

FORM

ESF4 Application to conduct exploration activities for assessable prospecting operations

May 2020

Mining Act 1992, Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991 and Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Act 2013.

When to use this form

This form must be used to:

- seek approval to conduct assessable prospecting operations in NSW (refer to Sections 23A and 44A of the *Mining Act 1992*)
- seek approval to modify an approved assessable prospecting operation.

This form may also be used to:

- notify the NSW Resources Regulator of the appointment of a mine operator of a workplace where exploring for minerals is taking place, prior to commencement (refer to clauses 6 and 7 of the Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Regulation 2014, which requires notification of the appointment of a 'mine operator', being the operator of a workplace where 'mining operations' are being carried out, prior to commencement. Mining operations includes exploring for minerals by mechanical means.
- notify the NSW Resources Regulator of the commencement of exploring for minerals (refer to clause 129 of the Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Regulation 2014, which requires notification prior to the commencement of 'mining operations' - which includes exploring for minerals, however, excludes exploring by non-mechanical means.

You do not need to complete this form if you are conducting prospecting operations identified as exempt development under State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007.

This form has been prepared and approved in accordance with the *Mining Act 1992*, *Mining Regulation 2016*, *Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991*, *Petroleum (Onshore) Regulation 2016*, *Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Act 2013* and *Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Regulation 2014*.

The information requested in this form may not be specifically referenced in the *Mining Act 1992*, *Mining Regulation 2016*, *Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991*, *Petroleum (Onshore) Regulation 2016*, *Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Act 2013* or *Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Regulation 2014*, however, its inclusion in the approved form validates the authority of the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, NSW Resources Regulator to request it.

If there is insufficient room in the fields please provide the information as an attachment.

Important notes

Any information or template that is required to accompany this application should be lodged within 10 business days of the lodgement date. Failure to supply the information within this timeframe may be considered as grounds for refusing the application according to Schedule 1B, clause 6(d) of the *Mining Act 1992*.

If this application is lodged by any party other than the authority holder (i.e. an agent), the department may seek confirmation of that authority and any limits of that authority (*Mining Act 1992* Section 163F and *Mining Regulation 2016* Clause 97).

The department may make the information in the form and any supporting information available for inspection by members of the public, including by publication on the department's website or by displaying the information at any of its offices. If you consider any part of your application to be confidential, please provide that part in a separate addendum clearly marked 'Confidential'.

Please read the following guides before completing this form:

- [ESG5: Assessment requirements for exploration activities](#)
- [ESG2: Guideline for preparing a review of environmental factors](#)
- [Guideline for agricultural impact statements at the exploration stage](#)

Exploration in exempted areas

Exempted areas are defined in the *Mining Act 1992* and the *Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991* as lands set aside for public purposes. Exempted areas include travelling stock routes, road reserves, state forests, state conservation areas, public reserves/commons and land held under a lease for water supply.

The Minister's consent is required before the department can approve exploration activities in exempted areas.

This application cannot be processed until Ministerial consent has been obtained.

To apply for approval to prospect in an exempted area, contact the Division of Resources and Geoscience – Resource Operations by phone: (02) 4063 6600 or email:

titles.services@planning.nsw.gov.au

Exploration in State Conservation Areas

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (National Parks and Wildlife Service) is responsible for management of [State Conservation Areas](#) (SCAs) under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. This application cannot be processed until approval from the National Parks and Wildlife Service has been obtained. If you are applying to carry out activities in a State Conservation Area, you must first obtain the following before your application can be processed by the department:

- approval from the Minister administering the [National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974](#) (Section 47J(7))
- a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) approved by the [National Parks and Wildlife Service](#).

Surface Disturbance Notice

The conditions of some older authorities require authority holders to provide a Surface Disturbance Notice before carrying out exploration activities. This application is regarded as a Surface Disturbance Notice (SDN) for the notification of exploration activities.

Modification of approved exploration activities

To modify an already approved exploration activity, the modification must be substantially the same as the existing approval and have environmental impacts consistent with those already assessed and approved. Otherwise, a new application for the entire activity must be made.

A modification could include:

1. A change to the timing/scheduling of the activity (including extending a time-based approval).
2. A change to the location and/or layout of the activity. For example:
 - within the boundary of an area already assessed
 - within an area already disturbed
 - within an area where the impact will be similar to that already assessed.

This could include the relocation of approved drill holes within a reasonable distance of the original location/s that meet the above standards.

3. A reduction in the nature and scale, and related disturbance, of the originally approved activity.

A modification does not include:

- a change to the location of the activity outside of the area previously assessed.
- an increase in the nature and scale, and related disturbance, of the original activity.
- an increase in the quantity/number of activities (e.g. number of drill holes, number of excavations, increased clearing etc.).

How to submit this form

- By email: Send an electronic copy of the form including any attachments to:
nswresourcesregulator@service-now.com
- By mail: Mail your form and attachments to: NSW Resources Regulator, Mining Act Inspectorate, PO Box 344, Hunter Region Mail Centre NSW 2310.
- In person: Submit your application in person at Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, NSW Resources Regulator, 516 High Street, Maitland, NSW. Office hours are 9.30am to 4.30pm.

How this application will be processed

Once your application has been registered and checked, it will be assessed by the department. The Minister (or their delegate) will consider the department's recommendation and all relevant information and may propose to grant or refuse the application.

1. Authority details

Exploration licence (EL) or Assessment lease (AL) number	
Act	
Authority expiry date	

2. Authority holder/s details

Provide the full name of authority holder/s and if applicable, the ACN or ARBN (for foreign companies)

Name	
ACN/ARBN	
Registered street address	
Postal address	<input type="checkbox"/> Same as above Enter here if different

Name	
ACN/ARBN	
Registered street address	
Postal address	<input type="checkbox"/> Same as above Enter here if different

Name	
ACN/ARBN	
Registered street address	
Postal address	<input type="checkbox"/> Same as above Enter here if different

Additional authority holders

Provide the full name, ACN or ARBN (for foreign companies) registered street address and postal address details of additional authority holders

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3. Contact for the authority holder

Any correspondence relating to this application will be sent to this person

Contact name	
Position held	
Company	
Postal address	
Phone (including area code)	
Mobile	
Email	

Your preferred contact method

- Email (For companies – provide a generic company email address that is regularly monitored rather than an individual employee’s email address.)
- Mail

4. Appointment of a ‘mine operator’

The *Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Act 2013* and associated Regulation requires the authority holder to provide notification of the appointment of a ‘mine operator’, being the operator of a workplace where ‘mining operations’ are being carried out. ‘Mining operations’ includes exploring for minerals by mechanical means (refer Section 5 for clarification regarding ‘mechanical means’).

Appointment of a 'mine operator' and notification to the NSW Resources Regulator is required prior to the commencement of exploring by mechanical means.

4.1. Do you want to appoint a mine operator and give notice to the Regulator pursuant to clauses 6 and 7 of the Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Regulation 2014?

No. Go to Section 5

Yes. Complete the table below and the declaration in Section 4.2

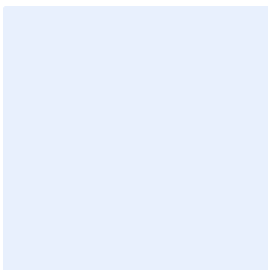
Name of mine operator	
ACN/ABN/ARBN	
Postal address	
Business address	
Phone (including area code)	
Mobile	
Email	
Date appointment takes effect	
Name of contact person	

4.2. Declaration by mine operator

I am the nominated mine operator listed in **Section 4.1** above and I declare that:

- I agree to be appointed as the mine operator for the mine(s) or petroleum site(s) listed in **Section 11**.
- I am / will be a person conducting a business or undertaking at the mine or petroleum site.
- I have been appointed to carry out mining operations at the mine, or petroleum operations at the petroleum site, on behalf of the mine holder or petroleum site holder
- I have the skills, knowledge, experience and resources to exercise the functions of the mine operator of the mine or petroleum site.

