

Decision Report

Application for Works Approval

Part V Division 3 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Works Approval Number W6429/2020/1

Applicant Fenix Resources Ltd

ACN 125 323 622

File Number DER2020/000205

Premises Iron Ridge Project

G20/28; L20/83; L20/84; L20/85

via Wilgie Mia Road

SHIRE OF CUE WA 6640

Legal description

Part of Lot 133 on Deposited Plan 238195

As defined by the Premises maps attached to the issued

works approval

Date of Report 7 October 2020

Decision Works approval granted

MANAGER WASTE INDUSTRIES REGULATORY SERVICES

An officer delegated by the CEO under section 20 of the EP Act

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1. Decision summary

This Decision Report documents the assessment of potential risks to the environment and public health from emissions and discharges during the works approval for the construction and operation of the Premises. As a result of this assessment, Works Approval W6429/2020/1 has been granted.

2. Scope of assessment

2.1 Regulatory framework

In completing the assessment documented in this Decision Report, the department has considered and given due regard to its Regulatory Framework and relevant policy documents which are available at https://www.der.wa.gov.au.

2.2 Application summary and overview of Premises

On 4 May 2020, the applicant (Fenix Resources Ltd) submitted an application for a works approval to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (department) under section 54 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act).

The proposed construction works relate to categories 5, 6 and 85 and assessed production and design capacity under Schedule 1 of the Environmental Protection Regulations 1987 (EP Regulations). The Premises is approximately 60 km north-west of Cue and is proposed to be located on mining tenements G20/28, L20/83, L20/84 and L20/85.

The application is to undertake construction works, commissioning and time limited operations for an ore processing plant, a mine dewatering storage pond, dewatering pipelines, a Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) and a Reverse Osmosis Plant (RO Plant) at the Premises. Associated activities include the storage of bulk fuel, refuelling of vehicles and equipment, washbay installation and operation and the construction and operation of a bioremediation pad.

2.3 Description of proposed activity

Details of the proposed activities are detailed below.

Mobile crushing and screening plant

A semi-mobile crushing and screening plant with a number of modularised components linked with conveyor systems is to be constructed. The plant will have a nominal capacity of 1.5 Mtpa and 4110 tonnes per day. The plant will be operated 24 hours per day, 7 days per week with daily, weekly and monthly scheduled maintenance breaks.

Dewatering pipeline and storage dam

Construction will include a 100 mm pipeline from production bores to a water storage dam to extract a maximum 1000 tonnes per day to enable dry mining, undertake dust suppression during construction and provide domestic water to the accommodation camp. The raw water storage dam will be constructed to 1,700 m³ capacity, lined with an HDPE liner and will include an outlet pipe to decant water to watercarts for dust suppression. A smaller pipeline will divert water from the main pipeline to a raw water storage tank at the accommodation camp. Raw water will be treated by reverse osmosis to produce potable water.

The reject water from the brackish water reverse osmosis system will be discharged into the irrigation tank of the wastewater treatment plant. The direct discharge from the RO plant will have a TDS value of 2040 mg/L. Once this is then diluted with the treated effluent the expectation will be a total value of < 1300 mg/L. The RO reject flow is < 0.51 m³/hr based on a 20 hr run time = 10.2 m³/day. Combined with 25m³/day of treated effluent the total will be 35.2

m³/day. The spray field will be sized accordingly based on the total flow and expected soil category being 10,058 m², plus 5m spray drift buffer.

Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)

The construction of a new WWTP will have a maximum design capacity of 25 m³ per day. The system will comprise a 40-foot (12 m) sea container containing the processing equipment and tanks for collection of raw sewage and distribution of treated effluent. The construction of a spray field that occupies 1.5 ha located to the north of the accommodation camp will also occur.

An estimated 10,000 litres per day of brine water will be added to the WWTP irrigation tank from the Reverse Osmosis Plant.

Time limited operations of the WWTP and effluent disposal field are required to support the workforce during site preparation and construction activities.

Associated infrastructure:

Fuel storage, refuelling and washdown bay

New self-bunded bulk storage diesel tanks (3 x 110,000 litres) will be installed on the premises to support mine vehicles and equipment, including portable generators that will power the crusher, workshop and support facilities. An additional 10,000 litre self-bunded diesel tank will be installed at the accommodation camp to service the generators for power production. A washbay will be constructed adjacent to the workshop and fuel storage facility to maintain vehicles. The washbay wastewater will be collected in an inbuilt inground sump below the washbay. The wastewater will be pumped through a 1500 L/hr oil water separator and the waste water will be recycled back into the tank for reuse. The system will be topped up with clean water as required. Oily waste from the oil water separator will be collected in 1000L pods and removed from the Premises by an appropriately licenced waste carrier to be disposed of at a Licensed Premises authorised to take the waste.

Bioremediation pad

The bioremediation pad will be located within the waste dump and will be utilised to treat the following:

- Solids from the washbay sump;
- Contaminated soil resulting from hydrocarbon spills (i.e. fuel, oil, hydraulic fluid);
 and
- Organic hydrocarbon absorbent materials.

The bioremediation pad will be located at different points within the waste dump throughout the duration of the project. Cell dimensions will be 20m x 20m. The base layer will be constructed of 300mm of clay material and all sides will be bunded to prevent runoff. Once each bioremediation cell is full another cell will be built adjacent. Once testing confirms the material has been remediated the treated material will be incorporated into the waste rock dump.

2.4 Part IV of the EP Act

A small portion of the proposed project is located on tenement L20/85 which is subject to Ministerial Statement #908 (MS908). MS908 is held by another proponent Sinosteel Midwest Corporation Limited for the Weld Range Project. The Iron Ridge Project on tenements G20/28, L20/83, L20/84 and L20/85 does not form part of the Weld Range Project and is not subject to MS908. Fenix Resources Ltd should obtain legal advice to ensure the proposed project does not impact the Weld Range Iron Ore Project.

3. Risk assessment

The department assesses the risks of emissions from prescribed premises and identifies the potential source, pathway and impact to receptors in accordance with the *Guidance Statement: Risk Assessments* (DER 2017).

To establish a Risk Event there must be an emission, a receptor which may be exposed to that emission through an identified actual or likely pathway, and a potential adverse effect to the receptor from exposure to that emission.

3.1 Source-pathways and receptors

3.1.1 Emissions and controls

The key emissions and associated actual or likely pathway during premises construction which have been considered in this Decision Report are detailed in Table 1 below. Table 1 also details the proposed control measures the applicant has proposed to assist in controlling these emissions, where necessary.

