

APO0001676

Approval to undertake assessable prospecting operations

Bald Hill 2024

22 April 2024

Application summary

Detail	Application
Reference	APO0001676
Date of approval	22 April 2024
Title	EL 5958 (1992)
Contact	[REDACTED]
Project name	Bald Hill 2024
Project location	28km west from Broken Hill
Activity type	Complying exploration activity

Important note

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Project

Project details

Assessable prospecting activity APO0001676 relates to the Bald Hill 2024 at 28km west from Broken Hill.

The project has the following approved characteristics.

Detail	Proposal
Activity description	<p>The 6 proposed angled DDH are located within an APO approval area, (attached maps, NE corner Lat and Long provided for each drillhole), to provide allowance should the drill sites be relocated due to accessibility. DD holes will be drilled to a depth of approx.200m holes may be deeper to chase mineralisation. Site preparation for the collar location will affect approx 20m x 10m for drill pads however will be minimal clean up with a front end loader by the landholder, with no additional clearing as the site is open. Above ground sumps will be used on the drill pad and water to be pumped to the proposed inground sump to be utilised as one central sump for all holes, with location to be determined with assistance of landholder, however approx. location shown on the location map. Drilling contractors will utilise above ground tanks for clean water and a one central inground sump for returned water and cuttings, which will be recycled as appropriate. Waste water and cuttings will pumped down the hill to the prepared sump due to the collar location being already in hard rock and excavation would be too difficult. The inground sump will be a maximum of 8m x 3m x 1.5m to contain all fluids and cuttings. One end of the sump will be ramped to allow ease of escape for any animals that may wander in. Existing farm tracks will be utilised where possible and limited sections of new track will be cleared of rocks with a front-end loader to allow access to sites around the Bald Hill area. It is anticipated that the surface disturbance will be minimal, with vegetation root stock left intact to allow for revegetation. Equipment will comprise a diamond drilling rig and support vehicles. A light vehicle will be used by the field technician and geologist. The drillhole will be backfilled and rehabilitated in accordance with the requirements of the Exploration Code of Practice – Rehabilitation.</p>

Detail	Proposal
Earthworks or vegetation clearing	Site prep for collars approx 20m x 10m for drill pads, total surface disturbance area of 1200m ² , minimal clean up with landholders frontend loader to remove rocks, if required vegetation eg grasses and saplings, due diligence undertaken to avoid unnecessary clearance, holes relocated if required. Earthworks for one 8m x 3m x 1.5m inground sump at the base of the hill. Different surface soils will be stockpiled separately. At completion of works, the sump will be allowed to dry out and material will be backfilled in the order that it was removed and left slightly mounded to allow for settling. Existing farm tracks and open paddocks to access drill sites will be utilised, sections of new track will be cleared of rocks with a frontend loader to allow access to sites around the Bald Hill area, approx total surface disturbance 1294 m ² for all new tracks. The location of tracks will be approved with landholder and not occur in riparian zones or 200m of waters. Tracks will be rehabilitated to ensure root stock revegetating, should compaction occur the tracks and drill pads will be scarified, final rehab in accordance with landholders requirements. At drill hole completion, PVC collars cut 1m below surface if required backhoe to dig around collar for ease of access, a square heavy concrete paver placed onto the PVC cap covering the entire hole and overlapping. The hole is then backfilled and compacted leaving small mound over the disturbed area. Ongoing monitoring.
Access to exploration activities	Access to the proposed drilling locations will utilise existing farm tracks and open paddocks, however track access to the drill pads around Bald Hill will require minimal surface disturbance with the landholders front end loader to remove rocks, should any vegetation (grasses, saplings) be removed the root stock will remain intact to enable revegetation. It is estimated the total surface disturbance will be 1294 m ² for all new tracks. The location of tracks will be approved with the landholder and not occur in riparian zones (40m of drainage lines) or 200m of waters.
Ancillary activities	No ancillary infrastructure will be left at site after conclusion of drilling operations. Accommodation will be in nearby shearers quarters or the nearest hotel/motel.
Anticipated start date	1 May 2024
Expected duration (weeks)	12 Weeks
Expected rehabilitation completion date	24 June 2025
Proposed hours of operation	Other 12hr shifts, 7 days a week
On-site employee or contractor numbers	6

Exempted areas

The Bald Hill 2024 has not proposed prospecting in an exempted area.