- I have been appointed by the mine or petroleum site holder to have management or control of the mine or petroleum site and to discharge the duties of the mine operator under the work health and safety laws.
- I have been given all the relevant information under the control of the mine or petroleum site holder that is required by the mine operator to discharge the duties imposed on the mine operator under the work health and safety laws.
- I authorise the contact person (identified in **Section 4.1** above) to receive any documents (including notices) on my behalf, for the purposes of the work health and safety laws.
- I consent to NSW Resources Regulator making enquiries and exchanging information with government agencies, in NSW and in other states or territories or the Commonwealth regarding any matter relevant to this form.
- The details of the mine operator specified in **Section 4.1** of this form are correct.

Mine operator's name	
Position/title	
Date	
Signature	

NOTE: Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under section 268 of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* and Part 5A of the *Crimes Act 1900*.

NOTE: Clause 7(2) of the *Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Act 2013* requires an authority holder who is also a mine operator to notify the Regulator.

NOTE: A mine or petroleum site 'mine operator' must notify the regulator of any change to the contact person's details provided below. Penalties apply if changes are not notified as soon as practicable (and no later than 28 days) after any change. Notifications must be made by submitting the [Change of contact details of operator form](#) to the Regulator.

5. Notification of commencement of operations

The *Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Act 2013* and associated Regulation requires notification prior to the commencement of 'mining operations' - which includes exploring for minerals by mechanical means that disturb the ground (refer to clause 129 of the Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites Regulation 2014)

Mechanical exploration that disturbs the ground must be notified before commencement.

Notification is **not required** for mining or petroleum operations that only involve exploration for minerals or petroleum **by non-mechanical means**. **Non-mechanical exploration** means exploring for minerals or petroleum (other than by mechanical means that disturb the ground) and includes the following:

- geological mapping
- sampling and coring using hand-held equipment
- geophysical surveying (but not seismic surveying) and borehole logging
- access by vehicle (but not if access requires the construction of an access way such as a track or road)
- shallow reconnaissance drilling involving no more than minimal site preparation (e.g. non-mechanical means such as a hand auger)
- minor excavations (but not costeaning or bulk sampling) (e.g. non-mechanical means such as using hand held equipment)

5.1. Do you want to notify the Regulator of the commencement of operations the subject of this application pursuant to clause 129 of the Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Regulation 2014?

No. Go to **Section 6**

Yes. Complete the table below and declaration in **Section 5.2**

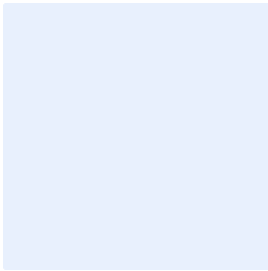
Name of mine operator	
ACN/ABN/ARBN	

Proposed date of commencing operations	(notification must be before commencement)
Date of intended conclusion of operations	
GPS co-ordinates of the area covered by the exploration site and in the case of a petroleum site, the coordinates of the location of any proposed wells.	cross reference can be made to the details provided in Section 11

5.2. Declaration of commencement of operations by the mine operator

I declare that:

- In giving this notice as the mine operator, I understand that I have satisfied the requirements under clause 129 of the Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Regulation 2014 to notify the regulator of commencement of mining.

Mine operator's name	
Position/title	
Date	
Signature	

NOTE: Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under section 268 of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* and Part 5A of the *Crimes Act 1900*.

6. Exempted areas

Exempted areas are defined in the *Mining Act 1992* and *Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991* as lands set aside for public purposes, which includes travelling stock routes, road reserves, state forests, state conservation areas, public reserves/commons and land held under a lease for water supply. Exempted areas require Ministerial consent – **this application cannot be processed until Ministerial consent has been obtained.**

6.1. Will the activity include prospecting in an exempted area?

No. Go to **Section 7**

Yes. Continue to **Section 6.2**

6.2. Prospecting in exempted areas

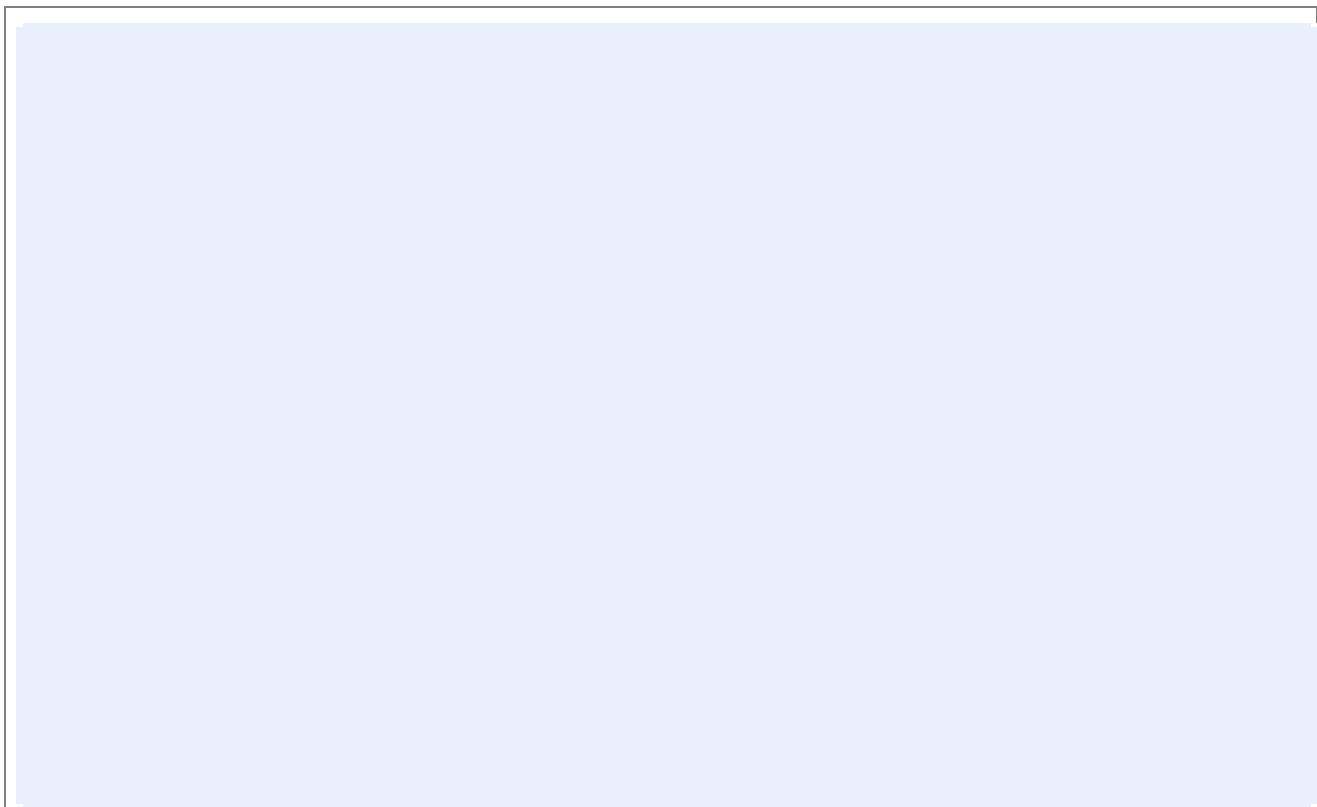
6.2.1. Minister’s consent

Attach a copy of the Minister’s consent to prospecting in exempted areas. To apply for approval to prospect in an exempted area, contact the Division of Resources and Geoscience – Resource Operations Unit by phone (02) 4063 6600 or email titles.services@planning.nsw.gov.au.