Table 1: Proposed applicant controls

Emission	Sources	Potential pathways	Proposed controls
Construction	1		
Prescribed A	ctivity Category 5		
Dust	Earthworks in preparation for the installation and construction of the crushing and screening plant including excavation, compaction of materials, mobile transport on unconsolidated surfaces and wind erosion of exposed soils. Construction of crushing and screening plant. Construction of roads. Movement of vehicles and machinery on road surfaces.	Air / windborne pathway.	Jaw crusher and cone crusher will be located within a closed circuit. Continuous dust suppression throughout construction via water carts on the ROM, transport roads, around the crushing and screening plant and during material handling activities. The site access road will be bitumised or treated with dust suppressant.
Sediment	Dust suppression	Overland	Appropriate drainage and containment

Emission	Sources	Potential pathways	Proposed controls		
laden runoff	built into the crushing and screening plant.	runoff. Seepage into soils and groundwater.	infrastructure will be constructed to control runoff from hardstand areas, roads and other cleared surfaces.		
Prescribed A	ctivity Category 6				
Dust	Earthworks to install dewatering pipeline V-Drains. Earthworks to construct storage dam.	Air / windborne pathway.	Dust suppression via water cart.		
Fresh to brackish water	Continuous dust suppression during construction with fresh to brackish water potentially causing accumulation of salt over time.	Overland runoff. Seepage into soils and groundwater.	Constructing appropriate drainage and containment infrastructure to control runoff from hardstand areas, roads and other cleared surfaces.		
	Pipeline leak / rupture causing discharge of fresh to brackish water to soil and vegetation.	Overland runoff. Seepage into soils and groundwater.	Dewatering pipelines will be located in above ground v-drains.		
Prescribed A	ctivity Category 85				
Dust	Earthworks to prepare for installation of the WWTP. Construction of the WWTP.	Air / Windborne pathway.	Dust suppression via water cart.		
Associated ac	Associated activities				
Odour, biological pathogens.	Domestic waste accumulation and storage.	Air / windborne pathway.	Waste will be collected on site and removed regularly from the premises for disposal at the Cue Landfill.		
High nutrient wastewater.	WWTP	Overland runoff. Seepage	Wastewater to be discharged via the sprayfield.		

Emission	Sources	Potential pathways	Proposed controls
		into soils and groundwater.	
Dust	Earthworks to prepare for the installation and storage of:	Air / windborne pathway.	Dust suppression via water cart.
	bulk fuel tanks;		
	refuelling infrastructure; and		
	washbay.		
	Installation of bulk diesel tanks at workshop and accommodation camp.		
	Movement of vehicles and equipment.		
Commissioni	ng & Time Limited	Operation	
Prescribed Ad	ctivity Category 5		
Dust	Material handling via the semi mobile crushing and screening	Air / windborne pathway.	Operation of water misting sprays, skirting seals, dust box covers, conveyor belt and material discharge points on the plant.
	plant. Crushing and screening of ore. Movement of vehicles and machinery on road surfaces.		Conveyor belt head pulleys will be maintained with head chutes.
			Continuous dust suppression throughout commissioning via water carts on the ROM, transport road and during material handling activities.
			Roads where movement of vehicles and equipment will occur will be bitumised or treated with dust suppressant.
			Monitoring via regular visual inspections of dust present on foliage of vegetation and species health around the crushing and screening plant and transport roads.
Sediment laden runoff	Deposition of sediment on hardstands,	Overland runoff. Seepage	Maintain appropriate drainage and containment infrastructure to sufficiently control and redirect runoff from

Emission	Sources	Potential pathways	Proposed controls
	equipment, infrastructure and machinery.	into soils and groundwater.	hardstand areas, roads and other cleared surfaces.
Noise	Crushing plant.	Air / windborne	The plant will be designed to minimise noise and vibration.
		pathway.	No sensitive receptors located nearby.
Commission	ning & Time Limited	Operation (Cat	egory 6)
Fresh to brackish water.	Storage dam overflows, leaks and or rupture causing	Overland runoff. Seepage into soils and groundwater.	An HDPE liner will be installed and secured around the crest of the dam before pipework is installed to contain raw water.
	discharge to soil and vegetation.		A high-level indicator and automatic shutoff will be installed within the dam to ensure it is not overfilled.
			A freeboard of 0.5 m will be maintained at all times. A lined spillway will be installed to direct overflow out of the dam in an emergency, such as an extreme rainfall event. In such an event, any overflow will be rainwater and therefore unlikely to impact the receiving environment.
			The dam will be fenced (1.8 m height) to prevent access by stock and native wildlife potentially causing damage to pond liner.
			Regular inspections of storage dam will be conducted thereafter to identify leaks, damage and other maintenance issues.
Fresh to brackish water.	Pipeline leaks, rupture causing discharge to soil and vegetation.	Overland runoff. Seepage into soils and groundwater.	Pipework is installed in suitable v-drains or bunding to prevent accidental impact and contain leaks. Pipework is charged and inspected for leaks. Regular inspections of the dewatering pipework will be conducted thereafter to identify leaks, damage and other maintenance issues.
Fresh to brackish water	Continuous dust suppression during construction with	Overland runoff. Seepage into soils and	Constructing appropriate drainage and containment infrastructure to control runoff from hardstand areas, roads and other cleared surfaces.

Emission	Sources	Potential pathways	Proposed co	ontrols		
	fresh to brackish water potentially causing accumulation of salt.	groundwater.	Minimise spralongside road on water cart	ads by use		
Fresh to brackish water	Pipeline leak / rupture causing discharge of fresh to brackish water to soil and vegetation.	Overland runoff. Seepage into soils and groundwater.	Constructing containment runoff from hother cleared	infrastructu ardstand a	ire to co	ntrol
Commissioni	ng & Time Limited	Operation (Cat	egory 85)			
Effluent and brine wastewater	Direct discharge via the WWTP / overspray via the	Air / windborne pathway.	Commissioning was estimated to require a period of 3-5 weeks. Wastewater treatment to (WQPN #22)			
	sprinkler system to the effluent spray field and		Irrigation with nutrient-rich wastewater. criteria:			
	surrounding soil		Monitoring Parameter	Target Value	Units	Monitoring Frequency
	and vegetation.		Volume discharged		m ³	Continuous
			Total Suspended Solids	<30	mg/L	
			Total Dissolved Solids	<1300	mg/L	
			Total Nitrogen	<30	mg/L	
			Total Phosphorous	<8	mg/L	Weekly
			рН	6.5-8.5	pH units	
			E. coli	<1000	cfu/100ml	
			Residual chlorine	0.2-2	mg/L	
			Monitoring w weekly for th commissionii will be deeme target values two consecut	e duration on the design of th	of the Commiss e when t red for at	sioning the t least
			Rotation of s to prevent po build-up of no	ooling of wa	stewate	•
			A 5-meter sp maintained o			
			Fencing of sp	oray field.		
			Monitoring of discharged to	volume (m	•	stewater
			Visual inspect		_	