State conservation areas

The Bald Hill 2024 has not proposed prospecting in a State Conservation Area.

Site description and existing environment

The project comprises the following existing land uses:

The land is currently utilised for agricultural grazing purposes. The land use will not be changed during or after the proposed drilling works.

The project is located near the following sensitive receptors:

There are no homesteads located within this part of the tenement or within 5km. There are no further sensitive receptors nearby. Mount George is the closest homestead located approximately 5.2km south west from the proposed drilling area.

The project is located with the following soil types and properties:

There are no acid sulfate soils within this area. The proposed drilling area is entirely within soil types 7 from the Land and Soil Capability Classification, which is classified as extremely severe limitations. Due to the sensitivity of the soil, access and vehicle movement will be minimised where possible. Access tracks are already in place and further damage should be minimal. Close consultation with the landholder will be maintained throughout this program. Wind erosion will be assessed in consultation with the landholder prior to site access and mitigation measures considered.

The project has the following existing surface water sources in the area that are likely to be affected by the activity:

Surface water should not be affected by the proposed activities. The nearest named watercourse is Georges Creek located approximately 800m South of the proposed APO area. The drainage lines in the APO approval area are generally dry, with the area in general being arid with low and erratic rainfall. There are several drainages within the proposed drilling area, none of which will be affected by the drilling activities.

The project has the following existing groundwater sources that occur in the area that are likely to be affected by the activity:

The nearest registered groundwater bore is GW009784 located 2.7km southeast of the southern edge of the approval area, the groundwater bore was drilled to 18.30m in 1961 with no intersecting ground water data available. It is expected that the proposed work program would have no impact on local groundwater.

The project is in an area with the following topography, vegetation cover type, density and condition:

There is sparse vegetation within the proposed APO approval area, with minimal shrubs/trees occurring within drainage lines. Any areas of vegetation will be avoided, and no vegetation will be disturbed for this drilling program. There are several hills and ridges within this region, topography is both flat and hilly with occasional drainage channels that will be avoided for this program. Drill sites have been selected in level terrain to minimise the inclination of the drilling rig and avoid the need for excavations for drill pad stabilisation.

The project will impact the following matters of national environmental significance:

On the MNES search there are 18 listed Threatened species, 7 Listed Migratory Species and 12 listed marine species. Of the 18 Threatened species the Plains-wanderer and Curlew Sandpiper are both listed as critically endangered. The Curlew Sandpiper is classed as migratory wetlands which would not be affected at all by this proposed activity. The link in the MNES report states the Curlew Sandpiper, and Plains Wanderer species are endangered and not critical for NSW). The Curlew is migratory and if sighted will be reported to the Department for Environment. This species is not known to breed in Australia, therefore will not be at its most vulnerable if it is sighted. The 7 listed Migratory species and the 12 listed Marine species the curlew-sandpiper is the only species listed as critically endangered – however the link to these species differs stating for NSW, this is endangered. The curlew- sandpiper a migratory, wetland bird and the marine species listed which a predominately migratory birds will not be impacted as there are no wetlands located within the MNES search area, nor located close to the proposed drilling area. Areas of drilling are relatively open, and vegetation is not expected to be impacted, none of these species are anticipated to be of significant concern based on the temporary nature of the proposed works. There are no threatened ecological communities identified in the MNES search.

The project is in an area with the following threatened species, ecological communities (or habitats):

There are no listings of threatened species or ecological communities, or their habitats listed within the application area. The Land systems of Western NSW major range type is the Downs Country and Mulga (Map 2), no trees or vegetation will be disturbed or felled for the proposed drilling activities.