I have attached a copy of the Minister’s consent to prospect in an exempted area.

6.2.2. Identify exempted areas

Identify the exempted areas where prospecting activities will take place:



Insert a map in the field above or enter your text here

7. State conservation areas

If you are applying to conduct prospecting activities in a State Conservation Area, **you must** obtain the approvals below (**Section 7.2**) before your application can be processed by the department. Requests for approval to prospect in a State Conservation Area are to be submitted to the relevant regional office of the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

7.1. Will the activity include prospecting in a State Conservation Area?

- No. Go to **Section 8**
- Yes. Complete **Sections 7.2, 8, 10, 18, 19 and 20 only.**

7.2. Prospecting in a State Conservation Area

7.2.1. Minister's consent

If you are applying to carry out activities in a State Conservation Area, you must obtain approval from the Minister administering the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* ([Section 47J\(7\)](#)).

- I have attached a copy of the Minister's consent to prospect in a State Conservation Area.

7.2.2. Review of environmental factors

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (National Parks and Wildlife Service) manages State Conservation Areas under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. If you are applying to conduct prospecting activities in a State Conservation Area, you must provide the department with a [Review of Environmental Factors](#) which has been approved by the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

- I have attached a copy of the review of environmental factors approved by the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

7.2.3. Identify the State Conservation Area

Identify the State Conservation Area/s where prospecting activities will take place.

Insert a map in the field above or enter your text here

8. New application or modification of approved exploration activities

To modify an already approved exploration activity, the modification must be substantially the same as the existing approval and have environmental impacts consistent with those already assessed and approved. Otherwise, a new application for the entire activity must be made. Refer to explanatory notes on page 3 of this form for further clarification.

8.1. Is this a new application for approval or an application to modify an existing approved activity?

New application for approval. Complete the details below, then go to **Section 9**

Project name	
Project location	
Brief description	(example text) Three diamone drill holes, six in-ground sumps and X metres of new access tracks

OR

Modification of an approved application. Complete the details below, then continue to **Sections 8.2, 11, 18, 19 and 20 only.**

Approved project or activity name	
Department reference and date of previous approval	
Reason for modification	

8.2. Modification of an approved application

Describe the modification to the approved application and the environmental impacts.

9. Application type and assessment requirements

Environmental assessment requirements vary depending on whether a proposed activity is a 'Complying Exploration Activity' or a 'Non-Complying Exploration Activity'. Refer to Section 4 of [ESG5 Assessment requirements for exploration activities](#) to determine whether a proposed activity is a Complying Exploration Activity or a Non-Complying Exploration Activity.

An activity can only be assessed under the Complying Exploration Activity pathway if all boxes in **Sections 14 and 15** have been ticked as 'No' and none of the impact thresholds and criteria in **Section 15** have been exceeded.

Petroleum exploration activities are not eligible to be assessed under the Complying Exploration Activity assessment pathway.

Select one application type and assessment pathway only.

Complying exploration activity (minerals or coal authorities only)

Complete all sections in this form, apart from **Sections 10, 12 and 17.**

Note: Information provided in this form regarding an activity which meets the Complying Exploration Activity criteria will be taken to be a Review of Environmental Factors for the purposes of any authority conditions which require the submission of a Review of Environmental Factors.

OR

Non-complying exploration activity (minerals or coal authorities only)

Select one of the options below

 Option 1: Complete all sections in this form to provide a targeted review of environmental factors. Option 2:

- Complete only **Sections 1-3, 6-11 and 18-20** of this form
- Attach a Guideline Review of Environmental Factors prepared in accordance with [ESG2 Guideline for preparing a Review of Environmental Factors](#)

OR

 Petroleum exploration activity (petroleum authorities)

- Complete only **Sections 1-3, 6-11 and 18-20** of this form
- Attach a Guideline Review of Environmental Factors prepared in accordance with [ESG2 Guideline for preparing a Review of Environmental Factors](#)

10. Agricultural impact statement

Under the [NSW Strategic Regional Land Use Policy](#), certain **Non-Complying Exploration Activities** must be accompanied by either a Level 1 or Level 2 Agricultural Impact Statement. When preparing an Agricultural Impact Statement, you should refer to the [Guideline for Agricultural Impact Statements at the Exploration Stage](#). An Agricultural Impact Statement may be included as part of a Guideline Review of Environmental Factors.

10.1. Project area location

Is any part of the project area located on, or within, 2 km of [Strategic Agricultural Land](#) or directly on [Land and Soil Capability Classes 1, 2 or 3](#)?

 Yes. Attach a Level 2 Agricultural Impact Statement. Go to **Section 11** No. Continue to **Section 10.2**

10.2. Entire project area

10.2.1. Indicate where the entire project area is located

The entire project area is located (check one or multiple boxes)

- A. Within a [State Forest](#), [Nature Reserve](#) or [State Conservation Area](#) or
- B. on existing residential, village, business or industrial zoned land under a [Local Environment Plan](#) (LEP), or
- C. within an existing mining lease, or
- D. on Land and Soil Capability Classes 7 or 8
- E. **and** 500 metres or further inside the boundary of the areas listed above.

If you **checked** boxes A or B or C or D (**and** then E above), go to **Section 11**

If **not**, continue to **Section 10.2.2**

10.2.2. Agricultural Impact Statement

If you **did not** check the relevant boxes in **Section 10.2.1**, you will need to attach a Level 1 Agricultural Impact Statement.

- I have attached a Level 1 agricultural impact statement. Enter any additional comments below.

11. Site plan and location details

Attach site plans and/or maps at an appropriate scale showing the following (as relevant):

- boundaries of the authority
- lot/DP numbers and boundaries
- topographic contours
- location of the proposed activity (including location of key features of the activity using MGA94 co-ordinates **or** co-ordinates of the **area** specified for proposed activity)
- GPS co-ordinates of the **area** covered by the exploration site and in the case of a petroleum site, the coordinates of the location of any proposed wells (**Note: This is a requirement of**

Clause 129 of the *Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Act 2013* when notification of commencement of operations is provided to the Regulator (see Section 5).

- layout of the proposed activity (using dimensions and alignments where appropriate)
- major regional features
- existing and proposed access tracks
- existing structures and infrastructure (including dimensions and alignments where relevant)
- nearby sensitive receptors (including residences, educational establishments, hospitals, places of worship, etc)
- location of Aboriginal and European heritage sites (including AHIMS search) (refer to **Section 12.11** and **12.10**, respectively)
- location of identified sensitive land (refer to **Section 14**)
- location of threatened species or ecological communities, or their habitats (refer to **Section 15.4**).

Note: The site plans and/or maps required here can be included in a Guideline review of environmental factors.

Where the exact location of exploration sites are unknown, the plan(s) and/or map(s) should show the area that the proposed exploration activities and associated disturbance will occur. As such, the scope of this application to conduct assessable prospecting operations will be applicable to the areas demarcated on the attached plan(s) and/or map(s). Assessable prospecting operations proposed to be undertaken outside of approved areas would need to be the subject of a new application (or modification of the approved activities as outlined in **Section 8**).

11.1. Identify the area

Identify the map sheet within which the activities are proposed (where relevant include block number/s and unit letter/s for mineral authorities and petroleum titles). These details are referenced on your authority conditions.

Name of map sheet	Block number	Unit letter/s

Name of map sheet	Block number	Unit letter/s

11.2. Site plan/s and map/s

List the site plans and maps you have attached to this application, including relevant plan/map title, dates, reference numbers.

