

Referring a proposal to the NT EPA

**Environmental impact assessment
Guidance for proponents**

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Further information

Further information and guidance on the environmental impact assessment process is available on the NT EPA website at: www.ntepa.nt.gov.au

If you require assistance in applying this guidance to your circumstances or you are unsure whether a referral is required for your proposal, please contact the Environment Division of the Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security. Appointments with relevant staff can be made through the contacts below:

Email: eia.ntepa@nt.gov.au
 Tel: 08 8924 4218

Abbreviations and glossary

Acronyms	Full form
DEPWS	Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security, (formerly the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR))
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement (includes draft EIS, Supplement to the EIS and any additional information requested following submission of the Supplement)
EP Act	<i>Environment Protection Act 2019</i>
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Commonwealth)
NT	Northern Territory
NT EPA	Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority
SER	Supplementary Environment Report

Term	Meaning
Action	An action can include a project, a development, an undertaking, an activity or series of activities, works, or a substantial or material alteration to a previous action.
Cumulative impacts	Cumulative impacts are impacts that can accumulate as a result of additive or interactive processes and actions, interactions among multiple management measures (past, present and future), a combination of multiple minor impacts over time, and activities conducted over a wider area than the proposed action, such as the activities of multiple projects operating in a region.
Environment	Environment includes all aspects of the surroundings of humans including physical, biological, economic and social aspects.
Environmental values	Aspects of the environment that are important or serve an important function, such as a river that provides beneficial uses to ecological and communities, a site that is sacred to Aboriginal people, an animal or plant species that is threatened. Indicative environmental values and sensitivities are identified in the context of the NT EPA's environmental factors and objectives in Appendix 1.
Impact of an action	An event or circumstance that is a direct consequence of the action; or that is an indirect consequence of the action and the action is a substantial cause of that event or circumstance.
Impact pathways	Are the routes that a physical stressor follows from its source to the environmental value that is impacted. For example, pollution from an industrial waste water discharge may reach the river directly via the discharge outlet, or via drainage systems and groundwater.
Impact sources	Are activities or components of a proposed action that give rise to a stressor/s or opportunity/ies. The interaction of a stressor with an environmental value or sensitivity may lead to an adverse environmental impact. For example, discharge of waste water from an industrial process (the source) may pollute or alter the hydrology of a river. Opportunities can give rise to beneficial impacts e.g. employment, increased services or improved lifestyle for a community.

Term	Meaning
Proposal	A proposed action or a strategic proposal. This guidance document uses the word <i>proposal</i> to refer to either a proposed action (section 48) or a strategic proposal (section 49).
Proponent initiated EIS	A referral of a proposal (section 48 or 49 or 50(2)(c) of the EP Act including a draft terms of reference, a statement of reasons as specified under EP Regulation 43.
Residual impacts	Predicted environmental impacts remaining after the proposal has been completed (including successful implementation of protection and management measures)
Sensitivity	A sensitivity is an aspect of the environment that is not regarded as a value but may be sensitive to change when perturbed, which may result in a significant impact on the environment.
Significant impact	As defined in section 11 of the EP Act, is an impact of major consequence having regard to: the context and intensity of the impact; the sensitivity, value and quality of the environment impacted on; and the duration, magnitude and geographic extent of the impact. The decision about whether a potential impact is considered 'significant' is one for the NT EPA.
Strategic proposal	A strategic proposal can include a policy; a program; a plan; a methodology.
Stressors	Are stimuli that can stress or adversely impact the environment. Stressors associated with human activities may occur as a short-term, intense disturbance or lower intensity disturbance over a longer period, and can damage resources that are needed to sustain biodiversity and ecosystems, as well as people and their economy.

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1. Introduction

1.1. Overview

Proposals that have the potential to have a significant impact on the environment require referral to the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA) in accordance with the *Environment Protection Act 2019* (EP Act) and the *Environment Protection Regulations 2020* (EP Regulations).

The NT EPA conducts environmental impact assessment on behalf of the Northern Territory (NT) Government in order to make a recommendation to the NT Minister for Environment (Minister) to grant or refuse an environmental approval under the EP Act. If required to be submitted, a proponent’s referral document contains information that the NT EPA uses to:

- decide that environmental impact assessment of a proposal is NOT required; or
- decide that environmental impact assessment of a proposal is required and by which of the three tiered assessment methods.

This guidance document is part of a range of guidance prepared by the NT EPA to describe the environmental impact assessment process to all stakeholders. This document must be read in conjunction with other NT EPA guidance documents that provide detail on the environmental impact assessment process, as shown in Figure 1.

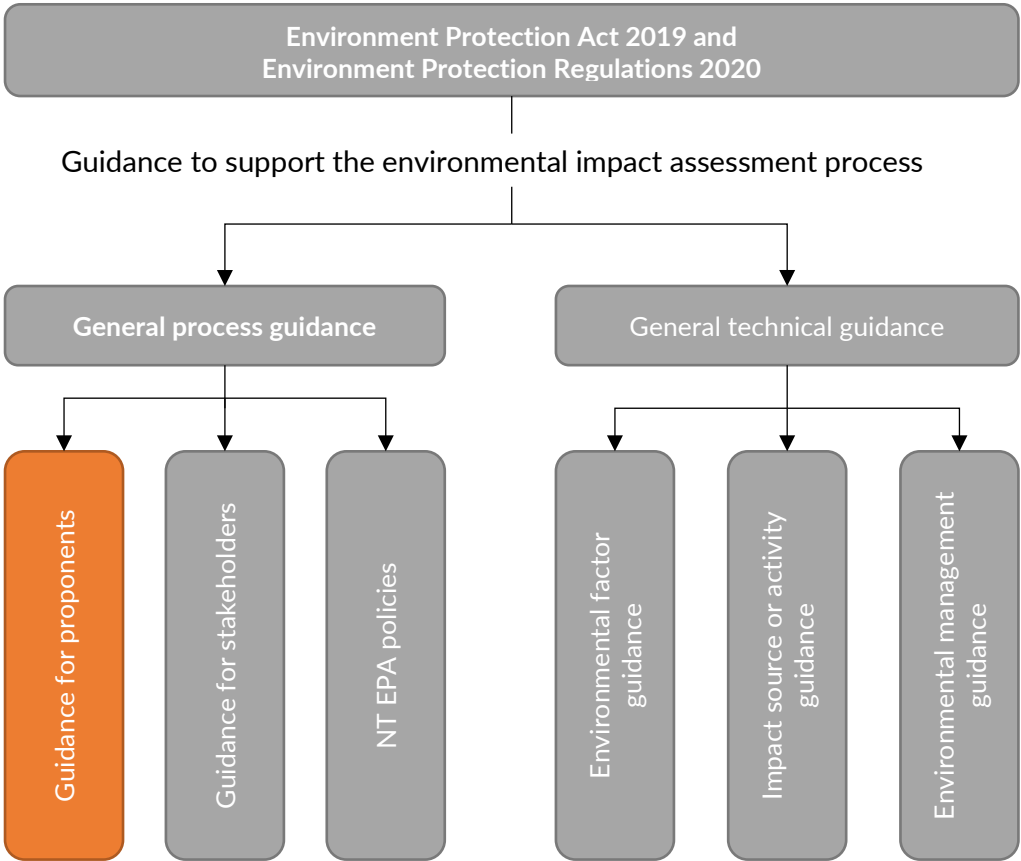


Figure 1 Environmental impact assessment guidance framework

1.2. Purpose of the guidance

This document provides guidance to proponents about:

- when a proponent should submit a referral to the NT EPA for consideration
- the matters that must be addressed in the referral (form and report) to allow decision making by the NT EPA and Minister for Environment (Minister)
- a suggested structure for the referral report that is clear, and a standard of information that is of high quality so that the proposal and its potential significant environmental impacts (direct, indirect and cumulative) are clearly and sufficiently understood by the reader
- where to submit the referral documents
- the environmental impact assessment process for a referral, including opportunities for public comment, decision points and timeframes
- how a referral is assessed by the NT EPA, including guidance on how a referral will be considered, and the resulting decision by the NT EPA.

