approvals bilateral).
 - Digital transformation also needs to get underway with WA action needed.
- The Commonwealth supports bi-lat approvals but they should proceed with supporting legislative changes (otherwise there is a high risk of legal challenge and that wouldn't help speedy assessments)
- Expect up to mid 2021 before parliament could consider bi-lat approval amendments. Parliamentary business has been impacted. Expect budget and stimulus to dominate agenda in the near term but after mid-year we could schedule approval bilat amendments.
- It's important any shorter-term reform has bi-partisan support and does not pre-empt the outcomes of the EPBC Review.
- The current situation with COVID is not ideal for facilitating discussion with the opposition.
- Prof Samuel's interim report will be out mid-year. Prof Samuel may comment on devolution providing some consistency with progressing bi-lat approvals at that time.

4. Next steps

From: [Gregory Manning](#)
To: s47F
Cc: [Michelle Croker](#); [Declan O'Connor-Cox](#)
Subject: FW: Draft annotated agenda - Rio WA meeting 3 April [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 3 April 2020 9:19:54 AM
Attachments: [WA Rio DAWF Annotated Agenda - 3 April 2020.docx](#)

Morning s47F

Attached is our draft annotated agenda as developed thus far for the meetings with Rio this afternoon. For discussion with Dean later this morning.

Greg.

From: Gregory Manning
Sent: Thursday, 2 April 2020 4:46 PM
To: Michelle Croker <Michelle.Croker@environment.gov.au>; s47F
s47F Declan O'Connor-Cox <Declan.O'connor-Cox@environment.gov.au>; Bruce Edwards <Bruce.Edwards@environment.gov.au>
Subject: Draft annotated agenda - Rio WA meeting 3 April [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hello all

As discussed yesterday please find attached a draft annotated agenda for the discussion with Rio and WA tomorrow. Thankyou for your contributions which I have endeavored to incorporate. Welcome your comments or amendments.

Thanks

Greg.

From: s47F
To:
Subject: FW: Draft annotated agenda - Rio WA meeting 3 April [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 3 April 2020 9:20:00 AM
Attachments: [WA Rio DAWF Annotated Agenda - 3 April 2020.docx](#)
[image001.jpg](#)

Here it is!

s47F

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

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment | awe.gov.au

John Gorton Building, King Edward Terrace, Parkes, ACT
PO Box 787, CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

s47F

Reconciliation%20Email%20Footer



From: Gregory Manning <Gregory.Manning@environment.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 3 April 2020 9:20 AM

To: s47F

s47F

Cc: Michelle Croker <Michelle.Croker@environment.gov.au>; Declan O'Connor-Cox <Declan.O'connor-Cox@environment.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Draft annotated agenda - Rio WA meeting 3 April [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Greg.

From: Gregory Manning

Sent: Thursday, 2 April 2020 4:46 PM

To: Michelle Croker <Michelle.Croker@environment.gov.au>; s47F

s47F

Declan O'Connor-Cox <Declan.O'connor-Cox@environment.gov.au>; Bruce Edwards <Bruce.Edwards@environment.gov.au>

Subject: Draft annotated agenda - Rio WA meeting 3 April [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Thanks

Greg.

From: s47F
To: s47F
Cc: s47F [Declan O'Connor-Cox](#)
Subject: FW: Draft annotated agenda - Rio WA meeting 3 April [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 3 April 2020 11:38:03 AM
Attachments: [WA Rio DAWF Annotated Agenda - 3 April 2020.docx](#)
[image001.jpg](#)
[Teleconference w Rio Tinto 3 April 2020- attendees.docx](#)

Hello

Please find attached the annotated Agenda for today's teleconference and a photo attendee list. Since DAWF are not all in one room, where you may have a whiteboard (or the like) to write comments/note regarding what was said without interruption. I will set up a chat in this MS teams. It will be all the EAD DAWF participants so you can communicate real time thinking/s on your laptops whilst on the phone at 2:30 pm.

Regards

s47F

From: s47F
Sent: Friday, 3 April 2020 9:44 AM
To: s47F
Subject: FW: Draft annotated agenda - Rio WA meeting 3 April [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s47F

Greg has sent this annotated Agenda to s47F

I'm not sure if it is meant to go to all the attendees at this afternoon's meeting though.

s47F

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

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment | awe.gov.au

John Gorton Building, King Edward Terrace, Parkes, ACT
PO Box 787, CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

s47F

Reconciliation%20Email%20Footer



From: Gregory Manning <Gregory.Manning@environment.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 3 April 2020 9:20 AM

To: s47F

s47F

Cc: Michelle Croker <Michelle.Croker@environment.gov.au>; Declan O'Connor-Cox <Declan.O'connor-Cox@environment.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Draft annotated agenda - Rio WA meeting 3 April [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Morning s47F

Attached is our draft annotated agenda as developed thus far for the meetings with Rio this afternoon. For discussion with Dean later this morning.

Greg.

From: Gregory Manning

Sent: Thursday, 2 April 2020 4:46 PM

To: Michelle Croker <Michelle.Croker@environment.gov.au>; s47F

s47F Declan O'Connor-Cox <Declan.O'connor-Cox@environment.gov.au>; Bruce Edwards <Bruce.Edwards@environment.gov.au>

Subject: Draft annotated agenda - Rio WA meeting 3 April [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hello all

As discussed yesterday please find attached a draft annotated agenda for the discussion with Rio and WA tomorrow. Thankyou for your contributions which I have endeavored to incorporate. Welcome your comments or amendments.

Thanks

Greg.

Here are the attendees;

DAWE

Dean Knudson, Deputy Secretary, Environmental Approvals

Michelle Croker, First Assistant Secretary

Greg Manning, Assistant Secretary

Declan O'Connor-Cox, Assistant Secretary A/g (Teleconference host)

s47F [redacted] Director

s47F [redacted] Director

s47F [redacted] Director A/g

s47F [redacted] Assessment Officer WA

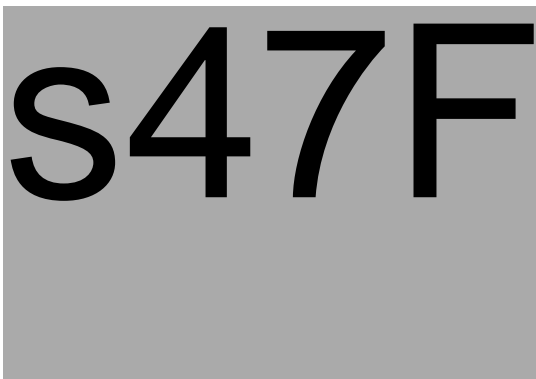
DWER



Mike Rowe, Director General



Anthony Sutton – EPA Services



– Regulatory Services

s47F

Manager, Strategic Assessment EPA services.

s47F

Chairman EPA WA

Rio Tinto employees;



Chris Salisbury, Chief Executive



Rowena Albones, Chief Financial Officer

S47F

Principal Adviser - Government Relations

S47F

Manager Government and Environmental Approvals

and

S47F

Vice President, Corporate Relations (AUS)

s47F

Subject: Copy: Rio Tinto pre-brief [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Location: Teleconference. details below

Start: Fri 3/04/2020 12:00 PM
End: Fri 3/04/2020 12:30 PM

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Organizer: Michelle Croker

Required Attendees Gregory Manning; Declan O'Connor-Cox; s47F ; Dean Knudson; s47F

Categories: Teleconference

Teleconference: 1800 701 826, Participant code: 7911 8165#

From: s47F
To:
Subject: RE: Meeting papers for Rio Tinto tomorrow [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 3 April 2020 9:17:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Thanks s47F

s47F

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

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment | awe.gov.au

John Gorton Building, King Edward Terrace, Parkes, ACT
PO Box 787, CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

s47F

Reconciliation%20Email%20Footer



From: s47F

Sent: Friday, 3 April 2020 9:14 AM

To: s47F

Subject: FW: Meeting papers for Rio Tinto tomorrow [SEC=OFFICIAL]

s47F

Executive Assistant to
Michelle Croker – A/g First Assistant Secretary
Environment Approvals Division

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

GPO Box 787, CANBERRA, ACT 2601

s47F Environment.gov.au

Part-time hours. I leave work at 2.30pm on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays.

From: Declan O'Connor-Cox <Declan.O'connor-Cox@environment.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 2 April 2020 1:45 PM

To: s47F

Subject: RE: Meeting papers for Rio Tinto tomorrow [SEC=OFFICIAL]

No worries!

From: s47F

Sent: Thursday, 2 April 2020 1:44 PM
To: Declan O'Connor-Cox <Declan.O'connor-Cox@environment.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Meeting papers for Rio Tinto tomorrow [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Declan

Sorry to bother you! Thank you very much.

s47F

Executive Assistant to
Michelle Croker – A/g First Assistant Secretary
Environment Approvals Division

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

GPO Box 787, CANBERRA, ACT 2601

s47F | Environment.gov.au

Part-time hours. I leave work at 2.30pm on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays.

From: Declan O'Connor-Cox <Declan.O'connor-Cox@environment.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 2 April 2020 1:40 PM
To: **s47F**
Subject: RE: Meeting papers for Rio Tinto tomorrow [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi **s47F** Greg is working on a brief, I have provided input.
Declan

From: **s47F**
Sent: Thursday, 2 April 2020 1:39 PM
To: Declan O'Connor-Cox <Declan.O'connor-Cox@environment.gov.au>
Subject: Meeting papers for Rio Tinto tomorrow [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Declan

s47F was wondering if there are any papers for tomorrow's meeting besides the agenda please? I did not think there were any but just in case I thought I would check with you!

Thank you!

s47F

Executive Assistant to
Michelle Croker – A/g First Assistant Secretary
Environment Approvals Division

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

GPO Box 787, CANBERRA, ACT 2601

s47F | Environment.gov.au

Part-time hours. I leave work at 2.30pm on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays.

From: s47F
To:
Cc: [Declan O'Connor-Cox](#)
Subject: RE: RIO Briefing package [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 3 April 2020 9:42:43 AM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[WA Rio DAWA Agenda - 3 April 2020.docx](#)

Morning s47F

No problem I will hold on till I talk to Declan. He wants me to send out the agenda again to all attendees this morning.

Declan – let me know of any changes (or confirm none), to the attached and I will send out.

Regards

s47F

From: s47F
Sent: Friday, 3 April 2020 9:19 AM
To: s47F
Subject: RIO Briefing package [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s47F

Please ignore the emails I forwarded from s47F about the briefing package for the RIO meeting. I wasn't aware that Declan is working with Greg on this and he is about to send s47F what she is after for Dean.

Thanks

s47F

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

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment | awe.gov.au

John Gorton Building, King Edward Terrace, Parkes, ACT
PO Box 787, CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

s47F

Reconciliation%20Email%20Footer



Rio Tinto Iron Ore approvals in the Pilbara

Date: 3 April 2020
Time: 2:30pm AEST (11:30am WA)
Location: Teleconference
Participants: Dean Knudson Deputy Secretary DAWE, Michelle Croker DAWE, Greg Manning DAWE, Declan O'Connor-Cox DAWE, s47F DAWE, s47F DAWE, Mike Rowe DWER, s47F WA EPA, Chris Salisbury Rio Tinto, s47F Rio Tinto, s47F Rio Tinto, s47F Rio Tinto and Rowena Albones Rio Tinto.

Agenda

1. Introduction and overview
2. Facilitation of more immediate projects
 - Co-location of DAWE staff in WA to facilitate joined-up approach
 - Development of client service charters
 - Scheduling of regular catch-ups
3. Facilitation of longer-term projects
 - Strategic assessments
 - Bilateral agreements
4. Next steps

From: s47F on behalf of [Gregory Manning](#)
To: s47F
Subject: FW: Rio Tinto briefing [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 3 April 2020 9:04:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Hi s47F

Is there a briefing package for this meeting this afternoon, as per s47F email below?

Thanks

s47F

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

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment | awe.gov.au

John Gorton Building, King Edward Terrace, Parkes, ACT
PO Box 787, CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

s47F

Reconciliation%20Email%20Footer



From: s47F

Sent: Friday, 3 April 2020 9:03 AM

To: Michelle Croker <Michelle.Croker@environment.gov.au>; Gregory Manning
<Gregory.Manning@environment.gov.au>; s47F

Subject: Rio Tinto briefing [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi everyone

Can I please get an update on the Rio Tinto agenda and briefing for this afternoon?

s47F

Executive Assistant to Dean Knudson, Deputy Secretary
Environment Group

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

s47F

John Gorton Building, King Edward Terrace, Parkes ACT 2600

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: s47F on behalf of [Gregory Manning](#)
To: s47F [Michelle Croker](#); [Gregory Manning](#); s47F
Subject: RE: Rio Tinto briefing [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 3 April 2020 9:06:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Hi s47F

I have forwarded your email on to s47F EA to Declan O'Connor Cox, as they are taking the lead in this afternoon's meeting with RIO.

