



MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES,  
ENVIRONMENT, AND HERITAGE

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Mr Neville Bergin  
Minemakers Australia Pty Ltd  
Level 2, 34 Colin Street  
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Mr Bergin

I refer to the Notice of Intent received on 17 March 2009 regarding the proposed development of the Wonarah Phosphate Mine, located 260km east of Tennant Creek for consideration under the NT *Environmental Assessment Act*.

Having given due consideration to the significance of the proposal, I have determined that the proposal warrants formal assessment under the *Environmental Assessment Act* at the level of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). I have come to this conclusion based on the following issues:

- the impacts of clearing 2700 hectares of land to flora and fauna as well as land and water quality degradation, and visual impacts;
- mining operations may result in topsoil and subsoil erosion with subsequent impacts on the future uses of impacted land;
- impacts of groundwater extraction on regional water levels and adjacent users;
- the leachate generating potential of waste rock and ore is unknown and waste rock and ore characterisation is required;
- downstream impacts to surface waters, including ephemeral lakes;
- impacts to road infrastructure and stakeholders with increased vehicle use on the Barkly Highway;
- air emissions, including dust and greenhouse gases;
- the challenges of successful rehabilitation; and
- potential impacts to archeological sites.

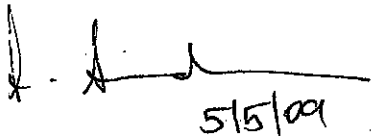
Draft guidelines setting out the matters that will need to be addressed in the EIS will be prepared and advertised for public comment for 14 days. I will then issue the Guidelines to you once they are finalised, taking into account any concerns raised during the exhibition period.



As there is some potential for species listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* to occur in the project area, I urge you to refer the project proposal to the federal Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts as soon as possible.

The contact for this project in the first instance is Mr Paul Purdon, A/Manager Environmental Assessment, Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport who can be contacted on telephone 8924 4070.

Yours sincerely



5/5/09

ALISON ANDERSON