2. When a referral is required

2.1. Legislative requirement

Under the EP Act:

- A proponent must refer a proposal to the NT EPA if it has the potential to have a significant impact on the environment (including a variation to a proposal / action), or meets a referral trigger.
- A statutory decision-maker may refer a proposal / action to the NT EPA where a proponent does not refer an action to the NT EPA that the statutory decision-maker for authorisation of that proposed action considers should be referred.
- The NT EPA may “call-in” (request a proponent to refer) an action that is being taken and should be referred.

It is the responsibility of the proponent to refer a proposal to the NT EPA if it has the potential to have a significant impact on the environment or if it meets a referral trigger¹. Accordingly, the proponent will need to undertake a self-assessment of the proposal, drawing on the definitions of ‘impact’ and ‘significant impact’ and guided by the ‘NT EPA’s Environmental Factors and Objectives’, the Minister’s declared environmental objectives² and utilising the pre-referral screening tool in Appendix 1.

A proponent also has general duties under an environmental impact assessment (section 43 of the EP Act) and to meet the objects of the EP Act (section 3).

¹ Sections 29 and 30 of the EP Act allow for the declaration of referral triggers by the Minister, which can be activity-based or location-based. The Minister may specify circumstances in which, and the thresholds above which, proposals are to be subject to the trigger. No referral triggers have been declared to date.

² Note, there are currently no environmental objectives gazetted. In the longer term, environmental objectives will be developed to help proponents gauge significant impact and a decision on whether or not to refer their action to the NT EPA.

For further information refer to the [Guide to Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Approval in the Northern Territory](#), the [EP Act](#) and [EP Regulations](#).

2.1.1. Section 48 of EP Act – standard assessment

Section 48 of the EP Act (for a standard assessment) states that a proponent must refer to the NT EPA a *proposed action* that:

- has the potential to have a significant impact on the environment or
- meets a referral trigger.

A majority of proposals are likely to be referred under this section.

2.1.2. Section 49 of EP Act – strategic proposal

Alternatively, under section 49 of the EP Act, a proponent may refer a strategic proposal to the NT EPA. A strategic proposal can include a policy; a program; a plan; a methodology and may be a proposed action or group of proposed actions which, either individually or in combination with each other:

- will have the potential to have a significant impact on the environment or
- will meet a referral trigger.

An example of a strategic proposal is a masterplan to facilitate development of a new multi-user area with a range of industry types. The strategic proposal might include site preparation, construction of headworks (utilities and services) and cumulative impact assessment of the masterplan, for example, potential impacts to flora and fauna.

2.1.3. Section 50(2)(c) of EP Act – statutory decision-maker

Under section 50(2)(c) of the EP Act, a statutory decision-maker may refer an action to the NT EPA where a proponent does not refer an action to the NT EPA that the statutory decision-maker for authorisation of that proposed action considers should be referred.

2.1.4. Section 51 and 52 of the EP Act - significant variations

Section 51(3) allows a proponent to refer an amended action or strategic proposal instead of giving notice of a proposed significant variation for the action or strategic proposal (in that case, the original referral is taken to be withdrawn to the extent that it is modified by the significant variation).

If a significant variation is proposed to an action that has already been assessed by the NT EPA and for which the Minister has issued an environmental approval, section 52 requires the approval holder to refer the variation to the NT EPA for consideration as a referral or a proposed action.

2.1.5. Section 53 of the EP Act - call-in notices

Section 53 (1) enables the NT EPA to call-in (request a proponent to refer) an action that is being taken and should be referred.

Section 53(3) enables the NT EPA to call-in, as a referral under section 52, a significant variation that an approval holder has made or is proposing.

2.2. Pre-referral screening tool

To determine whether a proposed action has the potential to have a significant impact on the environment, and if a referral is necessary, a proponent must be able to define the potential for, and extent of, environmental impacts from the proposal. Environmental impact can result from:

- the type of industry or activity proposed
- the location and extent of the proposal or activities associated with the proposal
- the methods and timing of the proposal or activities associated with the proposal
- inputs, emissions, discharges or wastes from the proposal that cause pollution or harm
- the residual or long-term impacts after closure/decommissioning/end of life of the proposal.

The proponent must examine the potential for environmental impacts within the context and framework of the [NT EPA's environmental factors and objectives](#). The environmental factors and objectives allow for the identification of environmental values, the assessment of the significance of potential impacts to those values, and the setting of benchmarks to protect those values.

It is important for proponents to examine all potential impact sources that relate to the proposal, and the potential impact pathways between the source of an impact and environmental values and sensitivities that may be impacted. These need to be considered for the life of the proposal and after the proposal ceases, both in isolation and cumulatively with other reasonably foreseeable or approved proposals.

The NT EPA has developed a screening tool to assist proponents to apply the above method, to self-assess whether a referral is required to be submitted. The screening tool (**Appendix 1**) comprises two parts.

Appendix 1 – Part 1 is a series of questions about the proposal and **Appendix 1 – Part 2** prompts a proponent to consider their answers in the context of whether environmental values could be impacted by the proposal. The answers can be recorded in the checklist.

The screening tool is a guide only and may not cover the full range of environmental values or impacting activities. It is recommended that proponents engage professional advice from **suitably qualified professionals**³, particularly where there is uncertainty about the responses due to lack of scientific knowledge; and use the register of environmental impact assessments on the NT EPA's website, as a source of information on previous NT EPA decisions of similar proposals or industries. In the case of a unique or novel industry or proposal, proponents should engage with staff of DEPWS to discuss the required approach.

Where the checklist records:

- 'yes' or 'uncertain' responses, the proposal is likely to require referral to the NT EPA
- 'no', a referral to the NT EPA is not required

The NT EPA and DEPWS do not routinely require the completed checklist to be submitted, however it should be retained by the proponent to demonstrate the screening has been conducted, and the name and qualifications of the professional who conducted the screening.

³ appropriately accredited and experienced environmental consultant in environmental impact assessment or similar

3. Structure and information to provide in a referral

3.1. Introduction

Information provided in the referral report must be sufficient to address information required under the EP Act and EP Regulations, inform the NT EPA's decision on whether the referral should be accepted and whether or not the proposal has the potential to have significant impact on the environment⁴.