Thanks

s47F

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

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment | awe.gov.au

John Gorton Building, King Edward Terrace, Parkes, ACT
PO Box 787, CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

s47F

Reconciliation%20Email%20Footer



From: s47F

Sent: Friday, 3 April 2020 9:03 AM

To: Michelle Croker <Michelle.Croker@environment.gov.au>; Gregory Manning <Gregory.Manning@environment.gov.au>; s47F

Subject: Rio Tinto briefing [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi everyone

Can I please get an update on the Rio Tinto agenda and briefing for this afternoon?

s47F

Executive Assistant to Dean Knudson, Deputy Secretary
Environment Group

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

s47F

John Gorton Building, King Edward Terrace, Parkes ACT 2600

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: s47F
To:
Cc:
Subject: RE: Meeting Dean before Friday's Rio Tinto [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 2 April 2020 8:00:28 AM

That's a great idea and solution, thank you

Sorry, usually I would be more accommodating with moving things but this week with Dean at two full days exec board has meant the rest of his week is crazy.

s47F

Executive Assistant to Dean Knudson, Deputy Secretary
Environment Group

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

s47F

John Gorton Building, King Edward Terrace, Parkes ACT 2600

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: s47F

Sent: Thursday, 2 April 2020 7:57 AM

To: s47F

Cc:

Subject: RE: Meeting Dean before Friday's Rio Tinto [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s47F

I spoke to Michelle about the Rio Tinto pre brief and she will send Dean an annotated Agenda before the meeting. If Dean has any questions about the Rio Tinto meeting they could be covered during the Woodside pre brief on Friday.

Thank you!

s47F

Executive Assistant to
Michelle Croker – A/g First Assistant Secretary
Environment Approvals Division

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

GPO Box 787, CANBERRA, ACT 2601

s47F | Environment.gov.au

Part-time hours. I leave work at 2.30pm on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays.

From: s47F
Sent: Wednesday, 1 April 2020 3:23 PM
To: s47F
Cc:
Subject: RE: Meeting Dean before Friday's Rio Tinto [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s47F

Thank you!

s47F

Executive Assistant to
Michelle Croker – A/g First Assistant Secretary
Environment Approvals Division

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
GPO Box 787, CANBERRA, ACT 2601
s47F | Environment.gov.au

Part-time hours. I leave work at 2.30pm on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays.

From: s47F
Sent: Wednesday, 1 April 2020 3:22 PM
To: s47F
Cc:
Subject: Re: Meeting Dean before Friday's Rio Tinto [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s47F

Dean is back to back this week with meetings and has executive board backing straight into the Rio meeting.

Let me look at Monday and see if anything can move their to accomodate things

I'm just with IT as my laptop has given up but will call you soon

s47F

Sent from my iPhone

On 1 Apr 2020, at 3:15 pm, s47F wrote:

Hi s47F

Michelle would like to meet with Dean before the Rio Tinto meeting on Friday afternoon for 30 minutes. Do you think that would be possible please? s47F is happy

for the Rio Tinto pre brief s22

Thank you!

s47F

Executive Assistant to
Michelle Croker – A/g First Assistant Secretary
Environment Approvals Division

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

GPO Box 787, CANBERRA, ACT 2601

s47F | Environment.gov.au

Part-time hours. I leave work at 2.30pm on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays.

From: Michelle Croker <Michelle.Croker@environment.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 1 April 2020 3:08 PM

To:

Cc:

s47F

Subject: meeting Dean [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Can you get a 30 min time for a pre-brief with Dean on the Rio Tinto meeting (before the Friday meeting). It might be a near impossible task – but needed.

Michelle Croker
A/g First Assistant Secretary
Environment Approvals Division

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

John Gorton Building, Parkes, Canberra ACT 2601

s47F | E: michelle.croker@awe.gov.au

From: [Declan O'Connor-Cox](#)
To: [Gregory Manning](#)
Subject: For Rio [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 2 April 2020 10:12:06 AM
Attachments: [Key points for teleconference with Rio and WA 3 April 2020.docx](#)

Hi Greg – sorry for the delay, I will send this on Teams as well in case you are having the same system issues I have been having.

Declan

Declan O'Connor-Cox
Acting Assistant Secretary
Environment Approvals Division
Department of the Environment and Energy

s47F

GPO Box 787 Canberra ACT 2601
Email: declan.oconnorcox@environment.gov.au

Key issues for Teleconference with Rio, DWER, WA EPA 3 April 2020

• s47(1)(b)

- The Department has commenced the assessment of Greater Paraburdoo (EPBC 2018/8341), Brockman Syncline (EPBC 2019/8518) and Mesa H (EPBC 2017/8017); and anticipates the submission of a large number of additional projects for approval over the next 12-18 months.
- This is a Major Project and a priority for EAD. The assessments for all off these referrals are on track. Status of current referrals:
 - **Greater Paraburdoo Iron Ore Hub WA EPBC 2018/8341** - Accredited assessment. We are awaiting publication of the Environment Review Document for public comment.
 - **Brockman Syncline WA EPBC 2019/8515** - Accredited assessment. Waiting on WA EPA to provide final scoping document for the Environment Review Document (i.e. we are awaiting the 'information request')
 - **Mesa H WA EPBC 2017/8017** - s47(1)(b) with us. Accredited assessment. We have commented on the draft state conditions. The State has issued its draft decision (published 9 March). We are preparing for the start of our 30 day assessment period by starting to draft our likely conditions with a view to early consultation with Rio on the 'vibe' of the conditions. We are continuing to have regular detailed discussions with Rio for this project on the impacts to the blind cave eel and how best to manage these, and have been taking into account Office of Water Science advice
- We held several meetings with Rio in March 2020 to discuss:
 - Joined up approach between DAWE and WA Government with officers of DAWE to be outposted to WA. Initially this was to be up to two officers for a period of around a month. Due to COVID-19 we now think this should be virtual with each regulator nominating a dedicated officer(s) who share information, timelines and approaches and regularly catch-up through teleconferences.
 - We will be working up a client service charter with Rio for the projects. We have emailed some information to Rio on how this might work.
 - How strategic assessment approaches might work
 - Bilateral agreements
- Rio were pleased with these discussions and are showing increasing interest in strategic assessment approaches.

From: s47F
To: [Gregory Manning](#); [Declan O'Connor-Cox](#)
Cc: s47F
Subject: RE: Email exchange re WA Request for Approval bilateral discussions [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Wednesday, 1 April 2020 6:31:32 PM

Not all worried Greg (but thanks for letting me know) - just thought it was important that you knew you still had optionsto retreat.....should they have been required (there are so many chefs in this bilateral kitchen !)

😊 s47F

PS Updated Anthony this evening

From: Gregory Manning
Sent: Wednesday, 1 April 2020 4:54 PM
To: s47F Declan O'Connor-Cox
Cc: s47F
Subject: RE: Email exchange re WA Request for Approval bilateral discussions [SEC=OFFICIAL]

All good s47F and apologies if came across as suggesting you'd gone to far. I was not and am not concerned.

In fact I would be pleased if you now formalise that we are happy to do as you have suggested time permitting.

Thanks

Greg.

From: s47F
Sent: Wednesday, 1 April 2020 3:35 PM
To: Gregory Manning <Gregory.Manning@environment.gov.au>; Declan O'Connor-Cox
Cc: s47F
Subject: FYI: Email exchange re WA Request for Approval bilateral discussions [SEC=OFFICIAL]

For visibility (and comfort) - My non-committal response of *noting WA's interest* to add bilaterals to Fridays agenda.....time permitting

From: Anthony Sutton s47F
Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2020 5:43 PM
To: s47F s47F
Cc: s47F
Subject: RE: ERMP data [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Many thanks s47F – I have also spoken to Mike Rowe (Director General, DWER) and he is open to spending some time on broader State/Commonwealth matters towards the end of the meeting (without Rio Tinto). Anthony

From: s47F
Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2020 2:37 PM
To: Anthony Sutton s47F
Cc: s47F
Subject: RE: ERMP data [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Anthony

I understand that meeting is on Friday and have let Greg know that, time permitting, you will add bilateral agreements to the Agenda for discussions (between governments)

Will be in touch soon re the assessment bilateral

Cheers

s47F

From: Anthony Sutton s47F
Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2020 11:05 AM
To: s47F s47F
Cc: s47F
Subject: RE: ERMP data [SEC=OFFICIAL]

s47F

happy to discuss progress at any time. I note that Declan O'Connor-Cox (DAWE) has set up a meeting regarding Rio Tinto's Iron Ore Approvals from 2.30pm to 5pm (AEST) and this meeting involves Dean Knudson, Michelle Croker and Gregory Manning from DAWE as well as the Mike Rowe (Director General, DWER – WA)

This meeting is unlikely to require a full 2 ½ hours, so I wonder whether it's worth exploring with Declan whether the last 15-20 minutes (without Rio Tinto) could be used to get State/Commonwealth agreement on the Assessment Bilateral and on the pathway forward for the Approvals Bilateral.

It would be time well spent.

Anthony

Anthony Sutton
Executive Director, EPA Services

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
Prime House, 8 Davidson Terrace, JOONDALUP WA 6027

Locked Bag 10, Joondalup DC, WA 6919

s47F

www.dwer.wa.gov.au

From: s47F
To: s47F [Declan O'Connor-Cox](#)
Subject: RE: Rio projects currently with us: [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 2 April 2020 9:58:11 AM

Anthony Sutton stated that at this time there was no need to have officers from DAWE go to Perth. None of the projects are at the stage where such intense work is required. As s47F mentioned, each project stage is outlined below – and WA EPA is somewhere in between those stages doing their work under accredited assessment.

Anthony mentioned “six months or so” but that was just a comment. His main focus was that travelling now wasn’t necessary (even before Covid19 stopped all that). We agreed that our regular monthly teleconferences with WA DWER, project officer discussions and ad hoc teleconferences as needed, will allow DWER and DAWE to manage Rio projects. He also said that may be the way we can manage the projects and travel may not even be necessary.

Hope that helps. Call me on s47F if you want to discuss s47F

From: s47F
Sent: Thursday, 2 April 2020 9:37 AM
To: s47F
Cc: s47F
Subject: RE: Rio projects currently with us: [SEC=OFFICIAL]

I wasn’t in the conversation, so don’t know if they mentioned a month (s47F feel free to chip in here...???)

As you can see from below next step for Brockman is EPA releases the scoping document, then there would be a long wait while Rio prepares the information. Paraburdoo is slightly ahead, and Rio may be ready to provide it soon to EPA (see highlighted edit below -when last we met with Rio they indicated a two week timeline – and that was a couple of weeks ago).

That means that we should plan what we are going to do, but set the date for action taking into account when Rio expect to deliver the ERDs for Brockman and Paraburdoo.

Mesa H is all but done (State to finalise their decision, then our clock starts), so the conversations will also be Rio and us, without DWER.

From: Declan O'Connor-Cox
Sent: Thursday, 2 April 2020 9:27 AM
To: s47F
Subject: RE: Rio projects currently with us: [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thanks s47F emails back for now – hey was it DWER that said Aug/Sep was the best time to start joined-up approach? What were they waiting on Rio for?
Declan

From: s47F

Sent: Thursday, 2 April 2020 8:54 AM
To: Declan O'Connor-Cox
Cc: s47F
Subject: FW: Rio projects currently with us: [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Here is the info you wanted. It is also there (in slightly different format) in the briefing I sent you yesterday morning.

- **Greater Paraburdoo Iron Ore Hub WA EPBC 2018/8341**
Accredited assessment. We are awaiting publication of the Environment Review Document for public comment. Rio expected to resubmit this to EPA any day.
- **Brockman Syncline WA EPBC 2019/8515**
Accredited assessment. Waiting on EPA to provide final scoping document for the Environment Review Document (i.e. we are awaiting the 'information request')
- **Mesa H WA EPBC 2017/8017**
s47(1)(b) Accredited assessment. We have commented on the draft state conditions. The State has issued its draft decision (published 9 March). We are preparing for the start of our 30 day assessment period by starting to draft our likely conditions with a view to early consultation with Rio on the 'vibe' of the conditions. We are continuing to have regular detailed discussions with Rio for this project on the impacts to the blind cave eel and how best to manage those, and have been taking into account OWS advice.

