

Hera Resources Pty Ltd

Federation Project

Environmental Impact Statement

Appendix A

SEARs Checklist

Appendix A – SEARs Checklist

This appendix provides a consolidated summary of the SEARs and where each requirement has been addressed within the EIS and specialist assessment prepared for the EIS.

The relevant requirements are provided in **Table 1**.

Table 1 SEARS Requirements

Requirement	Reference
The environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared in accordance with, and meet the minimum requirements of, clauses 6 and 7 of Schedule 2 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000 (the Regulation).	
In particular, the EIS must include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following:	
A stand-alone executive summary;	Executive Summary
A full description of the development, including:	Chapter 4
Regional geology including a supporting map, the resource to be extracted, demonstrating efficient resource recovery within environmental constraints; mineralization in the deposit the mine layout and scheduling;	Section 8.1 Section 8.2
Minerals processing and average and maximum annual production rates;	Section 4.17
Details of construction, operation and decommissioning, including any:	Chapter 4
Proposed staging of the project or refurbishing of infrastructure over time;	Section 4.2
All components, infrastructure, materials, plant and equipment and activities (including any infrastructure that would be required for the development, but the subject of a separate approvals process);	Chapter 4
The likely interactions between the project and the existing Hera mine; and	Section 4.15
The likely interactions between the development and any other existing, approved or proposed developments in the vicinity of the site;	Section 8.19
Site plans and maps at an adequate scale showing:	
The location of project components; -existing infrastructure, land use, and environmental features in the vicinity of the project (including any other existing, approved or proposed infrastructure in the region); and	Figures throughout Chapter 1 and Chapter 4
Key environmental constraints that have been considered in the design of the project;	Figures throughout Chapter 2 and Chapter 8
A waste (overburden, tailings, etc.) management strategy;	Appendix B

	Section 4.9 Section 8.2.5.1 Section 8.2.5.2 Section 8.12.5
A water management strategy;	Section 4.10 Section 4.11 Sections 8.4 and 8.5
A mine closure and rehabilitation strategy, including details of the progressive rehabilitation of the site;	Appendix D Chapter 5
A general description of any infrastructure that would be required for, or linked to, the project that is the subject of a separate approval process;	Section 6.4.1
A strategic justification for the project;	Chapter 2 Chapter 10
Details of the approvals that must be obtained before the development may commence;	Section 6.4
The potential terms of any proposed voluntary planning agreement with the relevant local council;	Section 2.5
An assessment of the likely impacts of the development on the environment, focusing on the specific issues identified below, including: -a description of the existing environment likely to be affected by the development, using sufficient baseline data;	
a description of the existing environment likely to be affected by the development, using sufficient baseline data;	Section 8.1.3 Section 8.2.3 Section 8.3.3 Section 8.4.3 Section 8.5.3 Section 8.6.4 Section 8.7.3 Section 8.8.3 Section 8.9.3 Section 8.10.4 Section 8.12.4 Section 8.13.3 Section 8.14.3 Section 8.15.4

	<p>Section 8.16.4</p> <p>Section 8.17.5</p>
<p>An assessment of the likely impacts of all stages of the development, including any cumulative impacts, taking into consideration any relevant legislation, environmental planning instruments, guidelines, policies, plans and industry codes of practice;</p>	<p>Section 8.1.6</p> <p>Section 8.2.5</p> <p>Section 8.3.5</p> <p>Section 8.4.5</p> <p>Section 8.5.5</p> <p>Section 8.6.4</p> <p>Section 8.7.5</p> <p>Section 8.8.5</p> <p>Section 8.9.5</p> <p>Section 8.10.6</p> <p>Section 8.12.6</p> <p>Section 8.13.5</p> <p>Section 8.14.5</p> <p>Section 8.15.5</p> <p>Section 8.16.5</p> <p>Section 8.17.6</p> <p>Section 8.17.8</p> <p>Section 8.18.4</p>
<p>A description of the measures that would be implemented to avoid, mitigate and/or offset residual impacts of the development, including incident management procedures, and the likely effectiveness of these measures, and an assessment of</p>	<p>Section 8.1.7</p> <p>Section 8.2.6</p> <p>Section 8.3.6</p> <p>Section 8.4.6</p> <p>Section 8.5.7</p> <p>Section 8.6.5</p> <p>Section 8.7.6</p> <p>Section 8.8.6</p> <p>Section 8.9.6</p> <p>Section 8.10.7</p> <p>Section 8.11.8</p> <p>Section 8.12.7</p> <p>Section 8.13.6</p> <p>Section 8.15.7</p> <p>Section 8.16.9</p>

