



Significant Impact Assessment

Charley Creek Project
Northern Territory, Australia

(EL33000, EL33004, EL33006, EL33007, EL33008, EL33054, EL33055, EL33201, EL33204)

1. Environmental Context

EPBC search tool was consulted on 15-03-2023 for all Charley Creek Project Area. The Results are the following:

Listed Threatened Species										
Species ID	Scientific Name	Common Name	Class	Simple Presence	Presence Text	Threatened Category	Migratory Status	Migratory Category	Marine Status	Cetacean Status
856	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper	Bird	May	Species or species habitat may occur within area	Critically Endangered	Migratory	Migratory Wetlands Species	Listed - overfly marine area	
68	<i>Zyomys pedunculatus</i>	Central Rock-rat, Antina	Mammal	Likely	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	Critically Endangered				
83163	<i>Liopholis slateri slateri</i>	Slater's Skink, Floodplain Skink	Reptile	May	Species or species habitat may occur within area	Endangered				
59350	<i>Pezoporus occidentalis</i>	Night Parrot	Bird	May	Species or species habitat may occur within area	Endangered				
77037	<i>Rostratula australis</i>	Australian Painted Snipe	Bird	May	Species or species habitat may occur within area	Endangered			Listed - overfly marine area (as Rostratula	
79113	<i>Sinumelon bednalli</i>	Bednall's Land Snail	Snail	Likely	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	Endangered				
758	<i>Polytelis alexandrae</i>	Princess Parrot, Alexandra's Parrot	Bird	Known	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	Vulnerable				
18659	<i>Actinotus schwarzii</i>	Desert Flannel-flower	Plant	May	Species or species habitat may occur within area	Vulnerable				
83160	<i>Liopholis kintorei</i>	Great Desert Skink, Tjukurra, Warrarna	Reptile	Likely	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	Vulnerable				
282	<i>Macrotis lagotis</i>	Greater Bilby	Mammal	May	Species or species habitat may occur within area	Vulnerable				
50831	<i>Petrogale lateralis centralis</i>	Waru, Central Australian Rock-wallaby	Mammal	Known	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	Vulnerable				
929	<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>	Grey Falcon	Bird	Known	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	Vulnerable				
11843	<i>Macrozamia macdonnellii</i>	MacDonnell Ranges Cycad	Plant	Known	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	Vulnerable				
942	<i>Erythrotriorchis radiatus</i>	Cred Goshawk	Bird	May	Species or species habitat may occur within area	Vulnerable				
52651	<i>Prostanthera schultzei</i>	null	Plant	Likely	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	Vulnerable				
174	<i>Macroderma gigas</i>	Ghost Bat	Mammal	May	Species or species habitat may occur within area	Vulnerable				
13753	<i>Minuria tridens</i>	Minnie Daisy	Plant	May	Species or species habitat may occur within area	Vulnerable				

Listed Migratory Species										
Species ID	Scientific Name	Common Name	Class	Rank	Text	Threatened Category	Migratory Status	Migratory Category	Marine Status	Cetacean Status
678	<i>Apus pacificus</i>	Fork-tailed Swift	Bird	Likely	Species or species habitat likely to occur		Migratory	Migratory Marine Birds	Listed - overfly marine area	
958	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Pectoral Sandpiper	Bird	May	Species or species habitat may occur		Migratory	Migratory Wetlands Species	Listed - overfly marine area	
840	<i>Glaucola maldivarum</i>	Oriental Pratincole	Bird	May	Species or species habitat may occur		Migratory	Migratory Wetlands Species	Listed - overfly marine area	
642	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Grey Wagtail	Bird	May	Species or species habitat may occur		Migratory	Migratory Terrestrial Species	Listed - overfly marine area	
644	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Yellow Wagtail	Bird	May	Species or species habitat may occur		Migratory	Migratory Terrestrial Species	Listed - overfly marine area	
874	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Bird	Likely	Species or species habitat likely to occur		Migratory	Migratory Wetlands Species	Listed	
882	<i>Charadrius veredus</i>	Oriental Plover, Oriental Dotterel	Bird	May	Species or species habitat may occur		Migratory	Migratory Wetlands Species	Listed - overfly marine area	
59309	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Common Sandpiper	Bird	May	Species or species habitat may occur		Migratory	Migratory Wetlands Species	Listed	
856	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper	Bird	May	Species or species habitat may occur within area	Critically Endangered	Migratory	Migratory Wetlands Species	Listed - overfly marine area	