From: s47F
Sent: Wednesday, 4 March 2020 11:44 AM
To: Declan O'Connor-Cox
Cc: s47F
Subject: Rio projects currently with us: [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Declan,

As background for your meeting with Rio first thing tomorrow, here is a brief wrap up of where we are with each project:

Projects that are at a stage where we are not in charge of the current step

- **Greater Paraburdoo Iron Ore Hub WA EPBC 2018/8341**
Accredited assessment. We are awaiting publication of the Environment Review Document for public comment.
- **Brockman Syncline WA EPBC 2019/8515**
Accredited assessment. Waiting on EPA to provide final scoping document for the

Environment Review Document (i.e. we are awaiting the 'information request')

- **Mesa H WA EPBC 2017/8017**

s47(1)(b) Accredited assessment. We have commented on the draft state conditions, and will provide extra comment today by telephone call. We are preparing for the start of our 30 day assessment period by considering the vibe of our likely conditions. We are continuing to have regular detailed discussions with Rio for this project on the impacts to the blind cave eel and how best to manage those, and have been taking into account OWS advice.

Projects where we are undertaking the current step

- **Gove Borrow Area Redevelopment NT EPBC 2017/8114**

This project was determined a controlled action but due to adjustments to the proposal we are working through a reconsideration process that may see it becoming NCA.

Finally – a point for consideration/discussion. Rio Tinto projects collectively have MAJOR project status. Given that we are aiming to undertake each project in accordance with statutory timeframes (as none of the projects are so complex they require extended timeframes), must we develop a service charter(s) and if so, what value would they be intended to add?

Regards

s47F

From: s47F
To: s47F
Cc: [Declan O'Connor-Cox](#)
Subject: DAWE service charter [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 2 April 2020 4:15:00 PM
Attachments: [eia-client-service-charter.doc](#)
[Client service charter - sample.docx](#)

Hi s47F and s47F

I understand there has been some recent discussion about the establishment of a service charter between the Department and Rio Tinto. A charter would be intended to provide certainty, and expand on expectations for, delivery of referrals and assessments under the EPBC Act.

In the interests of kick starting a discussion with you on this, Declan O'Connor-Cox has asked me to provide you with information about what a charter might look like.

Please find attached the Department's overarching charter for environmental impact assessment, along with a template that could potentially form the beginnings of a draft agreement.

I expect we will be back in touch with you in a few days to follow up.

Regards

s47F

Assistant Director

Projects Assessment West Section s47F

...but currently working from home – so if not emailing I can be contacted on s47F

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
Environment Approvals Division
John Gorton Building, Parkes Place, Parkes ACT
GPO Box 787, Canberra, 2601



Australian Government

**Department of Sustainability, Environment,
Water, Population and Communities**

Environmental Impact Assessment Client Service Charter

Environmental Impact Assessment Client Service Charter

Purpose

This Client Service Charter (the charter) outlines our commitments when undertaking environmental impact assessment (EIA) under the Australian Government's key piece of environmental legislation, the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The EPBC Act provides a legal framework to protect and manage matters of national environmental significance.

The charter applies to EIA processes, including post approval monitoring and auditing functions, and other areas that support the EIA process for individual projects referred under the EPBC Act.

What can you expect?

In line with the *DSEWPaC Service Charter 2011–2014*¹, we are committed to:

- ✓ providing a transparent and professional environmental impact assessment process
- ✓ acting honestly, ethically and lawfully
- ✓ responding effectively to the needs of all our clients
- ✓ being accountable for our actions
- ✓ providing clear, accurate and timely information about departmental policy, programs, processes and relevant legislation including providing answers as fully and precisely as possible
- ✓ treating you respectfully and remaining aware of your needs
- ✓ replying to emails and returning phone calls in a timely manner
- ✓ providing you an opportunity to provide feedback on our service.

We realise that our different clients have different needs and we have identified our specific commitments below.

¹ <http://www.environment.gov.au/about/publications/charter.html>

Proponents and consultants

For project proponents and their consultants, we will:

Provide clear guidance for the environmental impact assessment process

- ✓ We will provide you with information about the EIA process including the different assessment approaches and stages within the assessment process and statutory timeframes.
- ✓ We will provide clear, up-front guidance on the information we require you to provide to enable us to assess your project. We will endeavour to request this information once only at the commencement of the relevant stage of the assessment process. However, if the information provided is insufficient to address our request then further information will be required.
- ✓ We will provide you with up to date information about mutual obligations under the EPBC Act.
- ✓ For all referrals, we will allocate a referral contact officer (and other related points of contact, including a supervisor for each referral) and will advise you if this changes. The contact officer will contact you when we receive your referral to provide you with their contact details and discuss the referral process. Should your project need to be assessed under the EPBC Act, an assessment contact officer will follow up monthly to discuss the progress of your assessment.
- ✓ We will make decisions within statutory timeframes. Where there are changes to the anticipated timing for the key steps or decisions in the assessment of your project, we will notify you in advance and provide reasons for the change.
- ✓ We will ensure our decisions are well reasoned, transparent and clearly articulated. Where you have questions or concerns about the reasons for the decision, we invite you to raise these with the contact officer or their supervisor.
- ✓ We will keep you informed about key decisions impacting the assessment of your project.
- ✓ Where your project is determined by us to be a 'major project' (based on criteria such as the size of the project, complexity and extent of potential environmental impact) we will work with you to develop a tailored project service charter. This will include prospective timeframes for different stages in the process and information on the method and frequency of communication (e.g. face to face meetings, joint discussions with state or territory agencies, teleconferences).
- ✓ We will regularly review and improve our guidance documentation to make it clearer and more user friendly.
- ✓ We will work proactively to streamline assessment and approval requirements, such as requests for information and condition setting with states and territories.
- ✓ We will ensure our staff are appropriately trained so that they can provide you with accurate and up to date information.

Communicate

- ✓ Should you wish, we will provide you with the opportunity to engage in a pre-referral discussion about your project to assist you in preparing a quality referral.
- ✓ We will provide guidance to inform you on how to avoid and/or minimise impacts on matters of national environmental significance using clear and plain language in a way that meets your needs.
- ✓ We will provide you with accurate and up to date information available to us where the information is not sensitive or classified.

States and territories

For states and territories we will:

Work cooperatively and communicate clearly

- ✓ We will seek to foster a relationship built on trust and understanding of the state or territory issues and priorities, and seek to streamline implementation of Commonwealth and state or territory conditions as far as practicable.
- ✓ We will provide clear guidance on our expectations and preferences regarding points of engagement in the bilateral process.
- ✓ We will work proactively with you to streamline assessment requirements for proponents under bilateral arrangements.
- ✓ In providing input to scoping/terms of reference documents we will clearly identify requests for information relating to matters of national environmental significance required from the proponent in order to satisfy our legislative and regulatory requirements under the EPBC Act.
- ✓ We will work proactively to facilitate the smooth operation of bilateral agreements and administrative arrangements.

Always look to do things better

- ✓ We will continuously strive to improve the efficient operation of the bilateral agreements.

Members of the public and other stakeholder groups

For all members of the public and other stakeholder groups we will:

Be consultative and informative

- ✓ We will provide you with information on how environmental impact assessments are conducted.
- ✓ We will provide you with the opportunity to comment on projects referred under the EPBC Act during the referral and assessment processes.
- ✓ We will ensure plans, policies and guidelines on matters of national environmental significance are easily attainable through the department's website.
- ✓ We will reply to your correspondence in a timely manner.

Help us to help you

To ensure that we can provide you with an optimum service we also ask that you:

- ✓ treat our staff respectfully
- ✓ provide us with constructive feedback to help us improve our service.

Proponent and consultants

We would appreciate it if you:

- ✓ engage early with the department so that guidance can be provided on avoiding and minimising impacts on matters of national environmental significance at the planning stage of your project
- ✓ ensure your referral is accompanied by all information and documents required at the time of lodgement
- ✓ provide comprehensive, accurate and complete information in accordance with departmental templates/policies/guidelines, clearly addressing impacts, avoidance and mitigation measures on matters of national environmental significance
- ✓ provide the reference number of your referral if you are contacting us regarding a referral you have already lodged
- ✓ when undertaking surveys for matters of environmental significance, do so in accordance with the relevant *EPBC Act Survey Guidelines*
- ✓ give us details of changes in your circumstances as soon as the changes occur.

States and territories

While specific expectations and agreements negotiated between the Commonwealth and individual states and territories relating to EIA are articulated in bilateral agreements, we seek cooperative engagement with you to:

- ✓ work to facilitate a single entry point so that all projects that may require assessment under the EPBC Act are referred to the department
- ✓ work with the department on bilateral assessments including notifying the department at the earliest possibility if the bilateral agreement will, or is likely to, apply to a project requiring assessment under the EPBC Act
- ✓ clearly identify in project scoping documents/terms of reference and assessment reports where matters of national environmental significance are addressed
- ✓ undertake bilateral site visits where requested by proponents/consultants and/or the department
- ✓ consult with us when setting state and territory conditions to ensure that those conditions can adequately address impacts on matters protected under the EPBC Act and Australian Government offset requirements (if applicable), reducing duplication in conditions for proponents
- ✓ negotiate bilateral agreements and administrative arrangements and continuously strive to improve their efficiency.

Members of the public and other stakeholder groups

We would appreciate it if, when providing comment on projects referred under the EPBC Act, you:

- ✓ focus the comments on issues that relate specifically to matters of national environmental significance rather than issues that are more appropriately managed by a state or territory agency
- ✓ quote the reference number of the project and provide comments within specified timeframes.

Client feedback

We are committed to continuous improvement in all aspects of our service. We would value your feedback and suggestions about:

- ✓ experiences you have had in dealing with our staff
- ✓ the Client Service Charter
- ✓ our website or other information products developed by our department
- ✓ how we can improve our services to you
- ✓ your level of satisfaction with the service you have received, particularly if you feel you have not been treated fairly and reasonably by us.

You can provide your feedback by:

- ✓ emailing/calling the project officer (or their supervisor)
- ✓ emailing your comments to EIAClientfeedback@environment.gov.au
- ✓ completing the form at the department's website at:
www.environment.gov.au/about/contacts/service-level.html

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Client Service Charter:

PROPONENT

PROJECT

This proponent service charter (**the charter**) is a tool to assist the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (**DAWE**) and PROPONENT in completing high quality, accurate, transparent, and timely environmental impact assessment processes for THE PROJECT (**the project**). The charter is a project management tool the parties will use to clearly articulate agency and proponent contacts, project timelines, response timeframes, and key meeting milestones to discuss project issues. The charter should be developed with consideration of the Department's *Environmental Impact Assessment Client Service Charter* (available at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/resource/environmental-impact-assessment-client-service-charter>).

In preparing this charter, the Department has consulted [RELEVANT AGENCIES] to ensure, to the maximum extent possible, that the charter articulates coordinated timelines and milestones for the project considering the [WA] Environment Impact Assessment (**EIS**) process.

The charter is not legally binding and does not replace the project's guidelines for assessment. The charter is intended to complement the guidelines and assist all parties to best manage the environmental impact assessment process. While the Department will use our best endeavours to meet the agreed client service charter, our work is subject to statutory requirements from the EPBC Act which will always take precedent.

Any changes to the charter are to be documented and both parties agree that they will endeavour to resolve issues in a timely manner and keep the charter up to date. If an issue does arise, in the first instance it should be addressed through the assessment officer. If the issue requires further consultation it may be escalated to the project supervisor, followed by the branch head, for resolution.

PROJECT CONTACTS

	DAWE	Proponent	[AGENCY]	[AGENCY]
Primary Contact				
Secondary Contact				
Secondary Contact				

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Should include known (or expected) delivery dates for documentation, negotiated response timeframes, and public notification periods.



Project stage	Stage milestones	Australian Government responsibility (DAWE)	State Government responsibility (AGENCIES)	Proponent responsibility
Project initialisation and scoping	<i>Project determined to be a 'controlled action' (CA)/Assessment method decision</i> <i>[INSERT RELEVANT DATES]</i>	Notify proponent of referral decision and assessment approach.		Throughout the subsequent assessment stages, pay fees in accordance with the schedule to enable assessment to continue, or seek waiver or reconsideration of fees in accordance with the provisions of the EPBC Act.
	<i>Scoping/request for further information drafted</i> <i>[INSERT RELEVANT DATES]</i>	Consultation with proponent, State and internal line areas on content of guidelines.	Consultation with proponent, DAWE and relevant State agencies on content of guidelines.	Consultation with DAWE and State on content of guidelines.
	<i>Finalise EIS guidelines</i> <i>[INSERT RELEVANT DATES]</i>	DAWE to consult with State on finalisation of guidelines.	State to finalise guidelines. Notification to proponent and DAWE of final guidelines.	
Preparation and adequacy review of EIS documentation	<i>Prepare and submit proposed draft documentation (EIS) for adequacy review</i> <i>[INSERT RELEVANT DATES]</i>		State to forward draft documentation to DAWE for comment.	Proponent submits draft documentation to State.