Emission	Sources	Potential pathways	Proposed controls
Effluent and brine wastewater	Tank overflows and pipeline leaks / ruptures causing discharge of effluent and brine wastewater to soil and vegetation.	Overland runoff. Seepage into soils and groundwater.	The effluent processing equipment and effluent holding tanks will be located within a 12 m sea container. Protection and bunding of pipe work.
Storage of associated wastewater treatment chemicals	Tank overflows and pipeline leaks / ruptures causing discharge of chemicals to soil and vegetation.	Overland runoff. Seepage into soils and groundwater.	Regular inspections of containment infrastructure and associated pipework. Construct bunding, drainage and containment to ensure potentially contaminated surface water does not reach the surrounding environment. Provide appropriate spill response kits and training for site personnel. Immediately clean up spills and contaminated soil and dispose of the material appropriately. Maintain a register of stored substances and storage locations.
Commissionii	ng & Time Limited	Operation (ass	ociated activities)
Odour, biological pathogens and high nutrient wastewater.	Domestic waste accumulation and storage.	Windborne / Airborne and leachate.	Waste will be collected on site and removed regularly from the premises for disposal at the Cue Landfill.
Dust	Installation of bulk diesel tanks at workshop and accommodation camp.	Windborne / Airborne	Dust suppression via water cart.
Liquid hydrocarbons	Fuel transfer at diesel tanks (and mobile refueling) and handling / spills / leaks / containment rupture.	Overland runoff. Seepage into soils and groundwater.	Fuel transfer points for the bulk tanks will be located on impervious aprons. Aprons will be constructed with provision for collecting and recovering spills and/or rainwater. Ensure storage and refuelling facilities are constructed in accordance with relevant legislation and Australian Standards.

Emission	Sources	Potential pathways	Proposed controls
			Spill kits at refuelling location and on service trucks.
			Mobile refuelling and basic servicing of heavy equipment will be undertaken in the field by a service truck. Spill kits will be provided at refuelling points and on the service truck.
			Used synthetic absorbents, such as polypropylene pads, will be removed from site with other hydrocarboncontaminated waste.
			Organic absorbents and contaminated soil will be bioremediated on site in a designated area on the waste dump.
Waste oil	Leaks / spills / containment rupture at the waste oil collection and storage area (workshop).	Overland runoff. Seepage into soils and groundwater.	A 10,000 litre waste oil tank will be located at the workshop for temporary storage of used oil and other hydrocarbons. The tank will be positioned within a suitably sized bund that meets the requirements of AS 1940:2017 the storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids.
			Waste oil will be removed from site at regular intervals for recycling by a licensed service provider.
Leachate containing hydrocarbons	Bioremediation pad.	Overland runoff. Seepage into soils and groundwater.	The quantity of material to be processed is unknown as it is dependent on the volume of contaminated material resulting from hydrocarbon spills and accumulation in the washbay sump.
		groundination	Material will be deposited to a maximum depth of 300 mm, spread evenly throughout the cell and scarified to promote aerobic activity.
			Rags, absorbent pads and other rubbish to be removed.
			Once the cell is full another cell will be built adjacent bioremediation solution added periodically to promote bacterial breakdown of hydrocarbons.
			Testing will be carried out at approximate 6-month intervals. Treatment will be deemed to be complete when the hydrocarbon levels are at or below:

Emission	Sources	Potential pathways	Proposed controls
			• C6 – C9 2800 mg/kg
			• C16 – C35 450 mg/kg
			Treated material will be incorporated into the waste dump.

3.1.2 Receptors

In accordance with the *Guidance Statement: Risk Assessment* (DER 2017), the Delegated Officer has excluded employees, visitors and contractors of the applicant's from its assessment. Protection of these parties often involves different exposure risks and prevention strategies, and is provided for under other state legislation.

Table 2 below provides a summary of potential human and environmental receptors that may be impacted as a result of activities upon or emission and discharges from the prescribed premises (*Guidance Statement: Environmental Siting* (DER 2016)).

Table 2: Sensitive human and environmental receptors and distance from prescribed activities

Human receptors	Distance from prescribed activity
The nearest town of Cue	Located approximately 60 km north-west of the proposed premises.
Native indigenous visitors.	Mining lease (M20/118) and the associated infrastructure tenure (L20/83, L20/84, L20/85 and G20/28) is located within the Wajarri Yamatji Native Title Claim.
Sinosteel Midwest Corporation Ltd (Sinosteel), (Ministerial Statement (MS908) Holder).	The Sinosteel accommodation camp is located approximately 3.5 km from the southern Premises boundary.
	A small portion of L20/85 crosses over with a small portion of MS908.
Glen Station residential premises.	The residential Premises is located approximately 10 km south of the premises and is not likely to be impacted by the project.
Environmental receptors	Distance from prescribed activity
Aboriginal heritage listed and protected sites	Weld-A-09152 - 0.37 km from the Premises boundary
	Weld – QA -09158 - 0.23 km from the Premises boundary
	Weld – QA -09159 - 0.23 km from the Premises boundary
	Weld-A-09168 - 0.81 km from the Premises boundary
	Wilgie Mia - 0.57km from the Premises

	boundary
	Wilgie Creek - 0.68 km from the Premises boundary.
	Heritage listed 'Little Wilgie' Cave Ochre Mine (R21805) - Located within the Premises boundary.
	Nationally listed 'Wilgie Mia' Aboriginal Ochre Mine (NHL 106044) - 1.7 km of the Premises boundary (excised from M20/118).
	C-Class Reserve (Use and Benefit of Aborigines) - 170 m from the Premises boundary
Groundwater dependent ecosystem.	4 km south-south-east of Iron Ridge Project.
Surface water (Ephemeral drainage line	60 m to the west of the low-grade stockpile.
drains in a southerly direction towards Lake Austin)	100 m to the west of the product stockpile and loading area.
	100 m west of the crushing plant.
	174 m west of the spray field.
	236 m west of the WWTP.
	119 m west of the dewatering storage dam.
Priority Ecological Communities (PEC) of the Weld Range Complexes (banded ironstone formation).	Located within and around the Premises.
Threatened and priority flora	Located within and around the Premises. (See Figure 1)
Threatened Fauna	Threatened Fauna Habitats were identified to be located within the proposed prescribed premises boundary. Locations predominately on M20/118 and G20/28.
	Multiple recorded listings of:
	Lerista eupoda; and
	Idiosoma clypeatum.
Conservation significant fauna	Located within and around the Premises boundary. (See Figure 2)
Native vegetation	Located within the proposed treated effluent spray field and throughout the prescribed premises.
Environmental aspects	Detail and distance from prescribed activity
Soil	Soils on the plains are typically red loamy earths and red-brown hardpan shallow

