Doc ID: EPR-03993

13 February 2026

Mr Greg Swain
Manager Exploration
FMG Resources Pty Ltd
Ground Floor, 256 St Georges Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

Via email: greg.swain@fortescue.com.au

Dear Mr. Swain

Notification of Approved Exploration Program for Environment Protection and Rehabilitation (EPEPR) Review

In reference to your time extension submission dated 30 January 2026, the EPEPR has been approved pursuant to section 70C(5) of the *Mining Act 1971* (the Mining Act).

The approved EPEPR will be made publicly available on the Mining Register and the Department for Energy and Mining (DEM) website. Details of the approved EPEPR are listed below.

Approval Granted to	**FMG Resources Pty Ltd**
Tenement Type & Number	Exploration Licence EL6650
Program Number	EPR-03993 review
EPEPR Description	EPEPR Review requesting a 12-month time extension to conduct RC and Diamond Drilling for IOCG-style mineral systems at Wilkatana.

You are reminded that you must always implement and comply with this approved EPEPR.

This approval does not constitute endorsement of the systems that you have in place to manage the mining operations in compliance with the *Mining Act*. Whilst your capability to undertake this activity has been considered in this approval, the responsibility for compliance with the Mining Act always remains with the tenement holder.

The legislative requirements associated with the EPEPR are outlined below, and certain requirements must be actioned prior to commencement of operations authorised by the EPEPR.

1	**Public Liability Insurance** Pursuant to Regulation 81 of the *Mining Regulations 2020* (the Mining Regulations), you are required to provide a copy of a certificate evidencing the insurance coverage over the tenement.
2	**Compliance Reporting**

	You are required to submit an annual exploration compliance report. The report is required to be submitted **within 2 months** after the anniversary of the date the licence/ease was granted, or in accordance with joint reporting requirements agreed to with the Minister. Please refer to the DEM website for more information on the reporting requirements. You are reminded that a separate compliance report is required **2 months** after the expiry or surrender of the EL.
3	**Work, Health and Safety Compliance** In accordance with Chapter 10 of the *Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012* (SA), you must meet the requirements for mine operators in South Australia, which include a notification for mining operations, the establishment of a Safety Management System, the identification of Principal Mining Hazards and development of a Principal Mining Hazard Management Plan. Further information on your responsibilities, including a guide to Chapter 10, and the Mine Operator Notification Form, is available on the SafeWork SA website.
4	**EPEPR Timeframe** The EPEPR Review is approved for a period of twelve months from the date of this letter. A further 3 months after expiry of the 12-month period is provided to complete all rehabilitation.

Please note, proposed changes to exploration operations stated in the approved EPEPR may require a EPEPR review to be submitted for assessment. Where a EPEPR review is required, implementation of the operational changes can only occur after the revised EPEPR is approved. Further information on when an exploration PEPR review is required can be found in Departmental guideline *MG22 Conducting mineral exploration.*

In addition to the requirements under the *Mining Act*, you are reminded that your operation will have other legislative requirements that you will need to comply with.

If you have any further queries, please contact DEM staff as below:

General enquiries	Cobus Martins Assessment Officer, Exploration Regulation DEM.exploration@sa.gov.au

Yours sincerely

Simon Constable
DIRECTOR, MINERALS REGULATION
In accordance with delegated powers and functions

The Department's Regulatory Guidelines, Ministerial Determinations and Information Sheets are available at: https://www.energymining.sa.gov.au/industry/minerals-and-mining/forms-legislation-and-guidance

Exploration PEPR - EPEPR | 12 Month PEPR Review

Reference Number: **EPR-03993** • Status: **Assessment**

Select Applicable PEPR

Is historical?

○ No ◉ Yes

Previous PEPR ID

EPEPR2023-037

Search PEPRs

—

Applicant and General Details

Applicant Details

Carolyn Grant

Full Name *

Carolyn Grant

Business Phone

Mobile Phone

0418 839 521

Email *

carolyn.grant@fortescue.com (mailto:carolyn.grant@fortescue.com)

Project Supervisor

Greg Swain
Peter Hill

General Details

Tenement Details *

Tenement Type	Tenement Name	Tenement Holder
Exploration Licence	EL 6650	FMG Resources Pty Ltd

Operating Company

FMG Resources Pty Ltd

If there is another Operating Company, please provide

Account Name	Entity Type	Registered Address	Registered Email

There are no records to display.

Project/prospect name

Wilkatana Prospect, Port Augusta Project

Mineral Model

The Wilkatana Prospect is located at the southern end of the Olympic Iron-Oxide Copper-Gold (IOCG) Province on the eastern margin of the Gawler Craton. The primary commodities sought by Fortescue are copper and gold as part of the IOCG-style mineral system akin to Olympic Dam, Prominent Hill, Carrapateena and Oak Dam West.

Primary Commodities *

Commodity Name ↑	Commodity Group	Grade
Copper	Exploration	
Gold	Exploration	

Secondary Commodities

Commodity Name ↑	Commodity Group	Grade

There are no records to display.

Project Description

The Wilkatana Prospect is located at the southern end of the Olympic Iron-Oxide Copper-Gold (IOCG) Province on the eastern margin of the Gawler Craton. The primary commodities sought by Fortescue are copper and gold as part of the IOCG-style mineral system akin to Olympic Dam, Prominent Hill, Carrapateena and Oak Dam West.
The Wilkatana Prospect is located on Exploration Licence EL6650 which is located approximately 35km north of Port Augusta, South Australia. Access is via the unsealed Warrakimbo Road and west through unsealed station tracks and Harris Crossing. Native Title is held by the Barngarla Aboriginal Corporation.

Proposed Project Schedule

Start Date

01/11/2025

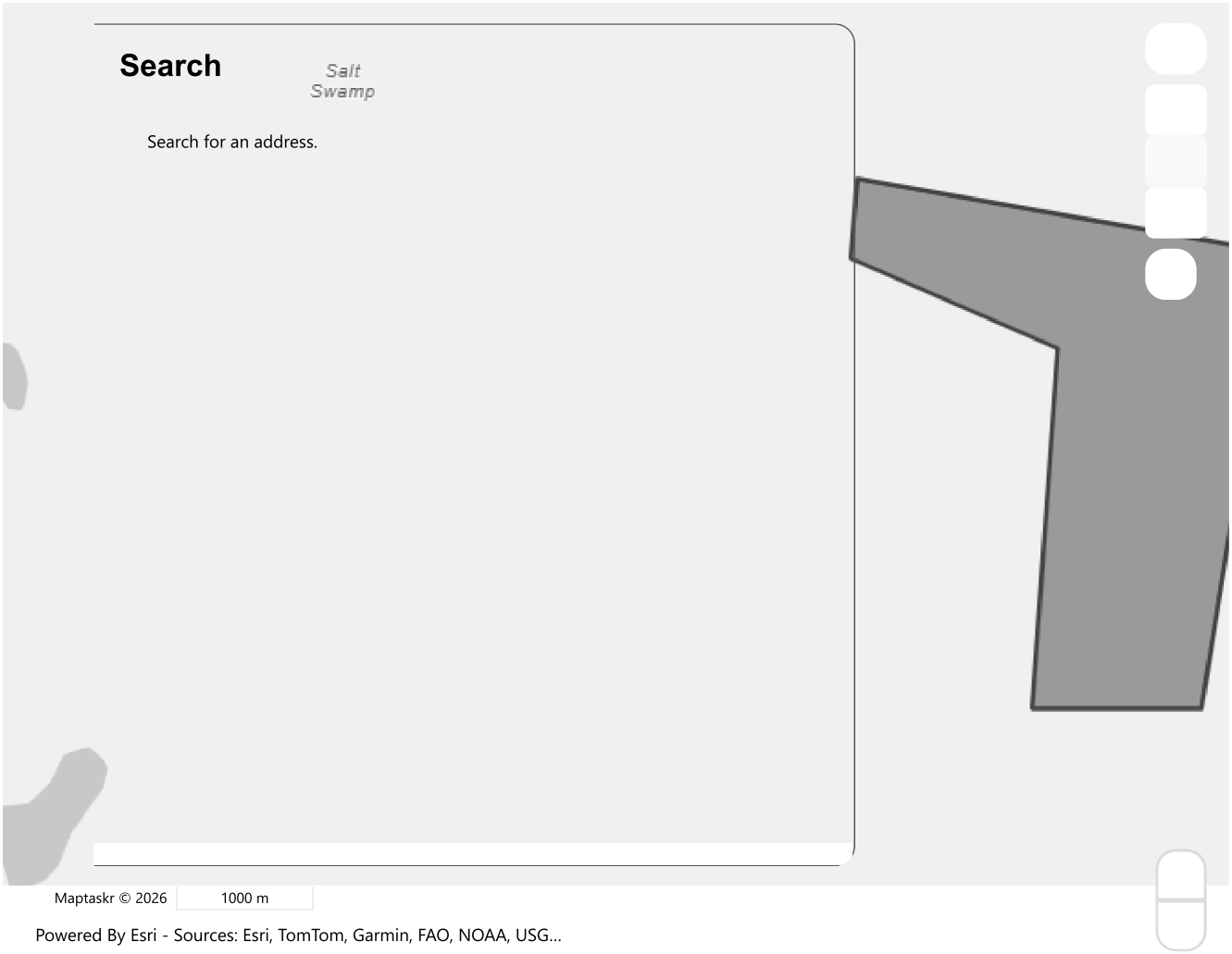
End date

31/10/2026

Clearly describe why a PEPR review is required, summarise all content changes made to the approved PEPR, and provide appropriate justification where a time extension is required.

EPEPR2023-037 was initially approved on 31 October 2023 for a 12 month term. No authorised operations were conducted on the tenement during the term, due to a heritage survey not yet being conducted. An extension request for a further 12 months was submitted on 15 October 2024, with notice of approval provided on 28 October 2024. No authorised operations have been conducted on the tenement during the current 12 month term, as a heritage survey is still pending, therefore a final 12 month extension request is now sought.

Identify Application Area



Map Layer Intersects

Application Area Details

Location Description

Wilkatana Station area approximately 35km north of Port Augusta

Area (Sqkm)

5.94

Spatial Data Intersects - Summary Table

Show 10 entries Search:

Spatial Layer Name	Category	Referral	Intersect Count
1:250K mapsheets	Other		1
Cadastral Parcels	Other		3
Determinations of Native Title	Other		1
Exploration licences (geothermal)	Other		1
Exploration licences (mineral/opal)	No-Go Area		1

Spatial Layer Name	Category	Referral	Intersect Count
Pastoral Lease Boundaries	Other		4

Showing 1 to 6 of 6 entries

Previous 1 Next

Spatial Data Intersects - Details Table

Show 10 entries

Search:

Spatial Layer Name	Shape	Primary Attribute	All Attributes	Category
1:250K mapsheets	Shape 1	PORT AUGUSTA	View attributes	Other
Cadastral Parcels	Shape 1	D47635QP4	View attributes	Other
Cadastral Parcels	Shape 1	H835200SE1597	View attributes	Other
Cadastral Parcels	Shape 1	H835200BL878	View attributes	Other
Determinations of Native Title	Shape 1	Barngarla Native Title Claim	View attributes	Other
Exploration licences (geothermal)	Shape 1	GEL 692	View attributes	Other
Exploration licences (mineral/opal)	Shape 1	EL 6650	View attributes	No-Go Area
Pastoral Lease Boundaries	Shape 1		View attributes	Other
Pastoral Lease Boundaries	Shape 1	HESSO	View attributes	Other
Pastoral Lease Boundaries	Shape 1	WILKATANA	View attributes	Other

Showing 1 to 10 of 11 entries

Previous 1 2 Next

Program Preparation

Work undertaken in preparing the proposal

In summary, preliminary exploration activities and work completed to prepare this proposal includes:
1. Desktop review of Open File historical drill exploration of the region, including 3D geological modelling
2. Assessment and modelling of Open File gravity and magnetic data
3. Acquisition of ground gravity under the terms of the Generic PEPR. Fortescue completed a detailed infill ground gravity survey at 500m x 500m and 250m x 250m spacing over 172km2 area.
4. Geophysical modelling of potential field data
5. Pastoralist and other stakeholder engagement and reconnaissance trips for environmental assessment and drill rig access
6. Notice of Entry to Wilkatana Station.
7. Consultation with the Barngarla Determination Aboriginal Corporation (Barngarla) (holders of Native Title) under the terms of a Native Title Mining Agreement. A Heritage Survey is pending.
8. Consultation with drill rig contractor (DDH1 Drilling) for rig depth, capacity, mobility over variable surfaces, sustainability for the type of program
9. Desktop GIS review of environment and groundwater, easements, dams, 'improved land', exempt land, locations of water pipelines, above ground and buried telecommunications, railways, power lines and other infrastructure.
10. Planning to drill a vertical hole to approximately 1500m at the Wilkatana prospect, 755777mE, 6437202mN GDA94 Zone 53, with option for a wedge from the parent hole. Up to two RC holes drilled within 20m of the planned RC/Diamond core hole will be drilled on the same pad as a temporary source of water for drilling activities.