Project stage	Stage milestones	Australian Government responsibility (DAWE)	State Government responsibility (AGENCIES)	Proponent responsibility
	<p><i>Provide adequacy review comments on proposed draft documentation</i></p> <p><i>Note - Final timing and revision to be determined by quality of proposed draft documentation and adequacy review comments.</i></p> <p>Estimated timeframe: 40 business days</p>	<p>DAWE to conduct a merit review of the draft documentation and to provide comments to State 20 business days after receipt of a complete draft documentation.</p> <p><i>DAWE will need to consult with internal line areas which will take at least 10 days. Twenty business days is best practice, not a statutory requirement.</i></p>	<p>State to seek comments from agencies and collate all comments and provide to proponent 40 business days after receipt of a complete draft documentation.</p>	<p>Proponent to revise and re-submit documentation in accordance with State and DAWE comments, if required.</p>
Submission period and additional information	<p><i>Publication of draft documentation for public comment</i></p> <p><i>Note there is a minimum of 20 business days (EPBC statutory) for invitation to comment period</i></p> <p>Estimated timeframe: 20 business days</p>	<p>DAWE may provide additional comments to State on documentation when public comment period has commenced.</p>	<p>State to notify DAWE that the assessment documentation has been placed on exhibition and the timeframe for public comment.</p>	<p>Proponent makes draft documentation available to public comment, as per requirements.</p> <p><i>Note – the proponent is normally responsible for web-hosting the draft documentation</i></p>
	<p><i>Prepare responses to all comments received and submits proposed final documentation for adequacy review</i></p> <p>Estimated timeframe: 10 business days</p>		<p>State to provide proponent's response to DAWE.</p>	<p>Proponent provides a response to all public comments received to the State.</p>



Project stage	Stage milestones	Australian Government responsibility (DAWE)	State Government responsibility (AGENCIES)	Proponent responsibility
	<p><i>Provide adequacy review comment on proposed final documentation</i></p> <p>Estimated timeframe: 10 business days</p>	<p>DAWE to confirm if matters raised by public regarding MNES have been adequately addressed in proponent's response and provide comments to State.</p> <p><i>DAWE may need to consult with internal line areas which will take at least 5 days.</i></p>	<p>State to confirm all relevant matters raised in public submissions have been adequately addressed in proponent's response.</p> <p><i>Based on comments State may request further information from proponent.</i></p>	
	<p><i>Submission of final EIS</i></p> <p>Estimated timeframe: 5 business days</p>			<p>Proponent to make final revisions, if required, and provide final documentation to State and DAWE.</p>
Evaluation of project proposal	<p><i>Review draft State Assessment Report</i></p> <p>Estimated timeframe: 20 business days.</p>	<p>DAWE to review State Assessment Report and provide relevant comments on whether it includes sufficient information for the Commonwealth Minister (or delegate) to make an approval decision and attach conditions.</p> <p><i>Note: DAWE will need to consult with internal line areas which will take at least 10 days.</i></p>	<p>State to provide DAWE with draft Assessment Report</p>	



Project stage	Stage milestones	Australian Government responsibility (DAWE)	State Government responsibility (AGENCIES)	Proponent responsibility
	<i>Finalisation of State Assessment Report and State decision</i> Estimated timeframe: 10 business days		State to provide final Assessment Report to DAWE, following the approval process. State to notify proponent of final decision and conditions.	
	<i>Development of legal considerations (assessment report), including proposed conditions, to provide to the Minister (or delegate)</i> Estimated timeframe: 30 days	DAWE to consult with internal line areas on development of proposed conditions. Legal considerations to go to the Minister (or delegate) 30 business days from the day after receiving final Assessment Report (statutory)		Proponent to consult with DAWE on proposed conditions
	<i>Proposed decision and conditions provided to proponent and relevant other Ministers for comment</i> Estimated timeframe: 10 days	DAWE provides proposed decision and conditions to proponent and other relevant Ministers for comment for 10 business days (statutory)	State to provide comment to DAWE on proposed decision and conditions	Proponent to provide comment to DAWE on proposed decision and conditions
	<i>Final decision and conditions</i> Estimated timeframe: 15 days	DAWE notifies proponent of final decision and conditions		

HISTORY OF PROJECT CHANGES

Date	Details of change
xxxxxxx	xxxxxxx.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The following table outlines the agreed meeting schedule during the assessment process:

Meeting purpose	Expected timing
-----------------	-----------------



Clarify any outstanding matters prior to draft documentation preparation

TBD – (i.e. during draft documentation comment period/release period)

Discuss draft documentation

TBD – (i.e. following adequacy review of draft documentation)

Discuss content of draft documentation submissions

TBD – (i.e. following draft documentation invitation to comment period)

SIGNATURES

Date: _____

Greg Manning

Assistant Secretary

Assessments (SA, WA, NT), Post Approvals and Policy Branch

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

Date: _____

[proponent]

Date: _____

Dean Rio Brief

- The said purpose is to co-ordinate regulatory harmonization / proper of Rio Pillars needs

Broken into short term projects // // //
Medium term options

- Short term should be straightforward, a 3c corrected assessments all on track

- Medium term: Explain Rio where Rio is at with strategic assessment
Explain how this inserts with WA.

- Bilateral agreements, Assessments on track

Key contacts: Procedural meeting

- Debra O'Connor Cox ^{staff} _{involvement}
- Anthony Sutton

S47F

Approach: Market driven model Explain where Rio is...

DMWE messaging: Focus on speedy approvals

- strategic assessments
- assessment of impact
- digitalisation

Chris Swift/Chloe

- Rio to audit dates for delivery of dates

Collings

- Pruggy back off site meetings, a series of meetings

Stacy Assessments

- Rio AG, WA, take separate mtg.
↳ leads to piece in separate mtg.
↳ work day legal liability to create deal with Commonwealth.

of course speed of impact, but not going to help in next 12 months.

- needs to specialise support in legal time
- Call for report on new Governance model for a reports for external
- practical problem with parliament openly given COVID.

Good progress on Administrative

related approach

Actions

Need FAS to write objectives and strategic options (Stephen / BOD) need purpose
Deep dive on short term options / re-approach
to take up longer term

- BOD for April 6th/7th/8th
May 1st - 3rd consult.
Complete late July.

From: [Gregory Manning](#)
To: s47F
Subject: Pre-meet ahead of discussions with WA and Rio Tinto - approval bilateral handling [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 31 March 2020 1:20:38 PM

Meeting with: Michelle, James T, Bruce Edwards, s47F Decclan O, s47F
s47F

Invite text

Hi Everyone. On Friday this week EAD will be meeting with Rio Tinto, WA DWER (Mike Rowe) and EPA (s47F and Anthony Sutton etc). The purpose of the meeting is to further assure Rio that there interests are being managed in the absence of approval bilaterals. As part of that meeting WA officials have indicated they wish to discuss the progression of approval bilaterals. It is apparent to us that we are not fully on the same page as the state on this matter at the current time.

Given we are anticipating WA will raise this with or without Rio in the room we would like to get together to co-ordinate handling on this issue before it comes up.

Thanks

Greg.

s47F

Subject: Pre-meet ahead of discussions with WA and Rio Tinto - approval bilateral handling
[SEC=OFFICIAL]
Location: Teleconference Details below.
Start: Wed 1/04/2020 3:00 PM
End: Wed 1/04/2020 4:00 PM
Recurrence: (none)
Meeting Status: Accepted
Organizer: Gregory Manning
Required Attendees: Michelle Croker; James Tregurtha; Bruce Edwards; s47F Declan O'Connor-Cox; s47F
s47F

Hi Everyone.

On Friday this week EAD will be meeting with Rio Tinto, WA DWER (Mike Rowe) and EPA (s47F) and Anthony Sutton etc). The purpose of the meeting is to further assure Rio that their interests are being managed in the absence of approval bilaterals. As part of that meeting WA officials have indicated they wish to discuss the progression of approval bilaterals. It is apparent to us that we are not fully on the same page as the state on this matter at the current time.

Given we are anticipating WA will raise this with or without Rio in the room we would like to get together to coordinate handling on this issue before it comes up.

Thanks

Greg.

Teleconference Details:

Dial In: 1800 701 826

Guest Code: 5172 7747 #

s47F

Subject: Rio Tinto Iron Ore approvals in the Pilbara [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Location: Teleconference - 2:30pm AEST and 11:30am WA time

Start: Fri 3/04/2020 2:30 PM
End: Fri 3/04/2020 5:00 PM

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Accepted

Organizer: Declan O'Connor-Cox

Required Attendees: Dean Knudson; Michelle Croker; Gregory Manning; s47F
'Chris.Salisbury@RioTinto.com' s47F
s47F; s47F
s47F

Optional Attendees: Anthony Sutton; s47F s47F s47F
(RTIO)

Please call in on teleconference no. **1800 701 826** (EAs/PAs please note change to dial in number)
Then enter Participate number = **979 441#**



s47F
Executive Assistant to Declan O'Connor-Cox
Acting Assistant Secretary
Environment Approvals Division

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment | www.awe.gov.au

PO Box 787 CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

s47F

Rio Tinto Iron Ore approvals in the Pilbara

Date: 3 April 2020
Time: 2:30pm AEST (11:30am WA)
Location: Teleconference
Participants: Dean Knudson, Michelle Croker, Greg Manning,
Declan O'Connor-Cox DAWE, s47F DAWE, s47F
s47F DAWE, Mike Rowe DWER, s47F WAEPA, Chris
Salisbury, s47F Rio Tinto, s47F
Rio Tinto and Rowena Albones Rio Tinto.

Agenda

1. Introduction and overview
2. Facilitation of more immediate projects
 - Co-location of DAWE staff in WA to facilitate joined-up approach
 - Development of client service charters
 - Scheduling of regular catch-ups
3. Facilitation of longer-term projects
 - Strategic assessments
 - Bilateral agreements
4. Next steps

From: [Gregory Manning](#)
To: s47F
Subject: FW: Rio Tinto Iron Ore approvals in the Pilbara - Meeting agenda 3 April 2020 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 31 March 2020 1:26:48 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Could you cut and paste the agenda below into the meeting invite. Put heading above it 'Agenda for meeting with WA and Rio, Friday 3 April 2020'

From: s47F
Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2020 1:25 PM
To: Gregory Manning <Gregory.Manning@environment.gov.au>
Cc: s47F
Subject: FW: Rio Tinto Iron Ore approvals in the Pilbara - Meeting agenda 3 April 2020 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hello Greg

Having some technical issues attaching the original agenda. Please find the details copied below.

Regards

s47F

Rio Tinto Iron Ore approvals in the Pilbara

Date: 3 April 2020
Time: 2:30pm AEST (11:30am WA)
Location: Teleconference
Participants: Dean Knudson Deputy Secretary DAWE, Michelle Croker DAWE, Greg Manning DAWE, Declan O'Connor-Cox DAWE, s47F DAWE, s47F DAWE, Mike Rowe DWER, s47F WAEPa, Chris Salisbury, s47F Rio Tinto, s47F Rio Tinto and Rowena Albones Rio Tinto.

1. Agenda

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 - Co-location of DAWE staff in WA to facilitate joined-up approach

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 - Scheduling of regular catch-ups

4. Facilitation of longer-term projects
 - Strategic assessments

 - Bilateral agreements

5. Next steps

From: s47F
Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2020 12:52 PM
To: s47F
Subject: Rio Tinto Iron Ore approvals in the Pilbara - Meeting agenda 3 April 2020
[SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thank s47F very happy to help with the next one 😊

From: s47F
Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2020 9:45 AM
To: s47F
Subject: RE: Rio Tinto Iron Ore approvals in the Pilbara - Meeting agenda 3 April 2020
[SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s47F

Yes, and I know this falls over their lunch time, thanks for the attendee flexibility. I am very much hoping they wrap up before 2:00pm WST as this is 5:00 AEST, and no loves a Friday afternoon meeting as it is.

With this in mind let's stay at it being a teleconference, then they can bring their lunch and mute their mics if needed. We will do a Zoom for the next one, and are you happy if I work with you for this set up?

Many thanks

s47F

From: s47F

Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2020 11:53 AM

To: s47F

Subject: Rio Tinto Iron Ore approvals in the Pilbara - Meeting agenda 3 April 2020

[SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thank you s47F ☺

Our diaries show the meeting commences at 11.30am WST and concludes at 2.00pm WST. Is that correct?

s47F

From: s47F

Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2020 5:07 AM

To: s47F

Subject: RE: Rio Tinto Iron Ore approvals in the Pilbara - Meeting agenda 3 April 2020

[SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hello s47F

Thank you for your assistance on this. Please find attached the agenda.