	Section 8.17.7
Whether these measures are consistent with industry best practice, and represent the full range of reasonable and feasible mitigation measures that could be implemented;	Section 9.4
The likely effectiveness of these measures, including performance measures where relevant; and	Section 9.4
Whether contingency plans would be necessary to manage any residual risks; and	Section 9.4
A description of the measures that would be implemented to monitor and report on the environmental performance of the development if it is approved;	Section 8.1.7 Section 8.2.6 Section 8.3.6 Section 8.4.6 Section 8.5.7 Section 8.6.5 Section 8.7.6 Section 8.8.6 Section 8.9.6 Section 8.10.7 Section 8.11.8 Section 8.12.7 Section 8.13.6 Section 8.15.7 Section 8.16.9 Section 8.17.7 Appendix T
A consolidated summary of the proposed environmental management and Monitoring measures;	Appendix T
Consideration of the development against all relevant environmental planning instruments (including Part 3 of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007);	Chapter 6
An evaluation of the development as a whole, having regard to:	
The requirements in Section 4.15 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, including ecologically sustainable development;	Section 6.2 Section 10.8
The suitability of the site with respect to potential land use conflicts with existing and future surrounding land uses and significant mineral resources;	Section 2.3.2 Section 2.4

	Section 10.7
The strategic need and justification for the development, having regard to the relevant NSW and national policies and guidelines;	Chapter 2 Chapter 10
Feasible alternatives to the development (and its key components), including the consequences of not carrying out the project; and	Section 2.6
The biophysical, economic and social costs and benefits of the development;	Chapter 10
A signed statement from the author of the EIS, certifying that the information contained within the document is neither false nor misleading.	Section 1.9
The EIS must also be accompanied by a report from a qualified quantity surveyor providing:	Appendix U
A detailed calculation of the capital investment value (CIV) (as defined in clause 3 of the Regulation) of the proposal, including details of all assumptions and components from which the CIV calculation is derived. The report shall be prepared on company letterhead and indicate applicable GST component of the CIV;	
An estimate of jobs that will be created during the construction and operational phases of the proposed development; and	
Certification that the information provided is accurate at the date of preparation.	
The EIS must address the following specific issues with the level of assessment of likely impacts proportionate to the significance of, or degree, of impact on, the issue, within the context of the project location and the surrounding environment and having regard to applicable NSW Government policies and guidelines.	
Land and Soils – including an assessment of:	Appendix E
The likely impacts of the development on the soils and land capability of the site and surrounds, and a description of the mitigation and management measures to prevent, control or minimise impacts of the development;	Section 8.1.5.5 Section 7.1.6 Section 8.1.7
Whether the soils in the area of the project are potentially contaminated or are acid forming (i.e. Acid sulphate soils) and if so, identification of best practice mitigation measures and strategies or remedial and/or disposal actions that will be required/undertaken if applicable in accordance with relevant guidance/standards;	Section 8.1.4.2 Section 8.1.5.1
The likely agricultural impacts of the development, including biosecurity risks;	Section 5.6 Section 8.1.6
The likely impact of the development on landforms (topography), including the long-term geotechnical stability of any new landforms on site; and	Section 5.5

The compatibility of the development with other land uses in the vicinity of the development in accordance with the requirements of Clause 12 of State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007, paying particular attention to the agricultural land use in the region;	Section 5.3 Section 5.5 Section 6.3 Section 8.1.6
Subsidence – including an assessment of the likely subsidence effects, and the potential consequences of these effects and impacts on the natural and built environment, paying particular attention to features that are considered to have significant economic, social, cultural or environmental value, and taking into consideration:	Appendix H Section 8.3.5
Recorded regional and historic subsidence levels, impacts and environmental consequences; -geotechnical assessment that supports mining methods and mine design;	Table 12, Section 8.3.4
The potential extent of fracturing of the strata above the underground mine; and	Section 8.3.5
The implementation of a comprehensive subsidence monitoring program, if required, which is capable of detecting vertical, horizontal and far-field subsidence movements	Not Required due to the assessment of ‘negligible impact’ from surface subsidence predictions
Water – including:	Appendix I Appendix J
An assessment of the likely impacts of the development on the quantity and quality of surface, and groundwater resources, having regard to the NSW Aquifer Interference Policy;	Section 8.4.5 Section 8.5.5
An assessment of the hydrological characteristics of the site and downstream;	Section 8.4.3.2 Section 8.4.3.3 Section 8.5.3
An assessment of the likely impacts of the development on aquifers, watercourses, riparian land, water-related infrastructure and systems and other water users, including impacts to water supply from dams, and riparian and licensed water users;	Section 8.4.5 Section 8.5.5
A detailed site water balance, including a description of site water demands, water disposal methods (inclusive of volume and frequency of any water discharges), water supply and transfer infrastructure and water storage structures, and measures to minimise water use;	Section 8.4.6.4
Demonstration that water for the construction and operation of the development, for the life of the project, can be obtained from an appropriately authorised and reliable supply in accordance with the operating rules of any relevant Water Sharing Plan (WSP), and include an	Section 8.4.4.3 Section 8.4.4.4

