



NSW GOVERNMENT
Department of Planning

Contact: Mike Young
Phone: (02) 9228 6481
Fax: (02) 9228 6466
Email: mike.young@planning.nsw.gov.au

Our ref: S04/01449-7

Mr Ian Schache
Executive General Manager
BEMAX Resources NL
PO Box 15164
CITY EAST QLD 4002

Dear Mr Schache

**Director-General's Requirements
Snapper Mineral Sands Project**

The Department has received your application for the proposed Snapper Mineral Sands Project (application number: 06_0168).

I have attached a copy of the Director-General's requirements for the Environmental Assessment of the project. These requirements have been prepared in consultation with the relevant government authorities, including the Wentworth Shire and Broken Hill City Councils, and are based on the information you have provided to date. A copy of the government authorities' comments on the proposal is also attached for your information.

Please also note that under section 75F(3) of the EP&A Act, the Director-General may alter these requirements at any time.

I would appreciate it if you would contact the Department at least two weeks before you propose to submit your draft Environmental Assessment for the project to determine:

- the fees applicable to the application;
- consultation and public exhibition arrangements that will apply; and
- number and format (hard-copy or CD-ROM) of the Environmental Assessment that will be required.

As you may know, the Department will review the draft Environmental Assessment in consultation with the relevant agencies to determine if it adequately addresses the Director-General's requirements. If the Director-General considers the Environmental Assessment to be inadequate, you will be required to revise it prior to public exhibition.

The Director-General's requirements will be placed on the Department's website along with other relevant information which becomes available during the assessment of the project. As a result, the Department would appreciate it if the documents submitted to the Department are in a suitable format for the web. In addition, it would be appreciated if you would arrange for an electronic version of the Environmental Assessment for the project to be hosted on your website and provide a link to place on the Department's website.

Finally, if your proposal contains any actions that could have a significant impact on Matters of National Environmental Significance, it will require an additional approval under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). This approval would be in addition to any approvals required under NSW legislation. If you have any questions about the application of the EPBC Act to your proposal, you should contact the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage in Canberra (6274 1111 or <http://www.deh.gov.au>).

If you have any enquiries about these requirements, please contact Mike Young, Manager of the Department's Mining & Extractive Industries team (02 9228 6481).

Yours sincerely

Chris Wilson
Executive Director
As delegate for the Director-General

Attachments

Director-General's Requirements

Section 75F of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

Application Number	06_0168
Project	<p>The proposed Snapper Mineral Sands Project and associated infrastructure, which includes the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extraction of approximately 8.2 million tonnes a year of ore for up to 14 years; • on-site processing of up to 715,000 tonnes of mineral concentrate each year; • transport of the concentrate to Broken Hill for further treatment; • construction of a 10 kilometre electricity transmission line; and • progressive rehabilitation of the site.
Location	Approximately 170 kilometres south of Broken Hill.
Proponent	BEMAX Resources Limited
Date of Issue	17 August 2006
Date of Expiration	17 August 2008
General Requirements	<p>The Environmental Assessment (EA) must include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an executive summary; • a detailed description of the project including the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – need for the project; – alternatives considered; and – various components and stages of the project; • consideration of any relevant statutory provisions; • a general overview of the environmental impacts of the project, identifying the key issues for further assessment, and taking into consideration the issues raised during consultation; • a detailed assessment of the key issues specified below, and any other significant issues identified in the general overview of environmental impacts of the project (see above), which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – a description of the existing environment; – an assessment of the potential impacts of the project, – a description of the measures that would be implemented to avoid, minimise, mitigate, offset, manage, and/or monitor the impacts of the project; • a draft Statement of Commitments, outlining environmental management, mitigation and monitoring measures; • a conclusion justifying the project, taking into consideration the environmental impacts of the project, the suitability of the site, and the benefits of the project; and • a signed statement from the author of the Environmental Assessment report certifying that the information contained in the report is neither false nor misleading.
Key Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flora and Fauna – including impacts on critical habitats, threatened species, populations, ecological communities and native vegetation. A comprehensive offset strategy must be included as part of the mitigation measures for the project to ensure that there is no net loss of flora and fauna values in the area in the medium to long term; • Surface and Groundwater – including detailed modelling of potential surface and groundwater impacts, and a detailed site water balance; • Noise – including construction, operation, and road noise impacts; • Air Quality – including a greenhouse gas assessment; • Traffic and Transport; • Hazards and Risk – including assessment of the hazards and risks associated with the transport, handling and disposal of waste in

	<p>accordance with requirements relevant to its classification;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage - both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal; • Social and Economic; • Rehabilitation and Final Landform – including a justification of the proposed final landform; a detailed description of how the site would be progressively rehabilitated; and the measures which would be put in place for the long term protection and management of the site (and any off-site biodiversity offset areas) following cessation of mining operations. An assessment of the risks to the success of rehabilitation and revegetation of the site associated with use of saline slurry in the overburden emplacements must also be included; and • Cumulative Impacts - particularly on flora and fauna, surface water, groundwater, and transport which may arise from the combined operation of the project and the Gingko Mineral Sands Mine.
References	<p>The Environmental Assessment must take into account relevant State government technical and policy guidelines. While not exhaustive, guidelines which may be relevant to the project are included in the attached list.</p>
Consultation	<p>During the preparation of the Environmental Assessment, you must consult with the relevant local, State or Commonwealth government authorities, service providers, community groups or affected landowners.</p> <p>In particular, you must consult with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Environment and Conservation; • NSW Roads and Traffic Authority; and • Wentworth Shire and Broken Hill City Councils. <p>The consultation process and the issues raised must be described in the Environmental Assessment report.</p>
Deemed refusal period	120 days

State Government Technical and Policy Guidelines - For Reference

Aspect	Policy /Methodology
Soil and Water	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils & Construction</i> (Landcom); • <i>Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality and Guidelines for Water Quality Monitoring and Reporting</i> (ANZECC); • <i>Rehabilitation Manual for Australian Streams</i> (Land and Water Resources Research and Development Corporation); • <i>Approved Methods for the Sampling and Analysis of Water Pollutants in NSW</i> (DEC);
Flora and Fauna	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • draft <i>Guidelines for Threatened Species Assessment</i> (DEC); • <i>Threatened Biodiversity Survey and Assessment: Guidelines for Development and Activities</i> (DEC); • <i>Draft Southern Mallee Regional Guidelines for the Development of Land Use Agreements</i> (1999) • <i>NSW Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Policy</i> (DNR);
Blasting and Vibration	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Technical Basis for Guidelines to Minimise Annoyance due to Blasting and Ground Vibration</i> (ANZECC);
Noise	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>NSW Industrial Noise Policy</i> (DEC); • <i>Environmental Criteria for Road Traffic Noise</i> (DEC); • <i>Environmental Noise Control Manual</i> (DEC);
Air Quality	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Approved Methods for the Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants in NSW</i> (DEC);
Heritage	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • draft <i>Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment and Community Consultation</i> (DEC); • <i>Assessing Heritage Significance</i> (NSW Heritage Office); • <i>NSW Heritage Manual</i> (NSW Heritage Office);
Traffic	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Guide to Traffic Generating Development and Road Design Guide (RTA)</i>; • <i>RTA Road Design Guide (RTA)</i>; • relevant Austroad standards;
Waste	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Environmental Guidelines: Assessment and Classification and Management of Liquid and Non-Liquid Wastes</i> (DEC);