The project is in an area with the following historic cultural or natural heritage items:

There are no items of historic cultural or natural heritage listed within the searches performed for this proposed drilling program and as such no impact envisaged.

The project is in an area with the following critical habitat/area of outstanding biodiversity value:

There are no areas of critical habitat or areas of outstanding biodiversity value within the proposed drilling area.

The project is located in an area with the following location, type and distance to the nearest Aboriginal heritage sites:

There are no currently listed Aboriginal Sites noted within the proposed drilling area on the attached AHIMS search. All personnel onsite will be inducted and follow the aboriginal due diligence assessment, any aboriginal sites will be avoided, and no proposed activities will be within 200m of waters or within 40m of a riparian zone. A cultural heritage survey has been undertaken over the entire drilling area and all staff are aware of sensitivities in the area. Recently identified isolated Aboriginal sites have all been mapped and staff are aware of locations. Isolated single aboriginal artefacts are currently pending recognition with AHIMS. Corridors of potential impact identified from an independent survey are under review, however, these areas will not be impacted by the proposed drilling activities. Further surveys will be undertaken as required and all works undertaken in accordance with the survey outcomes. Should any new Aboriginal sites be discovered staff will inform management teams who will record the information on the AHIMS Mobile APP (which is Heritage NSW preferred method of recording), or by contacting the survey team already having been over this area. This site would then be avoided by placing a 30m buffer around it. Any concerns regarding new sites and working in the area will be raised directly with Heritage NSW on 02 9873 8500.

Exploration activities

The following exploration activities have been approved.

Drill holes

Id/ Regulator no.	Type	Surface disturbance (m²)	Veg. Clearing (m²)	Excavations (m³)	Produced water (ml)	Depth (m)	Block number	Unit letters
BHprop_04 EDH0014797	DDH drill hole	200				200	BRO3422	Y
BHprop_06 EDH0014799	DDH drill hole	200				200	BRO3422	Y
BHprop_02 EDH0014795	DDH drill hole	200				200	BRO3422	Y
BHprop_01 EDH0014794	DDH drill hole	200				200	BRO3422	Y
BHprop_03 EDH0014796	DDH drill hole	200				200	BRO3422	Y

Id/ Regulator no.	Type	Surface disturbance (m ²)	Veg. Clearing (m ²)	Excavations (m ³)	Produced water (ml)	Depth (m)	Block number	Unit letters
BHprop_0 5 EDH00147 98	DDH drill hole	200				200	BRO3422	Y

Other exploration activities

Id/ Regulator no.	Type	Surface disturbance (m ²)	Veg. Clearing (m ²)	Excavations (m ³)	Produced water (ml)	Block number	Unit letters
Sump EA0005107	Other drilling	100		36		BRO3422	Y
Tracks EA0005106	Access tracks	1,294				BRO3422	Y

Impact management

The project includes the following measures to manage surface water impacts:

Water storage will be contained and managed in above ground sumps on each drill pad and pumped to a central inground sump for all drill holes. Pumping from above ground sumps to inground sump will be via hose/poly pipe with connectors regularly checked for leaks. If required, above ground sumps will be emptied to a pod mounted on a vehicle to be transported and emptied to the inground sump. Location of in ground sump at bottom of hill will be determined based upon access suitability, in discussion with landholder and more than 40m away from surface drainage lines. The proposed location of the inground sump is defined on the attached maps. Drilling will not be undertaken in extreme wet weather and so surface water will not be affected by this drilling program.

The project includes the following measures to manage groundwater impacts:

The drilling method utilised will manage groundwater should it be encountered.

