Department of Water and Environmental Regulation



Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety

Application for new permit or referral to clear native vegetation

This is the form to submit a referral of proposed clearing or apply for a clearing permit under Part V of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act).

Before you submit this form, please check you have completed all the fields for the form type and fully prepared any required supporting documents (maps etc.). The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) or Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DEMIRS) will return/decline any forms that are not correctly completed.

To find out more about the stages of assessment for clearing permit forms, see the *Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits*.

Part 1 – Form type

Select your <u>form type</u> .	⊠ Referral of proposed clearing (section 51DA of the EP Act)
Note : Where appropriate in this form, and unless stated otherwise, the terms 'application' and 'applicant' also mean 'referral' and 'referrer' respectively.	 Application for an area permit (section 51E of the EP Act) Application for a purpose permit (section 51E of the EP Act)

Which department are you submitting this form to? If the clearing is for mineral and petroleum activities authorised under the <i>Mining Act 1978</i> , the various petroleum Acts, and/or a State Agreement with areas covered by either mineral or petroleum tenure granted under one of the abovementioned Acts, select 'Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety'.	 Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
For all other clearing activities, select 'Department of Water and Environmental Regulation.'	

Part 2 – Applicant details

2.1 Applicant name

For area permits:	[□ Applying as an individual – complete the following:			
If granted, the name(s) of (all) landowner(s) will be listed as		Title	□ Mr □ Mrs □ Ms	□ Other:	
		Name(s)			
'permit holders' on the permit.		□ Applying as a body corporate or other entity formed at law – complete the following:			
For purpose permits:	[[Name			
If granted, the name(s) of (all) applicant(s) will go on the permit.		Australian Com	npany Number (ACN)		
			a government entity (e. hority, or other statutor		t department, local
		Name	Parks Australia, Chris	stmas Island N	ational Park.

2.2 Applicant contact details

Provide the contact details for the above (primary contact).

Title	
First name	
Last name	
Position	
Company name	
Phone number	
Email address	

2.3 Applicant contact postal details

Provide the postal address for the above individual, body corporate or local government authority (primary contact).

Address line 1	
Address line 2	

Suburb	
State	

2.4 Applicant contact – registered business address

If applying as a company, incorporated body, local government authority or public authority, please also supply the registered business office address.

Address line 1	
Address line 2	
Suburb	
State	
Phone number	

2.5 Electronic correspondence consent

DWER/DEMIRS prefer to send all correspondence via email. We request that you consent to receiving all correspondence relating to instruments and notices under Part V of the EP Act via email. Please indicate your consent in this section of the form.

I consent that all written correspondence between myself (the applicant) and DWER/DEMIRS (as applicable) about the subject of this form will be exclusively via email, using the email address provided above.	⊠ Yes	□ No
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2.6 Contact details for enquiries

If different from the applicant's contact details, enter the contact details of a person with whom DWER/DEMIRS should liaise with (e.g. a consultant).

's contact details	⊠ Yes	□ No
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If 'No' – complete the following:

Title	□ Mr □ Mrs □ Ms □] Other:	
Contact name			
Position (if applicable)			
Company name (if applicable)			
Phone number		Mobile	

Email address		
Business or postal address line 1		
Business or postal address line 2		
Suburb		
State	Postcode	

Part 3 – Land details

- You must accurately describe the location of the land where your clearing is proposed.
- Provide copies of associated documents registered against the Certificate of Title (limitations, interests, encumbrances or notifications) where the clearing may impact them (i.e. caveats within freehold Lots).
- If you have a large number of properties, please provide the relevant details for each property in a separately attached supporting document.

I have a large number of properties and have given the	□ Yes – skip to Part 4	🛛 No
relevant details in an attached supporting document.		