I will discuss the Zoom set up option with Declan today and we will confirm with you.

Kind regards

s47F

Executive Assistant to Declan O'Connor-Cox
Assistant Secretary A/g
Executive Projects Branch
Environment Approvals Division

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment | www.awe.gov.au

King Edward Terrace, PARKES ACT 2600

PO Box 787 CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

s47F

2586 Indigenous signature block NEW (2)



From: Declan O'Connor-Cox <Declan.O'connor-Cox@environment.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 30 March 2020 7:01 PM

To: s47F

Cc: s47F

Subject: Re: Rio Tinto Iron Ore approvals in the Pilbara [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s47F we should be sending details tomorrow.

Declan

Sent from my iPhone

On 30 Mar. 2020, at 6:57 pm, s47F wrote:

Good afternoon Declan

Thank you for your invitation to our officers to attend the above meeting by teleconference.

Our officers are predominantly working from home during the COVID19 epidemic. Would the teleconference be capable of receiving four outside calls. I have adjusted the Chairman's future meetings to be held via Zoom and found this works very well. I would be happy to set it up for this meeting if you wish. Zoom can be through video and voice or just voice if desired and no apps need downloading.

Also do you have an agenda for this meeting please that I can forward to the Chairman.

Thank you and kind regards

<image002.png>

s47F

Executive Officer to s47F

Chairman

Environmental Protection Authority

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Prime House – 8 Davidson Terrace Joondalup

Locked Bag 10, JOONDALUP DC WA 6919

s47F

| www.dwer.wa.gov.au

Twitter: [@DWER_WA](https://twitter.com/DWER_WA) | [@EPA_WA](https://twitter.com/EPA_WA)

From: s47F
To: [Declan O'Connor-Cox](#)
Subject: RE: Forgot to mention sending the Rio agenda to Greg is priority asap [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 31 March 2020 2:31:56 PM
Attachments: [RE Rio Tinto Iron Ore approvals in the Pilbara - Meeting agenda 3 April 2020 SECOFFICIAL.msg](#)

No worries Declan

Greg got it just before you sent this.

Regards

s47F

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

From: Declan O'Connor-Cox

Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2020 1:31 PM

To: s47F

Subject: Forgot to mention sending the Rio agenda to Greg is priority asap

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Gregory Manning](#)
To: s47F
Subject: RE: Rio Tinto Iron Ore approvals in the Pilbara - Meeting agenda 3 April 2020 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 31 March 2020 1:26:58 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

THanks

From: s47F
Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2020 1:25 PM
To: Gregory Manning
Cc: s47F
Subject: FW: Rio Tinto Iron Ore approvals in the Pilbara - Meeting agenda 3 April 2020 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hello Greg

Having some technical issues attaching the original agenda. Please find the details copied below.

Regards

s47F

Rio Tinto Iron Ore approvals in the Pilbara

Date: 3 April 2020
Time: 2:30pm AEST (11:30am WA)
Location: Teleconference
Participants: Dean Knudson Deputy Secretary DAWE, Michelle Croker DAWE, Greg Manning DAWE, Declan O'Connor-Cox DAWE, s47F DAWE, s47F DAWE, Mike Rowe DWER, s47F WAEPA, Chris Salisbury, s47F Rio Tinto, s47F Rio Tinto and Rowena Albones Rio Tinto.

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From: s47F
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To: s47F
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Many thanks

s47F

From: s47F

Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2020 11:53 AM

To: s47F

Subject: Rio Tinto Iron Ore approvals in the Pilbara - Meeting agenda 3 April 2020
[SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thank you s22 ☺

Our diaries show the meeting commences at 11.30am WST and concludes at 2.00pm WST. Is that correct?

s47F

From: s47F

Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2020 5:07 AM

To: s47F

Subject: RE: Rio Tinto Iron Ore approvals in the Pilbara - Meeting agenda 3 April 2020
[SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hello s47F

Thank you for your assistance on this. Please find attached the agenda.
I will discuss the Zoom set up option with Declan today and we will confirm with you.

Kind regards

s47F

Executive Assistant to Declan O'Connor-Cox
Assistant Secretary A/g
Executive Projects Branch
Environment Approvals Division

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment | www.awe.gov.au

King Edward Terrace, PARKES ACT 2600
PO Box 787 CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

s47F

2586 Indigenous signature block NEW (2)



From: Declan O'Connor-Cox

Sent: Monday, 30 March 2020 7:01 PM

To: s47F

Cc: s47F

Subject: Re: Rio Tinto Iron Ore approvals in the Pilbara [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s47F we should be sending details tomorrow.
Declan

Sent from my iPhone

On 30 Mar. 2020, at 6:57 pm, s47F wrote:

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Also do you have an agenda for this meeting please that I can forward to the Chairman.

Thank you and kind regards

s47F

Executive Officer to s47F

Chairman

[Environmental Protection Authority](#)

[Department of Water and Environmental Regulation](#)

Prime House – 8 Davidson Terrace Joondalup

Locked Bag 10, JOONDALUP DC WA 6919

s47F

www.dwer.wa.gov.au

Twitter: [@DWER_WA](#) | [@EPA_WA](#)

s47F

Subject: Meeting with Rio Tinto re Iron Ore Assessment Programme [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Location: Burra Room, 1.059, John Gorton Building, King Edward Terrace, Canberra

Start: Thu 5/03/2020 1:30 PM
End: Thu 5/03/2020 2:30 PM
Show Time As: Tentative

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Organizer: Michelle Croker

Required Attendees Gregory Manning; s47F s47F (Rio Tinto); s47F (RTIO)

Optional Attendees s47F (RTIO); s47F (RTIO); Declan O'Connor-Cox

Good Afternoon

Upon arrival at the John Gorton Building, please call extension s47F to be escorted to the meeting room.

Thank you!

s47F

From: [Michelle Croker](#)
To: s47F
Subject: FW: [External] Meeting with Rio Tinto re Iron Ore assessment programme [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 30 January 2020 12:05:29 PM

s47F

Grateful if you could book this in

Michelle

Michelle Croker
A/g First Assistant Secretary
Environment Approvals Division

Department of the Environment and Energy
51 Allara Street, Canberra ACT 2601
s47F | E: michelle.croker@environment.gov.au

From: s47F
Sent: Thursday, 30 January 2020 11:53 AM
To: Michelle Croker <Michelle.Croker@environment.gov.au>
Cc: Gregory Manning <Gregory.Manning@environment.gov.au>; s47F

s47F

s47F

Subject: RE: [External] RE: Meeting with Rio Tinto re Iron Ore assessment programme [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Michelle,

Many thanks for getting back to me. 26 Feb at 11am works well for a meeting on strategic assessments. Will send through some materials ahead of time.

Thanks also for letting us know about the upcoming office move.

I look forward to meeting with you then.

Regards

s47F

s47F
General Manager – State Agreements and Approvals

Rio Tinto
152-158 St Georges Terrace
Perth, Western Australia

s47F

s47F

<http://www.riotinto.com>

From: Michelle Croker [<mailto:Michelle.Croker@environment.gov.au>]

Sent: Thursday, 30 January 2020 8:44 AM

To: s47F

Cc: Gregory Manning <Gregory.Manning@environment.gov.au>; s47F

s47F

s47F

Subject: [External] RE: Meeting with Rio Tinto re Iron Ore assessment programme
[SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s47F

It would be great to meet and useful to get some questions/framing for your discussions.

The afternoon of the 25 Feb or morning of 26 Feb would work for us. How about 11am 26 Feb? If that works I'll ask my EA to send through a calendar invite.

Also – I should mention that we will have moved office locations from the city to the John Gorton Building in Parkes. We will include the details in the invite.

Kind regards

Michelle

Michelle Croker
A/g First Assistant Secretary
Environment Approvals Division

Department of the Environment and Energy

51 Allara Street, Canberra ACT 2601

s47F | E: michelle.croker@environment.gov.au

From: s47F

Sent: Thursday, 30 January 2020 12:30 AM

To: Michelle Croker <Michelle.Croker@environment.gov.au>

Cc: Gregory Manning <Gregory.Manning@environment.gov.au>; s47F

s47F

s47F

Subject: FW: Meeting with Rio Tinto re Iron Ore assessment programme

Hi Michelle,

I refer to our previous emails, and our meeting with s47F and s47F last week. Please also see email below to [redacted] proposing a meeting to cover our current assessment programme, and in particular Mesa H which is progressing to the final stages of assessment by the WA EPA.

As set out in the email below, I suggest that while we are in Canberra we meet to discuss options for a strategic assessment. If that is suitable, we can send through some questions and

discussion points ahead of the meeting to help frame the discussion.

Our available dates for the meeting as provided to Declan below are: 25, 26, 27 February or 4, 5 March.

Please let me know if any of the dates would be suitable.

Kind regards

s47F

From: s47F (RTIO)

Sent: Wednesday, 29 January 2020 8:11 PM

To: Declan O'Connor-Cox <Declan.O'connor-Cox@environment.gov.au>

Cc: Gregory Manning <Gregory.Manning@environment.gov.au>; s47F

s47F

s47F

Subject: Meeting with Rio Tinto re Iron Ore assessment programme

Hi Declan

I hope you are well.

I was wondering whether you and your team would have some time available to meet in Canberra in the second half of February for a number of meetings to discuss our assessment and approvals pathway. I suggest there are a number of items to cover which we could deal with as previously with an initial broader meeting with you to discuss our programme, followed by more technical meetings with your team members present on specific items as required. The following items we propose include:

- **Overview / update on Rio Tinto programme of assessments** – (Suggest 30 minutes)
- **Mesa H project** – I note that we presented to the EPA Board last week and anticipate receiving draft conditions later this week. We are keen to follow up from the last meeting we had in November to discuss any remaining items from your team, and map out a schedule for final steps for this assessment (Suggest 1.5 hours)
- **Strategic Assessments** – Following our recent meeting with s47F and s47F in Perth, as well as previous discussions with Michelle Croker and Greg Manning, I suggest we discuss a number of questions we have on a strategic assessment pathway and the various approaches that may be available under the EPBC Act taking into consideration our operations and future development pathway in the Pilbara. We may need to meet separately with Michelle, Greg and s47F that day. We will send some questions and background material ahead of that meeting (suggest 1.5 hours)

Other business

- **Offsets for Mesa A and West Angelas** – We are currently finalising Offset Strategies for our Mesa A and West Angelas projects, which were conditions of EPBC Act approvals received last year. We have sent an email with some specific queries to s47F and

are keen to resolve these by early February. However we will have availability to discuss with him when we are in Canberra (if our queries have not been resolved prior to that).
(Suggest 30 minutes)

Could you please let me know if we are able to meet with you and the team as required on the above items and whether there are any other items you would like to cover? Available dates for us include: 25, 26, 27 February or 4, 5 March.

I can advise of specific attendees once we confirm the meeting date.

Please let me know if you would like to discuss. I can be contacted on 0402 834 376.

Regards

s47F

General Manager – State Agreements and Approvals

Rio Tinto

152-158 St Georges Terrace

Perth, Western Australia

M: s47F

s47F

<http://www.riotinto.com>

S47F

Subject: Teleconference | Chris Salisbury, Rio Tinto & Dean Knudson, DAWE [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Location: TELECONFERENCE 1800 701 826, GUEST CODE 717 297 5378

Start: Fri 6/03/2020 12:30 PM
End: Fri 6/03/2020 1:00 PM

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Accepted

Organizer: Dean Knudson
Required Attendees: S47F Michelle Croker; Gregory Manning; declan.doherty@riotinto.com

Categories: Teleconference, Executive

From: s47F
To:
Subject: Room booking for Rio Tinto [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 3 March 2020 9:53:00 AM

Hi s47F

I have booked the Burra Room from 1-3pm for the Rio Tinto meeting at 1.30pm.