Operator Capability

As specified in this PEPR, Fortescue is committed to upholding its program in a manner that ensures achievement of all of the environmental outcomes. Fortescue employs geologists and field staff in the Adelaide office who are dedicated to South Australian exploration, ensuring compliance and achieving environmental outcomes of this PEPR.
To achieve this, Fortescue has numerous documented procedures including, but not limited to, Drillhole Stabilisation and Site Rehabilitation, Rehabilitation Safe Work Instructions, Stakeholder Management Plans and Environmental Management Plans. Constant internal auditing of these procedures and guidelines to ensure that they are followed is carried out at every level of exploration activities.
Fortescue integrates the PEPRS with its own 'Land Use Certificate' which is used to manage land use and associated activities, including access, ground disturbance, construction and compliance activities (e.g. rehabilitation).

Fortescue has had ongoing relations and regular consultation with the relevant pastoralists, including face-to-face meetings, delivery of email updates and phone calls to update on planned activities and arranging site access.

Documents previously provided for reference:
- EX-PL-EN-0006_South Australia Exploration Activities – Environmental Management Plan
- FMG – Exploration Weed Hygiene – Vehicle Inspection Checklist – June 2020

Lease Conditions

NA

Land Access

Identify the Owners of Land and authority to access land

Land Title Reference	Plan Parcel Reference	Type of Land	Owner of Land ↑	Land Access Authorisation Method	Date of Form 21 or Agreement Signed	Instrument or Uploaded Document Id	Uncheck land not applicable to your application ar
CL 6180/595	D47635 QP4						Unchecked
CR 5769/170	H83520 0SE159 7						Unchecked
CL 6213/424	H83520 0BL878	Perpetual Lease	Andrew and Rachel Smart, Wilkatana Station (Wilkatana Pastoral Lease, Statione Number 1233)	Service of Notice of Entry	03/08/2023	Form 21B	Checked

Is any of the application area over a road, street or highway

No

Woomera Prohibited Area (WPA)

Will activities be conducted within the WPA

No

In which zone will activities be conducted?

Name	Are you intending to undertake work?	Closure start date	Closure end date

There are no records to display.

Does the tenement holder hold a valid and current Resource Exploration Permit under the WPA Rule?

—

Permit No.

—

What is the expiry date of the permit?

—

Does the Exploration Permit allow the operator to conduct exploration operations in the WPA?

—

Other Land Owned or Controlled by the Commonwealth Department of Defence

Indicate if you are intending to undertake exploration operations within the identified defence land

No

Other Commonwealth defence land

Defence Land	Applicable
There are no records to display.	

Do you have a Deed of Access with Defence?

—

Expiry date of the Deed of Access

—

Date the Range Control Officer granted permission to conduct the proposed exploration operations.

—

Describe the results of consultation and how any concerns raised were addressed

—

Native Title

Does 'Native Title land' exist within the application area?

Yes

Using the table below, describe how you have complied with the requirements of Part 9B of the Mining Act for each tenement.

Name of Determined / Claimant Group	Agreement Type	Instrument Number	Applicable
Barngarla Native Title Claim	Native Title	52233	Yes

Provide any additional relevant information

A heritage survey request was submitted to BDAC in September 2023. No ground disturbing work relating to this PEPR will commence prior to receiving full clearance approval and executed Aboriginal Heritage Clearance Survey Report by BDAC.

Should the drilling program proceed during 2026, new Form 21B notices will be sent to the landholders, due to the length of time since the original notices were submitted (September 2023)

Exempt Land

Exempt Land

Has Exempt land been identified?

No

If a "Waiver of Exemption" has been reached to waive the benefit of the exemption, a notice of the agreement must be given to the Mining Registrar, either within 21 days after the agreement was entered into or when an application for the mineral tenement is made under the Mining Act.

In the table below enter the relevant instrument numbers for any Form 23C - Notice of wavier of exemption provided to the Mining Registrar.*

Land Title	Plan Parcel	Owner of Land that has benefit of exemption ↑	Why is the land exempt land?	Waiver of exemption(s) been negotiated	Instrument Number or Uploaded Document Id
CL 6213/424	H835200 BL878	Andrew and Rachel Smart, Wilkatana Station (Wilkatana Pastoral Lease, Statione Number 1233)			

Consultation

Consultation

Stakeholder ↑	Land Use	Matters raised	Stakeholder concerns raised and how addressed
Andrew and Rachel Smart, Wilkatana Station (Wilkatana Pastoral Lease, Statione Number 1233)	Grazing	Nil	NA
Volt Geothermal	Other (e.g. historic mining)	None	NA

If any individual or group of similar affected persons were not able to be consulted, what steps were taken to consult with them?

NA

Provide any additional relevant information.

A Form 21B was served to Volt Geothermal Pty Ltd on 11/9/2023

Describe any council policies (or out of council) or development plans that may impact the program area and a description of any known plans for future land use changes by other parties.

NA

Description of Environment

Proximity to Infrastructure and Housing

Provide the following information:

The location of the Wilkatana target area is shown in Maps 1 & 2 with the planned drill hole to be sited at 755777mE, 6437202mN GDA94 Zone 53. The prospect is approximately 35km due north of Port Augusta. Wilkatana is ~ 17.6km west of Wilkatana Station and ~8.9km north of Nantilla Cottage (which comprises the nearest existing infrastructure). The primary access route is via the unsealed Warrakimbo Road and unsealed station tracks and Harris Crossing (see Map 1, Figure 1). Alternate access for light vehicles is through unsealed roads through Hesso, heading east toward Uro Bluff. There are no features that constitute Exempt Land under the Mining Act 1971.

Please refer to the attached document 'EPEPR2023-037 Extension request_EL6650' that was submitted in October 2024 and contains all maps and Figures referred to in this PEPR review.

Attach Files

Expand/Collapse

File Name	File Size (Mb)	Created On	Download
20241015_EPEPR2023-037 Extension request_EL6650.pdf	6.9 Mb	28-10-2025 15:19:49	Download (MERS/EPR-03993/Proximity to infrastructure/20241015_EPEPR2023-037 Extension request_EL6650_2025-10-28T04-49-51.425Z.pdf)

Landform, topography, soil and surface cover

Describe the topography and soil and surface cover (e.g. gibber) of the general area affected by the exploration program. Include details on the susceptibility to compaction, erosion, dust, runoff and visual attributes (steep or undulating slopes, plains, rocky outcrops, dunes, saltpans, claypans etc) any other characteristics (e.g. acid sulphate soils) that may require control strategies to reduce environmental impacts during operations or rehabilitation.

The Wilkatana area is in the “South Australian Arid Lands” Landscape Management Region (NatureMaps online). It is also classified as the “Yorkey” land system in the Pastoral Land System layer and is described as: “saline sand plain. Dunes of mulga, myall, or northern native pine over narrow-leaf hopbush and blackbush; swales of blackbush, slender glasswort and bladder saltbush; sandy flats of myall open woodland over blackbush, bladder and bitter saltbushes; salt pans and fringing samphire flats”. The area is also described with two major land cover classes (NatureMaps online). They are described as “Woody Native Vegetation generally >1m tall (eucalypt forests and woodlands, wattle shrublands, hop-bush shrublands)” and as “Non-woody Native Vegetation generally <1m tall (grasslands including herbs and chenopod shrublands)”.

The topography around the proposed drill site is undulating sand dunes and few rocky hills and gibber plains. The nearest drainage course is 600m to the east of the planned drill site. ‘McBain Dam’ is over 3.3 km from the planned drill site and is a non-functioning abandoned dam. The 100K scale topography map shows a 40m elevation contour sloping down toward the salt lake to the east where the drill site is located. The nearest hill is Bluff Point (217m AHD) approximately 8km to the northwest.

The area is in the “Gawler Ranges” Soil Conservation District (NatureMaps online GIS by Environment SA).
In the area of the planned drill site, the ground surface and soil comprise sub cropping boulders of quartzite and silcrete “gibber”, and red clayey silt (See Photo 1). Gibber plains generally respond well to vehicle movement and rehabilitation; however, the surface soil/silt may be susceptible to water erosion if disturbed or if the bluebush is cleared for the drill pad worksite. The surface slope is gradual to the east toward the salt lake so erosion and gullying could occur. The nearest station track lies 3km to the north and does not display evidence of gullying. It is evident by the vegetation overgrowth that the station tracks pond water after heavy or extended rains rather than erosional flowing; however, these tracks are on the flat plains rather than undulating hills.

Fortescue is aware of the gullying affects and will address this in the Rehabilitation and Access Routes sections in this PEPR.

Attach Files

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File Name	File Size (Mb)	Created On	Download
Figure 2_Landform and topography of the district.jpg	0.16 Mb	10-12-2025 08:36:37	Download (MERS/EPR-03993/Landform, topography/Figure 2_Landform and topography of the district_2025-12-09T22-06-39.573Z.jpg)

Surface Water

Will the proposed program interfere with surface water bodies and natural drainage (e.g. drainage lines, creeks, floodplains, wetlands)?

No

Describe the potential interference and surface water bodies and natural drainage on maps.

—

Indicate how you will avoid disturbance

There are no creeks in the vicinity of the proposed drillhole. New access tracks will not interfere with the water flow of the creek and have been designed to avoid creeks.

Is the program area located within water protection areas defined under the River Murray Act 2003?

No

Select the name(s) of protected water areas

Is the program area located within any prescribed watercourses or prescribed surface water areas under the Landscape?

No

Select the name(s) of the prescribed watercourses or prescribed surface water areas under the Landscape South Australia Act 2019.

Attach Files

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File Name	File Size (Mb)	Created On	Download
No Files Uploaded			

Name	Applicable
There are no records to display.	

Groundwater

Is groundwater likely to be intersected when conducting the exploration program?

Yes

Provide evidence or any supporting information demonstrating this.

—

Description of the localites/areas where different groundwater conditions may be encountered

The groundwater aquifer at the proposed drill site is classified as “Fractured Rock’ in Cambrian and Precambrian rocks – quartzite, sandstone, limestone, dolomite, slate, marble, siltstone, schist, and gneissic rocks.
In general, the bore data in the “Water Connect SA” online GIS of ware bore data shows there is a low flow of salty water. Few drillholes have been drilled in the area and of the 8 nearest to the proposed drill site, only two have recorded water flow and yields.
Bore 6433-20 (located ~9km N/NE of the proposed drill site) drilled to 44.8m depth has yielded a rate of 0.1l/sec and TDS 23,900mg/L in 1965. This is a low yield and very salty water from “Tertiary-Pleistocene rocks”.
Bore 6433-28 or “PUB-13” (located 11.8km W/NW of the proposed drill site; at Four Mile Dam) drilled to 86m has yielded 2l/sec and TDS 68,502mg/L in 1975. This is a low yield and hypersaline water. Both bores indicated water was intersected at <10m (See Map 3 for location of groundwater holes). This hole was drilled in a valley between Bluff Point and Uro Bluff and the shallow depth of water indicated the groundwater is in a Tertiary-Pleistocene basal gravel rather than the Neoproterozoic fractured rock.
The site of the proposed drillhole is only 600m west of the southern reaches of the salt lake, Lake Torrens, and its connection to the Spencer Gulf which will play a strong role in producing strongly saline to hypersaline groundwater.
Mineral hole PBD1/SABD1 was drilled by Carpentaria in 1985 and is the closest hole to the planned drill site (2.5 km to the north of planned hole). After drilling 2m of unconsolidated cover, the drill hole intersected Neoproterozoic quartzite, sandstone and shale to 749m depth and Beda Basalt to 803m depth (end of hole). In the geological logs (Env 6403, p32) groundwater flow was estimated to be over 10,000 litres/hour (over 2.5 l/sec) from 70-90m depth but this information is not in Waterconnect SA.