If 'No' – complete the following:

	Three parcels of lands:
	(1) Within MCI 70/1A, ML 106 B Region 1 (Field 18 East) has not been relinquished yet and is still under mine lease with Phosphate Resources Limited Group (Christmas Island Phosphates). Please see attached letter of authority from Chief Operating Officer PRL (Attachment 1).
Land description Provide the following details, as applicable, for all properties: - volume and folio number - lot or location number(s) - crown lease or reserve number - pastoral lease number - mining tenement number	(2) Within MCI 70/1A, 108 Block 1 (Field 18 West) is Unallocated Crown Land (UCL). 108 Block 1 was surrendered from Mine Lease in June 2017. Control of the land rests with the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, and the Arts (DITRDCA), Commonwealth Government. Please see attached letter of authority from the Assistant Secretary, Indian Ocean Territories Branch, DITRDCA (Attachment 2). Two access tracks leading to 108 Block 1 across MCI 70/1A Mine Lease not yet relinquished requires authorization from PRL. Please see attached letter of authority from Chief Operating Officer PRL (Attachment 3).
	(3) Fern Field 22 South is a pinnacle field and was surrendered by previous miners British Phosphate Commissioners and/or Phosphate Mining Company Christmas Island Ltd. It is currently Unallocated Crown Land (UCL), and control of the land rests with the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, and the Arts (DITRDCA),

	Commonwealth Government. Please see attached letter of authority from the Assistant Secretary, Indian Ocean Territories Branch, DITRDCA (Attachment 2).	
	Parks Australia/The Director of National Parks (DNP) is required under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with DITRDCA to carry out ecological restoration works of relinquished mine lease land, running the Christmas Island Minesite to Forest Rehabilitation (CIMFR) program.	
	 MCI 70/1A ML 106B Region 1 (Field 18 East): Go along East-West Baseline Road for 430m, south on Blowholes Road for 1,12km on east side. 	
Street address – Line 1	 MCI 70/1A, 108 Block 1 (Field 18 West): Go along East-West Baseline Road for 430m, south on Blowholes Road for 1,12km, then WSW for 660m on south side. 	
	 Fern Field 22 South: From North-South Baseline Road, turn right onto East-West Baseline Road for 5,64km, then south for 400m and on the left. 	
Street address – Line 2		
Suburb	Christmas Island	
State	WA Postcode 6798	
Local government area(s)	Christmas Island Unallocated Crown Land	
Land zoning	Christmas Island Unallocated Crown Land / Mine Lease MCI 70/1A	

Part 4 - Relationship to landowner

Tell us which of the following options best describes you as the person completing and submitting this form. If you are filling out this form on behalf of the applicant, answer this question as though you are the applicant.

Proof of ownership may include:

- a certificate of title
- a pastoral or mining lease
- public authority that has care, control, or management of the land
- other form of lease, land tenure or specific arrangement.

Relationship to landowner (select one of the following options)	Complete the following
□ I am the landowner	□ Attach proof of ownership
□ I am lodging a form on behalf of the landowner (e.g., a consultant)	□ Attach proof of ownership
□ I am acting on the landowner's behalf and will be jointly responsible for the clearing permit (i.e., joint form)	 Attach proof of ownership Attach a letter, in which the landowner authorises you to act on their behalf and acknowledge they will be jointly responsible for the clearing permit
□ I am likely to become the landowner	□ Attach evidence of the pending transfer of ownership, including details of current proprietor on certificate of title, and/or contract of sale ('offer and acceptance')
☑ I will undertake the clearing activities with the landowner's authority and will be the permit holder	 Attach proof of ownership Attach a letter, in which the landowner authorises you to access and clear native vegetation within the property(ies) as detailed in section 3.1 (if the applicant is not the landowner) See Attachments 1, 2 and 3 Clearing Permit Letters of Authority
□ I am a person with multiple land parcels within which clearing is proposed	 Attach proof of ownership and/or Attach letters, in which the landowner authorises you to access and clear native vegetation within the properties as detailed in section 3.1 (if the applicant is not the landowner)
□ I will undertake the clearing activities through the exercise of power conferred by different legislation (e.g., the <i>Energy</i> <i>Operators (Powers) Act 1979</i>)	□ Provide relevant legislative details:

Part 5 – Proposed clearing

5.1 Maps and/or spatial data

Select which map type(s) you will attach	An ESRI shapefile with the following properties (preferred)	
with your form.	Geometry type: polygon shape	
Note: DWER/DEMIRS will decline/return	 Coordinate system: Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA) 2020 (geographic latitude/longitude) 	
forms (as applicable) if you do not provide	Datum: GDA 2020	
sufficient information for this question.	⊠ An aerial photograph or map with a north arrow, clearly marking the proposed clearing area	
	Note:	
	 An ESRI shapefile must use one of the following filename extensions: .shp, .shx, .dbf, and/or .prj 	
	• You must provide an ESRI shapefile if the form requires an assessment under an <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cth) (EPBC Act) accredited process. See Part 8 of this form for more information.	