	loams. Red sandy soils are found along the significant drainage channels. Shallow loams and sands and stony soils are found on the hills and mesas with sandy soils more common on granitic hills.
Geological profile	East Murchison, Meekatharra, Combined - Fractured Rock West - Fractured Rock.
	Hydrogeology - The Banded Iron Formation (BIF) strata which include the Iron Ridge deposit are commonly fractured, jointed, and vuggy, and constitute aquifers of moderate to high permeability. The granitic and greenstone basement rocks (other than BIF) are generally of low permeability, including the dolerite associated with the BIF. The groundwater is recharged by the infiltration of rainfall and streamflow following high rainfall events.
Proclaimed groundwater area (East Murchison Groundwater Area).	Bore log information within the Bore Completion and Hydrogeological Assessment Report, September 2019, as submitted to DWER, indicates that the water table is expected to be 45 to 65 metres below ground level. However, contour mapping indicates that this depth may be more attributed to the northern part of the Premises, while the southern areas may have a depth to groundwater of approximately 10 mbgl.
	The main aquifers in the region are alluvium and colluvium with a tertiary paleochannel passing through the Weld Range. The BIF strata which include the Iron Ridge deposit are commonly fractured, jointed and vuggy, and constitute aquifers of moderate to high permeability. The granitic and greenstone basement rocks (other than BIF) are generally of low permeability, including the dolerite associated with the BIF. The groundwater is recharged by the infiltration of rainfall and streamflow following high rainfall events. Groundwater flows in a north to south direction through the Weld Range and discharges into Lake Austin or a smaller temporary lake to the north. The groundwater is fresh to slightly brackish in the BIF and shallow alluvial aquifers, and is highly saline in alluvium and the palaeochannel aquifer west and south of the project area

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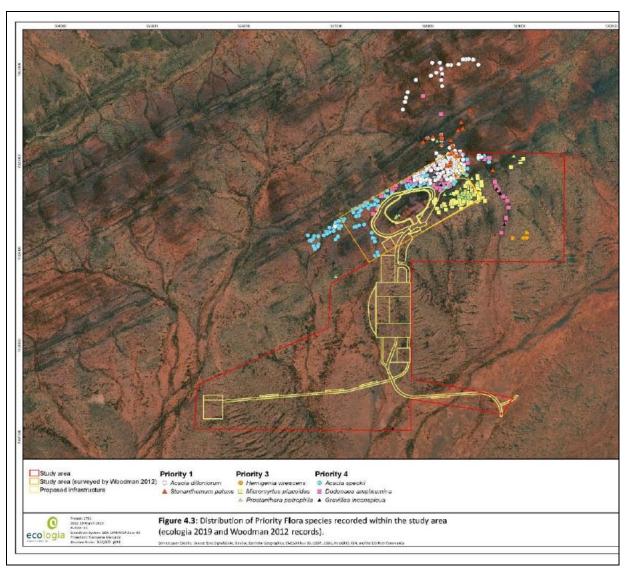


Figure 1: Distribution of priority listed flora and fauna map.

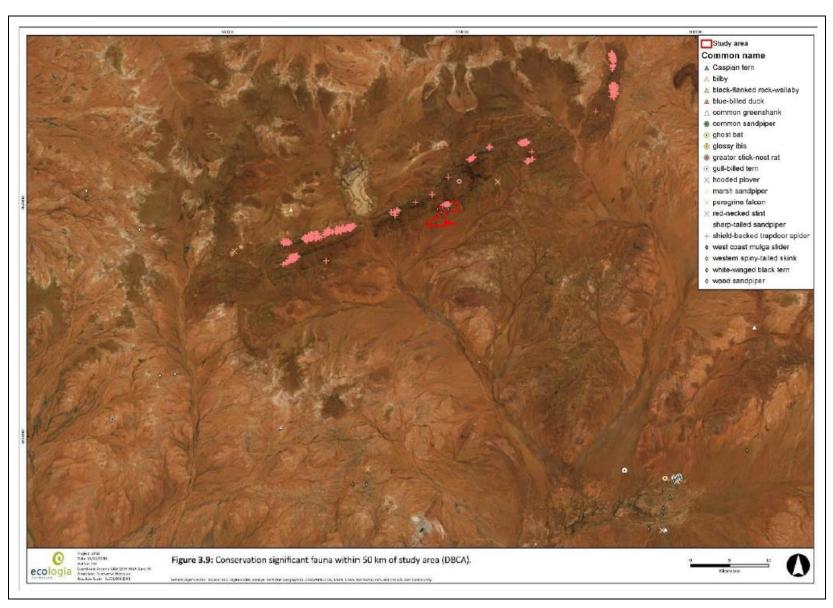


Figure 2: Conservation significant fauna map.

4. Risk ratings

Risk ratings have been assessed in accordance with the *Guidance Statement: Risk Assessments* (DER 2017) for each identified emission source and takes into account potential source-pathway and receptor linkages as identified in Section 3.1. Where linkages are in-complete they have not been considered further in the risk assessment.

Where the applicant has proposed mitigation measures/controls (as detailed in Section 3.1), these have been considered when determining the final risk rating. Where the Delegated Officer considers the applicant's proposed controls to be critical to maintaining an acceptable level of risk, these will be incorporated into the works approval as regulatory controls.

Additional regulatory controls may be imposed where the applicant's controls are not deemed sufficient. Where this is the case the need for additional controls will be documented and justified in Table 3.

Works Approval W6429/2020/1 that accompanies this Decision Report authorises construction, commissioning and time-limited operations. The conditions in the issued Works Approval, as outlined in Table 3 have been determined in accordance with *Guidance Statement: Setting Conditions* (DER 2015).

A Licence is required following the time-limited operational phase authorised under the works approval to authorise emissions associated with the ongoing operation of the Premises i.e. category 5 - crushing and screening of iron ore, category 6 - mine dewatering and category 85 - operation of the sewage facility. A risk assessment for the operational phase has been included in this Decision Report, however licence conditions will not be finalised until the department assesses the licence application.