Add the different groundwater conditions for each localities/areas to the table below.

Name ↑	Formation age and/or stratigraphic unit	Stratigraphic intervals (depth range) (m)	Aquifer formation name	Aquifer Interval/thinkness (from-to) (m)	Aquifer Type	Aquifer salinity (TDS)	Depth to groundwater (m)	Comments
Bore 6433-20	Tertiary-Pleistocene	44	Tertiary-Pleistocene Rocks	44	Unconfined	0.1l/sec and TDS 23,900mg/L (Bore 6433-20)	70	0.1l/sec and TDS 23,900mg/L (Bore 6433-20)
Four Mile Dam	Tertiary-Pleistocene	86	Tertiary-Pleistocene Rocks	8m	Unconfined	68,502 mg/L	8	2l/sec and TDS 68,502mg/L (Bore 6433-28)
Mineral hole PBD1/SABD1	Fractured Basement	70	Neoproterozoic Corraberra Sandstone	70-90	Unconfined	Over 10000 l/hr (over 2.5l/sec),. (Mineral Hole PBD1/SABD1	70	Over 10000 l/hr (over 2.5l/sec),. (Mineral Hole PBD1/SABD1

Provide the environmental value of each aquifer present determined according to the current Environment Protection (Water Quality) Policy.

From the EPA website : “Clauses 10 and 11 of the Water Quality Policy states that a person must not discharge pollutants listed in Schedules 2 and 3 of the Policy into any waters. Furthermore, those pollutants known as Class 1 and listed in Schedule 2 must not be deposited onto land where they are likely to enter waters. The definition of waters includes the stormwater systems, groundwater, surface water and marine. This means that listed pollutants cannot be placed in a water system or on land where they may enter the water body or the stormwater system. Advice & assistance | EPA.“
The planned drilling will not emit any listed pollutants into any waters, including the Fractured Rock Aquifer. None of the additives that are mixed with drilling water are toxic or hazardous or classed as pollutants by the EPA.

Provide a description of the existence, location and value of all Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDE) within and immediately surrounding the project area

There is an aquatic ecosystem 600m to the west of the proposed drillhole. It is a moderate potential GDE – Wetland within the Lake Torrens-Mambray Coast. The geomorphology is described as “dissected sandstone plateau with bold east escarpment”.
See: GDE Atlas Home: Water Information: Bureau of Meteorology (bom.gov.au).

Is the proposed program located within a prescribed wells area?

No

Select the prescribed wells

Is the proposed program located within a prescribed water resource area?

No

Select the prescribed water resource areas

Provide any additional information

—

Attach Files

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File Name	File Size (Mb)	Created On	Download
GDE Atlas_EL6650.png	0.15 Mb	29-10-2025 11:02:39	Download (MERS/EPR-03993/Ground water/GDE Atlas_EL6650_2025-10-29T00-32-40.863Z.png)

Native Vegetation

Will you be working within areas of native vegetation?

Yes

Provide the following information:

At the site of the planned drill hole and within 2km, the cover is described in Nature Maps “SA Land Cover” layer as a mixture of two major land cover classes (NatureMaps online). They are described as “Woody Native Vegetation generally >1m tall (eucalypt forests and woodlands, wattle shrublands, hop-bush shrublands)” and as “Non-woody Native Vegetation generally <1m tall (grasslands including herbs and chenopod shrublands)”. To the east, toward the salt lake, the land cover is described as Natural Low Cover (very sparse native vegetation e.g. gibber plains, coastal dunes). Vegetation on the hills and gibber plain areas is predominantly bluebush and bladder saltbush (Atriplex spp.). Throughout the sand dunes, vegetation is predominantly sandhill wattle (Acacia ligulata), hopbush (Dodonaea attenuate) and native fuschia (Eremophila ssp).
See photos of site area
NatureMaps shows there are no native vegetation Heritage Agreements or Significant Environmental Benefit Areas at the site or within 5km of the planned drill site.

Indicate why you will not be working within areas of native vegetation?

—

Attach Files

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Fauna

Describe the native and feral fauna that may be present in the application area, including feral species.

The predominant native fauna within the area are kangaroos, emus, bird species and reptiles, which include shingleback lizards, blue-tongued skinks, and brown snakes. Feral fauna includes foxes, dingoes, goats, cats and rabbits. Other fauna from pastoral activities includes sheep and cattle.
EPBC Protected Matters report (generated online via https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/epbc/protected-matters-search-tool) for Threatened and Migratory species listed below in Significant Fauna Table, and refers to a Report extracted by a spatial search area centred over the planned drill site as shown in inserted screen shot below. The presence or not, of the species being in the exact search area is expressed as a probability and most of the species classify as ‘may’ or ‘likely’.

Significant Habitats, Flora & Fauna

Are there any significant habitats, flora and fauna within the project area?

Yes

Use the table below to list any significant habitats and any rare or endangered flora and fauna species located or reported to have been in the area that may be impacted by the proposed program. Include known sightings of listed species on a locality plan/map.

Species name/habitat	Common name	NPW Act Rating	EBPC Act Rating
Aphelocephala leucopsis	Southern Whiteface	Vulnerable (VU)	Vulnerable

Attach Files

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File Name	File Size (Mb)	Created On	Download
EPBC Protected Matters Report_EL6650.png	0.42 Mb	29-10-2025 11:04:36	Download (MERS/EPR-03993/Fauna/EPBC Protected Matters Report_EL6650_2025-10-29T00-34-37.465Z.png)
Significant fauna_1_EL6650.png	0.06 Mb	29-10-2025 11:08:16	Download (MERS/EPR-03993/Fauna/Significant fauna_1_EL6650_2025-10-29T00-38-17.499Z.png)
Significant fauna_2_EL6650.png	0.06 Mb	29-10-2025 11:08:16	Download (MERS/EPR-03993/Fauna/Significant fauna_2_EL6650_2025-10-29T00-38-17.455Z.png)

Weeds and Pathogens

Provide information of the extent the area is affected or potentially affected by weeds and pathogens (e.g. phytophthora; buffel grass Cenchrus ciliaris).

The average annual rainfall for the project area is too low for Phytophthora to exist and there are no occurrences within 100km.
Buffel Grass (Cenchrus ciliaris) has been identified as a major threat and it occurs across most of South Australia, particularly along major roads. This grass has not been reported in the vicinity of EL6650. Despite this, procedures will be taken to avoid the spread of Buffel Grass by the proposed exploration activities. The major dispersal mechanism is by the accidental transportation of seeds via seed bearing mud carried on and under dirty vehicles.
Site visits by Fortescue staff in August 2023 found localised occurrences of Opuntia cacti (Prickly Pear) during the drive into the Wilkatana project area off the existing tracks. As the occurrences do not lie on the tracks or are within the proposed drill sites or access tracks, there is little to no possibility of transfer by vehicles.
To prevent the spread of Buffel grass and weeds, all vehicles, trailers, equipment, and the boots of field staff will be checked and cleaned of any mud or organic matter when entering and leaving the project area. All vehicles (both Fortescue and drill contractor) will be washed down off-site with a record of this in the attached document: FMG - Exploration Weed Hygiene - Vehicle Inspection Checklist - June 2020.

Information from The South Australian Buffel Grass Strategic Plan 2019-2024 and Weed Control Handbook will be included in the Fortescue Site Induction process.

Attach Files

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Aboriginal Heritage

Describe the steps taken to identify Aboriginal heritage sites within the proposed area of exploration. Include a statement advising if an Aboriginal heritage survey has been conducted by the proponent and if so, the results of the survey.

A heritage survey has not yet been completed with the Barngarla. The results of the survey will be used to avoid any Aboriginal heritage sites and sensitive locations.

Environmentally Sensitive Locations

Indicate if you are intending to undertake exploration operations within the environmentally sensitive locations listed.

No

Name	Applicable
There are no records to display.	

Are you likely to impact on the environmentally sensitive area?

—

Detail the likely effects the proposed program may have.

—

Attach Files

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Exploration Operations

Equipment and Personnel requirements

Using the table below, describe the maximum composition of field crews (operator, contractors, and geologists) and proposed working hours/days for each type of activity.

Type of Personnel	Number	Name of contractor company (if applicable)
Geologists	2	Fortescue
Land access/environmental	1	Fortescue
Field assistants/technicians	2	Fortescue
Drilling Crew	6	DDH1 Drilling
Site Preparation and rehabilitation	1	Remote Civil and Construction, or other (under supervision by Fortescue)

Shifts worked per day	Hours worked per day	Days worked per week
2	24	7

Using the table below, describe the equipment (size, number and contractor details) required to conduct the proposed operations.

Name	Owner/Operator	Description/capacity	Activity/purpose
Drill rig	DDH1	20-30 tonne 8x8	RC/RAB Pre-collar, Diamond Tail
Booster truck	DDH1	20 tonne flatbed 8x8 support truck with mounted Air Compressor Booster	For RC precollar and drilling
Support trucks for drilling	DDH1	Up to three 10-20 tonne flatbed trucks including 8x8 support truck to transport drill rod sloops and 20,000L water tank on a hydraulic jack up platform.	Transporting drilling parts, consumables and supplies, drill rod sloop, water tank to drill site.
‘telehandler’ all terrain forklift	DDH1	5 to 7 tonnes total weight	For moving heavy gear at site (drill rods, water pumps, generators, unloading pallets of supplies from flatbed)
Toyota utes	DDH1 and Fortescue	Up to three 3 tonne utes	Personnel transport to site from accommodation, replenishing drilling consumables and supplies.
Front end loader	Earthmoving contractor	15-20 tonne front end loader	Digging drill fluid sumps, levelling drill pad and drillers workspace, and rehabilitating sumps and drill pad, clearing vegetation for tracks, rehabilitating tyre tracks, rehabilitating pastoral station tracks after de-mobilisation of drill trucks
Other ancillary equipment for the drilling activities will include:	DDH1	Up to three lighting plant on 5 ft trailers and powers generators Drill site supply humpy and drillers office caravan next to drill rig Trailer with RC drilling dust suppression unit and sample cyclone for RC precollar. Enclosed trailer for assorted gear Two 5000L polycarb above ground water tanks for management and mixing drill fluids Campsite: Up to three caravans (sleeping quarters for up to 6, kitchen and shower), a generator on a trailer and two 500L polycarb water tanks	Up to three lighting plant on 5 ft trailers and powers generators Drill site supply humpy and drillers office caravan next to drill rig Trailer with RC drilling dust suppression unit and sample cyclone for RC precollar. Enclosed trailer for assorted gear Two 5000L polycarb above ground water tanks for management and mixing drill fluids Campsite: Up to three caravans (sleeping quarters for up to 6, kitchen and shower), a generator on a trailer and two 500L polycarb water tanks

Low impact exploration activities

Will low impact exploration operations be conducted that are not covered by the Generic program for environment protection and rehabilitation – low impact mineral exploration in South Australia, (generic PEPR)?

No

Describe each type of low impact operations proposed.

—

Drilling Operations

Will exploration drilling Operations be conducted?

Yes

Fill out the below table

Tenement	Drilling Types	Maximum number of drillholes	Maximum drillhole depth (m)	Number of drill pads	Maximum number of sumps required at each site	Maximum size of sumps (lenght x depth x width)	Average size of each drill pad	Number of sites requiring pad excavation	Average volume of material to be excavated
EL 6650	Reverse Circulation with Diamond Tails	1	1,500.00	1	3	27.00	2,500.00	2	24.00
EL 6650	Reverse Circulation	1	250.00	0	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00

Other Drilling Method(s)

—

Drillsite preparation

If exploration drilling activities are proposed, describe the methods used to prepare sites, including vegetation clearance requirements, site levelling and digging of sumps.

Fortescue will demarcate the boundary of the Aboriginal heritage approved 50 x 50m drill pad areas with stakes and flagging prior to any drill site preparation.