The project includes the following measures to manage waste and excess materials:

Waste products such as drill cuttings expected to be minor will be placed back down the hole, drill core to be moved from site to a Company storage facility at Broken Hill, any rubbish will be taken to the nearest appropriately licensed waste facility. The collar will be capped and area made safe with all rubbish and drilling equipment removed from site at end of drilling program. Waste water in the central inground sump will be allowed to dry out and material will be backfilled in the order that it was removed and left slightly mounded to allow for settling.

The project includes the following measures regarding the handling, use, storage and transportation of any chemicals and hydrocarbons:

Diesel fuel is the only anticipated hydrocarbon to be used on site. It will be transported to site in a dedicated diesel tank mounted on an auxiliary drill vehicle. Matting will be placed under the drill rig to catch any minor oil leaks. A spill kit will always be on site and minor spills will be cleaned up and waste material removed from site and disposed of at the nearest appropriately licensed waste facility. Biodegradable drilling muds to be utilised with the diamond drilling.

The project includes the following measures of how noise impacts will be managed to minimise impacts on nearby sensitive receptors:

Noise is not anticipated to be of concern with the proposed diamond drilling as this style of drilling does not generate excessive noise. Noise will only occur during daylight hours and landholders have been advised activity is planned and will be further notified once drilling commences.

The project includes the following measures to manage air quality impacts:

Air quality is not anticipated to be of concern with the drilling methods proposed. In addition, due to the location of the proposed drilling, it is not expected that air quality of sensitive receptors will be impacted.

Sensitivity of the land to be disturbed

Question	Yes/no
Conservation areas	
Land reserved under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> ?	No
Land acquired by the Minister under Part 11 of the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> ?	No
Land subject to a 'conservation agreement' under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> and/or the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> ?	No
Land declared as an aquatic reserve under the <i>Marine Estate Management Act 2014</i> ?	No
Land declared as a marine park under the <i>Marine Estate Management Act 2014</i> ?	No
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?	No
Land reserved or dedicated under the <i>Crown Lands Act 1989</i> / <i>Crown Lands Management Act 2016</i> (as applicable) for the preservation of flora, fauna, geological formations or other environmental protection purposes?	No
Land identified as wilderness or declared a wilderness area under the <i>Wilderness Act 1987</i> ?	No
Land subject to a Biobanking agreement (established under the now repealed <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i>) or a Biodiversity Stewardship agreement established under the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> ?	No
Land subject to a Wildlife Refuge agreement under the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> ?	No
Land subject to existing conservation agreements on private land under repealed legislation that continue to have effect (e.g. trust agreements under <i>Native Conservation Trust Act 2001</i> , Property vegetation plans under <i>Native Vegetation Act 2003</i> , Registered property agreements under <i>Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997</i>)?	No
Drinking water catchment protection areas	
Land declared to be a 'controlled area' or a 'special area' under the <i>Water NSW Act 2014</i> ?	No
Land declared to be a 'special area' under the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i> or <i>Hunter Water Act 1991</i> ?	No
Sensitive areas	
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> ?	No
Wetlands of international significance listed under the Ramsar Wetlands Convention?	No
Land designated as a nationally important wetland in the Directory of Important Wetlands?	No
Coastal wetlands mapped under <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021</i> ?	No
Littoral rainforests mapped under <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021</i> ?	No
Coastal zone as defined in the <i>Coastal Management Act 2016</i> ?	No