Generally speaking, the proponent is encouraged to provide a high quality referral that clearly describes the proposal, existing environmental values, potential impacts and protection measures – all substantiated with reliable, scientifically robust information. Early community and stakeholder engagement and consultation is highly encouraged and outcomes should be incorporated into the development of the proposal and documented in the referral (as relevant to the environment).

The proponent should be aware that the NT EPA can only decide that no assessment is required⁵ or that assessment should be on referral decision⁶ (the most efficient assessment process) decision if the information provided in the referral satisfies the NT EPA that further information is not required to complete the assessment process, meets the requirements of the EP Act; and that the information required to be considered by the Minister is provided.

A referral may comprise several parts, including:

- a referral form
- a referral report including maps
- supporting technical appendices
- spatial information and raw data files
- statement of reasons (if a proponent initiated EIS referral)
- draft terms of reference (if a proponent initiated EIS referral).

The referral form can be downloaded from the NT EPA's [website](#). The NT EPA requires supporting information, in the form of a referral report and spatial files, to be attached to the completed referral form. The completed referral form will be made publically available following the NT EPA's decision to accept a referral.

Guidance on information to be included in the referral form and report is provided below. In addition, the checklist at Appendix 3 can be used to ensure the legislative requirements of the EP Act and EP Regulations have been taken into account in designing the proposed action, and addressed in the referral report. The Environment Division of DEPWS can also be contacted for further assistance.

3.2. Information to be included in the referral form

3.2.1. PART A - Proponent details

Under the EP Act, proponent means *a person proposing to carry out, or carrying out, an action*. The proponent is the person that is legally responsible for the proposal. The details provided in the referral

⁴ See section 3.1 for how the NT EPA makes this decision

⁵ See section 3.2 for how the NT EPA makes this decision

⁶ See section 3.3.1 for the information required to enable the NT EPA to make this decision

form will be used by the NT EPA to issue formal correspondence, and will be recorded on the Environmental Approval (should it be required).

3.2.2. PART B - Outline of proposal and location

An outline of the proposal and location is required to assist in defining the scope of the proposal that will be assessed. It is important that it captures all components to reduce the requirement to conduct future environmental impact assessment processes for future components.

The outline must identify and quantify:

- the physical components (e.g. mine pit, waste rock dump, tailings dam, road, port, dam, pipeline)
- the operational activities (e.g. vegetation clearing, water abstraction, chemical processing, tailings disposal, dredging, liquefied natural gas processing)
- the major inputs (e.g. chemicals, feedstock, gas, water) and outputs (emissions, discharges, wastes and products) of the proposal and their purpose.

A description of the expected duration of the proposal and decommissioning/site rehabilitation measures/final status of the land after the proposal has been completed is to be included.

The location of the proposal must be defined by:

- street address, tenement details, lot/section numbers including Town and Hundred, NT Portion or pastoral lease numbers, as applicable and
- local government area/s.

3.2.3. PART C - Referral type

The type of referral you are submitting to the NT EPA could be either:

- a proposed action
- a strategic proposal
- a proponent initiated EIS referral
- a significant variation to a proposal.

Definitions of referral types are provided in the abbreviations and glossary of this guidance, and key legislative requirements that relate to when a referral is required and the referral type are discussed above in section 2.1

3.2.4. PART D - Referrer details and declaration

The referral form must include the declaration signed by the proponent Chief Executive Officer (CEO) (or duly authorised delegate on behalf of the CEO).

3.3. Information to be included in a referral report

3.3.1. Matters to be addressed and structure of referral report

Information required to be addressed in the referral report and a suggested structure is provided in **Table 1**.

The pre-referral screening tool in Appendix 1 can also be used as a guide to the NT EPA environmental factors and objectives and matters for consideration in the referral. The matters mentioned in Appendix 1 are not exhaustive and other environmental considerations should be discussed as relevant to the EP Act, EP Regulations and the proposal.

Table 1 Information requirements and suggested item structure

Item	Information to be addressed in the referral
<i>Publication Statement</i>	Provide name and qualifications of the suitably qualified person who has undertaken the environmental impact assessment, prepared the referral, and information on any peer review undertaken
<i>Executive summary</i>	<p>Overview of the proposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief description of the land tenure and location including proximity of the proposal to the nearest resident, community / town and to Darwin • Summary table of the environmental factors potentially significantly impacted (refer Appendix 2) • Summary of how the proposal has accounted for key <i>principles of environment protection and management</i> (Part 2 of the EP Act) such as avoidance, minimisation and management measures proposed, and a changing climate • Statement about any residual significant environmental impact and offsets proposed • Key conclusions
<i>Introduction</i>	Include a brief introduction to the proposal and the proponent (noting proponent details are to be included in the referral form).
<i>Proposal description - key components</i>	<p>Provide a clear and detailed description of the proposal, referencing maps and spatial information. The description should address key physical (e.g. mine, road, port, dam, pipeline) and operational (e.g. water abstraction, tailings disposal, dredging, emissions) components of the proposal and their purpose.</p> <p>Provide a key components summary table – an example for mining proposals, which can be used as an indication of what is required for other proposals, is provided in Appendix 2.</p> <p>Where applicable, describe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • product/s, intended outcome or overall purpose of the proposal • transport requirements, such as transport mode, route(s); frequency; and use of public roads and shipping channels • social and economic details (e.g. workforce and workforce accommodation requirements, proposed use of existing local services and businesses) • water and energy (source(s), demand and use) • hazardous substances requirements and handling (storage and transport) • waste water and solid waste streams including quantities and management • decommissioning and site rehabilitation measures.

Item	Information to be addressed in the referral
	<p>In circumstances where particular elements of a proposal require further design at the time of submitting the referral, proponents should identify any uncertainties, explain how and when those uncertainties would be resolved and whether there are elements of the proposal (e.g. the area of disturbance and/or impact (also known as the footprint), water demand, emissions to air, processing capacity), that may change as a result.</p> <p>The NT EPA recognises that in many cases, referrals are made based on concept designs and that detailed design is still to be completed. The uncertainties of the proposal should be discussed as they relate to environmental impact assessment considerations and is not intended to be an exhaustive discussion.</p>
<p><i>Proposal description - Location and regional context</i></p>	<p>a) Location and regional context</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> land tenure type, NT Portion number / lot number and zoning (if applicable) street address nearest resident, community / town and distance and direction from Darwin maps regional context topographic map/base overlain with proposal infrastructure aerial/satellite imagery overlain with proposal infrastructure vegetation units overlain with clearing footprint latitude and longitude (or other accepted map coordinate system – see section 3.3.2) <p>b) Land use, if known, describe the land use history within the proposed footprint and area of impact.</p> <p>The referral must provide details of land-use history of the proposed footprint, referencing maps and spatial information. Where a site has been used previously (brownfield site) Include the extent and nature of previous activities that may have caused soil, surface water and/or groundwater contamination or degradation.</p> <p>Where applicable:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> discuss the scope and extent of any previous or current investigations into or activities involving, the remediation of soil, surface water or groundwater contamination on-site advise if the site has been registered as a contaminated site under the Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998.
<p><i>Proposal description - Site selection and alternatives / options</i></p>	<p>Describe any alternatives that were considered or are under consideration in scoping and developing the proposal such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> location/s (of the site, proposal or its components) timeframes and their effects on duration and intensity of impacts/benefits e.g. short timeframe might result in greater intensity