	Reference No.	Name/title	Date
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
Add additional references and notes here			

11.3. Photographs of all sites to be disturbed

Attach photographs of all sites to be disturbed. List all the photographs attached, including relevant photograph titles, site locations and dates. Include a plan illustrating where the photographs were taken from and their aspect.

	Photo number /reference	Photo name/description
1		
2		
3		
4		

	Photo number /reference	Photo name/description
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
Add additional references and notes here		

12. Site description and existing environment

For help answering this section, refer to Sections 1 and 2 of [esg2 guideline for preparing a review of environmental factors](#). Spatial information regarding the site and existing environment can be viewed at the [NSW SEED environmental data portal](#). Importantly, where the exact location of assessable prospecting operations is unknown at the time of the application, a description of the sites and existing environment needs to address the areas as demarcated on the plan(s) and/or map(s) provided in **Section 11** of the application.

12.1. Existing land uses

Provide details of existing land uses that may be affected by the proposed activity and any proposed changes (temporary or otherwise) to the current land use/s during the activity.

12.2. Sensitive receptor/s

Describe the location, type and distance to the nearest sensitive receptor/s (including residences, educational establishments, hospitals, places of worship).

12.3. Soil types and properties

Describe the soil types and properties (including susceptibility to compaction, erosion and dispersion; presence of acid sulfate soils and potential acid sulfate soils). Refer to [Strategic Agricultural Land Maps](#), [Land and Soil Capability Class Maps](#) and [Acid Sulfate Soils Maps](#).

12.4. Surface water sources

Provide details of the existing surface **water** sources in the area that are likely to be affected by the activity. Provide details of the nearest watercourse/s and the distance between the proposed disturbance area/s and the nearest watercourse/s.

12.5. Groundwater sources

Provide details of any existing groundwater sources that occur in the area that are likely to be affected by the activity.

12.6. Vegetation cover

Describe the vegetation cover type, density and condition.

12.7. Critical habitat/area of outstanding biodiversity value

Provide details of any critical habitat/area of outstanding biodiversity value that is likely to be affected by the activity including:

- declared areas of outstanding biodiversity value under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 as listed in the [Register](#) maintained by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.
- areas declared as critical habitat under the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* as recorded in the Department of Primary Industries [register of critical habitat](#).

12.8. Threatened species record search (wildlife and vegetation)

Attach copies of any relevant threatened species records kept by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment according to the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. Refer to <mailto:www.bionet.nsw.gov.au> for this information. Ensure searches are relevant to the proposed disturbance areas.

A copy of the NSW BioNet search is attached (refer to [NSW BioNet](#)).

12.9. Aquatic habitat species record search

Attach copies of any relevant [threatened and protected species records for aquatic habitats](#) kept by the Department of Primary Industries according to the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*.

A copy of the threatened and protected species records for aquatic habitats search is attached.

12.10. Historic cultural or natural heritage items

12.10.1. Record searches

Attach copies of record searches for any historic cultural or natural heritage items that may be impacted by the activity. As a minimum, identify if any of the following are impacted. For any of the items below, only attach copies of **relevant** heritage searches.

Items listed on the [World Heritage List](#)

Items listed on the [Commonwealth Heritage List](#)

Items listed on the [National Heritage List](#)

[State Heritage Register](#)

Items listed in the heritage schedule of an [environmental planning instrument](#), such as a local council's Local Environment Plan

12.10.2. Describe any items of historic cultural or natural heritage that may be impacted by the activity

12.11. Aboriginal heritage sites

12.11.1. Describe the nearest Aboriginal sites or any sites that may be affected

Describe the location, type and distance to the nearest Aboriginal heritage sites and any impact the proposed activity will have on Aboriginal heritage sites (Aboriginal objects and places).

12.11.2. AHIMS search

For exploration activities, the [National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974](#) requires you to exercise due diligence to check if Aboriginal sites will be harmed.

The Department of Premier and Cabinet (Heritage) maintains the [Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System](#) (AHIMS) which you can use to undertake due diligence. The AHIMS includes:

- information about Aboriginal objects that have been reported to the Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet
- information about Aboriginal Places which have been declared by the Minister for Energy and Environment to have special significance with respect to Aboriginal culture
- archaeological reports.

Attach your AHIMS search to support that you have undertaken due diligence for this application.

I have attached a copy of the AHIMS search.

13. Description of the exploration activity

For guidance answering this section, refer to Section 3 [ESG2 Guideline for preparing a Review of Environmental Factors](#).

13.1. Activity description

Describe all stages of the activity, including before, during and after exploration, including rehabilitation. For drilling activities include drilling type, number of drill holes, drill hole depths and size of drill pads.

13.2. Exploration methods

Describe the exploration methods, including machinery and equipment to be used (including what equipment will be operating at any one time).

13.3. Total surface disturbance

Provide the total surface disturbance (in sqm/ha) for the proposed exploration program.

13.4. Earthworks or vegetation clearing

Detail any earthworks or vegetation clearing, including the re-use and disposal of cleared material (including use of spoil-on-site).

13.5. Timing and phasing of the activity

Describe the timing and any phasing of the activity (including anticipated commencement dates and anticipated completion dates for all activities).

13.6. Proposed sealing/suspension of drill holes/wells

Describe the proposed sealing/suspension of drill holes/wells, including details of any well head suspension, security, maintenance and monitoring programs.

13.7. Venting, flaring or re-use of gases

Describe any proposed venting, flaring or re-use of gases, including details of the system design and venting/flaring/re-use processes.

13.8. Access to exploration activities

Describe the means of access to the various exploration activities. Describe any upgrading of existing access tracks and any construction of new access tracks.

13.9. Ancillary activities

Provide details of any activities which are ancillary to the proposed exploration activities including requirements for water storage, ancillary infrastructure, temporary accommodation.

Note: Certain ancillary works and activities (such as accommodation camps and environmental assessment activities) do not constitute an 'exploration' or 'prospecting' activity under the *Mining Act 1992* or the *Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991* and therefore cannot be approved by the department. The authority holder should obtain their own advice, and/or make their own enquiries with the relevant local council, Crown Lands controlling authority or the landholder regarding separate consent or approvals required under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and/or *Local Government Act 1993*.

13.10. Proposed hours of operation

Provide details of the proposed hours of operation.

13.11. On-site employee or contractor numbers

Provide an estimate of on-site employee or contractor numbers.

13.12. Surface water management

Describe how surface water will be managed (including water sources, water usage, water storage and water disposal/reuse).

Note: for guidance answering this section, refer to Section 3.5 of ESG2 Guideline for preparing a Review of Environmental Factors.

13.13. Groundwater management

Describe how groundwater will be managed (including water produced, stored and disposed of/reused during exploration).

Note: for guidance answering this section, refer to Section 3.5 of ESG2 Guideline for preparing a Review of Environmental Factors.

13.14. Waste and excess material management

Describe the type, quantities and management of any waste and excess materials (including drill cuttings, waste water, solid wastes, radioactive material, hazardous wastes, restricted wastes or special wastes).

Note: for guidance refer to Section 3.5 of ESG2 Guideline for preparing a Review of Environmental Factors.

13.15. Chemical management

Detail the handling, use, storage and transportation of any chemicals and hydrocarbons.

Note: for guidance refer to Section 3.5 of ESG2: Guideline for preparing a Review of Environmental Factors.

13.16. Noise management

Describe how noise will be managed to minimise impacts on any nearby sensitive receivers.

Note: for guidance refer to Section 3.5 of ESG2: Guideline for preparing a Review of Environmental Factors.