Question	Yes/no
Land identified in an environmental planning instrument as being of biodiversity/conservation significance or zoned for environmental conservation, protection and/or management?	No
Waterfront land defined under the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i> ?	No
Land with a slope greater than 18 degrees measured from the horizontal?	No
Land with potential for soil and water contamination	
Land mapped as Actual Acid Sulfate Soils (AASS) or Potential Acid Sulfate Soils (PASS) on the Acid Sulfate Soils Risk Maps for NSW?	No
Aboriginal protection areas	
Land identified in an environmental planning instrument (such as a State Environmental Planning Policy or Local Environment Plan) as being of Aboriginal cultural significance?	No
Land declared as an Aboriginal place under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> ?	No
Historic or natural heritage protection areas	
Land listed on the World Heritage List, National Heritage List or Commonwealth Heritage List?	No
Land, places, buildings or structures listed on the NSW State Heritage Register?	No
Land identified in an environmental planning instrument (such as a State Environmental Planning Policy or Local Environment Plan) as being of heritage significance or a heritage conservation area?	No
Critical industry clusters	
Land identified as Critical Industry Cluster under <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Resources and Energy) 2021</i> ?	No
Community land	
Public land classified as community land under the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> ?	No
Other areas	
Land identified on the authority (e.g. exploration licence or assessment lease) as environmentally sensitive land?	No
Ecology	
Will the activity have a significant effect on threatened species or their habitats?	No
Will the activity have a significant effect on threatened ecological communities or their habitats?	No
Will vegetation be removed as part of access track upgrade works in waterfront land?	No
Aboriginal and European heritage	
Will the activity harm Aboriginal objects as defined under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> ?	No
Will the activity damage any listed heritage items?	No

Attachment 1 – Statement of commitments

Item	Commitment
Activity type	<p>Exploration activity comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 diamond drill holes • 0 reverse circulation drill holes • 0 other drill holes • 0 cubic metres of bulk sampling • 1294 square metres of new access tracks • 0 lines of seismic testing • 0 square metres of air core drilling • 100 square metres of other drilling
Activity location	28km west from Broken Hill, within EL 5958 (1992).
Activity scope (including any ancillary activities)	<p>The 6 proposed angled DDH are located within an APO approval area, (attached maps, NE corner Lat and Long provided for each drillhole), to provide allowance should the drill sites be relocated due to accessibility. DD holes will be drilled to a depth of approx.200m holes may be deeper to chase mineralisation. Site preparation for the collar location will affect approx 20m x 10m for drill pads however will be minimal clean up with a front end loader by the landholder, with no additional clearing as the site is open. Above ground sumps will be used on the drill pad and water to be pumped to the proposed inground sump to be utilised as one central sump for all holes, with location to be determined with assistance of landholder, however approx. location shown on the location map. Drilling contractors will utilise above ground tanks for clean water and a one central inground sump for returned water and cuttings, which will be recycled as appropriate. Waste water and cuttings will pumped down the hill to the prepared sump due to the collar location being already in hard rock and excavation would be too difficult. The inground sump will be a maximum of 8m x 3m x 1.5m to contain all fluids and cuttings. One end of the sump will be ramped to allow ease of escape for any animals that may wander in. Existing farm tracks will be utilised where possible and limited sections of new track will be cleared of rocks with a front-end loader to allow access to sites around the Bald Hill area. It is anticipated that the surface disturbance will be minimal, with vegetation root stock left intact to allow for revegetation. Equipment will comprise a diamond drilling rig and support vehicles. A light vehicle will be used by the field technician and geologist. The drillhole will be backfilled and rehabilitated in accordance with the requirements of the Exploration Code of Practice – Rehabilitation.</p> <p>No ancillary infrastructure will be left at site after conclusion of drilling operations. Accommodation will be in nearby shearers quarters or the nearest hotel/motel.</p>
Hours of operation	Other 12hr shifts, 7 days a week
Expected duration (weeks)	12 Weeks
Anticipated start date	1 May 2024
Expected rehabilitation completion date	Estimated 24 June 2025
Maximum area of disturbance	2,594 square metres
Air quality	The title holder must implement all measures to prevent, so far as practicable, pollution caused by dust and other air pollutants.