The final positioning of drill pads will be optimised to minimise disturbance to existing soil and vegetation by using available natural clearings for parking of rig and support vehicles, sump excavation and RC sample work area. Vehicle access around drill sites will be delineated with wooden survey stakes and flagging tape to restrict vehicle movements to proposed drill pad and to proposed off-track access routes. In preparation and clearing of lower storey chenopod shrubland (e.g. bluebush, saltbush etc) for the drill site work area, care will be taken to leave roots in place and to not cut into the soil, i.e. The loader bucket/blade will skim over the ground surface (i.e. raise blade technique) to cut the vegetation and leave the soil in place. Any pruned or cut vegetation will be temporarily stockpiled for later redistribution over the ground to act as natural seed bank, soil windbreak and mulch.

Up to three 6m x 3m x 1.5m deep sumps will be excavated to contain drilling fluids. Sumps will have a ramp at one end to enable the exit of any potentially straying fauna and stock after the drill rig has left the site and before final rehabilitation can be completed. Bunting will be erected around the excavated sumps and will remain in place until site rehabilitation is completed. In the excavation of the sumps, the top 10-20cm layer of topsoil will be scraped aside and temporarily stockpiled adjacent to the sumps for later re-distribution over the backfilled sumps and re-contoured ground. Where the sump is lined with plastic, the plastic will be removed for final rehabilitation and disposed at the EPA approved Waste Management facility at the Port Augusta Resource Recovery Centre.

The proposed drill pad is on a relatively flat section of a small hill but there are parts of the hillslope that may need small excavations for truck levelling, depending on the final site (after heritage survey). Generally, the rig’s hydraulic legs will be used to level the rig, however it is possible that at the proposed drill site that the ground slope might exceed the rig’s safe levelling capacity. As such, the drill rig may need a levelled parking bay excavated into the slope of the ground to a maximum depth of approximately 0.3m. The RC Booster truck will also need a levelled parking bay. For two 20m x 4m parking bays to a maximum depth of 0.3m, the volume of material to be excavated is approximately 24m3 (for a wedge-shaped volume). As with sump excavation, the bays will be rehabilitated by backfilling and matching the pre-existing contour and redistributing stockpiled topsoil and any cleared vegetation/mulch or gibber. The final decision for the need of these parking bay excavations depends strongly on the final drill site approved by the Barngarla and then what the driller recommends in a pre-mobilisation site visit.

Drillhole construction and decommissioning

Drillhole construction and decommissioning

Construction of drillholes will be compliant with Information Sheet M21.
Step 1: Open hole 8-inch face-sampling RC drilling 0-18m or more depending on local ground conditions, which is then cased with joined 6m lengths of six-inch PVC pipe and grouted in to form the conductor casing.
Step 2. 5.5 inch Reverse Circulation Percussion ‘pre-collar’ to refusal which can be anywhere from 100 to >300m depth (depending on sample recovery and the rigs capacity to hold back groundwater from the sample).
Step 1 and 2 will be for the RC-only mineral exploration water hole and for the RC precollar to the diamond tail hole. The diamond tail for the mineral hole will continue with Steps 3-5 below.
Step 3: Insert HWT steel casing to base of RC pre-collar
Step 4: HQ Diamond core drilling to 400-500m depth, followed by NQ2 diamond core drilling to planned drill hole depth of 1500m.
Step 5. Optional wedge to parent hole: insert vanruth plugs 10m below wedge off depth (roughly 700m), Navi drill to desired dip and azimuth, then commence NQ2 coring to planned drill hole depth.
The HWT casing will not need cementing. The nearest other holes that were drilled into basement intersected Tapley Hill Formation that doesn’t host aquifers.
Note: Drilling will be straight into Neoproterozoic unconfined fractured rock aquifer. Confined pressurised aquifers have not historically occurred in these geological conditions in this region. There are no Tertiary or Permian basins in the vicinity of Wilkatana that usually host aquifers in other parts of the state. If, in the unlikely event a pressurised aquifer is encountered, a Class 3 licenced water driller can be sourced by DDH1 Drilling (drill contractor) to supervise required grouting operations. Salt and barium will be kept on site should the drilling fluid density require increasing to hold back any excessive confined aquifer flow.

Have the personnel responsible for implementing the proposed program read and understood the Earth Resources Information Sheet M21, Mineral exploration drillholes – general specifications for construction and backfilling?

Yes

Describe how drillholes will be constructed, including the casing material to be used, depth of casing, if the casing will be cemented, cementing intervals and the class of driller that will install the casing.

Refer above

When describing drillhole decommissioning requirements, include the materials to be used, stratigraphic intervals where cement plugs will be placed, if the casing will be removed and when decommissioning will occur after drilling is completed.

Upon completion of the hole (and after any downhole geophysics that may be required), the steel casing will be removed, and the hole will be abandoned in accordance with requirements outlined in M21. If more than one aquifer is encountered, cement grout plugs will be used to isolate aquifers, followed by drill cuttings or clay (or just completely grout the entire hole).
On departure of the rig from the site the PVC collar casing will be securely capped until the drill assay results of the drill core can be assessed, in case of the need to return to the drill site to re-enter the hole to continue diamond core drilling deeper or by wedging or for downhole geophysics or wireline logging.
For final rehabilitation the 6m PVC drill collar casing will be cut off below ground level (approx. 30cm). The RC drill cuttings will be used to backfill the hole as much as possible and then the hole will be capped and buried. For final rehabilitation the sumps, drill collar and the drill site ground surface will be smoothed and contoured to resemble the ground's pre-drilling surface form. The temporarily stockpiled topsoil will be redistributed over the drill collar and cleared parts of the drill pad.
The timing of final rehabilitation may be dependent on the results obtained from the drilling. Final rehabilitation will be completed prior to the expiry of the 12-Month PEPR.

Attach Files

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Costeans and bulk sample disposal pits

Will costeans/bulk sample disposal pits be required for the proposed program?

No

Tenement	Number of costeans/pits	Size of costean (length x width) (m2)	Average depth (m)	Volume excavated (m3)	Total Volume Excavated (m3)	Total area of disturbance
There are no records to display.						

Describe site preparation methods, vegetation clearance, and safety and maintenance requirements

No costeans or bulk sample disposal pits are required

Sample management

Describe the size of samples collected (including drilling samples and bulk sampling), collection methods, materials used when collecting the sample, sample disposal methods (including removal of sample bags), safety management and any other sample management requirements at the exploration site (e.g. tarps or matting used to contain cuttings). Include requirements for on-site geological sample management (splitting of archive samples, bag farms, core processing and storage).

Reverse Circulation Percussion (RC) Drilling:
For the RC pre-collar, a hessian groundsheet will be spread over the ground to contain the drill chips and dust. One to two kgs of representative drill chips will be collected every 1 m by the driller offsider who will place it on the hessian covered ground, in rows of 30, for geological logging and magnetic susceptibility measurements.
The drill chips from the mineral hole for temporary groundwater supply will be temporarily stockpiled next to the sumps ready for backfilling the hole and burial in the sumps on final rehabilitation.
Rehabilitation of drill cuttings will be completed as soon as practicable following completion of drilling and receipt of sample analysis results, with drill cuttings used to back-fill drill holes where possible. Excess drill cuttings will be buried in the drill sumps when they are sufficiently depleted of water and any spilt drill chips shovelled into the sump to leave the original red clayey silty soil at the surface.
No green sample bags will be used for the RC drilling and hence there will be no need for bag farms.

HQ and NQ Diamond Drilling:
All diamond core will be placed in core trays as the core is retrieved. Drill core will be orientated, metre marked and logged (both geological interpretation and petrophysical analysis) on site. Following this, the core will then be transported back to Fortescue's office/warehouse storage facility in Pt Augusta or Adelaide, and depending on intersected lithologies, selected core will be transported to Challenger Services in Adelaide for cutting, bagging and despatch to the assay laboratory. This ensures all drill sample will be removed from the drill site and from pastoralists property.

In accordance with MG18 Guidelines and Mining Regulations 2020, Section 16.4, all drilled diamond core and drill hole samples will be retained by Fortescue will be retained for the term of the tenement and 7 years after the expiry or surrender, primarily in their Port Augusta yard, and will be offered to the South Australian core library if it is deemed unrequired by senior Fortescue geologists.

Access routes to work areas

Will existing tracks require upgrading and/or maintenance?

Yes

Detail the work required to upgrade/maintain existing tracks.

Access to the Wilkatana drill site is via the unsealed Warrakimbo Road and west through Wilkatana Station on unsealed station tracks and the public Harris Crossing road. After a site inspection in August 2023 most of the existing station tracks do not require maintaining or upgrading, but after the drilling program is over it is possible that some parts of the station tracks may require some remedial work with bulldust being the most likely issue to address (watering down with water truck).

Existing station tracks south of "Kite Tanks" on the 250K topo map will need to be upgraded (See map 4 and Photo 3). This work will include upgrading the existing creek crossing at ~ 756300mE, 6440140mN (see Photo 3) This crossing will need to be smoothed to improve the entry and exit angles. No dams or blockages to the natural water flow will be built. Other parts of the track will need additional maintenance to improve accessibility for heavy equipment (e.g., sandy, or washed-out sections).
In clearing the lower storey (mixed sand dune-chenopod shrubland e.g. bluebush, saltbush, Eremophila, Dodonaea, wattle etc for the temporary access track, care will be taken to leave roots in place and to not cut into the soil, i.e. The loader bucket/blade will skim over the ground surface to cut the vegetation and leave the soil in place. Any pruned or cut vegetation will be temporarily stockpiled for later redistribution over the ground to act as natural seed bank, soil windbreak and mulch. In the parts of the track where there is gibber, the gibber will remain to protect the soil underneath.

Will access be required across adjoining tenements?

No

Detail the method(s) for gaining access, and if an agreement is in place with all stakeholders. Include the total area of disturbance required (i.e. length (km) and width (m) of tracks) and provide on a locality map.

A Native Title Mining Agreement with the Barngarla Determination Aboriginal Corporation is in place for EL6650, and a request for a heritage survey is currently pending. Form 21 Notice of Advanced Operations has previously been lodged with the stakeholders, however, if drilling does proceed, new Form 21Bs will be served, due to the time that has lapsed since the submission of the original notice.

Will access off existing tracks be required?

Yes

Detail the method(s) for gaining access and if vegetation clearance is required. Details of the total area of disturbance (includes drill traverses and seismic lines) required off existing tracks (i.e. length (km) and width (m) of new tracks) must be provided in the program notification.

Three new access tracks will be required to access the proposed drill site (See Figure 4, and Map 4). Two tracks will be connecting existing station tracks that total 1.53km and 0.90km (x5m width). It is anticipated that the new tracks will be formed by truck-rolling (i.e. having vehicles drive over the top of in-situ gibber and shrubs). Vehicles will then be required to re-use the newly established track, to avoid the unnecessary creation of multiple tracks. The third track is a new access track from the nearest existing station track at McBain Dam to the proposed drill site. The track will total 4.86km (x5m width). The access routes / tracks have been tentatively planned in preparation for Heritage Clearance surveying with the Barngarla. The route of the proposed new tracks has been optimised to use the least vegetated chenopod shrubland, will avoid steep sand dunes and creeks, and minimise potential for erosion. The estimated total length of new track required is 7,300m with a maximum width of 5m. Total area of disturbance is 36,450m2.
In clearing the lower storey (mixed sand dune-chenopod shrubland e.g. bluebush, saltbush, eremophila, dodonea, wattle etc) for the temporary access track, care will be taken to leave roots in place and to not cut into the soil, i.e. The loader bucket/blade will skim over the ground surface to cut the vegetation and leave the soil in place. Any pruned or cut vegetation will be temporarily stockpiled for later redistribution over the ground to act as natural seed bank, soil windbreak and mulch. In the parts of the track where there is gibber, the gibber will remain to protect the soil underneath. The new access tracks (both to the proposed drill site from McBain Dam and new tracks constructed to the north) will be likely prone to gullying and erosion by rainwater run-off. Drainage diversions along the new access tracks will be put in place to mitigate potential erosion, as well as leaving the protective gibber in place where it occurs.

