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Northparkes Mines

Section 75W Environmental Assessment

**Risk identification matrix for
Issue Prioritisation**

April 2009



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1. Issue Identification and General Environmental Risk Analysis

The issues identified during the preparation of the Section 75W Environmental Assessment have been prioritised based on the frequency of identification and the potential for environmental impact.

Frequency of identification was determined through a review of all consultation undertaken, relevant planning instruments and specialist assessments. The government agencies consulted duplicated some issues requiring assessment and as a consequence, the frequency of identification for these issues may be slightly elevated. Notwithstanding this duplication, the elevated frequency of identification is not assessed as unduly influencing the prioritisation of issues. Those issues mentioned by more than one government agency would generally be noted by many stakeholders and are therefore likely to be highly identified in any event.

The potential for environmental impact has been classified as low, medium or high, depending on the commentary received with the identification of the issue combined with the importance placed on the potential issue in the specialist assessment.

Table 1 presents a risk identification matrix incorporating a summary of each issue identified through the consultation process with the frequency of identification noted and perceived level of impact assigned. The last column refers to the relevant part of the Environmental Assessment where each issue is discussed in detail.

The overall analysis of environmental risk has then been determined by combining the frequency of identification and the specialist assessment results. More weight has been placed on the specialist assessment results given their technical assessment of the issues.



2. Risk Identification Matrix for Issue Prioritisation

Table 1 Risk Identification Matrix for issue Prioritisation

Environmental Issue	Frequency of Identification	Specialist Assessment		Related issues (Order of importance)	Assessment of Risk	75W Part
	Government	Management Effort Required	Residual Impact			
Air pollution, dust, odour, other	3 (Med)	Med	Low	1. Dust generated by construction and operational activities.	Low - Med	5.4
Surface water pollution, erosion, sedimentation, reduction of runoff	3 (Med)	Med	Low	1. Security of water supply. 2. Impact on Goonumbla Creek. 3. Reduction of runoff to surrounding properties. 4. Contamination of surface water from mining activities.	Low - Med	5.5 & 5.7
Groundwater pollution, reduction of aquifer	4 (Med)	Med	Low	1. Impact on surrounding groundwater users.	Med	5.6
Contamination or pollution of land	4 (Med)	NC	NC	1. Indirect contamination of external properties. 2. Contamination of land resulting in sterilisation for future use.	Med	5.6 & 5.7
Risk to threatened flora and/or fauna	4 (Med)	Med	Med	1. Fragmentation of corridors. 2. Reduction of habitat. 3. Impact on threatened species/communities/populations.	Med	5.9
Noise/vibration (traffic and/or operational)	3 (Med)	Low	Low	1. Exceedences of noise criteria.	Low	5.2
Visual amenity, stray light	2 (Low)	Low	Low	1. Increase visual impact.	Low	5.10



Environmental Issue	Frequency of Identification	Specialist Assessment		Related issues (Order of importance)	Assessment of Risk	75W Part
	Government	Management Effort Required	Residual Impact			
Risk of Aboriginal Heritage	2 (Low)	Low	Low	1. Impacts on heritage sites.	Low	5.11
Risk of European Heritage	1 (Low)	Low	Low	1. Impacts on heritage sites.	Low	5.12
Inadequate rehabilitation/Final Landform unacceptable impact or cause visual impact	4 (Med)	Med	Med	1. Limited final landuse potential. 2. Permanent visual intrusion left on landscape.	Med	5.9 & 5.10
Impact on soil and/or land capability	2 (Low)	Low	Low	1. Erosion of soils. 2. Reduction of land capability.	Low	5.6 & 5.7
Traffic increase, heavy vehicle increase	2 (Low)	Low	Low	1. Increased impact on road pavement. 2. Increased impact on traffic safety. 3. Increased traffic on public road system.	Low	5.8
NC = Not covered in specialist assessment NA = Not Applicable				Frequency of Identification: Government: 0 – 2 = Low 3 – 4 = med 5 – 6 = High		



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