Item	Information to be addressed in the referral
	<p>but shorter duration of impact; long timeframe may have more social and economic benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> activities e.g. ore processing vs direct shipping ore; new port facilities vs use of existing port facilities <p>Describe how the analysis of alternatives accounted for the <i>principles of environment protection and management</i> (Part 2 of the EP Act). For example, discuss the considerations that were undertaken to avoid or minimise potential environmental impacts and how that influenced the site selection process.</p> <p>The preferred/selected option should be justified. In the case the proponent does not have a preferred option and two options are proposed, the referral must include assessment of both options.</p> <p>Describe any assumptions critical to your assessment, e.g. risk appropriately identified, particular mitigation measures or regulatory conditions to be implemented, measures proven and likely to succeed.</p>
<p><i>Proposal description – application of the principles of environment protection and management</i> (Part 2 of the EP Act) and s43 general duty on proponents</p>	<p>Discuss how the design and subsequent phases of the proposal accounts for the <i>principles of environment protection and management</i> (Part 2 of the EP Act) and for the general duty of proponents provided for under section 43 of the EP Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principles of ecologically sustainable development Environmental decision-making hierarchy Waste management hierarchy (see Appendix 3) <p>For example, discuss how renewable energy sources are proposed to be used rather than non-renewable sources, or how water will be reused to minimise long term and short term environmental considerations, or that threatened species surveys were conducted within 12 months of submitting the referral to contribute to evidence-based decision making.</p> <p>Discuss how the proposal has accounted for a changing climate, or adapting to a changing climate. For example, the siting of the chemical storage facility is above storm surge inundation areas (that include projected sea level rise).</p> <p>Describe to what extent the section 43 general duty of proponents components have been considered prior to the referral being submitted (refer to Appendix 3)</p>
<p><i>Consultation (refer to NT EPA Stakeholder Engagement guidance 2020)</i></p>	<p>The EP Act (section 3, , and section 43) puts an obligation on the proponent to consult with stakeholders and the community in the development of the proposal. The referral should describe the stakeholder engagement conducted, noting the depth of such engagement should be proportionate to the proposal. As an example, the referral should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a description of stakeholder engagement and community consultation undertaken regarding the proposal an outline of the method and process of consultation with stakeholders

Item	Information to be addressed in the referral
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a summary of the key matters raised during consultation, how the proponent has taken those into consideration and what action was taken to address the matters raised e.g. alignment of road moved away from residents, pipeline moved to avoid sacred site • the ongoing consultation, and options for stakeholders and the community to provide feedback, throughout various phases of the proposal such as during detailed design, construction, operation, decommissioning • whether the consultation has or hasn't been undertaken in accordance with NT EPA's guidance on Stakeholder Engagement 2020 and address the matters provided in the guidance • whether the consultation has or hasn't been undertaken in accordance with the section 43 (EP Act) general duty of proponents (see Appendix 3).
<i>Environmental Factors</i> <i>(refer to NT EPA guidance for each factor)</i>	<p>The remaining sections of this table (below) relate to information that describes the potential impacts of the proposal on the NT EPA's Environmental factors.</p> <p>The referral report must address the information requirements below, for each environmental factor identified as being relevant to the proposal (i.e. the environmental factors identified by the pre-referral screening tool). The information may be supported by technical studies and surveys.</p>
<i>Environmental Factors and objectives -</i> <i>Presence/absence of environmental values</i> <i>(repeat this for each NT EPA Factor and Objective that is being considered for your proposal/referral)</i>	<p>Verify the presence or absence of environmental values and sensitivities that have the potential to be significantly impacted by the proposal, including aspects of the environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • where the proposal is located • with the potential to be impacted (negatively and positively) by particular components of the proposal, or the proposal as a whole, or cumulatively with other proposals • that are sensitive to stressors likely to arise from the proposal • that are likely to influence the significance of environmental impacts. <p>The method of verifying the information should be included to assist in evidence based decision making and to gain an understanding of currency and certainty of information. For example specify if the information is based on desktop assessments, and/or field surveys, the methods used, dates, sources, and whether the approach is conducted in accordance with relevant regulatory and industry guideline.</p>
<i>Environmental Factors and objectives -</i> <i>potential impacts and consistency with relevant policy and guidance</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the potential impacts (positive, negative, direct, indirect, short and long-term) of the proposal, the significance of the impacts, and how the impacts might affect the NT EPA's objective for the environmental factor. • Describe relevant policy and guidance that has been considered and applied it in relation to this factor. Include any relevant National or Territory standards, codes of practice and guidelines.

Item	Information to be addressed in the referral
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe any expected residual / remaining impact to the environmental factor that may result after the completion of the proposal including after the management hierarchies⁷, have been successfully implemented.
<i>Environmental Factors and objectives – Environment protection and management</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe in terms of management hierarchies, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> measures proposed to avoid, mitigate or offset (if appropriate) the potential adverse impacts the anticipated effectiveness of proposed measure(s) and the level of confidence that the measure will be implemented whether by implementing the measure(s) the NT EPA's objective for the environmental factor is likely to be met.
<i>Environmental Factors and objectives – cumulative impacts</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe any potential cumulative impacts (successive, incremental and combined impacts of past, present and reasonably foreseeable proposals within the area of influence of the proposal)

3.3.2. Maps, raw data and references

All sources of information in the referral must be appropriately referenced, preferably using the Harvard Standard. A reference list must include the address of any internet pages used as data sources and the date accessed. Referenced supporting documentation and data, or documents cited in the referral, must be available upon request.

Spatial data included in the referral must be provided in GIS format, geo-referenced and conform to the following parameters:

- Data type: closed polygons that represent the proposed boundary and the activity areas for all physical elements of the proposal (such as the footprint, threatened species survey areas and threatened species records from the survey).
- Attribution: name the development footprint and each activity area in the attribute table of the spatial data
- Format: ESRI geodatabase or shapefile
- Coordinate System: Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA) 2020 and projected into the appropriate Map Grid of Australia (MGA) zone

All maps and figures contained in the referral must be clear and readable, of appropriate scale, in either jpg or pdf format and of good resolution (> 300 dpi) to enable interpretation of the content. A scale bar, north arrow and legend or caption to describe symbols used must be included for all maps. 'Flatten' figures to reduce the size of the referral.

Any raw data collected or generated to support development of the referral must be provided in csv or excel file formats. Data columns must be clearly titled for variables with relevant units.

⁷ the environmental decision-making hierarchy and the waste hierarchy as set out in sections 26 and 27 respectively of the *Environment Protection Act 2019*

Any disclaimers included in the referral information must not prevent the NT EPA from using the referral for its assessment in accordance with legislated requirements. For example, there must be no limitation on providing copies of the referral or supporting documents to government authorities, members of the public, or reproducing information to prepare any NT EPA reports on the proposal.

3.4. Confidential information

An application for information not to be published must be submitted in an approved form (in accordance with sections 281 to 283 of the EP Act and EP Regulation 271). Please contact the NT EPA for advice.