Table 3: Risk assessment of potential emissions and discharges from the Premises during construction, commissioning and time limited operation

Risk Event					Risk rating ¹	Aumliaams		Justification for	
Source/Activities	Potential emission	Potential pathways and impact	Receptors	Applicant controls	C = consequence L = likelihood	Applicant controls sufficient?	Conditions ² of works approval	additional regulatory controls	
Construction									
Prescribed Activity Category 5									
Earthworks in preparation for the installation and construction of the crushing and screening plant including excavation, compaction of materials, mobile transport on unconsolidated surfaces and wind erosion of exposed soils. Construction and installation of crushing and screening plant. Construction of roads. Movement of vehicles and machinery on road surfaces.	Dust	Air / wind dispersion causing dust impacts, smothering vegetation impacting photosynthesis and respiration.	Surface water. Threatened fauna habitats located throughout the prescribed premises. Native flora and fauna. Conservation significant fauna.	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Minor L = Possible Medium Risk	Y	Design and installation requirements, Condition 1 (Table 1).	The Delegated Officer considers the controls proposed by the applicant sufficient to the control the impacts of dust associated with the construction of the crushing and screening plant.	
Construction of the two- stage modular semi- mobile crushing and screening plant and associated infrastructure: excavation/ compaction of materials, vehicle and equipment movements.	Noise	Air / windborne pathway impacting health and amenity. Impacts to feeding and breeding patterns.	The nearest town of Cue (>60 km). Native indigenous visitors (transient). Sinosteel accommodation village (>3.46 km). Glen Station residential premises (>10km). Surrounding	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Slight L = Rare Low Risk	Y	Condition 1 (Table 1).	There is limited evidence of noise impacting on fauna available. The Delegated Officer notes that the controls proposed by the applicant are sufficient to control noise emissions associated with construction of the	

Risk Event					Risk rating ¹	Annilland		Justification for	
Source/Activities	Potential emission	Potential pathways and impact	Receptors	Applicant controls	C = consequence L = likelihood	Applicant controls sufficient?	Conditions ² of works approval	additional regulatory controls	
			threatened and priority fauna habitats. Conservation significant fauna.					crushing and screening plant. The Delegated Officer also notes there is expected to be a slight consequence therefore the risk of noise impacts is considered low risk.	
Rain / storms / dust suppression of infrastructure and equipment layered in dust.	Sediment laden water	Infiltration into soil and water systems impacting surface water quality, benthic organisms and soil ecology health.	Surface water. Threatened and priority flora and fauna. Native flora and fauna. Conservation significant fauna. Soil.	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Possible L = Slight Low Risk	Y	Condition 1 (Table 1).	The Delegated Officer considers the applicants controls sufficient to control sediment laden stormwater.	
Prescribed Activity Categ	ory 6							l	
Construction works of the dewatering infrastructure (pipelines, v-drains and pumps) and pond including: Excavation / compaction of materials, mobile transport on unconsolidated soil and wind erosion of exposed soils	Dust	Air / windborne pathway causing dust impacts to vegetation.	Surface water. Threatened and priority flora and fauna. Native flora and fauna. Conservation significant fauna.	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Slight L = Rare Low Risk	N	Construction and infrastructure requirements. Condition 1, (Table 1).	The Delegated Officer notes the controls proposed by the applicant are adequate to address the risk associated with dust suppression on the premises during construction. The Delegated Officer considers that dribble bars minimise spray drift while implementing	

Risk Event					Risk rating ¹	Amuliaant		Justification for
Source/Activities	Potential emission	Potential pathways and impact	Receptors	Applicant controls	C = consequence L = likelihood	Applicant controls sufficient?	Conditions ² of works approval	additional regulatory controls
								the proposed controls. A condition has been included within the Works Approval to prevent overspray potentially impacting vegetation on the Premises.
Dust suppression.	Fresh to brackish water	Direct application / overspray / infiltration into soil and uptake of potentially saline water by vegetation impacting vegetation health.	Surface water. Threatened and priority flora and fauna. Native flora and fauna. Conservation significant fauna.	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Slight L = Rare Low Risk	Υ	Construction and infrastructure requirements. Condition 1, (Table 1).	The Delegated Officer notes the controls proposed by the applicant are adequate to address the risk associated with dust suppression of fresh to brackish water on the premises during construction.
Prescribed Activity Categ	gory 85	<u> </u>					<u> </u>	
Construction and installation of a new wastewater treatment plant and spray field Storage of chemicals for wastewater treatment, RO treatment, tanks containing effluent and brine water.	Contamination of land	Overland migration, seepage through soil, transport through groundwater impacting flora and fauna health. Groundwater and surface water quality.	Surface water. Groundwater. Threatened and priority flora and fauna. Native flora and fauna. Conservation significant fauna. Soil.	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Slight L = Rare Low Risk	Y	Construction and infrastructure requirements. Condition 1, (Table 1).	The Delegated Officer notes the controls proposed by the applicant are adequate to address the risk associated with category 85 during construction.
Associated activities	l	l					l	ı

Risk Event					Risk rating ¹	Annlicant		Justification for	
Source/Activities	Potential emission	Potential pathways and impact	Receptors	Applicant controls	C = consequence L = likelihood	Applicant controls sufficient?	Conditions ² of works approval	additional regulatory controls	
Construction and installation of fuel storage tanks and refueling infrastructure.	Hydrocarbon contaminated wastewater	Overland migration, seepage through soil, transport through groundwater impacting flora and fauna health. Contamination of land, groundwater and surface water.	Surface water. Groundwater. Threatened and priority flora and fauna. Native flora and fauna. Conservation significant fauna. Soil.	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Minor L = Unlikely Medium Risk	Y	Construction and infrastructure requirements. Condition 1, (Table 1).	The Delegated Officer considers the applicants controls sufficient to control impacts from hydrocarbon contaminated wastewater.	
Construction and installation of the washbay infrastructure including oil water separator.	Hydrocarbon contaminated wastewater	Overland migration, seepage through soil, transport through groundwater impacting flora and fauna health. Contamination of land, groundwater and surface water.	Surface water. Groundwater. Threatened and priority flora and fauna. Native flora and fauna. Conservation significant fauna. Soil.	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Slight L = Rare Low Risk	Y	Construction and infrastructure requirements. Condition 1, (Table 1).	The Delegated Officer considers the applicants controls sufficient to control impacts from hydrocarbon contaminated wastewater.	
Construction of the bioremediation pad including: Excavation / compaction of materials, mobile transport on unconsolidated soil and wind erosion of exposed soils.	Dust	Air / windborne pathway causing dust impacts to vegetation.	Surface water. Groundwater. Threatened and priority flora and fauna. Native flora and fauna. Conservation significant fauna. Soil.	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Slight L = Rare Low Risk	Y	Construction and infrastructure requirements. Condition 1, (Table 1).	The Delegated Officer considers the applicants controls sufficient to control dust impacts from construction of the bioremediation pad.	