Item	Commitment
Protection of water sources	<p>The title holder must implement all measures to prevent, so far as practicable, causing adverse impacts on water quality and quantity, including groundwater levels and pressure.</p> <p>Prior to the construction and use of any borehole, the holder of a coal prospecting title must prepare a Groundwater Monitoring and Modelling Plan in consultation with the Water Division of the NSW Department of Planning and Environment.</p>
Erosion, sediment and soil controls	<p>The title holder must implement all measures to prevent, so far as is practicable, causing any land degradation or pollution of land or water.</p> <p>The title holder must implement all practicable measures to prevent harm to the environment when disturbing land in areas of potential acid sulfate soils and actual acid sulfate soils.</p>
Noise and vibration	<p>The titleholder must implement all practicable noise management measures to ensure that noise levels meet acceptable noise criteria for sensitive receivers.</p> <p>Unless otherwise agreed with relevant landholders, the title holder must notify any potentially affected landholders at least 24 hours prior to detonating explosives.</p>
Use of chemicals, fuels and lubricants	<p>The titleholder must implement all measures to prevent, so far as is practicable, causing contamination of the environment by the release of chemicals, fuels, lubricants and other potential pollutants.</p> <p>The title holder must ensure that all chemicals, fuels and lubricants, excluding those contained within plant and equipment, are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> stored and handled in accordance with any relevant Safety Data Sheet and Australian Standards for the material, and stored in appropriate containers that are in good condition and labelled to clearly identify the stored product, and kept in a facility or area which is capable of containing at least 110% of the largest container capacity stored within that area. <p>The title holder must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ensure that adequate spill prevention and absorbent materials required to manage spills and leaks for all potential pollutants which are on site are readily available at all times, and use appropriate equipment and materials to capture any drips and spills which occur during the transfer of potential pollutants, and when carrying out maintenance of hydrocarbon filled plant and equipment.
Waste	<p>The titleholder must manage all waste in a manner which does not cause harm to the environment.</p>
Vegetation clearing and surface disturbance	<p>The title holder must minimise the extent of any vegetation clearing and surface disturbance to as low as practicable.</p> <p>The boundaries of any areas of vegetation clearing and surface disturbance must be demarcated.</p> <p>The title holder must implement all measures to prevent, so far as practicable, adverse impacts to fauna caused by vegetation clearing or surface disturbance.</p> <p>The title holder must inspect trees and canopy branches for fauna prior to felling or branch removal, and clearly demarcate any hollows or active bird nests.</p> <p>The title holder must not proceed with tree felling or branch removal until any resident fauna have been relocated by an ecologist or other competent party.</p>
Roads and tracks	<p>The title holder must consult with relevant landholders prior to establishing any new roads or tracks.</p>

Item	Commitment
	<p>The title holder must plan, design, construct, maintain and use roads and tracks in a manner which minimises the area and duration of disturbance to the environment and landholders to as low as practicable.</p> <p>The title holder must construct any crossings of rivers, permanent and intermittent water lands and wetlands to prevent, so far as practicable, impacts on fish habitats.</p> <p>The title holder must refrain from using any unsealed road or track during wet conditions to prevent damage to that road or track, unless the road or track has been designed and constructed for use in wet conditions, or the landholder expressly consented to the use of that road or track in wet conditions.</p> <p>Unless otherwise agreed with the relevant landholder, the title holder must repair all damage to existing roads and tracks resulting from exploration activities.</p>
Aboriginal and other cultural heritage	The titleholder must implement all measures to prevent, so far as practicable, harm to Aboriginal cultural heritage and non-indigenous cultural heritage.
Weeds, pest animals and diseases	The titleholder must implement all practicable measures to prevent the introduction and spread of weeds, pest animals and animal and plant diseases.
Livestock protection	The title holder must implement all measures to prevent, so far as practicable, causing adverse impacts to livestock.
Fire prevention	The title holder must implement all measures to prevent, as far as practicable, the ignition and spread of fire.
Rehabilitation commitments	The activity will be undertaken in accordance with the rehabilitation objectives and targets provided for this project.
Risk assessments	The title holder must monitor the risks associated with activities and, if the risk associated with an activity changes, implement revised environmental management controls.
Incident management	The NSW Resources Regulator will be notified of all incidents in accordance with the requirements of EL 5958 (1992).
Reporting	Reporting to the NSW Resources Regulator and Mining, Exploration and Geoscience – Department of Regional NSW will be in accordance with the legislation and conditions of EL 5958 (1992).
Codes of Practice	<p>Bald Hill 2024 will be operated in accordance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploration Code of Practice: Environmental Management Exploration Code of Practice: Rehabilitation
Other (as applicable)	1. No additional terms specified.