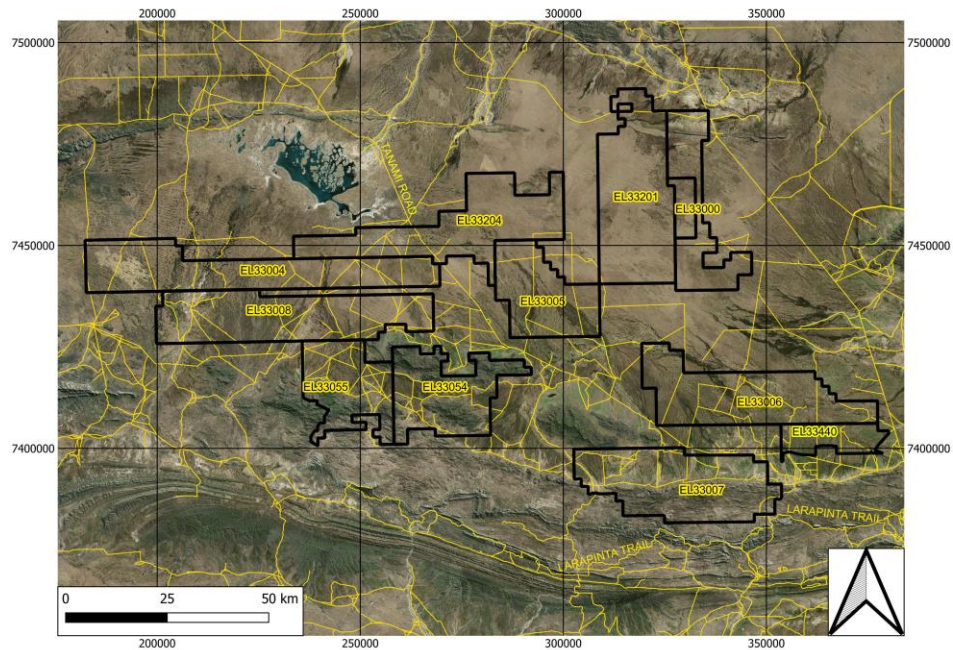
Commonwealth Lands

Commonwealth Land ID	Commonwealth Land	Agency	State
70052	Defence - JOINT DEFENCE	Defence	NT
70034	Defence - JINDALEE	Defence	NT

Listed Marine Species										
Species ID	Scientific Name	Common Name	Class	Rank	Text	Threatened Category	Migratory Status	Migratory Category	Marine Status	Cetacean Status
66521	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Cattle Egret	Bird	May	Species or species				Listed - overfly marine	
670	<i>Merops ornatus</i>	Rainbow Bee-eater	Bird	May	Species or species				Listed - overfly marine	
678	<i>Apus pacificus</i>	Fork-tailed Swift	Bird	Likely	Species or species		Migratory	Migratory Marine Birds	Listed - overfly marine	
958	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Pectoral Sandpiper	Bird	May	Species or species		Migratory	Migratory Wetlands	Listed - overfly marine	
77037	<i>Rostratula australis</i>	Australian Painted Snipe	Bird	May	Species or species	Endangered			Listed - overfly marine	
840	<i>Glaucola maldivarum</i>	Oriental Pratincole	Bird	May	Species or species		Migratory	Migratory Wetlands	Listed - overfly marine	
642	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Grey Wagtail	Bird	May	Species or species		Migratory	Migratory Terrestrial	Listed - overfly marine	
644	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Yellow Wagtail	Bird	May	Species or species		Migratory	Migratory Terrestrial	Listed - overfly marine	
874	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Bird	Likely	Species or species		Migratory	Migratory Wetlands	Listed	
882	<i>Charadrius veredus</i>	Oriental Plover, Oriental	Bird	May	Species or species		Migratory	Migratory Wetlands	Listed - overfly marine	
59309	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Common Sandpiper	Bird	May	Species or species		Migratory	Migratory Wetlands	Listed	
856	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper	Bird	May	Species or species	Critically Endangered	Migratory	Migratory Wetlands	Listed - overfly marine	
53425	<i>Chalcites osculans</i>	Black-eared Cuckoo	Bird	Known	Species or species				Listed - overfly marine	