For final rehabilitation of the drill site, campsite and access track, the track will be scarified and blocked from any vehicle use.

Attach Files

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File Name	File Size (Mb)	Created On	Download
Figure 4_Existing and proposed new tracks.png	0.39 Mb	28-10-2025 15:58:14	Download (MERS/EPR-03993/Access routes to work areas/Figure 4_Existing and proposed new tracks_2025-10-28T05-28-15.951Z.png)

File Name	File Size (Mb)	Created On	Download
Figure 5_Proposed exploration site.png	0.46 Mb	10-12-2025 14:16:47	Download (MERS/EPR-03993/Access routes to work areas/Figure 5_Proposed exploration site_2025-12-10T03-46-48.638Z.png)

Campsites and equipment laydown areas

Indicate where staff and contractors will be accommodated during the exploration program.

There are several options for accommodation for Fortescue staff. These include staying in Port Augusta, the Wilkatana Station Shearer's Quarters, or a caravan camp on the same campsite for the drillers. This is yet to be determined.
The DDH1 drill crew will camp in an area about 350m NW of the drill pad in a cleared area for the caravans, generator, and vehicles.
Refer Figure 5 that has been uploaded in the section above, showing the proposed exploration site, including P1 Camp + laydown site.

What is the maximum number of personnel requiring accommodation?

6

Is a campsite required to be established?

Yes

Provide a description and justification of the camp location (e.g. previously cleared areas etc.), and any other relevant information.

The DDH1 drill crew will camp in an area about 350m northwest of the drill pad in a cleared area for the caravans, generator, and vehicles.
The cleared area for the temporary camp will be up to 50 m x 50m and will adjoin an area up to 50m x 50m set aside for the laydown (see below). The campsite and laydown area will use the temporary drill site access track. The area for the camp location is atop a hill with rock and gibber and is vegetated by low chenopod shrubland. An area up to 50m x 50m will be used for the campsite (see Figure 5). The actual campsite and the laydown area will likely only be 20m x 50m, but a larger area will be cleared by Aboriginal Heritage as a buffer for turning circles or the need for Fortescue employees to camp on the same site as the drill crew.

What will be the total area (ha) of the campsite(s)?

0.25

Will native vegetation clearance be required?

Yes

What will be the total area (ha) of vegetation clearance for the campsite?

0.25

Describe the methods used to prepare the campsite includuing vegetation requirements and site levelling.

An area up to 50m x 50m will be used for the campsite (see Figure 5). The actual campsite and the laydown area will likely only be 20m x 50m, but a larger area will be cleared by Aboriginal Heritage as a buffer for turning circles or the need for Fortescue employees to camp on the same site as the drill crew. The camp pad will be prepared at the same time and in the same manner as the drill pad preparation, with maximising the use of naturally clear ground, avoiding all trees. Up to 0.25ha of lower storey (chenopod shrubland e.g., bluebush, saltbush etc) may be affected, however care will be taken to leave roots in place and to not cut into the soil, i.e. The front-end loader bucket/blade will skim over the ground surface to cut the vegetation and leave the soil in place. Any pruned or cut vegetation will be temporarily stockpiled around the margin of the camp area for later redistribution over the ground to act as natural seed bank, soil windbreak and mulch. For the grey water soakage pit the ground will be trimmed of chenopod scrub, 10-20cm of topsoil temporarily moved and stockpiled close to the sump (for later redistribution over the backfilled sump).

Will any excavations be required?

Yes

Describe the purpose of the excavation

A fenced 3m x 3m x 1.5m soakage pit will be excavated for grey water (shower and kitchen). Beneath the surficial clayey silt is calcrete which will be a suitably porous substrate for the greywater to soak into.

Describe the maximum volume (m3) of material to be excavated.

13.50

Provide confirmation that the proposed ablution facilities have been endorsed for use by the Department of Health or local council, where applicable.

Yes

Indicate why endorsement approval is not required by the Department of Health or local council.

—

Proposed infrastructure (includes caravans, tents, offices, hydrocarbon and water storage requirements etc)

Proposed infrastructure	Quantity	Description / capacity
Explorex self-contained caravan	3	4-6 people with beds, shower and kitchen
Portable chemical toilet	2	There will be a portable Chemical Toilet on site which will be emptied once a week by a contractor from Pt Augusta.
Diesel generator on bunded skid	1	as per above
Water tank	1	For use at the drillers' campsite

Will laydown areas be required?

Yes

Will the laydown area(s) be located at the same location as the campsite?

Yes

Provide a description and justification of the location (e.g. previously cleared areas), and any other relevant information if required.

The proposed laydown area will be adjacent to the proposed camp location - both sites will be assessed during the heritage survey

In the event there is information missing from some of the fields below, please refer to the attached EPEPR extension request document for further details on excavation requirements for the laydown area, as these details have been added into this PEPR Review three times and have disappeared after saving the document.

What will be the maximum area (ha) required for the laydown area(s)?

0.25

Will native vegetation clearance be required?

Yes

What will be the total area (ha) of vegetation clearance for the site?

0.25

Describe the methods used to prepare the laydown area includuing vegetation requirements and site levelling.

Methods for preparation and rehabilitation of the laydown area is the same as for the campsite and the drill pad. A 50m x 50m area will be cleared during the Heritage Clearance survey with the Barngarla for the laydown; however, the cleared area will likely only be ~20m x 50m (see Figure 5 above). The laydown will be prepared at the same time and in the same manner as the drill pad preparation, with maximising the use of naturally clear ground, avoiding all trees. Up to 0.25ha of lower storey (chenopod shrubland e.g., bluebush, saltbush etc) may be affected, and care will be taken to leave roots in place and to not cut into the soil, i.e. The front-end loader bucket/blade will skim over the ground surface to cut the vegetation and leave the soil in place. Any pruned or cut vegetation will be temporarily stockpiled around the margin of the camp area for later redistribution over the ground to act as natural seed bank, soil windbreak and mulch.

Will any excavations be required?

No

Describe the purpose of the excavation.

—

What will be the volume (m3) of material to be excavated.

—

Proposed infrastructure (includes hydrocarbon and water storage requirements)

Proposed infrastructure	Quantity	Description / capacity
Essential on-site drilling equipment	1	All essential on-site drilling equipment will be contained within the cleared laydown area. All non-essential drilling equipment will be located at Fortescue's storage yard in Port Augusta.

Attach Files

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Other exploration methods and/or ancillary operations

Are any other proposed exploration methods (e.g. seismic) and/or ancillary exploration operations required?

No

Describe the activity(s), site preparation, vegetation clearance, and safety and maintenance requirements.

—

Water supply and management

Will camp and/or drilling water be required?

Yes

Describe how and where water will be sourced for drilling, track maintenance and camping purposes (e.g. groundwater, surface water, mains). Indicate how wastewater and/or runoff water will be managed.

A separate mineral drillhole drilled within 20 metres of the main percussion-diamond core hole (within the proposed drill pad) will be used as a water source for the diamond drilling activities. Using the salty water from the unconfined fracture rock aquifer mitigates against having to source water from pastoral dams, bores, or other existing fresh water that the pastoral station uses for their own purposes. This process also mitigates against the need for water carting and subsequent track degradation. Water from the hole will be pumped directly into the sumps or into the mixing polycarb tanks. An extra 10,000 to 15,000L water tank will be kept at the drill site either in polycarb tanks or in a 20,000L tank on a hydraulic powered flatbed truck platform. In case of temporary water supply problems, there will be the option for carting water into the drill site by the driller's water truck or by a separate water carting contractor and to be placed directly into the drill sumps and mixing polycarb tanks.

The drillers campsite will need approximately 1000 litres per day and will be carted to the campsite and stored in polycarb tanks or on a tank on a hydraulic powered flatbed truck platform. The water can be purchased from Pt Augusta Council, or from a water carting contractor or obtained from Fortescue's yard in Pt Augusta.

Will surface water and/or mineral drillholes be used as a water source/supply?

No

Indicate if a licence for water extraction/usage is required (refer to relevant Natural Resources Management water allocation plan available on the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) website.

—

Attach a copy of the licence or include a statement confirming that a licence will be obtained before the extraction and/or usage of water.

—

Groundwater investigation and water affecting activities

Will any water investigation (e.g. pump testing, water monitoring sites, water storage, turkey nests/dams) and/or water affecting activities, be undertaken (refer to s. 127 of the Landscape South Australia Act 2019)?

No

Describe the water investigation and/or water affecting activities, including site preparation, vegetation clearance, and safety and maintenance requirements.

—

Indicate if water affecting activities permits (eg well and water extraction/discharge permits) have been obtained and in accordance with the Landscape South Australia Act 2019.

—

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Management of hazardous materials

Will activities be conducted in areas of known uranium and thorium mineralisation?

No

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File Name	File Size (Mb)	Created On	Download
No Files Uploaded			

Will any other hazardous material be encountered when exploring in the area?

No

List the types of hazardous materials and provide a management plan on how these materials will be managed.

—

Rehabilitation

Detail all the activities and strategies relating to the remediation of all impacts associated with the proposed exploration operations (includes exploration camps and laydown areas, tracks). Completion of rehabilitation must be achieved within 3 months after the expiry of each program notification.

Fortescue is committed to ensuring proactive rehabilitation practises are maintained to meet Department for Energy and Mining (DEM) requirements, and associated tenement conditions, under the Mining Act 1971 (SA). The method of rehabilitation for the exploration works proposed in this EPEPR are detailed in the Drill Hole Stabilisation and Site Rehabilitation Procedure attached in the appendix.

Specific to the works at the Wilkatana Prospect, the following rehabilitation procedures will be met:
Immediately Post Drilling when rig leaves the site:

- Insert a PVC Collar into drillhole that protrudes a maximum of 0.3m above ground level (if collar PVC casing stops below surface level) and backfill any collar blow-outs or collar perimeter cavities.
- Place (glue or teck screwed) a temporary cap on PVC collars. Plugging drillholes is crucial to prevent animals falling into the hole and to stop potential surface water (from heavy rains) draining into it and causing collar collapse and widening of the hole at the surface.
- After each drillhole is collared and capped, collect, and remove all rubbish and drillers equipment from the site.
- Ensure capped drill collar cannot act as a pitfall trap to animals.

Upon completion of the Drilling Program, where no further downhole geophysics, wireline logging or re-entering of holes is required:

- Cut and remove the PVC collar to 50cm below the ground surface level, as described in Information Sheet M21.
- Backfill the hole with RC chips as much as possible.
- Securely block the cut PVC with a pvc cap and backfill the hole.
- Mound over the backfilled hole with soil, preferably of a low permeable nature to facilitate water shedding.
- Remove all casing foam and rubbish from around the collar.
- Relocate RC chips to a heap next to the sumps in preparation for dumping in the sumps when they've dried.
- Remove the hessian tarp for the RC chips and scoop up any drill chips or dust to the heap next to the sump.
- Dispose of rubbish, including PVC collar, in the Pt Augusta Resource Recovery Centre waste facility.

Final rehabilitation, once the target area site is no longer required for future works or access, final rehab of drill site, temporary access track and campsite:

- Remove temporary fencing from around drill sumps and grey water sump at the campsite.
- Remove plastic liners from drill sumps. Backfill to the surface with stockpiled RC chips and stockpiled excavated material and backfill greywater campsite sump.
- dispose of sump liner at the Pt Augusta Resource Recovery Centre waste facility.
- For final rehabilitation the sumps and the drill collar and the drill site and campsite, the ground surface will be smoothed and contoured to resemble the ground's pre-drilling surface form, consistent with the surrounding natural landscape and provides for successful revegetation and reduces the potential for excessive erosion.
- Scarify compacted areas (e.g., drill pads and tracks and campsite) to loosen compacted soil, promote vegetation regrowth and ensure draining and contours are adequate. Scarify on the contour where the compacted area is in a sloping landscape to avoid erosion gullying. Where contour scarification is not possible, scarify against the contour but periodically raise the tynes of the machinery to provide some resistance to downhill surface water flow.
- The temporarily stockpiled topsoil will be redistributed over the drill collar and cleared parts of the drill pad and the campsite.
- Flatten windrows, lightly scarify compacted temporary access tracks, and redistribute cleared vegetation over track to act as natural seed bank, soil windbreak and mulch. For final rehab of the drill site, campsite and access track, the track will be blocked from any vehicle use. Block access to rehabilitated tracks to prevent vehicle use and to allow vegetation to establish.