13.17. Air quality management

Describe how air quality will be managed, including measures to minimise impacts resulting from any dust generation, venting, flaring and fugitive emissions.

Note: for guidance refer to Section 3.5 of ESG2: Guideline for preparing a Review of Environmental Factors.

14. Sensitivity of land to be disturbed

Advise whether the activity will occur on any of the types of land listed below (use the [SEED mapping portal](#) to view map layers). All sections must be completed. Explanatory notes are provided in Section 7.1 of [ESG5: Assessment Requirements for Exploration Activities](#) to assist authority holders in identifying land to which these location restrictions apply.

An activity can only be assessed under the Complying Exploration Activity assessment pathway if all boxes have been ticked as 'No'. Some of these areas are also 'exempted areas' under the *Mining Act 1992* and *Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991* (refer to **Section 6**).

If you answer 'yes' to any of the sections below, provide an assessment of impacts by completing **Section 17**.

14.1. Conservation areas

Land	Yes	No
Land reserved under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land acquired by the Minister for Energy and Environment under Part 11 of the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Land	Yes	No
Land subject to a 'conservation agreement' under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land declared as an aquatic reserve under the <i>Marine Estate Management Act 2014</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land declared as a marine park under the <i>Marine Estate Management Act 2014</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land within State Forests set aside under the <i>Forestry Act 2012</i> for conservation values, including Flora Reserves or Special Management (and other) Zones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land reserved or dedicated under the <i>Crown Lands Act 1989 / Crown Lands Management Act 2016</i> (as applicable) for the preservation of flora, fauna, geological formations or other environmental protection purposes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land identified as wilderness or declared a wilderness area under the <i>Wilderness Act 1987</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land subject to a Biodiversity Banking and Offsets Scheme under the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

14.2. Drinking water catchment protection areas

Land	Yes	No
Land declared to be a 'controlled area' or a 'special area' under the <i>Water NSW Act 2014</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land declared to be a 'special area' under the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i> or <i>Hunter Water Act 1991</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

14.3. Sensitive areas

Note: The upgrade or use of existing access tracks on waterfront land can still be assessed as a Complying Exploration Activity, refer to Sections 7.1 and 7.2 of ESG5 Assessment Requirements for Exploration Activities

Land	Yes	No
Land declared as area of outstanding biodiversity value under the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> or critical habitat under Part 7A of the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wetlands of international significance listed under the Ramsar Wetlands Convention	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land designated as a nationally important wetland in the Directory of Important Wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coastal wetlands mapped under <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Coastal Management) 2018</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Littoral rainforests mapped under <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Coastal Management) 2018</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coastal zone as defined in the <i>Coastal Management Act 2016</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land identified in an environmental planning instrument as being of biodiversity significance or zoned for environmental conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Waterfront land defined under the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land with a slope greater than 18 degrees measured from the horizontal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

14.4. Land with potential for soil and water contamination

Land	Yes	No
Land mapped as Actual Acid Sulfate Soils (AASS) or Potential Acid Sulfate Soils (PASS) on the Acid Sulfate Soils Risk Maps for NSW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

14.5. Heritage protection areas (Aboriginal and European)

Land	Yes	No
Land declared as an Aboriginal place under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land listed on the World Heritage List, National Heritage List or Commonwealth Heritage List	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land, places, buildings or structures listed on the NSW State Heritage Register	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land identified in an environmental planning instrument (such as a State Environmental Planning Policy, Regional Environment Plan or Local Environment Plan) as being of Aboriginal or European heritage significance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

14.6. Critical industry clusters

Land	Yes	No
Land identified as Critical Industry Cluster under <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

14.7. Community land

Land	Yes	No
Public land classified as community land under the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

14.8. Other areas

Land	Yes	No
Land identified on the authority as environmentally sensitive land	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

15. Impact thresholds and criteria

Provide details relating to the impact thresholds and criteria outlined below. These include cumulative impact thresholds from existing approved activities that have not yet been undertaken/rehabilitated to the satisfaction of the department. Explanatory notes are provided in Section 7.2 of [ESG5 Assessment Requirements for Exploration Activities](#) to assist authority holders in completing these details.

Note: An activity can only be assessed under the Complying Exploration Activity assessment pathway if all boxes have been ticked as 'no' and none of the impact thresholds and criteria have been exceeded. A previously approved/undertaken activity must be counted unless the department has acknowledged in writing that the area has been satisfactorily rehabilitated.

All sections, tick boxes and values must be completed – even if the value is zero

15.1. Vegetation clearing

15.1.1. Will cumulative vegetation clearing and/or removal of tree canopy exceed more than 1,000 square metres in any single hectare?

Note: Use a grid overlay of 1ha cells over the authority area for this calculation

- Yes. Provide assessment of impacts by completing Section 17.
- No

A = Clearing proposed	<i>example text</i> Drill hole a - 400sqm per ha Drill hole b - 400sqm per ha	m ²
-----------------------	---	----------------

B = Clearing previously approved or undertaken	Within 1ha around drill hole a - 300sqm Within 1ha around drill hole b - 200sqm	m ²
C = Clearing in B that has now been rehabilitated <u>AND</u> approved in writing by the Department (include Departmental Ref. No.)	Within 1ha around drill hole a - 100sqm Within 1ha around drill hole b - 100sqm	m ²
Total Clearing = A + B - C	Within 1ha around drill hole a - 600sqm Within 1ha around drill hole b - 500sqm	m ²

15.1.2. Will cumulative vegetation clearing and/or removal of tree canopy exceed more than 1 hectare in any single unit of the authority (or every 250 hectares in the case of authorities which do not have units or do not align to unit boundaries)?

- Yes. Provide assessment of impacts by completing Section 17.
- No

A = Clearing proposed	example text 0.08 ha	ha
B = Clearing previously approved or undertaken	0.05 ha	ha
C = Clearing in B that has now been rehabilitated <u>AND</u> approved in writing by the department (include department Ref. No.)	0.02 ha	ha
Total Clearing = A + B - C	0.11 ha	ha

15.1.3. Will cumulative vegetation clearing and/or removal of tree canopy exceed more than 5 hectares in any single authority?

- Yes. Provide assessment of impacts by completing Section 17.
- No

A = Clearing proposed	example text 0.08 ha	ha
-----------------------	-------------------------	----

B = Clearing previously approved or undertaken	<input type="text" value="0.05 ha"/>	ha
C = Clearing in B that has now been rehabilitated <u>AND</u> approved in writing by the department (include department Ref. No.)	<input type="text" value="0.02 ha"/>	ha
Total Clearing = A + B - C	<input type="text" value="0.11 ha"/>	ha

15.2. Surface disturbance and excavations

15.2.1. Will cumulative surface disturbances exceed a total of 1 hectare within any single unit of an authority (or every 250 hectares in the case of authorities which do not have units or do not align to unit boundaries)?

Yes. Provide assessment of impacts by completing Section 17.

No

A = Disturbance proposed	<input type="text"/>	ha
B = Disturbance previously approved or undertaken	<input type="text"/>	ha
C = Disturbance in B that has now been rehabilitated <u>AND</u> approved in writing by the department (include department Ref. No.)	<input type="text"/>	ha
Total disturbance = A + B - C	<input type="text"/>	ha

15.2.2. Will cumulative surface disturbance exceed a total of 5 hectares within any single authority?

Yes. Provide assessment of impacts by completing **Section 17**.