The application will be considered by the NT EPA and/or Minister. If granted, the confidential information will not be made public, however the confidential information must be provided to the NT EPA and/or Minister for consideration. The proponent will be required to submit a complete referral suitable for publishing, in addition to a copy of the referral with the confidential information already removed, so it is fit for publication on the NT EPA website.

4. Where to submit the referral

The referral form and accompanying documentation may be submitted to the NT EPA:

- by email: eia.ntepa@nt.gov.au (if the referral and supporting documents are less than 25 MB)
- by electronic file upload (large file transfer for files over 20 MB) : contact staff of the Environment Division for more information
- by post: NT Environment Protection Authority, GPO Box 3675, Darwin NT 0801
- in person: Level 1, Arnhemica House, 16 Parap Road, Parap.

Referral document files must be less than 20 MB, optimised for web use, and unsecured / not password protected to allow for web upload. Electronic copies (pdf format and word format) must be provided both as a single file of the entire document and separate files of the referral information (referral form and relevant supporting documentation).

The following separate pdf files should be provided as relevant:

- Referral Form
- Referral Report (split into Executive Summary and chapters if it is a large document)
- Appendix 1
- Appendix 2 (repeat appendices as necessary)
- Proponent Statement of Reasons (if submitting a proponent initiated EIS)
- Proponent draft Terms of Reference (if submitting a proponent initiated EIS)

Refer above to section 3.3.2 regarding raw data files.

5. Decision to accept or refuse a referral

When a referral is first received, a preliminary review will be conducted to determine whether the referral:

- is required (only actions with the potential to have a significant impact on the environment are required to be referred to the NT EPA)

- whether the referred action is clearly just one element of a larger action that should be considered more holistically in order to appropriately assess the project impacts in their entirety
- contains sufficient information for the NT EPA to complete a preliminary review and to inform stakeholders about the proposal and its potential to have a significant impact on the environment. (The time taken to provide the additional information adds to the timeframe in which the NT EPA is to accept or refuse to accept the referral).

Based on this preliminary review the NT EPA will either accept or refuse to accept the referral (noting that a refusal to accept the referral is not a refusal of an environmental approval). The only basis on which the NT EPA can refuse to accept a referral is:

- If it is not required.
[The environmental impact assessment process has the purpose of ensuring that all actions that may have a significant impact on the environment are assessed. Accordingly, only actions that have (or may have) the potential for significant impact need to be referred. If the NT EPA receives a referral for an action that clearly will not have a significant impact it can refuse to accept the referral. For example, a referral to build a new house in an existing subdivision would not be required and would be refused on the basis that the referral was not required.]

The proponent will then need to seek other relevant approvals for the action.

- It does not provide sufficient information about the action.
[The NT EPA would only be able to refuse to accept a referral on this basis if the information required related to a material omission from the referral. An example of a material omission is where a referral is received for a marina and shopping centre development and the referral omits information on the potential impacts to the marine environment.]
- It only provides information about one element of a larger action that needs to be considered more holistically.
[For example, a referral for a new water treatment facility associated with a new dam that only provides information relating to the treatment facility (either because the proponent failed to recognise that information on the dam component was necessary for the NT EPA or because of an intent of making a separate referral for the dam at a later date).]

The NT EPA will prepare a notice of its decision which will be provided to the proponent and published. If the NT EPA refuses a referral, it will prepare and publish a supporting statement of reasons.

6. Decision on accepted referral

6.1. Overview

After a proponent refers a proposal to the NT EPA and the NT EPA accepts the referral, the referral form, referral report and supporting information will be made available for public comment. After considering the referral and comments, the NT EPA, (or Minister for Environment in the case of a strategic proposal) must decide either:

- the proposal will **not** have a significant impact on the environment, and environmental impact assessment is not required (therefore no requirement for any method of assessment and no requirement for an environmental approval under the EP Act); OR

- the proposal will have a significant impact on the environment and environmental impact assessment is required. If so, the method of assessment must be decided.

If the NT EPA decides that a proposal must undergo environmental impact assessment, an environmental approval, from the Minister for Environment (the Minister) is required before it can proceed. The Minister may also decide to refuse a proposal in certain circumstances. Timeframes for decisions are included in the [environmental impact assessment flowchart](#).

6.2. How the NT EPA determines 'significant impact'

In determining whether a proposal is capable of having a significant impact on the environment the NT EPA may have regard to various matters, including the following:

1. objects of the EP Act or other NT environmental legislation
2. value (e.g. effects on environmental factors and objectives), sensitivity and quality of the environment which is likely to be impacted
3. extent (intensity, duration, magnitude, frequency and geographic footprint) of likely impacts
4. consequence of likely impacts (or change)
5. resilience of the environment to cope with the impacts or change
6. cumulative impact with other proposals
7. connections and interactions between parts of the environment to inform a holistic view of impacts to the environment
8. level of confidence in the prediction of impacts and the success of proposed mitigation.

The NT EPA may also consider:

- its guidance on particular matters or standards endorsed by the NT EPA
- relevant definitions of significance under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Commonwealth; EPBC Act) and national standards, e.g. National Environment Protection Measures (NEPM), against which a proposal can be assessed
- the presence of planning or policy frameworks and/or other statutory decision-making processes that can regulate the mitigation of the potential impacts of a proposal on the environment
- previous decisions of the NT EPA on the significance of impacts.

6.3. How the NT EPA determines that environmental impact assessment is not required

The NT EPA will consider the proposal in terms of its potential for significant environmental impacts. In its consideration, the NT EPA will examine:

- context and intensity of the impact
- duration, magnitude and geographic extent of the impact and
- sensitivity, value and quality of the environment impacted on.

Environmental impact assessment is unlikely to be required where:

- the type of proposal is not considered hazardous in nature
- environmental impacts from activities associated with a proposal are readily understood
- the potential impacts are limited in extent and duration
- environmental values and sensitivities are not present or are unlikely to be significantly impacted by proposed activities
- impact mitigation is readily available and proven to be effective in limiting significant impacts to the environment and
- the referral demonstrates that relevant stakeholders have been identified and engaged, and documents the outcomes of the engagement, in accordance with the NT EPA's guidance on stakeholder engagement and consultation.

6.4. How the NT EPA determines method of environmental impact assessment

If the NT EPA decides that a proposal has the potential to have a significant impact on the environment, environmental impact assessment is required. The EP Regulations provide for a number of assessment methods:

- assessment by referral information (Tier 1)
- assessment by supplementary environmental report (Tier 2)
- assessment by environmental impact statement (Tier 3) or
- assessment by inquiry.

These methods differ in the level of information and public consultation required, and as a result, Tier 1 assessment processes take considerably less time to complete compared to Tier 3 assessment processes. Further detail is provided in the [environmental impact assessment and timelines flowchart](#).

In accordance with regulation 59, when deciding or recommending a method of environmental impact assessment, the NT EPA must have regard to the following criteria:

- the significance of the potential impact of the proposal
- the level of confidence in predicting potential significant impacts of the proposal taking into account the extent and currency of existing knowledge
- the level of confidence in the effectiveness of any proposed measures identified in the referral to avoid, mitigate or manage potential significant impacts of the proposal
- the extent of community engagement that has occurred in relation to the proposal
- the capacity of communities and individuals likely to be affected to access and understand information about the proposal and its potential significant impacts.