Post exploration drilling activities, Fortescue will continue to monitor the rehabilitation.

State the estimated budget required to rehabilitate all impacted sitesState the estimated budget required to rehabilitate all impacted sites. Include a breakdown of the cost associated with each rehabilitation component

Proposed budget for rehabilitation works is approximately $12,500 and includes salaries for Fortescue personnel required to monitor and report on rehabilitation works as well as payments to the pastoral lease station or contractor for earthworks on behalf of Fortescue.

A bond of $10,000 was paid on 4 December 2023 and has been registered on the Mining Register.

Vegetation Clearance

Will any area of cleared native vegetation be unrehabilitated after the authorised period?

No

Provide a map and description of the vegetation present in the application area, the extent of any proposed vegetation clearance and the likelihood of the presence of threatened flora.

—

State the estimated quantum of significant environmental benefit (SEB) to be gained in exchange for the proposed native vegetation clearance and describe how the SEB will be provided.

—

System

Tenement Name ↑	Tenement Holder	Tenement Operators	Grant Date	Expiry Date	Tenement Type	Location Description	Tenement Area	Tenement Status	Shape Identifier
EL 6650	FMG Resources Pty Ltd		02/09/2021	01/09/2027	Exploration Licence	Wilkatana Station area approximately 35km north of Port Augusta	232.00	Active	10013057-0000

Management of Environmental Impacts

Applicable environmental aspects and potential impacts

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
Aboriginal heritage	Aboriginal heritage sites	Disturbance to Aboriginal heritage	Fortescue is aware of its obligations under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988 which protects all Aboriginal sites, objects, and remains. The Company acknowledges that under this Act, it is an offence to damage, disturb or interfere with an Aboriginal site, object, or remains. The Native Title Mining Agreement for Exploration includes the requirement for heritage survey clearances prior to ground disturbing work. A heritage clearance with the Barngarla will demarcate areas to be avoided. Heritage sites identified during the clearance survey process will be flagged in the field and avoided. Personnel will be notified of any heritage sites during the induction process, on maps, and at toolbox meetings, etc. All vehicle movements will be limited to existing station tracks and Barngarla approved site access routes. Fortescue has consulted with Barngarla for an Aboriginal Heritage approval for the proposed exploration drilling program.	Mod erate	No disturbance to Aboriginal artefacts or sites of significanc e unless prior approval under the relevant legislation is obtained.	Maintain a database and provide a statement within the ‘Compliance with approved programs’ section of the annual exploration compliance report demonstrating that: • Heritage sites were not impacted during the conduct of the exploration program, unless prior approval was obtained under the appropriate legislation • Work ceased on discovery of a significant site and recommenced only after authorisation. • Aboriginal heritage sites identified during the exploration program were appropriately recorded and reported to authorities, if not previously known.

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
Contamination	Soil/vegetation/fauna	Soil/vegetation contamination (e.g. hydrocarbons, rubbish, drill samples/cuttings, ablutions, other sources)	All general and non-degradable waste generated by the drilling program waste will be removed from site and disposed of at the EPA approved Waste Management facility at the Port Augusta Resource Recovery Centre. Hydrocarbon and chemical wastes (including oily water) will be segregated from the general waste and removed offsite to be disposed of at the EPA approved Waste Management facility at the Port Augusta Resource Recovery Centre. To mitigate against higher risk sources of hydrocarbon contamination and spills, plastic bunding will be placed under major drilling equipment such as the drill rig, rod handling equipment and generators. Any fuel/oil supply stations will be located on containment spill bunds. Spill kits will be on site. All waste will be managed and disposed of in accordance with Fortescue's EMP (EX-PL-EN-0006).	Low	No contamination of soil and vegetation as a result of exploration activities.	Demonstrate that all domestic or industrial waste (includes general rubbish and hydrocarbons) is disposed of in accordance with the Environment Protection Act 1993 within 3 months of the expiry of the PEPR approval (for PEPRs approved for a period of 12 months), or 3 months after the expiry of a program notification (for PEPRs approved for an ongoing period), and that all fuel and chemicals are stored in accordance with EPA requirements, by providing: • The name, location and contact details of the authorised waste disposal facility. • A statement within the 'Compliance with approved programs' section of the annual exploration compliance report confirming domestic and industrial waste was removed from all exploration sites and disposed of at an authorised waste disposal facility. • Photographic evidence within the annual exploration compliance report demonstrating that all fuel and chemical storage facilities were managed in accordance with EPA requirements. Maintain photographs of all exploration sites and provide representative photos within the annual exploration compliance report demonstrating that drill cuttings are: • removed from site and disposed of at a licensed facility • buried under a minimum of 30 cm of soil, or in accordance with EPA guideline, Radiation protection guidelines on mining in South Australia: mineral exploration, available on the EPA website, or • backfilled down the drillhole, within 3 months of the expiry of the PEPR approval (for PEPRs approved for a period of 12 months), or 3 months after the expiry of a program notification (for PEPRs approved for an ongoing period), unless otherwise authorised. Provide the information requested within the 'Rehabilitation' section of the annual exploration compliance report.

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
Fauna	All fauna	Entrapment of fauna through open drillholes and excavations.	Three (3) 6m x 3m x1.5m deep sumps will be constructed at the drill site to contain diamond drilling fluids, and one unlined greywater sump will be excavated at the driller's campsite. The sumps will be barricaded with bunting or fenced immediately after construction. The sumps will a ramp at one end to permit exit of native fauna and stock in the event of breaching the erected bunting/fencing. Bunting or temporary fencing will remain around the sumps until the sumps have dried out enough to allow rehabilitation (removal of sump liner and backfilling). Upon completion of the drillholes, abandonment procedures will be compliant with specifications documented within Information Sheet M21. Initially, PVC collar casing and/or cemented casing will remain in the hole and collars initially capped, pending assay results to allow for later geophysical logging or further drilling. Upon final hole abandonment, holes will have any casing cut off below ground level, backfilled and then capped to prevent cave in. Sumps will be backfilled with excavated material and then original topsoil and vegetation matter	Low	No fauna traps created as a result of exploration activities.	Maintain before, during and after photographic evidence of all drillholes and/or excavations demonstrating that: • All drillholes were permanently or temporarily capped/plugged immediately upon completion. • No fauna and livestock became trapped in drillholes and/or excavations throughout the duration of the program. • All rehabilitation was completed within 3 months of expiry of the PEPR approval (for PEPRs approved for a period of 12 months), or 3 months after the expiry of a program notification (for PEPRs approved for an ongoing period), unless otherwise authorised. Representative photos are to be included within the annual exploration compliance report. Provide the information requested within the 'Rehabilitation' section of the annual exploration compliance report.

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
			will be spread across the site to reduce visual impact and encourage regeneration.			

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
Fire	Community/landowners	Damage to infrastructure and loss of income through fire.	The risk of fires is very low. However, management protocols will be adhered to by field personnel to reduce the risk of wildfire ignition by exploration activities. Such protocols shall include no parking of vehicles over vegetation and no comfort fires at the proposed drill sites. The drilling will take place in the area classified by the CFS as the 'North West Pastoral' and Fire Danger Ratings are issued daily at 5pm during the fire season which starts 1st November to 31st March. On days of Total Fire Ban (declared for Extreme and Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating) FMG will comply with the Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005, specifically: 1. cease any activities that could be spark generating (activities include the operation of Stationary Engines, generators; Internal combustion engines; vehicles; gas welding, soldering, metal cutting, grinding and abrasion); 2. Not drive a vehicle referred to in sub regulation (1) within 2 m of flammable bush or grass unless the vehicle is fitted with an exhaust system that complies with the Act. The sparse shrubland of bluebush and saltbush comprises	Low	No loss of infrastructure or income through fire as a result of exploration activities.	Provide a statement within the 'Compliance with approved programs' section of the annual exploration compliance report confirming that no uncontrolled fires* occurred. Alternatively, provide a report on the independent investigation of all uncontrolled fires* demonstrating that the licensee could not have reasonably prevented the fire through the implementation of precautionary measures.

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
			very low fuel load in the project area and the drill pad will be cleared of vegetation.			
General Public	General Public	Injury or death to members of the public as a result of exploration activities.	The location of the proposed drill site is not frequented by the general public. The drill site will have safety and access permission signage to prevent undue entry of personnel who have not completed company and site-specific safety inductions.	Low	No accidents involving the public that could have been reasonably prevented by the licensee.	Provide a statement within the ‘Compliance with approved programs’ section of the annual exploration compliance report confirming no accidents occurred involving the public during and after the exploration program. If an accident involving the public did occur, provide a copy of the independent investigation report within the annual exploration compliance report demonstrating that the licensee could not have reasonably prevented the accident through the implementation of precautionary measures.

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
Groundwater	Groundwater/aquifer	Groundwater contamination: • contamination of aquifers through entry of pollutants from the surface • interconnection between aquifers • degradation of natural hydrostatic conditions (maintain pre-drilling pressures).	All exploration drill holes will be completed in accordance with Information Sheet M21: Mineral Exploration Drillholes - General specifications for construction and backfilling. Fractured rock aquifer, Tregolana shale There are no confined aquifers. Waterconnect water bore record of previous drilling in the area shows that there is a hypersaline unconfined fractured rock aquifer within the Adelaidean Tregolana Formation which is mostly impermeable shale and a very poor aquifer. No confined fresh water or artesian aquifers of the Great Artesian Basin are present in the area. In construction of the initial Percussion pre-collar, the drill hole will be cased with either PVC or removable steel drill pipe to prevent ingress of water, to aid continued deeper percussion/diamond drilling. If PVC is used, this will be grouted in the hole and remain in the hole upon abandonment (but capped and blocked 30cm below ground level), which will result in permanent isolation of the unconfined aquifer and prevent interconnection between the underlying deeper		Drillholes restored to controlling geological conditions that existed before the hole was drilled or, where it is intended to re-enter the hole, the hole must be completed with casing of adequate strength and the casing cemented so that all aquifers are isolated to prevent the movement of any fluids behind the casing.	Maintain evidence demonstrating that drillholes are decommissioned in accordance with Earth Resources Information Sheet M21, Mineral exploration drillholes – general specifications for construction and backfilling, and/or specific conditions from DEW (Groundwater) within 3 months of the expiry of the PEPR approval (for PEPRs approved for a period of 12 months), or 3 months after the expiry of a program notification (for PEPRs approved for an ongoing period), unless otherwise authorised. Provide the information requested within the ‘Groundwater’ section of the annual exploration compliance report.

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
			confined fractured rock aquifers if present. If steel drill pipe is used, this will remain in the hole during drilling, isolating the aquifer, until completion of the drill hole, followed by removal, if possible, at the end of the hole. Upon completion of the hole (and after any downhole geophysics), the hole will be abandoned in accordance with requirements outlined in Information Sheet M21. If more than one aquifer is encountered, cement grout plugs will be used to isolate aquifers, followed by drill cuttings or clay (or just completely grout the entire hole).			

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
Groundwater	Soil/vegetation/fauna	Discharge of groundwater into the surrounding environment.	Up to three (3) 6m x 3m x 1.5m deep sumps constructed on the drill pad will be utilised to contain drilling fluids for diamond drilling if above ground tanks are not used. These sumps will also be utilised to contain any discharge of groundwater during the percussion drilling of the pre-collar. Fortescue maintains regular practice to take north, east, south, and west directional photographs of each site, prior to, during and after drilling activities and then post rehabilitation, for the annual exploration compliance report.	Low	No discharge of groundwater outside of the exploration site (e.g. drillsite) into the surrounding environment and no discharge of water into a watercourse, unless prior approval under the relevant legislation is obtained.	Maintain photographic evidence of all drillsites demonstrating that groundwater was not discharged into the surrounding environment, unless water affecting activity permits were obtained allowing the discharge of groundwater into watercourses and/or lakes. Representative photos and water affecting activity permits (where applicable) to be included within the annual exploration compliance report.
Groundwater users	Groundwater users	Interference to existing water users when extracting water from existing dams, water bores or mineral drillholes.	NA	Low	No public nuisance impacts resulting from the extraction of water for exploration purposes, unless prior approval under the relevant legislation is obtained.	Provide the information requested within the ‘Complaints’ section of the annual exploration compliance report demonstrating that all reasonable complaints from stakeholders were resolved to the satisfaction of both parties, prior to and ongoing during the course of the exploration program without the involvement of DEM. Where permits are required for the extraction and/or usage of groundwater, provide copies of the licence or permit within the annual exploration compliance report.