5.2 Size

- If you propose to clear a patch(es) of vegetation, enter a hectare value for the total size of the area (mark number of trees as zero). For example, "clearing of 5 hectares".
- If you propose to clear only individual trees (i.e. the shrubs, grasses, groundcover plants will remain intact), provide the number of trees. For example, "clearing of 10 trees". If any shrubs, grasses, and/or groundcover plants **may** be damaged in the clearing process, enter the total area only.
- If you propose to clear an area of native vegetation within a larger footprint, enter the hectare value for the total size of the area to be cleared (mark number of trees as zero) and the size of the footprint. For example, 5 hectares of clearing within a 10-hectare footprint. This option is only available for purpose permit applications.
- Enter values for **both** number of trees and the size of the area **only if** you are clearing individual trees in one area **and** a patch of vegetation in a different area.
- Please note the following area conversions/calculations:

	sions/calculations	-	
1 acre = 0.4 hectares/4,000 m ²		14 x radius ² e = length x width = ½ length x perpe	ndicular height
		MCI 70/1A ML 106 3.3291 ha MCI 70/1A ML 108 ha Fern Field 22 South	Block 1 = 1.3960
Footprint of clearing (hectares) (purpose per	rmit only)	Total: 5.9249 ha	Revised to 6.14 ha during validation

Number of individual trees to be cleared	0
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Note: Calculate the area of a tree based on the area encompassed by the tree's drip line; that being the outermost circumference of the tree's canopy.

5.3 Purpose

Provide the reason for proposed clearing (e.g., road construction, grazing and pasture, hazard reduction, horticulture, timber harvesting etc.). If applicable, provide any additional project overview or explain in detail the activities on the property (e.g., provide context of work proposed and describe how clearing will contribute to overall work activities onsite etc.).	The purpose of clearing at this site is to remove weedy/degraded vegetation and recover soil to allow redistribution to more useful areas and create habitat corridors connecting forest patches. Once soil is redistributed, it will be replanted with a biodiverse mix of native tree species.
Specify what the final land use will be after clearing	Rehabilitated Tropical Forest

5.4 Method

Proposed method of clearing (i.e., burning, cutting, draining, flooding, grazing, mechanical clearing/bulldozing or other – specify)	Primarily mechanical removal - Existing vegetation (weeds, ferns, and regrowth) will be mulched in-situ to provide organic matter for establishing native tree plantings. Some weeds (e.g., <i>Leucaena leucocephala</i>) may require poisoning (e.g., with herbicide, Glyphosate) in addition to mechanical removal to ensure they do not resprout or lead to further germination in the field. Sub-surface soil to be ripped using a bulldozer and topsoil distributed by dump truck and excavator/loader.
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5.5 Timeframe

(e.g., 1/7/2022 to 30/8/2024)	Start date: 19 May 2025
	End date: 15 May 2027

Note: The clearing referral process is not suitable for any clearing that is expected to take longer than two years.

5.6 Pre-application scoping

Historic clearing of native vegetation in the Swan Coastal Plain and Avon Wheatbelt Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) bioregions has been extensive. DWER/DEMIRS strongly recommends a pre-application meeting if you propose to clear native vegetation within these bioregions.

Do you propose to clear native vegetation within the Swan Coastal Plain or Avon Wheatbelt	 Yes – complete section below I have had a pre-application meeting with DWER/DEMIRS
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bioregions?	Insert date of meeting and officer name(s):	Although clearing not within these bioregions I have had a meeting with Mr. Ray Carvalho (DWER A/Manager Native Veg) on 24 February 2025.
		eted DWER/DEMIRS in relation to a pre-application en advised that a meeting is unnecessary in this
	Insert date of conversation and officer name(s):	
	understand that	ad a pre-application meeting with DWER/DEMIRS. I this may increase the likelihood of requests for further or delays in assessment.