It has a capacity for 16 peeps and is SERVICED!

s47F

Executive Assistant to
Michelle Croker – A/g First Assistant Secretary
Environment Approvals Division

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

GPO Box 787, CANBERRA, ACT 2601

s47F | Environment.gov.au

Part-time hours. I leave work at 2.30pm on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT

RECORD OF MEETING –TELEPHONE MEETING WITH CHRIS SALISBURY, RIO TINTO

Location: Dean Knudsen's Office

Date: 6/3/2020

Attendees: Dean Knudsen, Michelle Croker, Greg Manning, Declan O'Connor-Cox (Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment); Chris Salisbury, s47F [REDACTED] (Rio Tinto)

Key points discussed:

1. Rio Tinto interested in strategic assessment approaches noting that when they considered them 5 years ago and they did not fit into existing approvals, expanding operations and state approvals at that time.
2. The Department noted Rio's concerns with use of strategic assessments for Rio's circumstance but considered the issues were likely to be manageable in the event the company chose to proceed.
3. Rio Tinto very pleased with service charters, joined-up approach with WA government, DAWE staff to be considered for outposting in WA, monthly engagement that has already been taking place and service provided by the Department to date.
4. Rio Tinto understand bilateral approvals would take some time with an unknown outcome. However they feel it is important they pursue this and will be meeting with Graeme Samuel.
5. There is value in further engagement between Rio, the Department and WA to map out work ahead including integration between state and commonwealth processes, possible strategic assessments at state and commonwealth level and consideration of bilateral agreements.

Follow up Actions:

1. Around the end of March Rio, Department and WA will meet to develop a workplan covering service charters, co-location of Department staff in WA, strategic assessments, bilateral approvals and regular catch-ups.

Note taker:

Name: Declan O'Connor-Cox
Position: Acting Assistant Secretary
Branch/Division: EAD
Phone no: s47F [REDACTED]

From: [Michelle Croker](#)
To: s47F
Cc: [Gregory Manning](#); [Declan O'Connor-Cox](#); s47F
Subject: FW: Rio Tinto Meetings - 26.02.20 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 6 February 2020 1:08:44 PM

s47F

Can you try and organise something for 5 March, noting that it's SE week and we don't know what day we are on.

Thanks

Michelle

Michelle Croker
A/g First Assistant Secretary
Environment Approvals Division

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
John Gorton Building, Parkes, Canberra ACT 2601
s47F | E: michelle.croker@awe.gov.au

From: s47F
Sent: Thursday, 6 February 2020 12:54 PM
To: Michelle Croker <Michelle.Croker@environment.gov.au>; s47F
s47F <[REDACTED]> <[Declan O'Connor-Cox <Declan.O'connor-Cox@environment.gov.au>](mailto:Declan.O'connor-Cox@environment.gov.au)>
Subject: Rio Tinto Meetings - 26.02.20

Hello Everyone

Apologies, but something has come up and s47F [REDACTED] and s47F [REDACTED] will not be able to make the 26th February meetings in Canberra.

Would you be able to advise if these meetings could be rescheduled to 5th March at the same time?

If that date is not possible, would you be able to advise what would work for you all?

Thank you.

Regards

s47F
Divisional secretary
State Agreements and Approvals

Rio Tinto
Central Park
152-158 St Georges Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

s47F

<http://www.riotintoironore.com>

From: s47F
To: s47F
Cc: s47F
Subject: RE: Rio Tinto Meetings - 26.02.20 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 6 February 2020 1:20:29 PM

Good Afternoon s47F

It is not a problem to move the meeting to 11am on 5 March. If that is ok, I will send a new calendar invitation.

Thank you!

s47F

s47F

Executive Assistant to
Michelle Croker – A/g First Assistant Secretary
Environment Approvals Division

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

GPO Box 787, CANBERRA, ACT 2601

s47F | Environment.gov.au

Part-time hours. I leave work at 2.30pm on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays.

From: s47F
Sent: Thursday, 6 February 2020 12:54 PM
To: Michelle Croker <Michelle.Croker@environment.gov.au>; s47F
s47F Declan O'Connor-Cox <Declan.O'connor-Cox@environment.gov.au>
Subject: Rio Tinto Meetings - 26.02.20

Hello Everyone

Apologies, but something has come up and s47F
s47F and s47F will not be able to make the 26th February meetings in Canberra.

Would you be able to advise if these meetings could be rescheduled to 5th March at the same time?

If that date is not possible, would you be able to advise what would work for you all?

Thank you.

Regards

s47F

Divisional secretary
State Agreements and Approvals

Rio Tinto

Central Park
152-158 St Georges Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

s47F

<http://www.riotintoironore.com>

From: s47F (RTIO)
To: Michelle Croker; Gregory Manning; s47F
Cc: s47F (Rio Tinto)
Subject: RE: [External] Follow-up from Wednesday meeting [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Monday, 16 December 2019 5:51:49 PM

Thanks, Michelle.
Have a great break. I will be in touch on my return.

From: Michelle Croker [mailto:Michelle.Croker@environment.gov.au]
Sent: Monday, 16 December 2019 12:21 PM
To: s47F Gregory Manning
<Gregory.Manning@environment.gov.au>; s47F
Cc: s47F
Subject: RE: [External] Follow-up from Wednesday meeting [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s47F

A meeting in January sounds good.

Have a great Christmas break and will talk to you in 2020.

Kind regards

Michelle

Michelle Croker
A/g First Assistant Secretary
Environment Approvals Division

Department of the Environment and Energy
51 Allara Street, Canberra ACT 2601
s47F | E: michelle.croker@environment.gov.au

From: s47F
Sent: Friday, 13 December 2019 8:11 PM
To: Michelle Croker <Michelle.Croker@environment.gov.au>; Gregory Manning
<Gregory.Manning@environment.gov.au>; s47F
Cc: s47F
Subject: RE: [External] Follow-up from Wednesday meeting [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Michelle

Thank you for your email and to you, Greg and s47F for meeting with us on Wednesday.

We also appreciate the support provided by Greg and his team to our current assessment and approvals pipeline, including the regular meetings we have established.

As discussed briefly, Rio Tinto has previously undertaken several detailed reviews into strategic assessments, and has concluded that there would be some difficulties given our development pathway. However I remain open to continuing to explore this option and look forward to

discussing in detail with you further.

Unfortunately I am not available to discuss next week, but will contact you on my return from leave from the week commencing 13 January to set up a time for a call.

Thanks again for meeting with us and I look forward to discussing with you in the new year.

Kind regards

s47F

General Manager – State Agreements and Approvals

Rio Tinto

152-158 St Georges Terrace

Perth, Western Australia

M: s47F

s47F

<http://www.riotinto.com>

From: Michelle Croker [<mailto:Michelle.Croker@environment.gov.au>]

Sent: Friday, 13 December 2019 11:56 AM

To: s47F

Cc: Gregory Manning <Gregory.Manning@environment.gov.au>; s47F

s47F

Subject: [External] Follow-up from Wednesday meeting [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s47F and s47F

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us on Wednesday. The Department is committed to working collaboratively with Rio Tinto to progress assessments and approvals in a timely way, while ensuring the requirements of the EPBC Act are met.

As discussed, we are of the view that possibly the best way to achieve this is through the development and implementation of a strategic assessment under Part 10 of the EPBC Act, combined with agreement to undertake urgent assessment of projects for which the timing would fall before a strategic assessment was finalised.

As outlined in our meeting, strategic assessments are undertaken at the landscape-scale and incorporate the assessment of impacts associated with all likely future development, such as expansion of existing mines, within a defined geographic area. The landscape scale impact assessment informs a policy, plan or program (the Plan). Once finalised, a person undertaking their action in accordance with an endorsed Plan and conditions of approval are not required to obtain further approvals under national environmental law for the period of the approval timeframe.

A strategic assessment will provide Rio Tinto upfront certainty for all known and future iron ore developments in the Pilbara region. It will also provide cost saving benefits (both time and money) as resources that would otherwise be directed to undertake project-by-project assessments and meet post-approval requirements, would be consolidated into the one strategic assessment process.

To meet Rio Tinto's business needs, we would seek to finalise the strategic assessment within 18 months to 2 years of commencement. The Department will commit to providing the necessary resources to meet this timeframe. However, as the impact assessment and Plan must be

undertaken by Rio Tinto, the same commitment of resources would also be required to meet the desired timeframes.

As we discussed, there is also the option to progress projects requiring urgent assessment and approval through the project by project process under Parts 7 – 9 of the EPBC Act while concurrently progressing a strategic assessment.

It would be great if we could talk further next week about options and next steps, as well as answer any questions you might have about the different approaches available. Let me know your availability and I will ask my EA Penny Turner to set up a suitable teleconference time.

Kind regards

Michelle Croker

Michelle Croker
A/g First Assistant Secretary
Environment Approvals Division

Department of the Environment and Energy

51 Allara Street, Canberra ACT 2601

s47F | E: michelle.croker@environment.gov.au

s47F

Subject: Meeting: DoEE / Rio Tinto [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Location: Hotel Ream - Foyer

Start: Wed 11/12/2019 9:00 AM
End: Wed 11/12/2019 9:45 AM

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Accepted

Organizer: Dean Knudson

Required Attendees Michelle Croker; Manning, Gregory (Gregory.Manning@environment.gov.au);

s47F

s47F

Executive Assistant to Dean Knudson, Deputy Secretary
Environment Protection Group

Department of the Environment and Energy

s47F

John Gorton Building, King Edward Terrace, Parkes ACT 2600

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.

s47F

Subject: Rio Tinto pre meeting [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Location: Michelle's Office

Start: Mon 9/12/2019 10:45 AM
End: Mon 9/12/2019 11:45 AM
Show Time As: Tentative

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Organizer: Michelle Croker
Required Attendees Gregory Manning

From: [Dean Knudson](#)
To: s47F
Subject: FW: Meeting request [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Monday, 12 August 2019 10:03:14 AM

Hi

Please see email below.

Can you call me when you are free about it

Thanks

s47F

From: s47F

Sent: Wednesday, 7 August 2019 10:35 AM

To: Dean Knudson

Subject: Meeting request

Dear Dean

Congratulations on a fine presentation to the MCA last week. It was beaut to see you again and clearly flat out. I returned from the OECD role in January.

Your presentation prompted me to write to see if I could arrange a meeting with you with 3 members of our project approvals team from the Rio Tinto Iron Ore division who will be visiting from WA at the end of this month. They are meeting s47F in the Minister's office on 27 Aug in Sydney. They also plan to meet Greg Manning.

If you happen to be in Sydney on that day, a meeting around 4pm in Sydney would be workable. Alternatively, if it's Canberra, then I may still be able to get them to Canberra at the same time (4pm) on the 27th or a meeting on morning of the 28th August.

We are in the planning and execution phase for a large number of approvals that will be lodged into the system in WA and with the Commonwealth that will underpin expansion (mainly brown fields expansion) to replace depleted iron ore reserves over the next 5 years.

Some of the issues you described around the current operation and administration of the EPBC Act reflect many of the concerns I am hearing in the business. I sense you may have some useful advice to the team as they finalise plans, schedules and approach to the approvals that are being, or will be, sought.

This same team will also be assembling submissions/case examples for consideration by government as part of the red tape reduction review and also the review of the EPBC Act, once that kicks off.

Do let me know if you are willing and able to accomodate a meeting late on the 27th or morning of the 28 August. I am happy to deal with your executive assistant to finalise details and dates.

I looked forward to the opportunity to meet again.

Kind regards

s47F

Chief Advisor – Government Relations

Australia

Rio Tinto

Level 1, The Realm, 18 National Circuit, Canberra ACT 2600

s47F 47F

s47F <http://www.riotinto.com>

Rio Tinto Limited Registered office [360 Collins Street Melbourne 3000 Australia](#).

Registered in Australia ABN [96 004 458 404](#).

This email is confidential and may also be privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify us immediately and delete this message from your system without first printing or copying it. Any personal data in this email (including any attachments) must be

handled in accordance with the Rio Tinto Group Data Protection Policy and all applicable data protection laws.
Sent from my iPhone

s47F

Subject: Rio Tinto - DOEE [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Location: Greg Manning's office, 51 Allara St

Start: Tue 27/08/2019 9:30 AM
End: Tue 27/08/2019 10:30 AM

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Accepted

Organizer: James Tregurtha

Required Attendees: s47F James Barker; Gregory Manning; Bruce Edwards; Michelle Croker

Categories: Meeting with Proponents

To discuss:

- project approvals
- review of the EPBC Act

Upon arrival at 51 Allara St, please call s47F (extension s47F from the reception desk).



WWW: Accessing
requested [3] [3] [3]...

Kind regards,

s47F

Executive Officer to James Tregurtha
First Assistant Secretary, Environment Standards Division
Department of the Environment and Energy
51 Allara St | GPO Box 787, Canberra ACT 2601

s47F

From: s47F
To:
Subject: FW: Rio Tinto - Strategic Assessment Options [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 1 October 2020 2:15:46 PM

From: s47F
Sent: Monday, 30 March 2020 11:09 PM
To: s47F
Subject: Rio Tinto - Strategic Assessment Options [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hello

s47F has a meeting on Monday with Rio Tinto and would like to look at your options paper.

