



Queensland
Government

Department of
**State Development,
Infrastructure and Planning**

Our ref: RPI24/008

Your ref: EPM 28700

16 December 2024

Mathew Johannesen
Specialist - Land and Mineral Rights
Rio Tinto Exploration Pty Limited
GPO Box 391
Brisbane QLD 4001
Mathew.johannesen@riotinto.com

Dear Mr Johannesen

REQUIREMENT NOTICE

RPI24/008: Rio Tinto – The Desert Project

(given under section 44 of the *Regional Planning Interests Act 2014*)

I refer to the assessment application which was properly made on 2 December 2024 under section 29 of the *Regional Planning Interests Act 2014* (RPI Act). The application is seeking a regional interests development approval (RIDA) for a mining resource activity: exploration activities for the Desert Project in the Gulf River Strategic Environmental Area (SEA).

Application details

Applicant	Rio Tinto Exploration Pty Limited (ACN 000 057 12)
Project	The Desert Project
Description	Mineral exploration drilling, access track clearing, sampling and ground geophysics
Area of regional interest	Gulf River SEA
Proposed disturbance area	7.34 ha

Site details

Real property description	Lot 4511 on PH1667, Lot 1 on UN7 and Lot 381 on OL27
Local government area	Mount Isa City

1 William Street
Brisbane Queensland 4000
PO Box 15009
City East Queensland 4002
Telephone 13 QGOV (13 74 68)
Website www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au
ABN 29 230 178 530

Information Requirement

Pursuant to section 44 of the RPI Act, you are advised that further information is required to assist in the assessment of the application against the assessment criteria contained in the RPI Act and the Regional Planning Interests Regulation 2014 (RPI Regulation).

The further information required is detailed in **Attachment A**.

The period in which the information must be provided is a maximum of three months from the date of this notice.

An extension to this period may be requested by the applicant if necessary.

Another requirement notice may be given if, for example, the response to this requirement notice does not provide sufficient information to assess and decide the application or in response to matters raised in a submission.

Public notification requirement

Pursuant to section 34(4) of the RPI Act, it has been determined that the application requires notification. The reason for the decision is that the delegate for the chief executive has determined that it is in the public interest for the application to be publicly notified.

In accordance with section 35 of the RPI Act, you are required to:

- publish a notice about the application '*at least once in a newspaper circulating generally in the area of the land*' as prescribed in section 13 of the RPI Regulation
- where not the owner of the land, give the owners of the land notice about the application.

Please provide proof of delivery of notice about the application to landowners to RPIAct@dasilgp.qld.gov.au

Public notification must be undertaken within 10 business days of providing the response to the requirement notice to the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DSDIP).

The notification period is 15 business days after the notice about the application is first published, with the closing date being a day that is after the end of the notification period.

The approved form for public notification is available on DSDIP's website at [rpi-regional-interests-dev-approval-template.doc \(live.com\)](#)

Please provide a copy of the notice as it appears in the newspaper circulating generally in the area to RPIAct@dasilgp.qld.gov.au

You are also referred to the RPI Act Statutory Guideline 06/14 Public notification of assessment applications at [RPI Act - Statutory Guideline 06/14 \(windows.net\)](#) for further information.

If you require any further information, or have any queries, please contact Darren Brewer, Manager - Appeals and Regional Interests, Improvement and Assessment, Planning Group, DSDIP on 3452 7472 or by email at RPIAct@dsdilgp.qld.gov.au who will be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil Joyce', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Phil Joyce
A/Executive Director
Improvement and Assessment Division
Planning Group

Encl. Attachment A

ATTACHMENT A

Information required for assessment against SEA criteria – Schedule 2, Part 5 of the Regional Planning Interests Regulation 2014

1.	<p><u>Issue:</u> No GIS data files were also included in support of the application.</p> <p><u>Actions:</u> Provide the GIS data files for the proposed activities identified in section 2 of the RPI Assessment Application Form lodged in support of the application.</p>
2.	<p><u>Issue:</u></p> <p>Section 4.3 Riparian processes, as contained within the Assessment Application Report dated 29 November 2024 (hereon referred to as the Supporting Information) states:</p> <p><i>Drilling activity in riparian areas will be minimised. Consequently, it is not expected that the proposed exploration activities would have widespread or irreversible impacts on riparian function in the area of activity or the wider tenement area.</i></p> <p>However, the location and area of drill pads and tracks proposed in riverine areas is not clearly identified or quantified.</p> <p>Consequently, it is unclear if minimising drilling activity in riparian areas will be sufficient to prevent widespread or irreversible impacts to riparian areas.</p> <p><u>Actions:</u></p> <p>Please take the following action:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Identify the locations (map and coordinates) of disturbance (drill sites and access tracks) proposed within riverine areas.b) Quantify the area of disturbance proposed within riverine areas.c) Provide a description of the impacts of vegetation clearing in riverine areas on the environmental attributes of water quality, riparian processes and wildlife corridors.d) Provide a description of the mitigation and management strategies proposed to be utilised to reduce impacts to the identified environmental attributes.

3.	<p><u>Issue:</u></p> <p>Section 2.3 Water Supply, within the Supporting Information proposes that water may be extracted from groundwater bores. However, it is unclear if this may impact groundwater-dependant ecosystems in riverine areas. It is unclear how section 15(1)(b)(iii) of Schedule 2, Part 5 of the Regional Planning Interests Regulation 2014 is to be achieved if groundwater draw down occurs in the dry season (thereby potentially leading to potential loss of groundwater connection for groundwater-dependant ecosystems).</p> <p><u>Actions:</u></p> <p>Please take the following action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Provide an assessment of any potential impacts the extraction of groundwater may have on groundwater-dependant ecosystems. b) Provide a description of the mitigation and management strategies proposed to be utilised to reduce impacts to the identified environmental attributes.
4.	<p><u>Issue:</u></p> <p>It is unclear from the Supporting Information how waterway crossings may be undertaken or where they are or how they have been minimised.</p> <p><u>Actions:</u></p> <p>Please take the following action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Identify the locations of proposed waterway crossings. b) Provide a description of the mitigation and management strategies proposed to be utilised to reduce impacts to the identified environmental attributes.
For Noting	<p>The department notes the presence of a category B Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA), specifically Endangered Regional Ecosystem – regrowth and remnant (Biodiversity Status), located in the northwest corner of EPM28700. In accordance with the <i>Eligibility criteria and standard conditions for exploration and mineral development projects – Version 2 (ESR/2016/1985)</i>, which attach to the environmental authority P-EA-100388139, the mining activity is not permitted to be carried out in, or within 500m of, a category B ESA.</p>