Part 6 – Mitigation hierarchy

6.1 Avoidance and mitigation

Explain how you have, or will, put avoidance and mitigation measures in place to eliminate, reduce, or otherwise mitigate the need for and scale of the proposed clearing of native vegetation.

Attach supporting documents to substantiate your explanation.

Your explanation should demonstrate you have planned the project so that the least clearing possible is to be undertaken. The following questions may help you frame your explanation:

- Why did you select this location and amount of clearing?
- What alternatives to clearing e.g. engineering solutions did you consider? (Attach design drawings where applicable)
- What changes, if any, did you make to the location or amount of clearing to reduce the impacts of the clearing?

Note: If you do not demonstrate adequate efforts to avoid and mitigate clearing, DWER/DEMIRS will ask you to do so during the validation of this application. Offsets will only be considered by DWER/DEMIRS as a last resort, once avoidance and minimisation measures have been clearly demonstrated.

Provide the avoidance details (e.g., retention of vegetation on property)	The purpose of selective clearing at the three sites is to remove weedy/degraded vegetation and recover soil to allow redistribution to more useful areas and create habitat corridors connecting forest patches. Once soil is redistributed, it will be replanted with a biodiverse mix of native tree species. All three of the areas have been previously cleared for mining of phosphate. One of them ML 106 Block 1 was recently re-cleared by Christmas Island Phosphate mine between ~2017-2021 under clearing permit CPS3472/6 (valid until 2025).
	(1) MCI 70/1A ML 106 B Region 1: As illustrated by a series of photographs around the site (Attachment 4), the area is approximately 45% bare ground and the remainder is mostly covered by weeds such as False Coffee Bush (<i>Leucaena leucocephala</i>),

	Jamaican Cherry (<i>Muntingia calabura</i>), 'Gotcha' sensitive weed (<i>Mimosa diplotricha</i>), snakeweed (<i>Stachytarpheta cayennensis</i>), Black Sage (<i>Cordia currassavica</i>) and others. Approximately 30% of the area is covered by clumps of swordfern (<i>Nephrolepis biserrata</i>), this fern forms dense patches which prevent crab movement and the natural re-establishment of native forest species. Less than 15% of the area displays scattered native plants that have come up since previous clearing finished, and these are only common species (e.g., <i>Macaranga tanarius, Dysoxylum gaudichaudianum, Pipturus argenteus, Ficus microcarpa</i>). A comprehensive search determined there are no threatened or rare native plants in the area. (2) MCI 70/1A ML 108 Block 1 : As illustrated by a series of photographs around the site (Attachment 4), the area is approximately 60% covered by swordfern (<i>Nephrolepis biserrata</i>) and the remainder is weeds such as snakeweed (<i>Stachytarpheta cayennensis</i>), False Coffee Bush (<i>Leucaena leucocephala</i>), Black
	Sage (<i>Cordia currassavica</i>) and others. Less than 15% of the area displays scattered native plants (central island zone and forest edges) that have come up since previous clearing finished, and these are only common species (e.g., <i>Dysoxylum gaudichaudianum, Pandanus elatus, Barringtonia racemosa</i> and <i>Macaranga tanarius</i>). A comprehensive search determined there are no threatened or rare native plants in the area.
	(3) Fern Field 22 South: At this site, a handful of weeds such as False Coffee Bush (<i>Leucaena leucocephala</i>) and 'Gotcha' sensitive weed (<i>Mimosa diplotricha</i>) were noted along forest ecotone areas with most of the field covered by calcrete pinnacles and swordfern (<i>Nephrolepis biserrata</i>). A few native plants are encroaching into the forest ecotone zone, such as <i>Pandanus elatus</i> and <i>Macaranga tanarius</i> . A comprehensive search determined there are no threatened or rare native plants in this area.
	Whilst we seek a permit for the areas identified, we will keep native plants where possible as they can be important sources of seed and therefore improve rehabilitation outcomes. With this in mind, we will aim to selectively maneuver around these to remove introduced weeds and retain native species wherever possible and practical.
	It should be noted that the handful of common native plants that will be removed to access soil for rehabilitation purposes will be replaced with more than 24,500 native trees sourced from the Christmas Island National Park nursery at the three sites.
	The clearing and rehabilitation work proposed here will provide an overwhelmingly positive improvement on the site and ecosystem function of the area. It will replace bare open ground with a vegetated corridor and facilitate the safe passage of endemic red crabs for their annual breeding migration towards the coast. In the absence of such a corridor, migrating crabs that attempt to cross the open field may die from heat exposure. Crabs can die crossing distances of as little as 20m in the heat of the day. Numerous crab skeletons were noticed during the assessment on the open areas.
Provide the mitigation details (e.g., management of weed spread, rehabilitation)	The three fields listed for clearing of weeds and ferns are all former mine sites where phosphate have been extracted by Phosphate Resources Limited (PRL) or companies owning the mine before them. The mined fields were allowed to revegetate naturally with weeds and ferns over the years after mining was completed. Site 108 Block 1 was relinquished from mining to UCL in 2017, FernField 22 South was returned to UCL before PRL mine commenced and Field 106 B Region 1 will be relinquished shortly, prior to July 2025.
	All three identified fields currently have weeds growing along the fields' outer perimeter where it meets with the forest edge. These ecotones consist mainly of woody weed species such as the False Coffee Bush (<i>Leucaena leucocephala</i>), Jamaican Cherry (<i>Muntingia calabura</i>), 'Gotcha' sensitive weed (<i>Mimosa diplotricha</i>), snakeweed (<i>Stachytarpheta cayennensis</i>), Black Sage (<i>Cordia currassavica</i>). Native species of forest species which re-established naturally are retained for the rehabilitation process while weeds and ferns are mulched to provide the much-needed organics in the soil to assist with rehabilitation of the tropical forest on Christmas Island.
	Once mulching of weed and other problematic species such as dense fern cover, is completed the entire field is covered with a layer of 1m soil for Class A rehabilitation such as Field 108 Block 1 and then planted by $1,3 \times 1,3$ spacing with nursery grown