assessment of the current market depth where water entitlement is required to be purchased;	
A description of the measures proposed, including monitoring activities and methodologies, to ensure the development can operate in accordance with the requirements of any relevant WSP or water source embargo;	Section 8.4.6 Section 8.5.7
A detailed description of the proposed water management system (including sewage), water monitoring program and other measures to mitigate surface and groundwater impacts	Section 4.11 Section 8.4.6 Section 8.5.7
An assessment of the potential flooding impacts of the project;	Section 8.4.5.2
Noise, Vibration and Blasting – including:	Appendix M
Identification of representative noise monitoring locations for determining compliance with applicable noise goals and where relevant noise goals would be set as representative limits	Section 8.9.6
An assessment of the likely construction and operational noise impacts of the development in accordance with the Noise Policy for Industry NSW, and the Voluntary Land Acquisition and Mitigation Policy;	Section 8.9.6
If a claim is made for specific construction noise criteria for certain activities, then this claim must be justified and accompanied by an assessment of the likely construction noise impacts of these activities in accordance with the Interim Construction Noise Guideline,	Not Applicable
An assessment of the likely road noise impacts of the development in accordance with the NSW Road Noise Policy; and	Section 8.9.4.4 Section 8.9.5.3
An assessment of the likely blasting impacts of the development on people, animals, buildings and infrastructure, and significant natural features, having regard to the relevant ANZECC guidelines;	Section 8.9.5.4
Air Quality – including:	Appendix N
An assessment of the likely air quality impacts of the development, including cumulative impacts from nearby developments, in accordance with the Approved Methods for the Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants in NSW (2016), and having regard to the NSW Government’s Voluntary Land Acquisition and Mitigation Policy;	Section 8.10.3 Section 8.10.6
Demonstrated ability to comply with the relevant regulatory framework, specifically the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 and the Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Regulation 2010;	Section 8.10.3 Section 8.10.3.1
Identification of strategies to minimise point and/or fugitive and/or odour emissions/impacts (with proposed timing), including monitoring, in line with relevant guidance/standards	Section 8.10.5 Section 8.10.7

An assessment of the likely greenhouse gas impacts of the development; and	Section 8.11
A description of the feasibility of measures that would be implemented to monitor and report on the emissions (including fugitive dust and greenhouse gases) of the development;	Section 8.10.7
Biodiversity – including:	Appendix K
An assessment of the biodiversity values and the likely biodiversity impacts of the development throughout its life, and impacts on biodiversity values in the region, in accordance with Section 7.9 of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW), the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM 2020) and documented in a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR); and	Section 8.6.4 Section 8.6.5 Section 8.6.6.1
The BDAR must document the application of the avoid, minimise and offset framework including assessing all direct, indirect and prescribed impacts in accordance with the BAM;	Section 8.6.6 Section 8.6.6.2 Section 8.6.7 Section 8.6.8
Heritage – including:	Appendix L
An assessment of the likely Aboriginal and historic heritage (cultural and archaeological) impacts of the development, including adequate consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders having regard to the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (DECCW, 2010), and documented in an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) including the significance of cultural heritage values for Aboriginal people who have a cultural association with the land;	Section 8.7.5 Section 8.7.4.2
Include results of a surface survey (and test excavations, if required) undertaken by a qualified archaeologist to inform the need for targeted test excavation to better assess the integrity, extent, distribution, nature and overall significance of the archaeological record; and	Section 8.7.5.1
Demonstrate attempts to avoid impact upon cultural heritage values and identify any conservation outcomes, including mitigation measures and procedures for accidental finds at any stage of the project; and	Section 8.7.6
An assessment of the impact on historic heritage, including heritage conservation areas and State and local heritage items within and near the site;	Section 8.8.5
Traffic and Transport – including an assessment of:	Appendix C
The likely traffic and transport impacts of the development on the capacity, condition, safety and efficiency of the road and rail network and any cumulative impacts of other developments in the locality, documented in a Transport Assessment prepared in accordance with relevant guidelines and including a description of:	Section 8.13.5 Section 8.13.5.8