Risk Event					Risk rating ¹	Amplicant		Justification for additional regulatory controls
Source/Activities	Potential emission	Potential pathways and impact	Receptors	Applicant controls	C = consequence L = likelihood	Applicant controls sufficient?	Conditions ² of works approval	
Commissioning and Time	Limited Operations							
Prescribed Activity Categ	ory 5							
Operation of the modular semi-mobile crushing and screening plant including: Material processing and handling via the semi mobile crushing and screening plant. Movement of vehicles and machinery on road surfaces. Wind erosion of processed material stockpiles.	Dust	Air / wind dispersion causing dust impacts, smothering vegetation impacting photosynthesis and respiration.	Surface water. Threatened and priority flora and fauna habitats. Native flora.	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Moderate L = Unlikely Medium Risk	Y	Construction and infrastructure requirements. Condition 1, (Table 1). Environmental commissioning requirements. Condition 6 (Table 2). Time limited operation requirements. Condition 14 (Table 5).	The Delegated Officer considers the applicants controls sufficient to control dust impacts from the operation of the crushing and screening plant.
Operation of the modular semi-mobile crushing and screening plant: Material processing and handling via the semi mobile crushing and screening plant.	Noise	Air / windborne pathway impacting health and amenity. Impacts to feeding and breeding patterns.	The nearest town of Cue (>60 km). Native indigenous visitors (transient). Sinosteel accommodation village (>3.46 km). Glen Station residential premises (>10km). Surrounding threatened fauna habitats.	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Slight L = Rare Low Risk	Y	Construction and infrastructure requirements. Condition 1 (Table 1).	There is limited evidence of noise impacting on fauna available. The Delegated Officer notes that the controls proposed by the applicant are sufficient to control noise emissions associated with construction of the crushing and screening plant. The Delegated Officer also notes there is expected to be a slight

Risk Event					Risk rating ¹	Aunliaaut		Justification for	
Source/Activities	Potential emission	Potential pathways and impact	Receptors	Applicant controls	C = consequence L = likelihood	Applicant controls sufficient?	Conditions ² of works approval	additional regulatory controls	
								consequence therefore the risk of noise is considered low risk.	
Rain / storms / dust suppression of infrastructure and equipment covered in dust.	Sediment laden stormwater	Infiltration into soil and water systems impacting surface water quality, benthic organisms and soil ecology health.	Surface water. Threatened and priority flora and fauna. Native flora and fauna. Soil health.	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Possible L = Slight Low Risk	Y	Construction and infrastructure requirements. Condition 1 (Table 1).	The Delegated Officer considers the applicants controls sufficient to control sediment laden stormwater.	
Prescribed Activity Categ	gory 6								
Time limited operation of the dewatering pipeline, pumps and the storage pond.	Discharge of fresh to brackish water to land	Infiltration into soil and water systems impacting surface water quality, benthic organisms and soil ecology health.	Surface water. Threatened and priority flora and fauna. Native flora and fauna. Soil health.	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Slight L = Rare Low Risk	Y	Construction and infrastructure requirements. Condition 1, (Table 1). Environmental commissioning requirements. Condition 6 (Table 2). Time limited operation requirements. Condition 14 (Table 5).	The risk of groundwater abstraction impacting on relevant environmental receptors is very low at the volume proposed. The Delegated Officer considers the applicants controls sufficient to mitigate the discharge of fresh to brackish water to land during commissioning and time limited operations.	
Dust suppression.	Fresh to brackish water	Direct application / overspray / infiltration into soil and uptake of potentially saline	Surface water. Threatened and	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Slight L = Rare Low Risk	Y	Time limited operations requirements. Condition 14 (Table	The Delegated Officer notes the controls proposed by the applicant are adequate to	

Risk Event					Risk rating ¹	Applicant		Justification for
Source/Activities	Potential emission	Potential pathways and impact	Receptors	Applicant controls	C = consequence L = likelihood	controls sufficient?	Conditions ² of works approval	additional regulatory controls
		water by vegetation impacting vegetation health.	priority flora. Native flora. Soil.				5).	address the risk associated with dust suppression on the premises during commissioning and time limited operation. The Delegated Officer also notes however that dribble bars minimise spray drift. A condition has been included within the Works Approval to prevent overspray potentially impacting vegetation.
Prescribed Activity Categ	ory 85							
Commissioning and time limited operation of the wastewater treatment plant and spray field including: Storage of chemicals for wastewater treatment, RO treatment, tanks containing effluent and brine water.	Treated effluent and brine water (potentially elevated in TN, TP, E.coli, TSS, TDS & BOD)	Overland migration, seepage through soil, transport through groundwater impacting flora and fauna health. Groundwater and surface water quality.	Surface water. Groundwater. Threatened and priority flora and fauna. Native vegetation. Soil.	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Minor L = Unlikely Medium Risk	Y	Construction and infrastructure requirements. Condition 1, (Table 1). Environmental commissioning requirements. Condition 6 (Table 2). Time limited operation requirements. Condition 14 (Table 5), 15, 16, and 17.	While the spray field is nearby to an ephemeral drainage line, the discharge will have very low risk of impact on the local aquifer and drainage to Lake Austin. The Delegated Officer notes the WWTP has a contingency of 3 days (overall tank capacity 92.73m³) in the event of a pump failure. The controls proposed