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
Native Vegetation	Flora and fauna and their habitats; includes Common wealth and state scheduled species.	Loss/modification of native vegetation and associated habitats through the clearance of vegetation.	Existing station roads and tracks will be used to minimise impact and disturbance to native vegetation. Drill pads and any new access tracks will be prioritised through naturally clear ground where possible to eliminate the need to disturb or clear existing vegetation. All trees will be avoided from the route of the access track and the drill pad. The location of these tracks will avoid natural drainage courses. The length of temporary drill site access tracks will be minimised as much as possible. Minimise the shrubland clearance for the temporary drill site access tracks and minimise the drill pad size to below 50m x 50m if possible. All new tracks and pads are to be rehabilitated as described in the Rehabilitation section of this PEPR. Site access, preparation and rehabilitation will be completed in line with the objectives and guidelines outlined in Information Sheet M33 and in this PEPR. To avoid the potential ignition of wildfires, no spark generating activities (e.g., angle grinding or welding) will be conducted at the drill site.	Low	No permanent loss/modification of native flora and fauna populations and their habitats through: • clearance • fire • other unless prior approval under the relevant legislation is obtained.	Maintain before, during and after photographic evidence of all exploration sites (e.g. drillsites, new track exit/entry points off existing tracks, costeans, campsites) demonstrating that: • The area and method of disturbance is consistent with that described in the PEPR. • No uncontrolled fires* occurred as a result of exploration activities. Representative photos to be included within the annual exploration compliance report.

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
Other	General public, employees, contractors and the environment	Contamination of the environment when exploring for known uranium and thorium deposits. Public and employee/contractor exposure to low level radiation.	NA	Low	**No increase in background radiation levels, and employee/contractor exposure levels during the exploration program are within safe limits.**	Maintain a database and provide a statement within the 'Compliance with approved programs' section of the annual exploration compliance report demonstrating that: • Radiation levels post exploration and rehabilitation are consistent with pre-existing background levels. Employee and contractors exposure levels were within safe limits during the exploration program.

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
Soil	Soil	Disturbance to the soil profile and topography, and accelerated soil erosion caused by exploration activities (e.g. construction of sumps, new tracks and drill pads; ground compaction at laydown areas and camps).	The sumps comprise three (3) 6m x 3m x 1.5m deep pits to contain drilling fluids. In the excavation of the sumps, the top 10-20cm layer of topsoil will be scraped aside and temporarily stockpiled adjacent to the sumps for later re-distribution over the backfilled sumps and re-contoured ground. For the work area of the drill rig, clearing of lower storey (chenopod shrubland e.g. bluebush, saltbush etc) for the drill work area, care will be taken to leave roots in place and to not cut into the soil, i.e. The loader bucket/blade will skim over the ground surface to cut the vegetation and leave the soil in place. Any pruned or cut vegetation will be temporarily stockpiled for later redistribution over the ground to act as natural seed bank, soil windbreak and mulch. Up to two 20m x 4m rig truck and booster truck parking bays to a maximum depth of 0.3m the volume of material to be excavated is approximately 24m3 (for a wedge shaped volume). As with sump excavation, the bays will be rehabilitated by backfilling and matching the pre-existing contour and redistributing stockpiled topsoil and any cleared	Low	Where soil disturbance occurs as a result of exploration activities, ensure that: • topsoil quality and quantity is maintained • the soil profile and topography is reinstated to original conditions • there is no accelerated soil erosion.	Maintain before, during and after photographic evidence of all excavations, drillsites, camps, laydown areas and new tracks demonstrating that: • The soil profile and topography is reinstated to original conditions and is consistent with natural surroundings within 3 months of the expiry of the PEPR approval (for PEPRs approved for a period of 12 months), or 3 months after the expiry of a program notification (for PEPRs approved for an ongoing period), unless otherwise authorised. • Where required, sufficient topsoil is removed (depending on soil profile), stored separately from subsoil and reinstated (in the correct order) within 3 months of the expiry of the PEPR approval (for PEPRs approved for a period of 12 months), or 3 months after the expiry of a program notification (for PEPRs approved for an ongoing period), unless otherwise authorised. • There are no signs of accelerated soil erosion during and post rehabilitation of disturbed sites. Representative photos to be included within the annual exploration compliance report. Provide the information requested within the ‘Rehabilitation’ section of the annual exploration compliance report.

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
			vegetation/mulch or gibber. The final decision for the need of these parking bay excavations depends strongly on the final drill site approved by the Barngarla and a pre-mobilisation site visit by the drill supervisor. There are no acid sulphate soils in the area, so no control strategies or management plans is required for that potential impact. Rehabilitation of topsoil and subsoil at drill sites and any new tracks will be undertaken as described earlier in the relevant sections of this PEPR, and in a manner which is compliant with the guidelines outlined in Information Sheet M33. In areas of soil compaction such as the drill site and short access track off the existing station track, light scarification will be conducted to promote natural vegetation regrowth and reduce risk of soil erosion. Care will be taken to re-instate any gibber to protect the underlying silt/clay from erosion and gullying. Fortescue will ensure rehabilitation is completed prior to the expiry of the PEPR approval or program notification unless a 12-month extension is submitted and approved.			

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
Stakeholders	Stakeholders	Stakeholders: - freehold land owners - perpetual lease holders - pastoral lease holders - Aboriginal land (Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara and Maralinga Tjarutja lands) - Department of Defence - state government departments. - local government (councils) - federal government - native title parties.	The proposed exploration area for drilling activities is over areas located on Wilkatana Station. The small area of the cleared drill pad, laydown and campsite will have negligible impact on existing land use such as stock grazing. Notice of Entry Form 21B: Notice of Entry on land – advanced exploration operations have been served to the appropriate stakeholders (Wilkatana Station). Commence early consultation (phone and face to face discussions) with Pastoral Lease holder and Barngarla to explain scope of program, and to ascertain areas of concern. Conduct Heritage Surveys for planned drill pad, campsite, laydown and temporary access routes. Meet with or telephone pastoralists at an agreed frequency, to discuss drill program, progress/issues. Have one designated landholder liaison officer for resolution of any issues. Drill holes will be situated well away from infrastructure and stock watering points (i.e. >500m). Use existing track networks wherever possible. Vehicle speed limits will be imposed to reflect local road conditions and the proximity to any	Low	Stakeholders are fully informed and satisfied with the proposed methods used to conduct exploration activities on their land, and all prescribed forms are served and agreements obtained in accordance with the Mining Act.	Provide the information requested within the ‘Complaints’ section of the annual exploration compliance report demonstrating that all reasonable complaints from stakeholders are resolved to the satisfaction of both parties prior to and ongoing during the course of exploration program, without the involvement of DEM. Provide the information requested within the ‘Landowner details and liaison’ section of the annual exploration compliance report demonstrating that prescribed forms were served and agreements obtained in accordance with the Mining Act prior to the commencement of exploration activities.

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
			infrastructure or stock. Put out signs warning station personnel of proximity to exploration vehicles Planning and coordination will be used to minimize the number of individual vehicle movements. Rehabilitate any new tracks and pads at the end of the program.			
Third party access	Soil/vegetation/fauna	Degradation of rehabilitated access tracks caused by third party access (includes previously closed and rehabilitated access tracks).	All new tracks will be rehabilitated and closed off from the existing station track at the end of the drilling program. The access track will be scarified, and all topsoil and vegetation piles will be spread evenly across the rehabilitated area.	Low	Rehabilitated access tracks remain permanently closed, unless prior approval under the relevant legislation is obtained.	Maintain before and after photographic evidence demonstrating that all tracks are closed and rehabilitated within 3 months of the expiry of the PEPR approval (for PEPRs approved for a period of 12 months), or 3 months after the expiry of a program notification (for PEPRs approved for an ongoing period), unless otherwise authorised. Representative photos are to be included within the annual exploration compliance report. Provide the information requested within the ‘Rehabilitation’ section of the annual exploration compliance report.

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
Weeds and Pathogens	All flora and fauna, especially listed species.	Loss/modification of the environment (biological, social and economic) through the introduction of weeds and pathogens.	A table of key environmental considerations encompassing flora and fauna (including weeds and pathogens) has been generated according to information provided in the regulatory feedback from DEW coupled with information identified from site specific searches (20km radius) conducted for EPBC Act Protected Matters Report. This information will be included in the Fortescue site/project specific Inductions. Buffel Grass has been identified as a major threat. The grass is known along the Stuart Highway. Steps will be taken to avoid the introduction and/or establishment of Buffel Grass due to the proposed exploration activities. The major dispersal vector is machinery. All vehicles, trailers, equipment, and the boots of field staff will be checked for any mud or organic matter when entering the project area. Where possible, any earthworks machinery will be sources from the pastoral station to minimise contamination risks. Key components of the South Australian Buffel Grass Strategic Plan (2019-2024) including impacts and mitigation of spread and	Low	No introduction of new species of weeds and plant pathogens, nor increase in abundance of existing weeds species.	Provide a statement within the ‘Compliance with approved programs’ section of the annual exploration compliance report, confirming that: • Vehicle logs were kept during the exploration program, demonstrating that all vehicles are clean and free of plant and mud material prior to entering properties† within the tenement areas, unless otherwise agreed to with the relevant landowners. • Photographic evidence before and during exploration operations and after rehabilitation of disturbed sites was captured, demonstrating that no new weeds and plant pathogens were introduced, nor an increase in abundance of existing weeds recorded.

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
			infestation will be addressed in the Fortescue site induction process.			

Supporting Information

Photos

Upload Photos

Expand/Collapse

File Name	File Size (Mb)	Created On	Download
Photo 1_Wilkatana P1 Pad Location.jpg	0.16 Mb	28-10-2025 16:37:27	Download (MERS/EPR-03993/Supporting information/Photos/Photo 1_Wilkatana P1 Pad Location_2025-10-28T06-07-28.580Z.jpg)
Photo 2_Wilkatana P1 Pad.jpg	0.2 Mb	28-10-2025 16:46:54	Download (MERS/EPR-03993/Supporting information/Photos/Photo 2_Wilkatana P1 Pad_2025-10-28T06-16-55.370Z.jpg)

Site identification	Date taken	Photo number & PEPR section reference	Easting (GDA94)	Northing (DGA94)	Zone	Details and comments	Document ID
Wilkatana P1 Pad Location	09/08/2023	Photo 1 Section C	755773	6437217	53	P1 Pad area looking NW	Photo 1_Wilkatana P1 Pad Location
Wilkatana P1 Pad	10/08/2023	Photo 2 Section C	755801	6437173	53	P1 Pad looking SE	Photo 2_Wilkatana P1 Pad