I can only find the hard copy – could you provide an e-version to provide s47F

Cheers - s47F

s47F
Assistant Director | Major Projects West Section | s47F

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
Assessments (WA, SA, NT) Post Approvals & Policy Branch | Environment Approvals Division
John Gorton Building, King Edward Terrace, Parkes, ACT
GPO Box 787, Canberra City, ACT, 2601

From: s47F
To:
Cc:
Subject: Strategic approach options [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 31 March 2020 5:43:27 PM
Attachments: [Strategic approaches.docx](#)

Hi s47F

Attached is the strategic approach options we pulled together regarding Rio Tinto. It's by no means a polished bit of work but I hope it's useful.

s47F

Analysis of strategic approach options for RT

Approach	Benefits for RT	Risks for RT	Benefits for DAWE	Risks for DAWE
1. All are 7-9.				
2. One strategic assessment of one subset* of projects. Other projects go through 7-9 pathway.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Likely that projects are assessed within RT's timeframes ▪ Strategic assessment gives upfront certainty ▪ Only one strategic assessment (reduced regulatory burden, simplified approach etc) ▪ Some 7-9 projects could be prioritised and fast tracked ▪ Reduced costs (less fees) ▪ Enables RT to commence actions as they are approved. This could be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) actions that have been fast tracked through 7-9 pathway (no need to wait for strategic assessment to be completed); or b) strategic assessment projects (no need to wait for 7-9 projects to be approved). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Potentially complicated having some projects go through 7-9 pathway and others through 10 pathway ▪ Only one subset in the strategic assessment (reduces its scope) ▪ Initial uncertainty regarding timing – Not clear at the outset if 7-9 pathway projects or strategic assessment will be completed sooner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Better environmental outcomes for projects in subset ▪ Possibly able to deliver quicker assessments for prioritised 7-9 projects ▪ Upfront certainty on development and environmental outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Potentially complicated having some projects go through 7-9 pathway and others through 10 pathway ▪ Need to assess prioritised 7-9 projects quickly ▪ Limited scope of strategic assessment limits extent of better environmental outcomes
3. One strategic assessment of multiple subsets* of projects. Selected projects go through 7-9 pathway.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Likely that projects are assessed within RT's timeframes ▪ Strategic assessment can cover broad range of projects across multiple subsets ▪ Upfront certainty across all subsets ▪ Only one strategic assessment (reduced regulatory burden, simplified approach etc) ▪ Some 7-9 projects could be prioritised and fast tracked ▪ Reduced costs (less fees) ▪ Enables RT to commence actions as they are approved. This could be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) actions that have been fast tracked through 7-9 pathway (no need to wait for strategic assessment to be completed); or b) strategic assessment projects (no need to wait for 7-9 projects to be approved). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Potentially complicated having some projects go through 7-9 pathway and others through 10 pathway ▪ Potentially complicated having multiple subsets. ▪ Initial uncertainty regarding timing – Not clear at the outset if 7-9 pathway projects or strategic assessment will be completed sooner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Better environmental outcomes for projects in subsets ▪ Possibly able to deliver quicker assessments for prioritised 7-9 projects ▪ Upfront certainty on development and environmental outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Potentially complicated having some projects go through 7-9 pathway and others through 10 pathway ▪ Need to assess selected projects quickly
4. One strategic assessment of all projects but with some projects identified as potentially later being assessed as 7-9.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Likely that projects are assessed within RT's timeframes ▪ Strategic assessment can cover broad range of projects across multiple subsets ▪ Upfront certainty across all subsets ▪ Only one strategic assessment (reduced regulatory burden, simplified approach etc) ▪ Some 7-9 projects could be prioritised and fast tracked ▪ Reduced costs (less fees) ▪ Enables RT to commence actions as they are approved. This could be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) actions that have been fast tracked through 7-9 pathway (no need to wait for strategic assessment to be completed); or b) strategic assessment projects (no need to wait for 7-9 projects to be approved). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Potentially complicated having some projects go through 7-9 pathway and others through 10 pathway ▪ Having all projects initially in one strategic assessment but then changed to 7-9 pathway may be complicated ▪ Potentially complicated having multiple subsets. ▪ Initial timing uncertainty – Not clear at the outset if 7-9 projects or strategic assessment will be completed sooner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Better environmental outcomes for most projects ▪ Able to respond to changing RT need for quicker assessment of selected projects ▪ Upfront certainty on development and environmental outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Potentially complicated having some projects go through 7-9 pathway and others through 10 pathway ▪ Need to assess selected projects quickly if needed
5. One strategic assessment of all projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Likely that projects are assessed within RT's timeframes ▪ Only one strategic assessment (reduced regulatory burden, simplified approach etc) ▪ Upfront certainty for all projects ▪ Reduced costs (less fees) ▪ Covers broad range of projects across multiple subsets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Having all projects in one strategic assessment may be complicated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Better environmental outcomes for all projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ?
6. Multiple strategic assessments for subsets* of projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Likely that projects are assessed within RT's timeframes ▪ Some strategic assessments could be finished faster than others, enabling RT to commence actions as soon as the SA is approved. ▪ Reduced costs (less fees) ▪ Strategic assessments can be strategically categorised through subsets ▪ Upfront certainty across all subsets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Potentially complicated having more than one strategic assessment ▪ Regulatory burden not reduced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Better environmental outcomes for projects in subset 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Potentially complicated having multiple strategic assessments ▪ Risk of unnecessary duplication between strategic assessments

***Subset options:**

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spatial area ▪ Approach (fixed footprints? thresholds?) ▪ Type of activity (mining, clearing etc) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Importance of project/s to RT. ▪ Projects' expected time to commence ▪ MNES impacted | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cth and WA crossover (processes? environmental priority?) |
|---|--|---|

From: s47F
To: [Gregory Manning](#); [Michelle Croker](#)
Cc: s47F
Subject: Rio Tinto Advice Note [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Date: Tuesday, 10 December 2019 4:08:21 PM
Attachments: [Rio tinto - advice and options.docx](#)

Hi Greg, Michelle

Please see attached for briefing points ahead of tomorrow's meeting with Rio. Happy to speak by phone before the meeting if there is anything you want to clarify given I understand the meeting is at 9am at Realm.

Regarding attendance, understand you wanted to limit Dept representatives, which is fine. s47F will attend in case you need someone on hand to answer any detailed questions on process or queries regarding P10 approvals and/or the BHP strategic assessment.

With thanks to s47F and s47F for preparing these points in short order.

s47F

Advice and options for Rio Tinto Pilbara Projects

1. Parts 7-9 assessment/approval

Parts 7-9 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) involves individual case-by-case assessments and approvals done in accordance with statutory assessment processes and timeframes. This approach requires information upfront on impacts, avoidance, mitigation, offsets and project footprints.

Broadly speaking, there are two options under this approach - both of which would involve a dedicated team assigned to manage the assessment of all Rio Tinto projects within agreed timeframes (ie as a 'major project'); the differences being:

(a) Project by project approach

- case-by-case assessment of each individual project
- development of a service charter which includes clear project schedules, timeframes, commitments and expectations of each party.

(b) Broad scale project approach

- Multiple projects bundled and submitted as one larger project grouped by, for example:
 - i. geographic area, or
 - ii. activities (e.g. infrastructure such as roads and rail).
- development of a service charter which includes clear project schedules, timeframes, commitments and expectations of each party.

2. Strategic Assessment under Part 10

Strategic assessments under Part 10 of the EPBC Act operate at a landscape-scale and incorporate the assessment of impacts associated with all likely future development (new and/or expansion of existing mines) that will occur under a particular plan, program or policy (the plan).

- There are four key statutory steps:
 - entering into a strategic assessment agreement with Rio Tinto;
 - Rio Tinto developing an Impact Assessment Report (IAR) and the Plan
 - endorsement of the Plan following the assessment of impacts under the IAR; and
 - approval of 'classes of actions' including conditions of approval.
- This approach would require Rio Tinto to:
 - be named as the approval holder
 - understand the requirements of a strategic assessment such as timeframes, commitments and expectations
 - provide information on impacts, avoidance, mitigation, offsets
 - accept that the timeframe for completion of a strategic assessment is **at least 18 months** provided appropriate data is available and clarity of scope.

- A review would need to be undertaken to determine whether the existing 2012 Strategic Assessment Agreement and Terms of Reference (previously negotiated with Rio Tinto but did not proceed) are adequate and contemporary.
- Increased flexibility can be created through the development of the Plan under a strategic assessment.
- Actions covered by the approval and taken in accordance with the endorsed plan do not require any further assessment or approval from the Commonwealth, and are deemed to be approved under Part 9 of the EPBC Act.

3. Hybrid Strategic Assessment under Part 10 with concurrent Parts 7-9 assessment/approval

Undertake Parts 7-9 assessments (as described in option 1) for projects requiring urgent approval within next 18 months to 2 years and a Strategic Assessment undertaken in parallel for remainder of the projects.

From: s47F
To:
Subject: FW: Meeting with Rio Tinto [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 9 January 2020 11:37:35 AM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

From: s47F
Sent: Monday, 11 November 2019 9:03 AM
To: s47F
Cc: s47F
Subject: FW: Meeting with Rio Tinto [SEC=OFFICIAL]

s47F

This should be with Declan now, not Greg. And include someone from Post Approvals.

ciao

From: s47F
Sent: Monday, 11 November 2019 8:40 AM
To: s47F
Subject: FW: Meeting with Rio Tinto [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s47F

With reference to the email below, I have nothing booked into Greg's calendar as yet.

Come have a chat and we can arrange something.

Thanks

s47F

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

Department of the Environment and Energy | www.environment.gov.au
51 Allara Street, CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601
PO Box 787, CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

s47F

Reconciliation%20Email%20Footer



From: s47F
Sent: Friday, 8 November 2019 4:57 PM
To: s47F
Subject: Meeting with Rio Tinto

Hi s47F

I rang your offices just now, but I guess it must be home time there.

Would you be able to advise if a date has been confirmed for the below meeting with Greg Manning, s47F and s47F

Many thanks.

Regards

s47F
Divisional secretary
State Agreements and Approvals

Rio Tinto
Central Park
152-158 St Georges Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

s47F <http://www.riotintoironore.com>

----- Original message -----

From: s47F
Date: 7/11/19 9:03 am (GMT+08:00)
To: Gregory Manning <Gregory.Manning@environment.gov.au>, s47F
s47F
Cc: "s47F"
Subject: Meeting with Rio Tinto

Hi Greg and s47F

I hope you are both well.

I was wondering if you and your team would be available for a meeting on either 20 or 21 November. We propose a short meeting with you both to discuss our broader programme of approvals and the s47(1)(b) (Mesa H).

We would then propose to have a focussed technical session on the Mesa H assessment, given that we have now lodged our response to the submissions to the WA EPA, as well as responded to other questions from DotEE on this project.

We also note that as a result of the Mesa A and West Angelas approvals, we have a number of conditions to meet. It would be beneficial to meet briefly with a manager in the post-approvals team,

just as an introduction, so that we can commence engagement with them on specific conditions later in the year and into the new year.

Please let me know if 20 or 21 November would be available, and what times. I suggest 30 mins – 1 hr for the meeting with you Greg, but possibly 2 – 3 hrs for the technical Mesa H session.

Please let me know if you would like to discuss.

Kind regards

s47F

General Manager – State Agreements and Approvals

Rio Tinto

152-158 St Georges Terrace

Perth, Western Australia

s47F

s47F

<http://www.riotinto.com>

From: [Declan O'Connor-Cox](#)
To: [Michelle Croker](#)
Subject: FW: Rio meeting and agenda [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Wednesday, 1 April 2020 6:39:13 PM
Attachments: s47F -Scan_14_54_16-17_03_2020.pdf

Hi Michelle – do you think Dean was expecting us to send this note to Rio? Sorry I may have discussed this with you already but I can't recall.

Declan

From: Dean Knudson
Sent: Tuesday, 17 March 2020 2:58 PM
To: Michelle Croker
Cc: Declan O'Connor-Cox ; Gregory Manning ; s47F
Subject: RE: Rio meeting and agenda [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Michelle

Please see comments from Dean on the attached

Many thanks

s47F

Executive Assistant to Dean Knudson, Deputy Secretary
Environment Protection Group

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

s47F

John Gorton Building, King Edward Terrace, Parkes ACT 2600

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: Michelle Croker <Michelle.Croker@environment.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 16 March 2020 3:00 PM
To: Dean Knudson <Dean.Knudson@environment.gov.au>
Cc: s47F Declan O'Connor-Cox ; Gregory Manning <Gregory.Manning@environment.gov.au>
Subject: Rio meeting and agenda [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Dean

Attached is a meeting note and proposed agenda for the Rio Tinto meetings.

The end of March meeting/s will now be via teleconference and the co-location of staff on a virtual arrangement.