No

A = Disturbance proposed	<input type="text"/>	ha
--------------------------	----------------------	----

B = Disturbance previously approved or undertaken	<input type="text"/>	ha
C = Disturbance in B that has now been rehabilitated <u>AND</u> approved in writing by the department (include departmentRef. No.)	<input type="text"/>	ha
Total disturbance = A + B - C	<input type="text"/>	ha

15.2.3. Will cumulative excavations exceed 200 cubic metres within any single unit of an authority (or every 250 hectares in the case of authorities which do not have units or do not align to unit boundaries)?

- Yes. Provide assessment of impacts by completing **Section 17**.
- No

A = Excavations proposed	<input type="text"/>	m ³
B = Excavations previously approved or undertaken	<input type="text"/>	m ³
C = Excavations in B that has now been rehabilitated <u>AND</u> approved in writing by the Department (include Departmental Ref. No.)	<input type="text"/>	ha
Total excavations = A + B - C	<input type="text"/>	m ³

15.2.4. Will cumulative excavations exceed 1,000 cubic metres within any single authority?

- Yes. Provide assessment of impacts by completing **Section 17**.
- No

A = Excavations proposed	<input type="text"/>	m ³
B = Excavations previously approved or undertaken	<input type="text"/>	m ³

C = Excavations in B that has now been rehabilitated AND approved in writing by the Department (include Departmental Ref. No.) ha

Total excavations = A = B - C m³

15.3. Extraction of groundwater (produced water)

15.3.1. Will cumulative extraction of groundwater from all exploration activities within the authority exceed 3 megalitres (ML) per year?

Yes. Provide assessment of impacts by completing **Section 17**.

No

A = Extraction proposed ML per year

B = Extraction previously approved or undertaken ML per year

C = Extraction in B that has now ceased ML per year

Total extraction = A + B - C ML per year

15.4. Ecology

15.4.1. Will the activity have a significant effect on threatened species or their habitats?

No. Continue to **Section 15.4.2**

Yes. Provide assessment impacts by completing **Section 17** and any relevant details below (and attach copies as relevant) of any supporting documentation e.g. test of significance undertaken in accordance with the criteria set out in [Section 7.3](#) of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

15.4.2. Will the activity have a significant effect on threatened ecological communities or their habitats?

No. Continue to **Section 15.4.3**

- Yes. Provide assessment impacts by completing **Section 17** and any relevant details below (and attach copies as relevant) of any supporting documentation e.g. test of significance undertaken in accordance with the criteria set out in [Section 7.3](#) of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

15.4.3. Will vegetation be removed as part of access track upgrade works in waterfront land?

- No. Go to **Section 15.5**
- Yes. Provide assessment impacts by completing **Section 17** and relevant details of vegetation removal.

15.5. Aboriginal heritage

15.5.1. Will the activity harm Aboriginal objects?

- No. Go to **Section 15.6**
- Yes. Provide assessment impacts by completing **Section 17** and any relevant details below (and attach copies as relevant) of any supporting documentation (e.g. any Aboriginal archaeological due diligence assessments undertaken in accordance with the [NSW Minerals Industry Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects](#) (NSW Minerals Council Ltd, 2010).

15.6. European heritage

15.6.1. Will the activity damage heritage items?

- No. Go to **Section 16**
- Yes. Provide assessment impacts by completing **Section 17** and any relevant details below (and attach copies as relevant) of any supporting documentation.

16. Compliance with exploration codes of practice

[Exploration codes of practice](#) have been prepared by the department. The codes of practice are **only** applied to prospecting authorities granted, renewed or transferred in respect of applications received **after 1 July 2015**. Exploration activities undertaken pursuant to these titles must comply with the relevant exploration codes of practice to be assessed under the complying exploration activity pathway.

The codes of practice provide authority holders with information about the minimum performance requirements to ensure that exploration is undertaken to manage and minimise risks to the environment.

16.1. Does the authority include references to Category 1, Category 2 and Category 3 prospecting operations?

- Yes. Do not complete remainder of Section 16. (Note: Compliance with the exploration codes of practice is not required as the existing conditions of the authority will apply as the management controls).
- No. Complete **Section 16.2**, to confirm that the proposed prospecting operations will comply with the relevant exploration codes of practice.

16.2. Compliance requirements

Check the boxes to indicate that the proposed prospecting operations will comply with the relevant code.

Environmental management

Yes, the activity will be undertaken in accordance with the [Exploration code of practice: Environmental management](#).

Rehabilitation

Yes, the activity will be undertaken in accordance with the [Exploration code of practice: Rehabilitation](#).

Produced water management, storage and transfer

Yes, the activity will be undertaken in accordance with the [Exploration code of practice: Produced water management, storage and transfer](#). [This code is only relevant to prospecting operations where produced water will need to be stored on

<input type="checkbox"/>	site (excluding the management of incidental groundwater mixed with drilling fluids that can be temporarily contained in drilling sumps or above ground tanks)].
<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable.

16.3. Further details

Provide any further details relating to the above management controls and codes of practice as required.

17. Targeted review of environmental factors for non-complying exploration activities

Complete **Section 17** below to provide a Targeted Review of Environmental Factors (REF). This information should focus on the potential environmental impacts associated with the departure(s) from the relevant Complying Exploration Activities location restriction, impact threshold/criteria or management control. This would generally be appropriate for activities that do not significantly depart from the Complying Exploration Activities criteria.

17.1. Physical and pollution impacts

For guidance refer to Section 4.1 of [ESG2 Guideline for preparing a review of environmental factors](#).

17.1.1. Air impacts

Is the activity likely to impact on air quality? Consider air quality impacts:

- such as dust, smoke, odours, fumes, fugitive emissions, toxic or radioactive gaseous emissions with economic, health, ecosystem or amenity considerations
- through generation of greenhouse gas emissions or release of chemicals
- on nearby sensitive receptors

Impact level	Detail of impacts	Outline any management controls/mitigation measures
Select level...		

17.1.2. Water impacts

Is the activity likely to impact on water quality and/or water quantity? Consider impacts from:

- the use of surface or groundwater
- the storage of water
- changes to natural waterbodies, wetlands or runoff patterns
- aquifer interference including changes to inter-aquifer connectivity
- changes to flooding or tidal regimes
- changes in surface and groundwater quality and quantity

Impact level	Detail of impacts	Outline any management controls/mitigation measures
Select level...		

17.1.3. Soil and stability impacts

Is the activity likely to impact on soil quality or land stability? Consider any:

- degradation of soil quality including contamination, salinisation or acidification
- loss of soil from wind or water erosion
- increased land instability with high risks from landslides or subsidence

Impact level	Detail of impacts	Outline any management controls/mitigation measures
Select level...		

17.1.4. Noise and vibration impacts

Is the activity likely to have noise or vibration impacts on nearby sensitive receptors?

Impact level	Detail of impacts	Outline any management controls/mitigation measures
Select level...		

17.1.5. Coastal processes and hazards

Is the activity likely to affect coastal processes and hazards including those under projected climate change conditions?

Impact level	Detail of impacts	Outline any management controls/mitigation measures
Select level...		

17.1.6. Hazardous substances and chemicals

Is the activity likely to result in impacts associated with the use, generation, storage or transport of hazardous substances or chemicals?

Consider any:

- use, storage or transport of hazardous substances
- use or generation of chemicals which may build up residues in the environment
- chemicals or radioactive material that will be reacted, returned to the surface or left in a drill hole or target formation.

Impact level	Detail of impacts	Outline any management controls/mitigation measures
Select level...		

17.1.7. Wastes and emissions

Is the activity likely to result in any impacts to the environment resulting from the generation or disposal of gaseous, liquid or solid wastes or emissions?

Impact level	Detail of impacts	Outline any management controls/mitigation measures
Select level...		

17.2. Biological impacts

For guidance refer to Section 4.2 of [ESG2: Guideline for preparing a review of environmental factors](#).