native tropical forest species. The other two fields will receive 0,5m of soil cover for Class B rehabilitation at Field 106 B Region 1 and Fern Field 22 South, they will also be established with nursery bred trees of 34 different species at 1,5 x 1,5m spacing.
In summary – the application for clearing is to prepare three fields of disturbed, mined zones to facilitate the rehabilitation of tropical forest on Christmas Island by weeding, fertilizing, and watering the thousands of forest species grown in our own Christmas Island nursery and transplanted onto the three sites/fields.

6.2 Offsets

Do you want to submit a clearing offset proposal with your form?	🗆 Yes 🛛 No
If 'Yes' – please complete and attach Appendix A of the <u>Clearing</u> <u>of native vegetation offsets procedure</u> guideline as a supporting document for your form.	Appendix A attached

Part 7 – Surveys for assessments (IBSA and IMSA)

Do you want to submit marine or biodiversity surveys in support of your form?	□ Yes ⊠ No – skip to Part 8

7.1 Biodiversity surveys

If you want to submit any biodiversity surveys to support this form, you must follow the Environmental Protection Authority's (EPA) <u>Instructions for the preparation of data packages for</u> <u>the Index of Biodiversity Surveys for Assessments</u> (IBSA). If you do not meet the IBSA requirements, DWER/DEMIRS will decline/return your form.

Please provide the IBSA number(s) – or submission number(s) if the IBSA number has not yet been issued – in the space provided. Note that a submission number is not confirmation that a biodiversity survey has been accepted and is not the same as an IBSA number. IBSA numbers are only issued once a survey has been accepted. Once an IBSA number is issued, please notify DWER/DEMIRS. Please note DWER/DEMIRS will suspend the assessment timeframes for your application until you provide the IBSA number(s).