Risk Event					Risk rating ¹	Applicant		Justification for
Source/Activities	Potential emission	Potential pathways and impact	Receptors	Applicant controls	C = consequence L = likelihood	controls sufficient?	Conditions ² of works approval	additional regulatory controls
								by the applicant are adequate to address the risk of effluent discharges.
Associated Activities								
Operation of the fuel storage tanks and refueling infrastructure.	Hydrocarbon contaminated wastewater	Overland migration, seepage through soil, transport through groundwater impacting flora and fauna health. Contamination of land, groundwater and surface water.	Surface water. Groundwater. Threatened and priority flora and fauna. Conservation significant fauna. Native flora and fauna. Soil.	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Slight L = Rare Low Risk	Y	Construction and infrastructure requirements. Condition 1 (Table 1). Time limited operations requirements. Condition 14 (Table 5).	The Delegated Officer considers the applicants controls sufficient to adequately address hydrocarbon contaminated wastewater discharges.
Operation of the washbay.	Hydrocarbon contaminated wastewater	Overland migration, seepage through soil, transport through groundwater impacting flora and fauna health. Contamination of land, groundwater and surface water.	Surface water. Groundwater. Threatened and priority flora and fauna. Conservation significant fauna. Native vegetation. Soil.	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Slight L = Rare Low Risk	Y	Construction and infrastructure requirements. Condition 1 (Table 1).	The Delegated Officer considers the applicants controls sufficient to adequately address hydrocarbon contaminated wastewater impacts.
Storage of waste oils	Hydrocarbons	Overland migration, seepage through soil, transport through groundwater impacting flora and fauna health. Contamination of	Surface water. Groundwater.	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Slight L = Rare Low Risk	Y	Construction and infrastructure requirements. Condition 1 (Table 1).	The Delegated Officer considers the applicants controls sufficient to adequately address hydrocarbon

Risk Event					Risk rating ¹	A		Justification for	
Source/Activities	Potential emission	Potential pathways and impact	Receptors	Applicant controls	C = consequence L = likelihood	Applicant controls sufficient?	Conditions ² of works approval	additional regulatory controls	
		land, groundwater and surface water.	Native vegetation. Threatened and priority flora and fauna. Conservation significant fauna. Soil.					impacts.	
Time limited operation of the bioremediation pad.	Leachate contaminated with hydrocarbons.	Overland run off impacting vegetation, soil ecology and fauna habitat.	Surface water. Groundwater. Native vegetation. Threatened and priority flora and fauna. Conservation significant fauna. Soil.	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Slight L = Rare Low Risk	Y	Time limited operations requirements Condition 14 (Table 5).	The depth to groundwater is expected to be between 45 to 60 m in the location of the bioremediation pad. The Delegated Officer considers the applicants controls sufficient to adequately address hydrocarbon leachate impacts.	

Note 1: Consequence ratings, likelihood ratings and risk descriptions are detailed in the Guidance Statement: Risk Assessments (DER 2017).

Note 2: Proposed applicant controls are depicted by standard text. **Bold and underline text** depicts additional regulatory controls imposed by department.

5. Consultation

Table 4 provides a summary of the consultation undertaken by the department.

Table 4: Consultation

Consultation method	Comments received	Department response
Application advertised on the department's website (01/09/2018).	No comments received.	N/A
The Native Title Holders advised of proposal (01/09/2020).	No comments received.	N/A
Glen Station Pastoral Lease Holders advised of proposal via post (31/08/2020).	No comments received.	N/A
Sinosteel Midwest Corporation Ltd advised of proposal (01/09/2020).	No comments received.	N/A
Local Government Authority advised of proposal advised of proposal (01/09/2020).	No comments received.	N/A
Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) advised of proposal (01/09/2020).	 DMIRS replied on 14/09/2020 confirming: Documentation supporting the application was consistent with information supporting the Mining proposal; Mining Approval for the project was granted on 12 August 2020; and Native Vegetation Clearing Permit (CPS8891/1) granted on 20 August 2020. 	N/A
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (Water) advised of proposal (04/09/2020).	The key comments received were: The spray field for combined brine water and treated wastewater irrigation will have very low risk of impact on the local aquifer and drainage to Lake Austin. The risk of groundwater abstraction impacting on relevant	Advice incorporated into Section 4: Risk assessment

Consultation method	Comments received	Department response
	environmental receptors is very low. • Fenix have completed 5 exploratory groundwater wells with 2 converted to production bores. The bore completion data and geological logs indicate general groundwater flow direction is typically North to South. From nearby bore logs the water table is expected to be 45 to 65 metres below ground level.	
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (Environmental Protection Authority- Services) advised of proposal (07/09/2020).	The Iron Ridge Project does not form part of the Weld Range Iron Ore Project and is not regulated or constrained by MS908. Fenix Resources should seek legal advice on their obligations relating to the Iron Ridge Project to ensure there is no impact on the Weld Range Iron Ore Project.	Included in this document under section 2.4.
Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) advised of proposal (01/09/2020).	No comments received.	N/A
Applicant was provided with draft documents on (01/10/2020).	Minor editing errors were identified.	Corrections made.

6. Conclusion

Based on the assessment in this Decision Report, the Delegated Officer has determined that a works approval will be granted, subject to conditions commensurate with the determined controls and necessary for administration and reporting requirements.

References

- 1. Fenix Resources Ltd 2020, *Application for Works Approval: Iron Ridge Project*, Perth, Western Australia.
- 2. Ecotecwa Environmental Management 2020, Response to Request for Further Information, Perth, Western Australia.
- 3. Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) 2019, *Guidance Statement: Industry Regulation Guide to Licensing*, Perth, Western Australia.
- 4. Department of Environment Regulation (DER) 2016, *Guidance Statement:* Environmental Siting, Perth, Western Australia.
- 5. Department of Environmental Regulation (DER) 2017, *Guidance Statement: Risk Assessments*, Perth, Western Australia.
- 6. Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) 2019, *Guidance Statement: Decision Making*, Perth, Western Australia.
- 7. Department of Environmental Regulation (DER) 2015, *Guidance Statement: Setting Conditions*, Perth, Western Australia.

Appendix 2: Application validation summary

SECTION 1: APPLICATION SUMM	ARY							
Application type								
Works approval	X	V	V6429/2020/1					
		Relevant works approval number:		None				
		Has the works approval with?	been complied	Yes □ N	o 🗆			
Licence		Has time limited operati works approval demons acceptable operations?	strated	Yes □ N N/A □	o 🗆			
		Environmental Complia Critical Containment Inf Report submitted?		Yes □ N	o 🗆			
		Date Report received:						
Renewal		Current licence number:						
Amendment to works approval		Current works approval number:						
		Current licence number:						
Amendment to licence		Relevant works approval number:		N/A				
Registration		Current works approval number:		None				
Date application received		4 May 2020						
Applicant and Premises details								
Applicant name/s (full legal name/s)		Fenix Resources Ltd						
Premises name		Iron Ridge Project						
Premises location		G20/28; L20/83; L20/84 of Cue	l; L20/85, via Wilg	ie Mia Roa	d, Shire			
Local Government Authority		Shire of Cue						
Application documents								
HPCM file reference number:		DER2020/000205						
		Works Approval Applica	•	, .				
		Environmental Commis	•	90336);				
	-14-	Emissions and Dischard	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	200226).				
Key application documents (addition application form):	iai to	ASIC Extract – Fenix R Activity Detail (A189033	•	590556),				
		Proposed Calculation F	•					
		Premises Boundary Sha	,	36);				
		Infrastructure Shape Fil	e (A1890336);					

Premises Maps (A1890336);
Stake Holder Consultation Register (A1890336);
Flora and Vegetation Assessment (A1890359);
Environmental Commissioning Plan, April 2020 (A1890336);
Survey Study Reports (A1890359);
Siting and Location (A1890537);
Response to RFI (A1909187); and
Attachment 3A – Environmental Commissioning Plan Rev B (A1909187).