The site access routes and site access points in accordance with the Roads Act 1993; and	Figure 8-43, Section 8.13.3
of measures, including upgrade works, that would be implemented to mitigate and / or manage potential traffic impacts developed in consultation with the relevant road authority;	Section 8.13.5.5 Section 8.13.5.6 Section 8.13.5.7
Hazards and Risks – including:	Appendix Q
Preliminary risk screening in accordance with State Environmental Planning Policy No. 33 – Hazardous and Offensive Development and the Department’s Applying SEPP 33 with clear indication of class, quantity and location of all dangerous goods and hazardous materials associated with the development. If the preliminary risk screening indicate that the development is ‘potentially hazardous’, a Preliminary Hazard Analysis (PHA) must be prepared in accordance with the Department’s Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper No. 6, ‘Hazard Analysis’ and Multi-Level Risk Assessment;	Section 8.15
Visual – including an assessment of:	Appendix R
The likely visual and landscape impacts of the development on private land in the vicinity of the development, paying particular attention to any temporary and permanent modification of the landscape (e.g. overburden dumps, bunds, tailings facilities);	Section 8.16.8
Waste Management – including:	
Identification of all waste types that will be generated during construction and operation, their classification and the ways in which they can be legally handled, stored, transported, reused, recycled or disposed of, including sampling/monitoring, record keeping, waste tracking, contingency measures and any other verification practice, in accordance with relevant guidelines/standards;	Section 8.12.4
Assessment of how the project would comply with the EPA’s Sodium Cyanide Policy – Limits for gold mine tailings storage facilities (EPA, 2012)	Section 8.12.3
Identify strategies for waste minimisation during construction and operation;	Section 8.12.7
A tailings risk assessment based on the tailings composition and identification, quantification and classification of the potential waste streams likely to be generated during construction and operation, including and not limited to non-production wastes, reagent materials and cyanide compounds	Appendix O, Section 8.12.5
Description of onsite sewerage system construction/upgrade, implementation, performance and management measures including a supporting comment on how the system would service all sewage generated during the construction and operational periods; and	Section 8.12.5.2

Description of the measures to be implemented to store, manage, reuse, recycle and safely dispose of these materials including and not limited to operational water by-products, adequate spill detection and clean up systems, suitable locations for disposal or reuse of spoil generated during construction;	Section 8.12.6 Section 8.12.7 Section 5.6
Closure, Rehabilitation and Final Landform – including a Rehabilitation Strategy providing:	Appendix D
A detailed overview of the final land-use and final landform, rehabilitation objectives and closure criteria for the development, including the conceptual final landform design; and	Section 5.4.2 Section 5.4.3 Section 5.5
Identification and discussion of opportunities to improve rehabilitation and environmental outcomes for existing disturbed areas within the project site, and barriers or limitations to effective rehabilitation; and	Section 5.7 Section 5.8
Socio-Economic – including an assessment of:	Appendix G, Appendix S
An assessment of the social impacts of the project, prepared in accordance with the Department’s Social Impact Assessment Guideline For State Significant Developments (July 2021) (subject to transitional arrangements), including the likely impacts of the development on the local community, cumulative impacts (considering other mining developments in the locality), and consideration of construction and operational workforce accommodation;	Section 8.17.6
An assessment of the likely economic impacts of the development, paying particular attention to:	Section 8.18.4.1 Section 8.18.4.2
The significance of the resource;	Section 4.5.1
Economic benefits of the project for the State and region	Section 8.18.4.1
The demand for the provision of local infrastructure and services; and a Voluntary Planning Agreement in relation to the demand for the provision of local infrastructure and services.	Section 8.18.4.2
The EIS must include all relevant plans, architectural drawings, diagrams and relevant documentation required under Schedule 1 of the Regulation. Provide these as part of the EIS rather than as separate documents. In addition, the EIS must include high quality files of maps and figures of the subject site and proposal.	Throughout the EIS
During the preparation of the EIS, you should consult with relevant local, State and Commonwealth Government authorities including infrastructure and service providers, the Hera Mine Community Consultative Committee, community groups, Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs), affected landowners, and holders of existing mining and exploration authorities. The EIS must describe the consultation process and the issues raised and identify where the design of the infrastructure	Chapter 7, Appendix F

has been amended in response to these issues. Where amendments have not been made to address an issue, a short explanation should be provided.	
The assessment of the key issues listed above must take into account relevant guidelines, policies, and plans as identified.	Throughout the EIS