Happy to discuss

Michelle

Michelle Croker
A/g First Assistant Secretary
Environment Approvals Division

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
John Gorton Building, Parkes, Canberra ACT 2601
s47F E: michelle.croker@awe.gov.au

Rio Tinto Iron Ore approvals in the Pilbara

Date: TBA, end March
Time: TBA
Location: TBA – virtual or Perth
Participants: Dean Khudsen, Michelle Croker, Greg Manning,
Declan O'Connor-Cox DAWE, Mike Rowe DWER, Tom Hatton
WAEPA, Chris Salisbury, Declan Doherty, Sarah Clancy Rio
Tinto

Agenda

1. Introduction and overview
2. Facilitation of more immediate projects
 - Co-location of DAWE staff in WA to facilitate joined-up approach
 - Development of client service charters
 - Scheduling of regular catch-ups
3. Facilitation of longer-term projects
 - Strategic assessments) bilaterals
 - ~~bilateral assessments~~ *agreements*
4. Next steps

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT

RECORD OF MEETING – TELEPHONE MEETING WITH CHRIS SALISBURY, RIO TINTO

Location: Dean Knudsen's Office

Date: 6/3/2020

Attendees: Dean Knudsen, Michelle Croker, Greg Manning, Declan O'Connor-Cox (Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment); Chris Salisbury, s47F, s47F (Rio Tinto)

Key points discussed:

1. Rio Tinto interested in strategic assessment approaches noting that when they considered them 5 years ago and they did not fit into existing approvals, expanding operations and state approvals at that time.
2. The Department noted Rio's concerns with use of strategic assessments for Rio's circumstance but considered the issues were likely to be manageable in the event the company chose to proceed.
3. Rio Tinto very pleased with service charters, joined-up approach with WA government, DAWE staff to be considered for outposting in WA, monthly engagement that has already been taking place and service provided by the Department to date.
4. Rio Tinto understand bilateral approvals would take some time with an unknown outcome. However they feel it is important they pursue this and will be meeting with Graeme Samuel.
5. There is value in further engagement between Rio, the Department and WA to map out work ahead including integration between state and commonwealth processes, possible strategic assessments at state and commonwealth level and consideration of bilateral agreements.

Follow up Actions:

1. Around the end of March Rio, Department and WA will meet to develop a workplan covering service charters, co-location of Department staff in WA, strategic assessments, bilateral approvals and regular catch-ups.

agreements

Note taker:

Name: Declan O'Connor-Cox
Position: Acting Assistant Secretary
Branch/Division: EAD
Phone no: s47F

s47F

From: Declan O'Connor-Cox
Sent: Thursday, 5 March 2020 5:48 PM
To: s47F
Cc: Michelle Croker; Gregory Manning
Subject: FW: [External] Phone call with Chris Salisbury [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: Discussion with Chris Salisbury Rio.docx

Hi s47F

Please find attached a note for Dean's meeting with Chris Salisbury. It is not in any particular template, if you have a preferred template please send it through to me and I will populate.

Thanks
Declan

From: s47F
Sent: Wednesday, 4 March 2020 2:41 PM
To: Michelle Croker <Michelle.Croker@environment.gov.au>; Gregory Manning <Gregory.Manning@environment.gov.au>
Cc: s47F
s47F
Subject: FW: [External] Phone call with Chris Salisbury [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Michelle & Greg

Dean is meeting with Chris Salisbury, via telephone this Friday at 12.30pm. He is hoping one of you can also join this meeting, I have sent the invitation to both of you.

Additionally, can you please prepare some material for this discussion. Dean is going to discuss approvals of Rio projects in the Pilbara.

Can you please send this to s47F by COB tomorrow, 5 March.

Many thanks

s47F
Executive Assistant to Dean Knudson, Deputy Secretary
Environment Protection Group

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

s47F

John Gorton Building, King Edward Terrace, Parkes ACT 2600

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: s47F
Sent: Wednesday, 4 March 2020 2:26 PM
To: s47F
Subject: RE: [External] Phone call with Chris Salisbury [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s47F

Thanks for clarifying. Chris is happy to do a 30 min phone meeting with Dean. Unfortunately the only timeslot he has available this week is **Fri 6th March, 0930 – 1000 Perth time / 1230 – 1300 CANB time**. Does this work for Dean?

Kind regards

s47F

Executive assistant to the chief executive - Iron Ore

Rio Tinto

Central Park, 152 - 158 St Georges Terrace, Perth, 6000, Western Australia

s47F

s47F

s47F <http://www.riotintoironore.com>

From: s47F

Sent: Wednesday, 4 March 2020 7:48 AM

To: s47F

Cc: s47F

Subject: FW: [External] Phone call with Chris Salisbury [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Good morning s47F

Hope this email finds you well.

I can confirm that Dean Knudson would like to discuss with Chris Salisbury approvals of Rio Tinto's projects in the Pilbara.

Please let me know if you require any further information.

Many thanks

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From: s47F

Sent: Tuesday, 3 March 2020 6:56 PM

To: s47F

Subject: RE: [External] Phone call with Chris Salisbury [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s47F

Thank you for your email. May I ask the reason Dean has requested this call with Chris?

Kind regards

s47F

From: s47F

Sent: Tuesday, 3 March 2020 3:52 PM

To: s47F

Cc: s47F

Subject: [External] Phone call with Chris Salisbury [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Are you able to assist with setting up a time?

I could offer some times on Thursday or Friday if that suited?

Best wishes

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Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

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TELEPHONE CALL MEETING WITH CHRIS SALISBURY

Time/Date: Friday 6 March 2020 12.30pm – 1pm.

Subject: Discuss approvals of Rio projects in the Pilbara.

Key issues

- s47(1)(b)
- The Department has commenced the assessment of Greater Paraburdoo (EPBC 2018/8341), Brockman Syncline (EPBC 2019/8518), Gove Borrow Area (EPBC 2017/8114) and Mesa H (EPBC 2017/8017); and anticipates the submission of a large number of additional projects for approval over the next 12-18 months.
- This is a Major Project and a priority for EAD. The assessments for all off these referrals are on track. Status of current referrals:
 - Greater Paraburdoo – The Department is waiting on the state to publish the proponents ERD for public review/comments
 - Brockman Syncline - Waiting on WA EPA to provide final ESD for review.
 - Mesa H – WA Ministerial statement drafted and with Department for comment
 - s47(1)(b)
- We held several meetings with Rio on Wednesday 5 March 2020 to discuss:
 - Joined up approach between DAWE and WA Government with officers of DAWE to be outposted to WA. Initially this could be two officers to start asap for a period of around a month.
 - We will be working up a client service charter with Rio for the projects
 - How strategic assessment approaches might work
- Rio were pleased with these discussions and are showing increasing interest in strategic assessment approaches.

From: s47F
To: [Declan O'Connor-Cox](#)
Subject: FW: [External] Phone call with Chris Salisbury [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 2 April 2020 9:03:05 AM
Attachments: [Discussion with Chris Salisbury Rio.docx](#)

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-

From: Declan O'Connor-Cox
Sent: Thursday, 5 March 2020 5:48 PM
To: s47F
Cc: Michelle Croker ; Gregory Manning
Subject: FW: [External] Phone call with Chris Salisbury [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s47F

Please find attached a note for Dean's meeting with Chris Salisbury. It is not in any particular template, if you have a preferred template please send it through to me and I will populate.

Thanks
Declan

From: s47F
Sent: Wednesday, 4 March 2020 2:41 PM
To: Michelle Croker <Michelle.Croker@environment.gov.au>; Gregory Manning <Gregory.Manning@environment.gov.au>
Cc: s47F
s47F
Subject: FW: [External] Phone call with Chris Salisbury [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Environment Protection Group

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

s47F

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<http://www.riotintoironore.com>

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Environment Protection Group

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

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s47F

From: s47F
Sent: Thursday, 1 October 2020 11:22 AM
To: s47F
Subject: FW: WA Rio Tinto and DAWE teleconference Agenda - 3 April 2020 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: WA Rio DAWE Agenda - 3 April 2020.docx

From: s47F
Sent: Friday, 3 April 2020 12:14 PM
To: s47F

Anthony Sutton s47F

Cc: s47F
Subject: WA Rio Tinto and DAWE teleconference Agenda - 3 April 2020 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Good morning,

Please find an updated version of the agenda for today, with the change of an apology from s47F s47F will be attending instead.

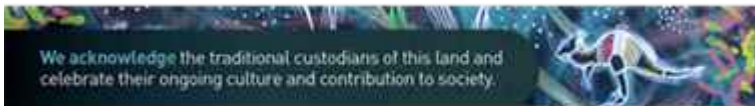
Kind regards,

s47F
Executive Assistant to Declan O'Connor-Cox
Assistant Secretary A/g
Executive Projects Branch
Environment Approvals Division

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment | www.awe.gov.au

King Edward Terrace, PARKES ACT 2600
PO Box 787 CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

s47F



Rio Tinto Iron Ore approvals in the Pilbara

Date: 3 April 2020
Time: 2:30pm AEST (11:30am WA)
Location: Teleconference
Participants: Dean Knudson Deputy Secretary DAWE, Michelle Croker DAWE, Greg Manning DAWE, Declan O'Connor-Cox DAWE, s47F DAWE, s47F DAWE, Mike Rowe DWER, s47F WA EPA, Chris Salisbury Rio Tinto, s47F Rio Tinto, s47F Rio Tinto, s47F Rio Tinto and Rowena Albones Rio Tinto.
Apologies: s47F DAWE

Agenda

1. Introduction and overview
2. Facilitation of more immediate projects
 - Co-location of DAWE staff in WA to facilitate joined-up approach
 - Development of client service charters
 - Scheduling of regular catch-ups
3. Facilitation of longer-term projects
 - Strategic assessments
 - Bilateral agreements
4. Next steps

From: [Anthony Sutton](#)
To: s47F
Cc: s47F [Declan O'Connor-Cox](#)
Subject: RE: WA Rio Tinto and DAWE teleconference Agenda - 3 April 2020 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 3 April 2020 1:32:35 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi s47F

Please note that s47F (Deputy WA EPA Chair) will be attending and not s47F
I have sent s47F the updated version.

Anthony

From: s47F
Sent: Friday, 3 April 2020 9:14 AM
To: s47F ;
Anthony Sutton ; s47F (RTIO)
Cc: s47F (RTIO)
Subject: WA Rio Tinto and DAWE teleconference Agenda - 3 April 2020 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Executive Projects Branch
Environment Approvals Division

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment | www.awe.gov.au

King Edward Terrace, PARKES ACT 2600
PO Box 787 CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

s47F

2586 Indigenous signature block NEW (2)



From: s47F
To:
Subject: FW: Meeting with Chris Salisbury 060320.docx [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 1 October 2020 3:41:27 PM
Attachments: [Meeting with Chris Salisbury 060320.docx](#)

s47F

Please find another email the search for the 'External' Chris Salisbury turned up. This looks like the previous email to Greg that I sent you the later one from s47F with comments back from Dean, including the correction of the Typo in his name.

Regards

s47F

From: Declan O'Connor-Cox
Sent: Tuesday, 10 March 2020 5:52 PM
To: Gregory Manning <Gregory.Manning@environment.gov.au>
Subject: Meeting with Chris Salisbury 060320.docx [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Greg

My very quick notes, can you make sure you are happy with them and there is nothing I missed. I think the idea is that we send this over so I may need to pretty them up.

Declan

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT

RECORD OF MEETING –TELEPHONE MEETING WITH CHRIS SALISBURY, RIO TINTO

Location: Dean Knudseon's Office

Date: 6/3/2020

Who attended? Dean Knudsen, Michelle Croker, Greg Manning, Declan O'Connor-Cox (Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment); Chris Salisbury, s47F [REDACTED] (Rio Tinto)

Key points discussed:

1. Rio Tinto interested in strategic assessment approaches.
2. Rio Tinto absolutely delighted with service charters, joined-up approach with WA government with DAWE staff outposted to WA.
3. Monthly catch-ups supported.
4. Rio Tinto understand bilateral approvals would take some time with an unknown outcome. However they feel it is important they pursue this and will be meeting with Graeme Samuel.
5. Rio Tinto looked at strategic assessments 5 years ago and they did not fit into existing approvals, expanding operations and state approvals at that time.

Follow up Actions:

1. Around the end of March Rio, Department and WA will meet to develop a workplan covering service charters, co-location of Department staff in WA, strategic assessments, bilateral approvals and regular catch-ups.

Note taker:

Name: Declan O'Connor-Cox

Position: Acting Assistant Secretary

Branch/Division: EAD

Phone no: s47F [REDACTED]