6.5. Tier 1 - Assessment by referral information

The NT EPA may require an assessment by referral information where a proposal has the potential for significant impact (and therefore requires an environmental approval / refusal). This is the quickest method of assessment and provides one opportunity for public consultation (referral documentation).

The NT EPA may decide on this tier of assessment if the referral provides the necessary information to advise the Minister and prepare an associated draft environmental approval or statement of unacceptable impact. The necessary information for this includes:

- providing sufficient information outlined in this guidance
- demonstrating that relevant stakeholders have been identified and engaged, and the outcomes of the engagement are reported, in accordance with the NT EPA's guidance on stakeholder engagement and consultation
- assessment of any environmental factor that has the potential to be significantly impacted, in accordance with the NT EPA's guidance on that factor (if available).

6.6. Tier 2 - Assessment by supplementary environmental report (SER)

The NT EPA may require an assessment by supplementary environmental report (SER) where a proposal has the potential for significant impact and the NT EPA requires public submissions to be addressed by the proponent and/or information additional to the referral document in relation to specific aspects of potential significance. This level of assessment provides the public two opportunities for consultation; to comment on the referral documentation and on the SER. Separate NT EPA guidance will be available about preparing an SER.

6.7. Tier 3 - Assessment by environmental impact statement (EIS)

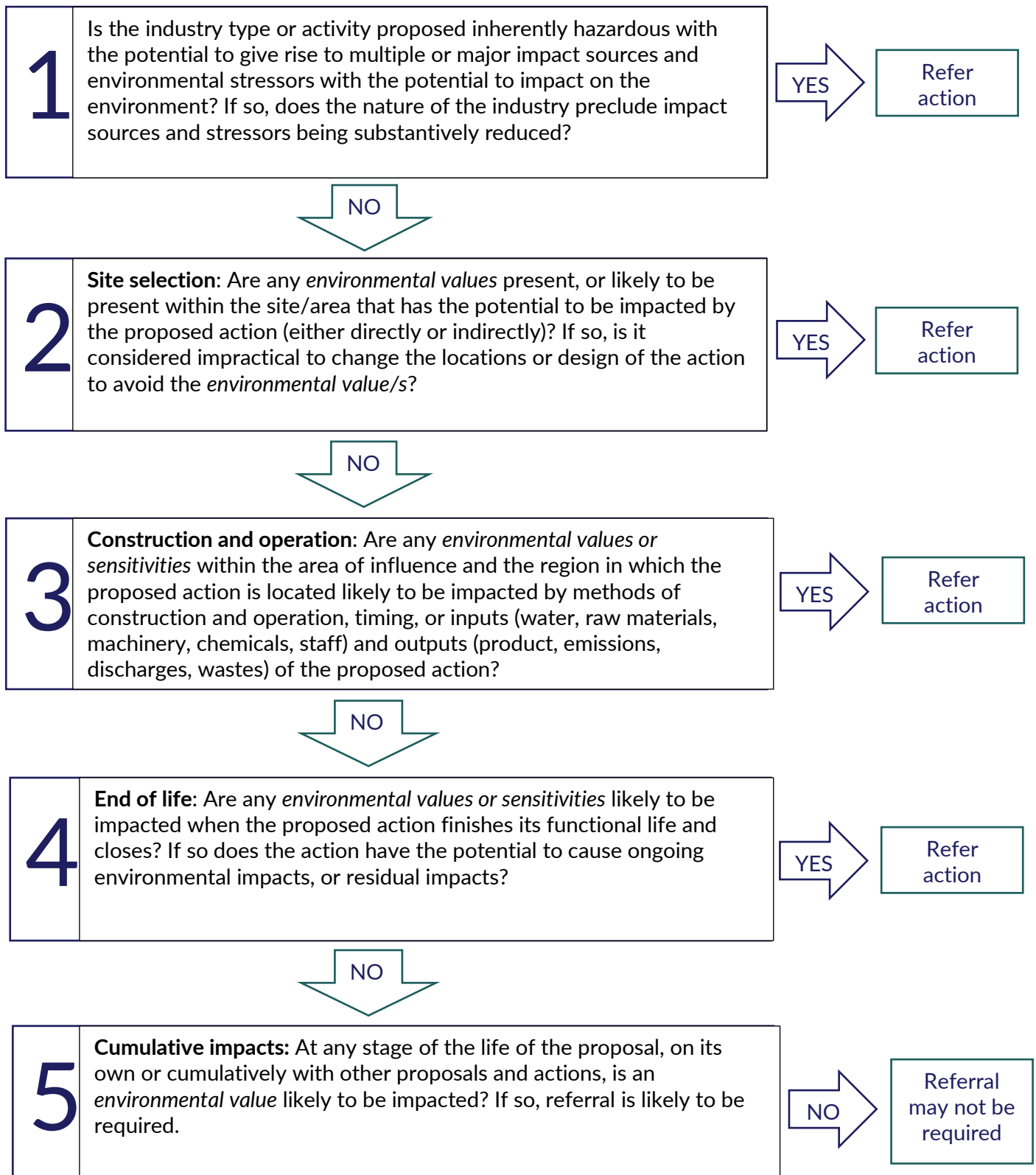
The NT EPA may require assessment by environmental impact statement (EIS) for proposals that have the potential for significant impact on the environment and are considered to be highest risk, where there are a number of matters and/or increased complexity, and/or increased uncertainty requiring further investigation, assessment and review. This is the most intensive level of assessment with four opportunities for public consultation: to comment on the referral documentation, the draft terms of reference, the draft EIS, and the supplement to the draft EIS. Separate NT EPA guidance will be available about preparing an EIS.

6.8. Assessment by inquiry

An assessment by inquiry can be used where it is considered to be more appropriate for the stakeholder audience than a regular environmental assessment approach. For example, cultural or language issues may prohibit potentially impacted communities from easily engaging in a paper-based environmental impact assessment approach. For some proposals the NT EPA may decide that an assessment by inquiry methodology is used for just one element of the proposal coupled with another assessment methodology for the remainder of the proposal.

APPENDIX 1: Pre-referral screening tool

Part 1 – Screening Questions



Guidance for answering screening questions:

Environmental values and sensitivities

While a proponent may exercise a degree of judgement about whether a proposal has the potential to have a significant impact on the environment, it is for the NT EPA to decide an impact's significance. Therefore, the screening tool requires the identification of whether the proposal activity/industry type inherently has the potential to impact the environment and has the potential to impact aspects of the environment that are rare, sensitive to stress or important (environmental values and sensitivities). The premise for this approach is that any impacts (including impacts perceived to be minor) to environmental values and sensitivities, have the potential to be significant.

Question 1 – inherent hazardous nature of proposal

If the proposal could be considered inherently hazardous (checkbox = yes), it must be referred to the NT EPA. Examples of inherently hazardous developments or activities could include (but are not limited to) a uranium mine, aluminium smelter, Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) plant or gas processing facility. As this question is about the proposal or activity without reference to the receiving environment or environmental values, check boxes for this question, corresponding to environmental factors, have been removed from the checklist at Part B.