Have you submitted all the biodiversity surveys that support this form to the Index of Biodiversity Surveys for Assessment?	YesNot applicable
Provide an IBSA number (preferred) or a submission number(s)	

7.2 Marine surveys

If you want to submit any marine surveys to support this form, you must follow the EPA's *Instructions for the preparation of data packages for the Index of Marine Surveys for Assessments* (IMSA). If you do not meet the IMSA requirements, DWER/DEMIRS will decline/return your form.

Have you prepared all the marine surveys that support this form in	□ Yes
accordance with the EPA's Instructions for the preparation of data	

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Part 8 – Assessment bilateral agreement

The native vegetation clearing processes under Part V of the EP Act have been accredited by the Commonwealth of Australia under the EPBC Act and so can be assessed under an assessment bilateral agreement.

To be assessed this way, the proposed clearing action must have been referred to the Commonwealth under the EPBC Act and deemed a '**controlled action**' before you submit this form. DWER/DEMIRS will decline to deal with your application without the proposed clearing first being deemed a controlled action.

For further information, see DWER's guidance on the assessment bilateral agreement.

Do you want your proposed clearing action assessed in accordance with, or under, an EPBC Act Accredited Process, such as the assessment bilateral agreement or accredited assessment?	□ Yes ⊠ No – skip to Part 9
Is your proposed clearing a controlled action? If 'Yes', please make sure you have entered all the mandatory details in the <u>Annex C7 form</u>	 Yes EPBC number: Annex C7 form attached No (DWER/DEMIRS cannot assess the application under an EPBC Act Accredited Process)
List the controlling provisions identified in the notification of the controlled action decision	

Part 9 – Other approvals

9.1 Environmental impact assessment (Part IV of the EP Act)

Clearing may be referred to the EPA if it is considered to be part of a 'significant proposal', as defined by section 37B(1) of the EP Act, or will likely to be part of a larger development. An example is when the clearing is for a road to a future mine.

Section 37B(1) of the EP Act defines a 'significant proposal' as "a proposal likely, if implemented, to have a significant effect on the environment". If a decision-making authority (e.g. DWER/DEMIRS) considers the proposal in this form is likely to constitute a 'significant proposal', under section 38(5) of the EP Act they must refer the proposal to the EPA under Part IV, if such a referral has not already been made.

Has the proposed clearing or any	□ Yes	
related matter been referred to	Enter details:	
the EPA?	\boxtimes No – complete question below.	
If 'No' – do you intend to refer the proposal to the EPA?	 Yes – intend to refer (proposal is a 'significant proposal') Yes – intend to refer (proposal will require a section 45C amendment to the current Ministerial Statement) No – a current valid Ministerial Statement applies 	
	Enter Ministerial Statement number:	
	⊠ No – not a significant proposal	

9.2 Other approvals – works approval, licence or registration (Part V Division 3 of the EP Act)

Have you applied or do you intend to apply for a works approval, licence, registration, or an	□ Yes	
amendment to any of the above, under Part V Division 3 of the EP Act?	Application reference:	
It is an offence to perform any action that would		
cause a premises to become a prescribed premises of a type listed in Schedule 1 of the	🗆 No – a valio	works approval applies
Environmental Protection Regulations 1987, unless that action is done in accordance with a	🗆 No – a valio	licence applies
works approval, licence, or registration. For further guidance, see DWER's <i>Procedure:</i>	🗆 No – a valio	registration applies
Prescribed premises works approvals and licences and Guideline: Industry regulation guide	⊠ No – not re	quired
to licensing.		

9.3 Water licences and permits (Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914)

Have you applied or do you intend to apply for:	□ Yes
 a licence or amendment to a licence to take water (surface water or groundwater) 	No – a current valid licence applies
 a licence or amendment to a licence to construct wells (including bores and soaks), or 	Licence number:
 a permit or amendment to a permit to interfere with the bed and banks of a watercourse? 	Not applicable
For further guidance on water licences and permits under the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> , see DWER's <u><i>Procedure: Water</i></u>	

9.4 Planning and other approvals

Has the proposal obtained all relevant planning approvals and/or have you applied for all relevant planning approvals (e.g., Development Approval, Extractive Industry Licence, etc.)?	□ Yes	
	Enter details:	
	No – planning approval is not required	
	Enter details:	
	⊠ Not applicable	