2. Potential Impacts

The action will involve a first pass shallow AC drilling campaign using an AC drilling rig mounted on a 6x6 Toyota Landcruiser along with a compressor mounted on a 4x4 Mitsubishi Canter. No land clearance will be carried out and the construction of drill pads is not required by this drilling technique. Drilling will take place around a vast licensed area (Figure xx) but only for very limited time in each single local drilling zone (few days max per local drilling zone). Drilling is expected to take place in the period between July and September 2023.



The action can be subdivided into the following components and the following potential impacts are identified:

Action	Action Components	Potential Impacts	Potential Impact Scale	Potential Impact Intensity	Potential Impact Timing/duration/frequency	Potential Impact Duration	Potential Impact Overall	Action Overall Severity
AC Drilling	Accessing Drill Location	Partial Off-Track Driving	Localised	Low	Limited	2-3 days per drilling location	Minor	Minor
	Drilling	Infesting Weeds Spread			Weed Management Plan		Minor	
		Noise	Localised	Low	Limited	2-3 days per drilling location	Minor	
		Vibrations	Localised	Low	Limited	2-3 days per drilling location	Minor	
		Dust	Localised	Low	Limited	2-3 days per drilling location	Minor	
		Exhaustion Fumes	Localised	Low	Limited	2-3 days per drilling location	Minor	
		Potential Samples Containing Radioactive Minerals			Radioactive Management Plan		Minor	
		Potential Hydrocarbon Spills			Hydrocarbon Spills Management Plan		Minor	
	Leaving Drill Location	Partial Off-Track Driving	Localised	Low	Limited	2-3 days per drilling location	Minor	
		Infesting Weeds Spread			Weed Management Plan		Minor	

3. Impact avoidance, mitigation and management

AC drilling locations will be selected as close as possible to already existing roads/tracks to minimise off-track driving. Locations will be selected also in a way that no vegetation removal or earthworks will be necessary to access the area and perform drilling activities. No camp facilities will be installed, and each single drilling area will be active only for a few days (estimated 2-3 days max) per drilling location. Drilling locations are all separated several kilometres from one another.

For vulnerable and threatened bird species using tall trees, such as the Grey Falcon, URO will avoid drilling near any tall trees as these are the prime habitat for this species, including a tall tree buffer zone of 500m around tall trees.

To mitigate disturbance or impact on the seventeen (17) bird, mammal or flora species listed as “threatened” or the nine (9) migratory species, the aircore drill will only be in specific areas a few days at a time. It is run by air compressor on the back of a 4WD Land Cruiser. No rill pads, sumps or other land disturbance activities are required. Dust management will be carried out by the drilling contractor using dust mitigation procedures and supervised by URO staff. The drill spoils, rock chips and unconsolidated sediment will be taken away for analysis or replaced back into the hole and plugged, minimising any impact to the local environment or species.

Insignificant water is expected during this type of drilling. Water management is therefore expected to be negligible.

Vehicles entering drilling sites will be cleaned. URO will request that contractors have their vehicles cleaned and inspected prior to mobilising onto URO drilling sites. To prevent movement of weeds off-site, equipment and vehicle will be cleaned and inspected before departing site (weed management plan)

Hydrocarbon spills will be minimised using liners and drip trays under machinery. Small hydrocarbon spills, if occurring, will be contained with absorbent material from spill kits which will be located on the drilling rig. Used absorbent material from the spill kits will be collected and disposed in Alice Springs. In the unlikely event of a large hydrocarbon spill, this will be initially contained, and all contaminated material removed via a truck to the nearest disposal facility (using earthmoving equipment if required).

Photos of all drilling locations will be taken prior to and after drilling operation to compare site visuals.

4. Impacts Significance

According to the definitions and guidelines provided within the Significant Impact Guideline 1.1 (Matters of National Environmental Significance) & 1.2 (Actions on, or impacting upon, Commonwealth Land, and actions by Commonwealth Agencies), the Action is not likely to cause significant impacts. Advice and recommendations from the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and Arts will also be sought by URO and incorporated in the company’s environmental management plans.