Question 2 – site selection

Appropriate site selection is used to avoid environmental impacts by not locating a proposal where environmental values (such as sensitive environments) are present or can be impacted. The checklist at Appendix 1 Part 2 indicates the potential environmental values and sensitivities that are associated with each environmental factor to encourage consideration of whether an environmental value or sensitivity is present or absent within the footprint or surrounding environment of the proposal. If present, a proponent must consider whether the proposal could have a direct or indirect impact on it. If an impact to an environmental value or sensitivity has the potential to occur (checkbox = yes or uncertain), the proponent must refer the proposal to the NT EPA. Alternatively, the proponent must change the location or design of the proposal to avoid the impact (if this occurs, checkbox = no).

Question 3 – construction and operation

The methods of construction and operation may give rise to impact sources and pathways for impacts to environmental values and sensitivities outside the development footprint, in the surrounding environment. For example, constructing an earthen barge landing or dredging a shipping channel in coastal waters could lead to poor water quality and impacts to marine ecosystems distant from the development. A polymetals mine that includes processing and therefore a tailings stream, may pose a risk to beneficial uses downstream of the mine through seepage of contaminants to groundwater aquifers. If the method of construction or operation of a proposal is likely to create impact sources and pathways to environmental values and sensitivities within the area of influence outside the development footprint (checkbox = yes or uncertain), the proponent must refer the proposal to the NT EPA. Alternatively, the proponent must alter the method to avoid the impact (if this occurs, checkbox = no).

Question 4 – residual or ongoing impacts

The state of the impacted area at the end of life of the proposal may give rise to ongoing impacts (legacy issues) that may not be possible to actively or effectively manage. For example, in the mining industry where resources are finite and physical disturbance of the site is difficult and/or prohibitively expensive to

repair. At the end of the proposal's life, if the proposal footprint is unlikely to be restored, or adverse impacts to environmental values and sensitivities are likely to occur and be ongoing into the longer term (checkbox = yes or uncertain), the proponent must refer the proposal to the NT EPA. Alternatively, the proponent must demonstrate that adverse impacts would be avoided at the end of life of the proposal and into the future (if this occurs, checkbox = no).

Question 5 – cumulative impacts

It is a requirement to consider how the proposal could contribute to impacts to environmental values and sensitivities as a result of a combination of smaller impacts arising from the proposal, and/or that accumulate in conjunction with other developments or natural events. If, cumulatively, the activities associated with the proposal, and/or in combination with other proposals or actions or events in the region, impacts to environmental values and sensitivities are likely (checkbox = yes or uncertain), the proponent must refer the proposal to the NT EPA. Alternatively, the proponent must demonstrate that cumulative impacts resulting from the proposal can be avoided (if this occurs, checkbox = no).

Part 2 – Answer checklist

Explanation: Use questions 1-5 from part 1 of the screening tool. Indicate answer to questions 1-5 in corresponding checkbox. The table below gives an indication of the possible *environmental values* for each environmental factor that should be considered when considering each question. If the answer to a question is 'yes', it is possible that the proposal may have the potential to have a significant impact on the environment and the proposal should be referred to the NT EPA.

Theme	Environmental factor and objective	Indicative environmental values and sensitivities relevant to each environmental factor	Proponent's answer to screening questions 1-5. If answer is 'yes' referral is required					
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5
			Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>				
			No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
LAND	1) Landforms <u>Objective:</u> Conserve the variety and integrity of distinctive physical landforms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• distinctive features in the landscape, either geological or anthropogenic• subterranean karstic terrain and faults• craters, gorges, ranges, caves, massifs, escarpments, plateaus• monuments• tourism related to landforms	Yes	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			No		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			Uncertain		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Not Applicable		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	2) Terrestrial environmental quality <u>Objective:</u> Protect the quality and integrity of land and soils so that environmental values are supported and maintained.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• good quality soils, including chemical, physical, biological and aesthetic qualities that support life• the biological processes that depend on soil quality	Yes	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			No		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			Uncertain		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Not Applicable		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	3) Terrestrial ecosystems <u>Objective:</u> Protect terrestrial habitats to maintain environmental values including biodiversity,	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 'sensitive or significant' vegetation or buffers (as defined in the NT Land Clearing Guidelines)• vegetation that provides an important ecological function• listed threatened species and their habitat (NT and Commonwealth)• listed migratory species and their habitat (Commonwealth)	Yes	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			No		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Theme	Environmental factor and objective	Indicative environmental values and sensitivities relevant to each environmental factor	Proponent's answer to screening questions 1-5. If answer is 'yes' referral is required					
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5
	ecological integrity and ecological functioning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> listed threatened ecological communities (Commonwealth) locally endemic species or species with restricted habitat species of social, cultural, livelihood and/or economic significance species that are data deficient and their status is unknown protected area or reserve, including Indigenous Protected Area existing conservation and management activities introduced species and/or invasive species integrity of terrestrial ecosystems and the ecological services they provide biological and functional diversity provision of refuge food supply 	Uncertain Not Applicable		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
WATER	1) Hydrological processes <u>Objective:</u> Protect the hydrological regimes of groundwater and surface water so that environmental values including ecological health, land uses and the welfare and amenity of people are maintained.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the supply and quantity of water in surface water features including rivers, lakes, wetlands, swamps, creeks, billabongs, intermittent streams, floodplains, mangroves and drainage lines the supply and quantity of water in groundwater features including aquifers, aquitards and water tables declared beneficial uses present and future uses, and users of water current or potential water supplies, including regional scale aquifers culturally important water features or other features affected by water level 	Yes No Uncertain Not Applicable	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	2) Inland water environmental quality <u>Objective:</u> Protect the quality of groundwater and surface water so that environmental values including ecological health, land uses and the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the quality of water in surface water features including rivers, lakes, wetlands, swamps, creeks, billabongs, intermittent streams, floodplains, mangroves and drainage lines the quality of water in groundwater features including aquifers and water tables declared beneficial uses present and future uses and users of water current or potential water supplies, including regional scale aquifers potability / drinkability culturally important water features 	Yes No Uncertain Not Applicable	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