Attachment 2 – Definitions

To search for NSW legislation, visit www.legislation.nsw.gov.au. Commonwealth legislation can be found at www.legislation.gov.au.

Word	Definition
Aboriginal object	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> .
Aboriginal place	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> .
Acid Sulfate Soils	Sediments and soils containing iron sulfides which, when exposed to oxygen, generate sulfuric acid. Acid sulfate soils include actual acid sulfate soils (AASS) or potential acid sulfate soils (PASS).
Activity	Any activity carried out in connection with exploration, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the use of land means of accessing land the carrying out of a work.
Activity approval	An approval to carry out assessable prospecting operations granted under the <i>Mining Act 1992 / Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991</i> – as relevant.
Actual Acid Sulfate Soils (AASS)	Sediments and soils containing highly acidic soil horizons or layers resulting from the aeration of sediments and soils that are rich in iron sulfides, primarily sulphide.
Applicant	In relation to an exploration activity, the person proposing to carry out the exploration activity.
Aquatic reserve	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Marine Estate Management Act 2014</i> .
Areas of Outstanding Biodiversity Value (AOBVs)	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> . Note: Areas of declared critical habitat under the now repealed <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i> have become Areas of Outstanding Biodiversity Value (AOBVs) under the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> .
Assessable prospecting operation	Any prospecting operation that is not exempt development within the meaning of <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Resources and Energy) 2021</i> .
Clearing of vegetation	Any one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cutting down, felling, thinning, lopping, logging or removing vegetation, or killing, destroying, poisoning, ringbarking, uprooting or burning vegetation.
Complying exploration activities (CEA)	Exploration activities that are considered unlikely to significantly affect the environment as set out in <i>Exploration guideline: Application and assessment process for exploration activities</i> .
Critical habitat	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> . Areas of declared critical habitat under the now repealed <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i> have become Areas of Outstanding Biodiversity Value (AOBVs) under the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> .
Drill hole	A hole made by drilling or boring, but excludes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sampling and coring using handheld equipment petroleum wells.
Drilling	The perforation of the earth's surface crust by mechanical means to form a hole, whether the hole caused by the perforation is vertical, inclined or horizontal, and

Word	Definition
	includes all operations for preventing collapse of the sides of such hole or for preventing it from being filled with extraneous materials including water
Environment	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Mining Act 1992 / Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991</i> – as relevant.
Environmentally sensitive area of State significance	Has the same meaning as it has in <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Resources and Energy) 2021</i> .
Excavation	The removal of the surface layer to a depth greater than 500 mm from the natural surface level.
Exempt development	Has the same meaning as it has in <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Resources and Energy) 2021</i> .
Exploration	Has the same meaning as it has in <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Resources and Energy) 2021</i> .
Fauna	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> .
Groundwater	Water that occurs beneath the ground surface in the saturated zone.
Habitat	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> or the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> (as relevant).
Harm	<p>In relation to matters of national environmental significance, has the same meaning as 'significant impact' as provided by the 'Significant Impact Guidelines' used to determine whether assessment and approval is required under the <i>Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>.</p> <p>In relation to the environment, has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997</i>.</p> <p>In relation to threatened species or ecological communities, has the same meaning as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'harm an animal' in the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> • 'pick a native plant' in the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> • 'harm' in the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i>. <p>In relation to an aquifer or waterfront land, has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i>.</p> <p>In relation to Aboriginal places or Aboriginal objects has the same meaning as it has in the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>.</p> <p>In relation to items of heritage significance, has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Heritage Act 1977</i>.</p> <p>In relation to protected marine vegetation, has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i>.</p>
Items of heritage significance	<p>Means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • any heritage items listed in one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — the Commonwealth Heritage List — the World Heritage List — the National Heritage List — the State Heritage Register — an Environmental Planning Instrument