Scope of application/assessment

Summary of proposed activities

Works approval application for the construction of:

- A modular semi-mobile crushing and screening unit will be assembled on site;
- A dewatering pipeline and a lined holding pond constructed on site;
- A waste water treatment plant and spray field for disposal of treated effluent will be constructed; and
- A raw water treatment plant will be constructed for use in the camp and discharged via the WWTP to the spray field.
- Storage of bulk diesel tanks, transfer of fuel, storage of waste oil and construction and operation of a washdown bay.

Category number/s (activities that cause the premises to become prescribed premises)

Table 1: Prescribed premises categories

Prescribed premises category and description	Proposed production or design capacity	Proposed changes to the production or design capacity (amendments only)
Category 5: Processing or beneficiation of metallic or non-metallic ore: premises on which – (a) Metallic or non-metallic ore is cursed, ground, milled or otherwise processed.	1.5 MTPA	N/A
Category 6: Mine dewatering: premises on which water is extracted and discharged into the environment to allow for mining of ore.	320,000 tonnes per annum	N/A
Category 85: Sewage facility: premises – (a) On which sewage is treated (excluding septic tanks); or (b) From which treated sewage is discharged onto land or waters.	25 m ³ per day	N/A

Has the applicant referred, or do they intend to refer, their proposal to the EPA under Part IV of the EP Act as a		Referral decision No:
		Managed under Part V □
significant proposal?	Yes ⊠ No □	Assessed under Part IV □
		N/A – EPA advised no assessment required (A1921117).
Does the applicant hold any existing Part IV Ministerial Statements relevant to the application?	Yes □ No ⊠	Ministerial statement No: 0908 was issued to Sinosteel Midwest Corporation Limited (SMCL) in 2012, and was extended in 2017 for five years by EPA Report 1637. The premises is located within the ministerial statement boundary.
		EPA Report No: 1441 (2012) & 1637 (May 2019) (extension of time limited operations).
		Further information to be requested via ROI regarding relationship between SMCL and Fenix.
		Referred to EPA on 01 July 2020 (A1909297).
		EPA advice received 6 July 2020 stating assessment was required (A1910754).
		Letter sent to applicant advising Part IV assessment was required on 10 July 2020 (AA1912305).
		EPA Advice received 10 August 2020 stating no assessment required (A1921117).
		Reference No:
Has the proposal been referred and/or assessed under the EPBC Act?		Further information was requested from Fenix Resources Ltd regarding the relationship with SMCL and clarification as to whether the proposal has been assessed under the EPBC Act.
	Yes □ No ⊠	The applicant advised the project has not been assessed under the EPBC Act 1999. Discussions were held with DMIRS in the initial planning stages of the project. Due to the small scale of impact, referral under this legislation was not considered necessary. The proposal is currently under assessment by DMIRS and DBCA (A1909187).

		T
		Certificate of title □
		General lease □ Expiry:
	Yes ⊠ No □	Mining leases / tenements & Expiry dates ⊠
		 M20/118 (26/10/2030); G20/28 (01/04/2041); L20/83 (30/03/2041), L20/84 (30/03/2041); and L20/85 (30/03/2041).
Has the applicant demonstrated occupancy (proof of occupier status)?		Other evidence ⊠
occupancy (proof of occupier status)?		ASIC EXTRACTS:
		Fenix Resources Ltd - (G20/28) - Retrieved 22/04/2020 – Confirming Robert Brierley as a Director of Fenix Resources Ltd; and
		Prometheus Mining Pty Ltd - (M20/118), (L20/83), (L20/84) & (L20/85) - Retrieved 22/04/2020 – Confirming Robert Brierley as a Director of Prometheus Mining.
Has the applicant obtained all relevant		Approval:
planning approvals?	Yes □ No ⊠ N/A □	Expiry date:
		If N/A explain why?
		Mining Approval approved on 12 August 2020 by DMIRS.
		Consultation with Shire of Cue will occur during assessment phase for the WWTP.
Has the applicant applied for, or have		CPS No: 8891/1
an existing EP Act clearing permit in relation to this proposal?	Yes ⊠ No □	A Native Vegetation Clearing Permit was granted on 20 August 2020 for 98.6 ha of vegetation.
Has the applicant applied for, or have an		Licence/permit No:
existing CAWS Act clearing licence in relation to this proposal?	Yes □ No ⊠	N/A
Has the applicant applied for, or have an		Licence/permit No's:
existing RIWI Act licence or permit in relation to this proposal?		GWL203604(1)/203604; and
	Yes ⊠ No □	GWL203604(2)/203604.

Does the proposal involve a discharge of waste into a designated area (as defined in section 57 of the EP Act)?	Yes ⊠ No □	Name: East Murchison Groundwater Area Type: Proclaimed Groundwater Area Has Regulatory Services (Water) been consulted? Yes □ No ☒ N/A □ Regional office: Mid-West Gascoyne To be referred to Water.
Is the Premises situated in a Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA)?	Yes ⊠ No ⊠	Name: N/A Priority: N/A Yes □ No □ N/A ☒
Is the Premises subject to any other Acts or subsidiary regulations (e.g. Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004, Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulations 2004, State Agreement Act xxxxx)	Yes ⊠ No □	Legislation proposed premises is subject to: • The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984; • EP Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Slender-billed Thornbill); • Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 (Shield Black Spider). • WA Heritage Act 2018 (Little Wiligie Ochre Mine); and • The Mining Act 1978. • Local Government Department of Health approval for the WWTP and reuse of groundwater in the camp; • DMIRS Mining Approval; and • DG Licence.
Is the Premises within an Environmental Protection Policy (EPP) Area?	Yes □ No ⊠	N/A
Is the Premises subject to any EPP requirements?	Yes □ No ⊠	N/A
Is the Premises a known or suspected contaminated site under the Contaminated Sites Act 2003?	Yes □ No ⊠	N/A