Theme	Environmental factor and objective	Indicative environmental values and sensitivities relevant to each environmental factor	Proponent's answer to screening questions 1-5. If answer is 'yes' referral is required					
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5
	welfare and amenity of people are maintained.							
	3) Aquatic ecosystems <u>Objective:</u> Protect aquatic habitats to maintain environmental values including biodiversity, ecological integrity and ecological functioning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">threatened speciesthe health of the biota in inland waterwaysthe habitats that support the lifecycle of aquatic biotagroundwater dependent ecosystemsRamsar wetlandsspecies of social, cultural, livelihood and/or economic significanceintegrity of aquatic ecosystems and the ecological services they providebiological and functional diversityprovision of refuge	Yes	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			No		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			Uncertain		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Not Applicable		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SEA	1) Coastal processes <u>Objective:</u> Protect the geophysical and hydrological processes that shape coastal morphology so that the environmental values of the coast are maintained.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">processes that support marine ecosystems (see Marine Ecosystems Factor below) such as coral reefs, mangroves, salt marshes, seagrass meadows and sponge gardensprimary productivitynutrient cyclingcarbon storageclimate regulationconservation significant low lying areas including tidal creeks, deltas and river mouthsstorm surge protectionunique coastal landformscultural and aesthetic valuesactive or passive recreation	Yes	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			No		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Uncertain		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Not Applicable		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	2) Marine Environmental Quality <u>Objective:</u> Protect the quality and productivity of water, sediment and	<ul style="list-style-type: none">quality of the water, sediment and biotaecosystem health conditionphysical parameters that support fishing and aquaculturephysical parameters that support recreation and aesthetics	Yes	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			No		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Theme	Environmental factor and objective	Indicative environmental values and sensitivities relevant to each environmental factor	Proponent's answer to screening questions 1-5. If answer is 'yes' referral is required					
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5
	biota so that environmental values are maintained.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> industrial water supply cultural and spiritual values 	Uncertain		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Not Applicable		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	3) Marine ecosystems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> conservation significant marine and coastal fauna and critical habitat such as nesting, breeding or foraging habitat conservation significant marine and coastal benthos, flora and vegetation (seagrass meadows, sponge gardens, coral reefs, mangrove communities and salt marshes) groups of species (species richness and assemblages of species) ecological functions and processes species of social, cultural, livelihood and/or economic significance. integrity of marine ecosystems and the ecological services they supply biological diversity functional diversity provision of refuge food supply 	Yes	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Objective: Protect marine habitats to maintain environmental values including biodiversity, ecological integrity and ecological functioning.		No		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Uncertain		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Not Applicable		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
AIR	1) Air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the chemical, physical and biological characteristics of quality air the biological processes that depend on the air quality 	Yes	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Objective: Protect air quality and minimise emissions and their impact so that environmental values are maintained.		No		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Uncertain		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Not Applicable		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	2) Atmospheric processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a contribution to the NT's greenhouse gas emissions adaptation to a changing climate capacity of communities and country to respond or adapt to climate change 	Yes	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Objective: Minimise greenhouse gas emissions so as to contribute to the NT Government's goal of achieving		No		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Uncertain		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Theme	Environmental factor and objective	Indicative environmental values and sensitivities relevant to each environmental factor	Proponent's answer to screening questions 1-5. If answer is 'yes' referral is required					
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5
	net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.		Not Applicable					
PEOPLE	1) Community and economy <u>Objective:</u> Enhance communities and the economy for the welfare, amenity and benefit of current and future generations of Territorians.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dwellings, homelands, communities, towns and suburbs where people live • liveable environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ good amenity – air quality, noise, aesthetics ○ access to natural resources including bush food ○ recreational use of the natural or built environment (e.g. fishing, cycling, sports, picnics) ○ access to social infrastructure and services including transport and logistics • Healthy lifestyles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ sense of wellbeing ○ good mental health ○ community aspirations • Financial security <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ affordable access to food, water, electricity, transport and communication networks ○ livelihoods • participation in jobs, businesses and education • existing industries such as agriculture, pastoralism, tourism, fisheries • vulnerable sectors of the community • connections to culture and community (that are not explicitly protected under culture and heritage legislation addressed in the Culture and heritage factor) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aboriginal rights and interests, including right of access ○ cultural practices ○ sense of belonging, inclusion, connectedness and cohesion ○ healthy social relationships 	Yes	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			No		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			Uncertain		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Not Applicable		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Theme	Environmental factor and objective	Indicative environmental values and sensitivities relevant to each environmental factor	Proponent's answer to screening questions 1-5. If answer is 'yes' referral is required					
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5
	2) Culture and heritage <u>Objective:</u> Protect sacred sites, culture and heritage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sacred sites historic heritage and places world heritage 	Yes	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			No		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			Uncertain		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Not Applicable		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	3) Human health <u>Objective:</u> Protect the health of the Northern Territory population.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> drinking water recreational water air quality bush tucker radiological limits biting insects 	Yes	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			No		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			Uncertain		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Not Applicable		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Where the screening has been undertaken by a suitably qualified person and all responses in the checklist are 'no', a referral to the NT EPA is not required. In the case of a suitably qualified person identifying that a referral is not required, the NT EPA and DEPWS does not require the completed checklist to be submitted, however it should be retained by the proponent to demonstrate the screening has been conducted, and the name and qualifications of the professional who conducted the screening.

As identified above, the screening tool is a guide, and may not cover the full range of environmental values or impacting activities.

APPENDIX 2: Key components of Proposal

EXAMPLE SUMMARY TABLES

Summary table of environmental factors potentially significantly impacted by the proposal

NT EPA factor	Environmental values and sensitivities	Potential significant impact (yes, no, uncertain)	Brief explanation of potential significant impact
Terrestrial ecosystems	Riparian vegetation (sensitive vegetation as stated in the NT Land Clearing Guidelines) Threatened species habitat	Yes	Loss of 5 ha of riparian vegetation and 5 ha of Gouldian finch habitat for construction and operation of a new road. No alternative alignment is possible due to the presence of sacred sites in the surrounding area. Alternative construction methods and bridge design were considered and the proposal with the least environmental impact on this factor was selected.

Key proposal infrastructure

	Component	Size/capacity
Proposal infrastructure	Pits	
		X.X ha / X.X ML
	Processing plant	X ha / X Mtpa
	Haul road	X km
	Truck workshop	X ha
	Fuel bay	X ha
	Laydown area	X ha
	Landfill	X ha
	ANFO	X ha
	Office and workshop complex	X ha
	Power – non-renewable e.g. existing power lines and substation	X MW
	Power – renewable	X MW
Mine water dams	Dam A	X ha / X ML
	Dam B	X ha / X ML
Total area of existing disturbance		X ha
Total area that will be rehabilitated		X ha

Key features of the Proposal

	Component	Size/capacity
Whole of Proposal	Proposal area	X ha
	Life of mine (LOM)	X years
	Workforce (full time equivalents)	X people (construction) X people (operation)
	Closure period	X year
Mining	Mining method	
	Mining rate	XX XXX t/year
	Ore to be extracted	XX XXX t over LOM
	Waste rock extracted from underground	XXX XXXX t over LOM
Waste rock management	Description	
Processing	Ore type and volume to be extracted	
	Tailings generated and placement	
Water Management	Water requirement of XX L/s for underground mining? drilling and dust suppression.	XX ML/year
	Process water: - source - wastewater to	XXX ML/year Total XXXX ML over LOM
	Operational water discharge	XXXX ML over LOM
	Proposed WDL compliance points	Insert location

APPENDIX 3: General duty of proponents checklist

Section 43 General duty	Yes	No	Comment
Have the following principles of ecologically sustainable development been taken into consideration in the design of the proposed action?			
• Decision-making principle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Precautionary principle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Principle of evidence-based decision-making	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Principle of intergenerational and intergenerational equity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Principle of sustainable use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Principle of conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Principle of improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Have the following management hierarchies been taken into consideration in the design of the proposed action?			
• Environmental decision-making hierarchy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Waste management hierarchy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other section 43 considerations			
• Have communities that may be affected by the proposed action been provided with information and opportunities for consultation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Has consultation with affected communities, including Aboriginal communities' been undertaken in a culturally appropriate manner?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Has community knowledge and understanding (including scientific and traditional knowledge and understanding) of the natural and cultural values of areas that may be impacted by the proposed action been sought and documented?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Have Aboriginal values and the rights and interests of Aboriginal communities' been addressed in relation to areas that may be impacted by the proposed action?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	