Fauna and flora (including impact on Threatened Species, or Ecological Communities or their Habitats) – for the purposes of Section 7.3 of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016, and in the administration of Sections 5.5 and 5.7 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, the matters below must be taken into account in deciding whether there is likely to be a significant effect on threatened species, or ecological communities or their habitats.

This assessment of significance must be undertaken pursuant to the assessment guidelines issued and in force under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 or the Fisheries Management Act 1994. This assessment of the significance is the first step in considering potential impacts. When a significant effect is likely, a Species Impact Statement (SIS) prepared in accordance with the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 or the Fisheries Management Act 1994 may be required.

17.2.1. Vegetation

Is any vegetation to be cleared or modified (including vegetation of conservation significance)?

Impact level	Detail of impacts	Outline any management controls/mitigation measures
Select level...		

17.2.2. Threatened species

Is the activity likely to have an adverse effect on the life-cycle of a threatened species such that a viable local population of the species is likely to be placed at risk of extinction?

Impact level	Detail of impacts	Outline any management controls/mitigation measures
Select level...		

17.2.3. Area of outstanding biodiversity value (AOBV)/Critical habitat

Is the activity likely to have an adverse effect on AOBV / critical habitat (either directly or indirectly)? (Refer to **Section 12.7**)

Impact level	Detail of impacts	Outline any management controls/mitigation measures
Select level...		

17.2.4. Endangered ecological community or critically endangered ecological community

Select as relevant:

- The activity is likely to have an adverse effect on the extent of the ecological community such that its local occurrence is likely to be placed at risk of extinction.
- The activity is likely to substantially and adversely modify the composition of the ecological community such that its local occurrence is likely to be placed at risk of extinction.

Impact level	Detail of impacts	Outline any management controls/mitigation measures
Select level...		

17.2.5. Habitat of a threatened species or ecological community

Select as relevant:

- The extent to which the habitat is likely to be removed or modified as a result of the activity will be significant.
- The area of habitat is likely to become fragmented or isolated from other areas of habitat as a result of the activity.
- The habitat to be removed, modified, fragmented or isolated is important to the long-term survival of the species, population or ecological community in the locality.

Impact level	Detail of impacts	Outline any management controls/mitigation measures
Select level...		

17.2.6. Recovery plan or threat abatement plan

Is the activity consistent with the objectives or actions of any relevant plan?

Impact level	Detail of impacts	Outline any management controls/mitigation measures
Select level...		

17.2.7. Declared area of outstanding biodiversity value

Is the activity likely to have an adverse effect on any declared area of outstanding biodiversity value (either directly or indirectly)?

Impact level	Detail of impacts	Outline any management controls/mitigation measures
Select level...		

17.2.8. Key threatening process

Will the activity constitute or form part of a [key threatening process](#) or is likely to result in the operation of, or increase the impact of, a key threatening process?

Impact level	Detail of impacts	Outline any management controls/mitigation measures
Select level...		

17.2.9. Barriers to movement

Does the activity have the potential to endanger, displace or disturb fauna or create a barrier to their movement?

Impact level	Detail of impacts	Outline any management controls/mitigation measures
Select level...		

17.2.10. Ecological and biosecurity impacts

Select as relevant:

- The activity is likely to cause a threat to the biological diversity or ecological integrity of an ecological community.
- The activity is likely to create a biosecurity risk or introduce modified organisms into an area.
- The activity is likely to cause a bushfire risk.

Impact level	Detail of impacts	Outline any management controls/mitigation measures
Select level...		

17.3. Resource use impacts

For guidance refer to Section 4.3 of [ESG2 Guideline for preparing a review of environmental factors](#).

17.3.1. Community resources

Is the activity likely to degrade or significantly increase the demand for services and infrastructure resources?

Note: Infrastructure includes roads, power, water, drainage, waste management, educational, medical or social services.

Impact level	Detail of impacts	Outline any management controls/mitigation measures
Select level...		

Is the activity likely to require any significant resource recycling or reuse schemes to reduce resource usage?

Impact level	Detail of impacts	Outline any management controls/mitigation measures
Select level...		

Is the activity likely to result in any diversion of resources to the detriment of other communities or natural systems?

Impact level	Detail of impacts	Outline any management controls/mitigation measures
Select level...		

17.3.2. Natural resources

Is the activity likely to disrupt, deplete or destroy natural resources?

Note: Natural resources include land and soil, water, air and minerals.

Impact level	Detail of impacts	Outline any management controls/mitigation measures
Select level...		

Is the activity likely to disrupt existing activities (or reduce options for future activities)?

Impact level	Detail of impacts	Outline any management controls/mitigation measures
Select level...		

Is the activity likely to result in the degradation of any area reserved for conservation purposes?

Impact level	Detail of impacts	Outline any management controls/mitigation measures
Select level...		

17.4. Community impacts

For guidance refer to Section 4.4 of [ESG2 Guideline for preparing a review of environmental factors](#).

17.4.1. Social impacts

Is the activity likely to result in a change to the demographic structure of the community, including changes to workforce or industry structure of the area/region?

Impact level	Detail of impacts	Outline any management controls/mitigation measures
Select level...		

Is the activity likely to have an environmental impact that may cause substantial change or disruption to the community, including loss of facilities, reduced links to other communities or loss of community identity?

Impact level	Detail of impacts	Outline any management controls/mitigation measures
Select level...		

Is the activity likely to result in some individuals or communities being significantly disadvantaged?

Impact level	Detail of impacts	Outline any management controls/mitigation measures
Select level...		

Is the activity likely to result in any impacts on the health, safety, privacy or welfare of individuals or communities because of factors such as air pollution, odour, noise, vibration and lighting?

Impact level	Detail of impacts	Outline any management controls/mitigation measures
Select level...		

17.4.2. Economic impacts

Is the activity likely to have significant economic impacts? Consider any impacts that may:

- affect economic activity (positive or negative), particularly impacts which result in a decrease to net economic welfare
- result in a decrease in the economic stability of the community
- result in a change to the public sector revenue or expenditure base.

Impact level	Detail of impacts	Outline any management controls/mitigation measures
Select level...		

17.4.3. Heritage impacts

Is the activity likely to cause impacts on localities, places, landscapes, buildings or archaeological relics of heritage significance?

Impact level	Detail of impacts	Outline any management controls/mitigation measures
Select level...		

17.4.4. Aesthetic impacts

Is the activity likely to cause impacts on the visual or scenic landscape, including any venting or flaring of gas?

Impact level	Detail of impacts	Outline any management controls/mitigation measures
Select level...		

17.4.5. Cultural impacts

Will the activity disturb the ground surface or any culturally modified trees?

Impact level	Detail of impacts	Outline any management controls/mitigation measures
Select level...		

Will the activity affect known Aboriginal objects or Aboriginal places?

Impact level	Detail of impacts	Outline any management controls/mitigation measures
Select level...		

Is the activity located in areas where landscape features indicate the presence of Aboriginal objects?

Impact level	Detail of impacts	Outline any management controls/mitigation measures
Select level...		

Can harm to Aboriginal objects or disturbance of landscape features be avoided?

Impact level	Detail of impacts	Outline any management controls/mitigation measures
Select level...		

Will the activity affect areas subject to native title claims, indigenous land use agreements or joint management agreement?

Impact level	Detail of impacts	Outline any management controls/mitigation measures
Select level...		

17.4.6. Land use impacts

Is the activity likely to result in major changes to land use, including any curtailment of other beneficial land uses?

Impact level	Detail of impacts	Outline any management controls/mitigation measures
Select level...		