Word	Definition
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • any relic (being any deposit, object or material evidence which relates to the settlement of the area that comprises New South Wales, not being Aboriginal settlement, and which is 50 or more years old), or • within State Conservation Areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — items that are listed on the DECC Historic Heritage Information Management System, or — any deposit, object or material evidence relating to the settlement or occupation of New South Wales or a part of New South Wales (not being Aboriginal settlement or occupation) if the deposit, object or material evidence is more than 25 years old at the date of the interference or removal.
Land	<p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the sea or an arm of the sea • a bay, inlet, lagoon, lake or body of water, whether inland or not and whether tidal or non-tidal • a river, stream or watercourse, whether tidal or non-tidal, and • a building erected on the land
Marine vegetation	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> .
Matters of national environmental significance	'Matters of national environmental significance' protected under the <i>Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> .
Minister	The Minister administering the <i>Mining Act 1992 / Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991</i> – as relevant.
Native vegetation	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Local Land Services Act 2013</i> .
Potential acid sulphate soils (PASS)	Sediments and soils that contain iron sulfides or sulfidic material which have not been exposed to air and oxidised
Produced water	Any form of groundwater that is actively extracted from a borehole or excavation, excluding incidental groundwater mixed with drilling fluids.
Rehabilitation	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Mining Act 1992 / Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991</i> – as relevant.
Seismic survey	The use of shock waves (generated in the ground using either small explosive charges detonated below the surface, hand-held mechanical hammers or vehicle-mounted hammers) and an array of geophones, which are connected to measuring instruments, to differentiate the geophysical properties of the subsurface of the earth.
Sensitive receiver	<p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dwellings • libraries • educational and research institutions (including schools, colleges and universities) • childcare centres • kindergartens • hospitals, surgeries and other medical institutions • places of worship

Word	Definition
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • milking sheds and holding yards associated with dairies • animal boarding or training establishments • aquaculture • intensive livestock agriculture
Site	The land on which an activity is located.
State Conservation Area	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> .
Surface disturbance	Means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • disturbance or exposure of the soil or surface rock layer, or • degradation or deterioration in any manner of the physical surface of land.
Terms	In relation to activity approvals, the terms imposed by the decision-maker on the grant of an activity approval.
Threatened species or ecological communities	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> or <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> (as relevant).
Title	An authority under the <i>Mining Act 1992</i> / a title under the <i>Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991</i> – as relevant.
Titleholder	A person or company to whom a title has been issued.
Track	All unsealed routes that will be traversed multiple times, but does not include single pass (ingress and egress) routes or seismic shot and receiver lines.
Waste	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997</i> .
Water source	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i> .
Water land	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> .
Waterfront land	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i> .
Wetlands	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> .
Wilderness	Lands identified as wilderness under the <i>Wilderness Act 1987</i> .
Wilderness area	Lands (including subterranean lands) declared to be a wilderness area under the <i>Wilderness Act 1987</i> or the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> .

Attachment 3 – List of supporting documents

- 20240412 RIMFIRE EL5958 APO0001676 Bald Hill answers to queries.eml
 - APO0001676_DRAFT_12 Apr 2024 949am.pdf
 - APO0001676_Submission Report_19 Mar 2024 7:44am.pdf
 - image005.png
 - Map4_ Aquatic habitat species record search.png
 - Map5_ Historic cultural or natural heritage items.png
 - RIM EL5958 APO1676 Aboriginal Heritage.zip
 - RIM EL5958 APO1676 Protected Matters.zip
 - RIM EL5958 APO1676 Site Location and others.zip
 - RIM EL5958 APO1676 Threatened Species.zip
 - RIM EL5958 APO1676Proposed Drillsite Photos.zip

FORM: APO_C_Apvl v3.1