Is the activity likely to result in any significant property value impacts with land use implications?

Impact level	Detail of impacts	Outline any management controls/mitigation measures
Select level...		

17.4.7. Transportation impacts

Is the activity likely to result in any significant impacts on transportation? Consider any:

- substantial impacts on existing transportation systems (such as road, rail, pedestrian) which alter present patterns of circulation or movement
- impacts associated with direct or indirect additional traffic.

Impact level	Detail of impacts	Outline any management controls/mitigation measures
Select level...		

17.4.8. Matters of national environmental significance

For guidance refer to Section 4.5 of [ESG2 Guideline for preparing a review of environmental factors](#).

Is the activity likely to impact on any of the following matters of national environmental significance under the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*? Select as relevant:

- N/A
- Listed threatened species and communities
- Listed migratory species
- Ramsar wetlands of international importance
- Commonwealth marine environment
- World heritage properties
- National heritage places
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
- Nuclear actions
- A water resource, in relation to coal seam gas development and large coal mining development

Provide further details relating to any impacts on matters of national environmental significance.

18. Rehabilitation cost estimate

All authority holders are required to lodge a security deposit with the department to cover the government’s full costs in undertaking rehabilitation in the event of default by the authority holder. The Rehabilitation cost estimate is used by the department to help determine the amount of the security. Refer to [ESG1 Rehabilitation cost estimate guidelines](#) and [Rehabilitation cost estimation tool](#) for more information.

The scope of the Rehabilitation cost estimate must include the cost of fulfilling any rehabilitation liabilities or other obligations associated with on-going previously approved exploration activities on the authority, as well as proposed exploration activities subject to this application.

18.1. Is your application for a complying exploration activity?

Yes. Go to **Section 18.2.**

No. Go to **Section 18.3.**

18.2. Will the cost of fulfilling any rehabilitation liabilities associated with the proposed complying exploration activity, as well as any previously approved exploration activities on the authority, exceed \$10,000?

Yes. Go to **Section 18.3.**

No. Go to **Section 19.** No rehabilitation cost estimate needs to be lodged.

18.3. Have you already lodged an RCE related to this application?

Yes. Provide the rehabilitation cost estimate lodgement date and further details in text box below and **go to Section 19.**

No. Attach a rehabilitation cost estimate which evidences how the estimate is derived and complete the fields below.

Select one of the options below to confirm the methodology

FORM

ESF4 Application to conduct exploration activities
for assessable prospecting operations

Department's rehabilitation cost schedule	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Current security held by the department			
<input type="text"/>			
Total of this rehabilitation cost estimate			
<input type="text"/>			

19. Checklist of items included with this application (as applicable)

Item		Reference
Minister's consent to prospect in exempted areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	Section 6
Minister's consent to prospect in a State Conservation Area	<input type="checkbox"/>	Section 7
A Guideline Review of Environmental Factors	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sections 9 and 17
Agricultural Impact Statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Section 10
Site plan/maps showing location of activities and proposed site layout	<input type="checkbox"/>	Section 11
Site photographs of the site/s prior to disturbance	<input type="checkbox"/>	Section 11
Copy of the NSW BioNet System search	<input type="checkbox"/>	Section 12.8
Threatened species assessment of significance	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sections 12.8 and 15.4
Copy of threatened and protected species records for aquatic habitats	<input type="checkbox"/>	Section 12.9
Heritage database searches	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sections 11, 12.10, 15.5 and 15.6
AHIMS search	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sections 11 and 12.11

FORM

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Aboriginal heritage due diligence assessment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sections 12.11 and 15.5
Rehabilitation Cost Estimate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Section 18
For agents only – evidence of appointment as agent by the authority holder/s	<input type="checkbox"/>	Section 20
Other (list below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	

19.1. Have you lodged all the required information with this form?

Yes

No. I will provide outstanding information within 10 business days of lodging this application. **Note:** failure to supply the required information may result in the refusal of the application.

Describe the additional information to be provided.

20. Declaration by authority holder/s or authorised agent

This form must be signed by the authority holder/s or an agent authorised to act on behalf of the authority holder/s.

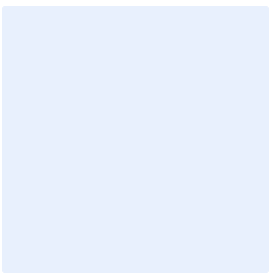
I/We certify that the information provided in this application is true and correct. I/We understand that under Part 5A of the *Crimes Act 1900*, that knowingly giving false or misleading information is a serious offence; and under Section 378C of the *Mining Act 1992* or Section 135 of the *Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991*, any person who provides information that the person knows to be false or misleading is guilty of an offence, for which they may be subject to prosecution.

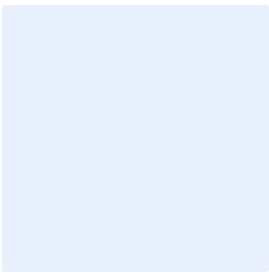
FORM

ESF4 Application to conduct exploration activities
for assessable prospecting operations

Declaration

Authority holder name			
Position/title			
Signature		Date	

Authority holder name			
Position/title			
Signature		Date	

Authority holder name			
Position/title			
Signature		Date	

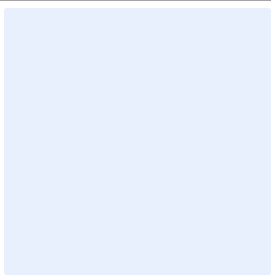
Or

FORM

ESF4 Application to conduct exploration activities
for assessable prospecting operations

Declaration by agent authorised to act for this authority holder

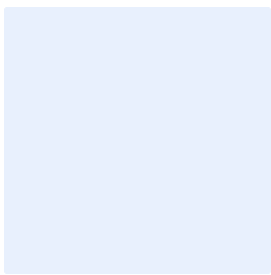
Provide evidence of appointment by the authority holder.

Authority holder name			
Position/title			
Signature		Date	

Office use only

Application received	
Time:	
Date:	

Received under delegation from the Secretary

Name:	
Signature	

Document control

Authorised by Director Compliance DOC19/936714

Amendment schedule		
Date	Version #	Amendment
01 March 2016	2.0	New template
06 March 2016	2.1	Hyperlinks updated, minor edits
19 July 2016	2.2	Repeated note from Page 2 "Requests for approval to prospect in a SCA" at Q5
12 September 2016	2.3	Updated links to legislation; updated Q7 & Q8 clarifying that an AIS is not required for CEAs; clarifying Q15 for non-CEAs; amending Q16 so that an RCE is not required for CEAs where rehabilitation liability is less than \$10,000.
29 September 2017	2.4	Updated Department name; Updated hyperlinks and reference to new <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> ; changed "Common Exploration Activity" references to "Complying Exploration Activity"; Q10.8 – referenced new NSW BioNet search; Q11.1 – included explanatory note re. drilling hole details; Q13.1 – added explanatory note and example text to assist with calculations; Q14.2 – added explanatory note to explain when Produced Water Code applies; Q17 – updated checklist to reflect changes to NSW BioNet search; Q18 – "Company Name" added to Agent declaration.
28 May 2018	2.5	Updated hyperlinks to SEED environmental mapping portal; update to legislative changes being: <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979</i> ; <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Coastal Management) 2018</i> , <i>Coastal Management Act 2016</i> and <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> .
4 November 2019	2.6	Amended to include notification of mine operator details and notifiable activities at the mine or petroleum site under the <i>Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Act 2013</i> . Additional guidance note regarding modifications of approved exploration activities.

FORM

ESF4 Application to conduct exploration activities for assessable prospecting operations

		Updated names of departments and Ministers. Updated section numbers.
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