Supporting Maps

Upload Maps

Expand/Collapse

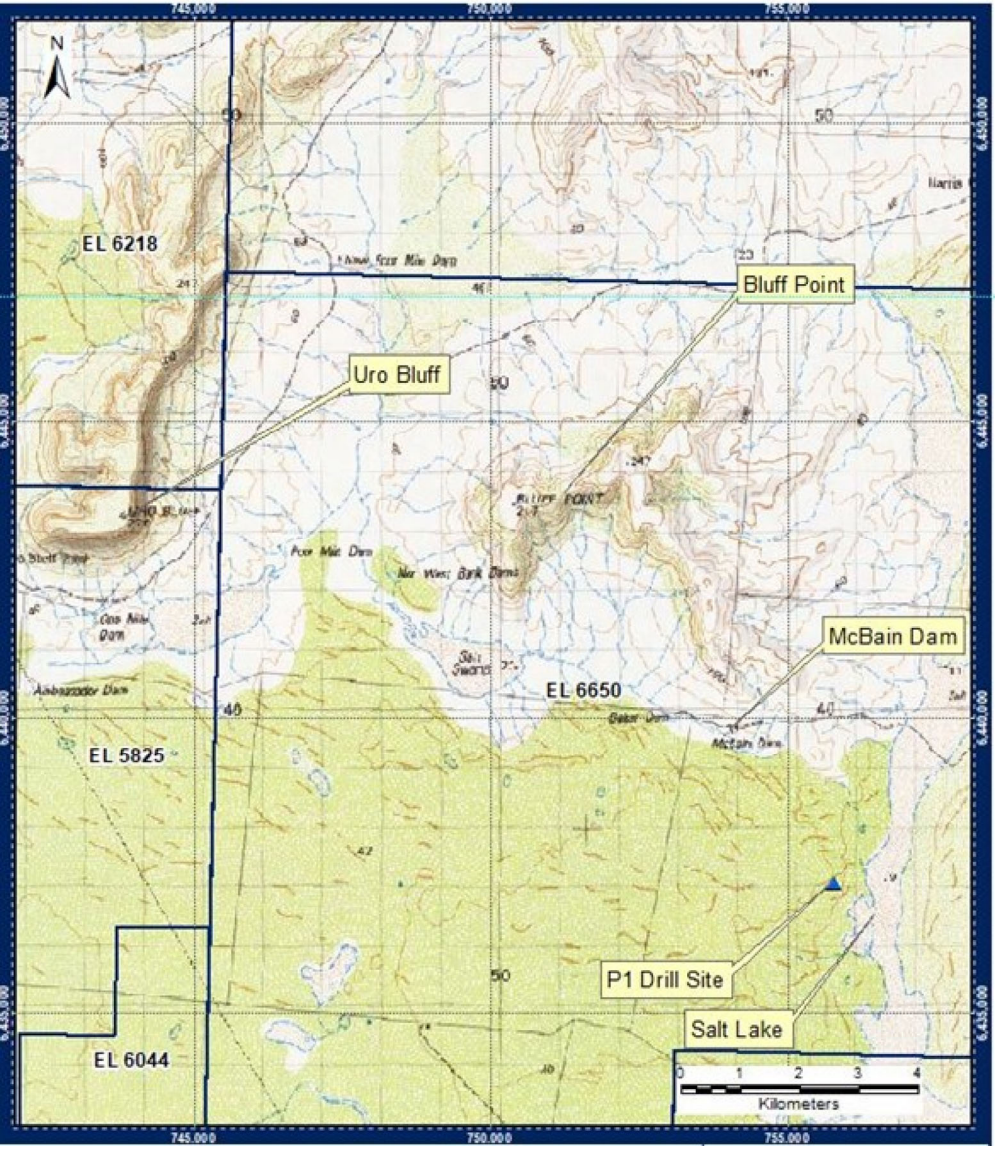
File Name	File Size (Mb)	Created On	Download
Map 2_EL6650_Native title determination map.png	2.86 Mb	10-12-2025 18:37:22	Download (MERS/EPR-03993/Supporting information/Maps/Map 2_EL6650_Native title determination map_2025-12-10T08-07-22.403Z.png)
Map 4_Proposed new tracks.png	2.55 Mb	28-10-2025 16:56:50	Download (MERS/EPR-03993/Supporting information/Maps/Map 4_Proposed new tracks_2025-10-28T06-26-51.936Z.png)
Map3_Groundwater wells area_EL6650.png	2.98 Mb	10-12-2025 18:41:54	Download (MERS/EPR-03993/Supporting information/Maps/Map3_Groundwater wells area_EL6650_2025-12-10T08-11-53.417Z.png)

Figure Description	Document ID
Map showing existing and proposed new track areas, P1 camp & laydown site, P1 drillsite	Map 4_Proposed new tracks
Map showing the nativel title areas in relation to EL6650	Map 2_Native title determination
Groundwater wells area - EL6650	Map 3_Groundwater wells area_EL6650

Additional Information

List any other supporting information and/or documents submitted with the application, including land access approvals/permits required to conduct the proposed exploration program.

A copy of the PEPR extension request that was lodged in October 2024 is attached to this application


N
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Bluff Point
Uro Bluff
McBain Dam
EL 6650
EL 5825
P1 Drill Site
Salt Lake
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Layers
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1

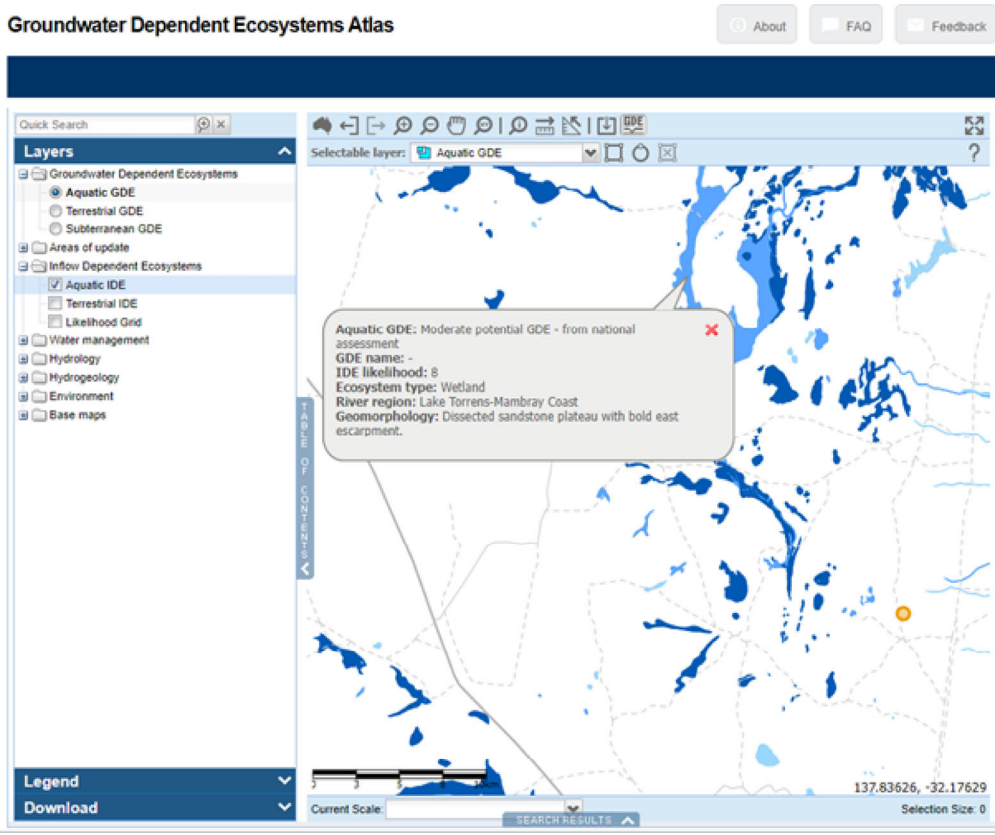
Significant fauna

Where possible, using the table below, list any rare or endangered fauna species located or reported to have been in the area that may be impacted by the proposed program. Include known sightings of listed species on a locality plan/map.

Species	Common name	NPW Act rating	EPBC Act rating
			<EPBC Act rating>
EPBC Protected Matters **Threatened** Species 'Likely' and 'May' and 'Known' presence ranking.			
Numenius madagascariensis	Eastern Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew		Critically Endangered
Pedionomus torquatus	Plains-wanderer		Critically Endangered
Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper		Critically Endangered
Rostratula australis	Australian Painted Snipe		Endangered
Pezoporus occidentalis	Night Parrot		Endangered
Frankenia plicata	null		Endangered
Melanodryas cucullata	South-Eastern Hooded Robin, Hooded Robin		Endangered
Neophema chrysostoma	Blue-winged Parrot		Vulnerable
Falco hypoleucos	Grey Falcon		Vulnerable
Pterostylis xerophila	Desert Greenhood		Vulnerable
Amytornis textilis myall	Western Grasswren (Gawler Ranges)		Vulnerable
Aphelocephala leucopsis	Southern Whiteface	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
EPBC Protected Matters **Migratory** species, 'Likely' and 'May' presence ranking.			
Motacilla cinerea	Grey Wagtail		Critically Endangered
Numenius madagascariensis	Eastern Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew		

Gallinago hardwickii	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe		
Motacilla flava	Yellow Wagtail		
Actitis hypoleucos	Common Sandpiper		Critically Endangered
Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper		
Apus pacificus	Fork-tailed Swift		
Charadrius veredus	Oriental Plover, Oriental Dotterel		
Calidris melanotos	Pectoral Sandpiper		
Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper		
EPBC Protected Matters **Marine** species, 'Likely' and 'May' presence ranking.			
Motacilla cinerea	Grey Wagtail		
Neophema chrysostoma	Blue-winged Parrot		Vulnerable
Numenius madagascariensis	Eastern Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew		Critically Endangered
Gallinago hardwickii	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe		
Rostratula australis	Australian Painted Snipe		Endangered
Merops ornatus	Rainbow Bee-eater		
Bubulcus ibis	Cattle Egret		
Motacilla flava	Yellow Wagtail		
Actitis hypoleucos	Common Sandpiper		
Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper		Critically Endangered
Apus pacificus	Fork-tailed Swift		
Charadrius veredus	Oriental Plover, Oriental Dotterel		
Calidris melanotos	Pectoral Sandpiper		
Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper		
Chalcites osculans	Black-eared Cuckoo		

Note: NPW Act conservation status includes extinct, endangered, vulnerable, threatened and rare.
EPBC Act listings include extinct, extinct in the wild, critically endangered, endangered, vulnerable and conservation dependent.


Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems Atlas
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Terrestrial GDE
Subterranean GDE
Areas of update
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Aquatic IDE
Terrestrial IDE
Likelihood Grid
Water management
Hydrology
Hydrogeology
Environment
Base maps
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Selectable layer:
Aquatic GDE
Aquatic GDE: Moderate potential GDE - from national assessment
GDE name: -
IDE likelihood: 8
Ecosystem type: Wetland
River region: Lake Torrens-Mambray Coast
Geomorphology: Dissected sandstone plateau with bold east escarpment.
TABLE OF CONTENTS
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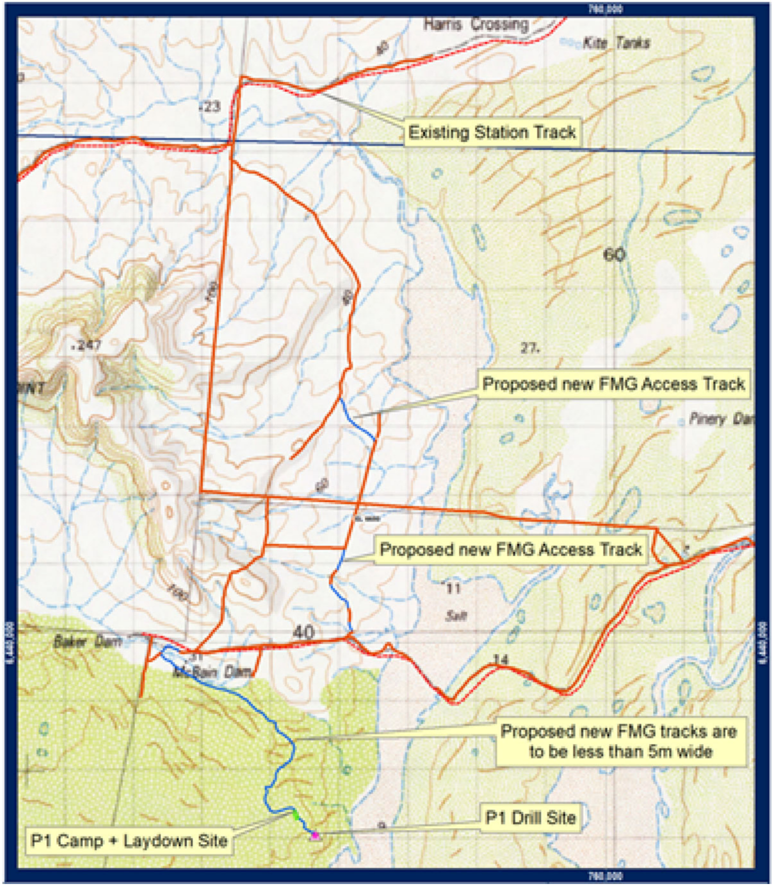
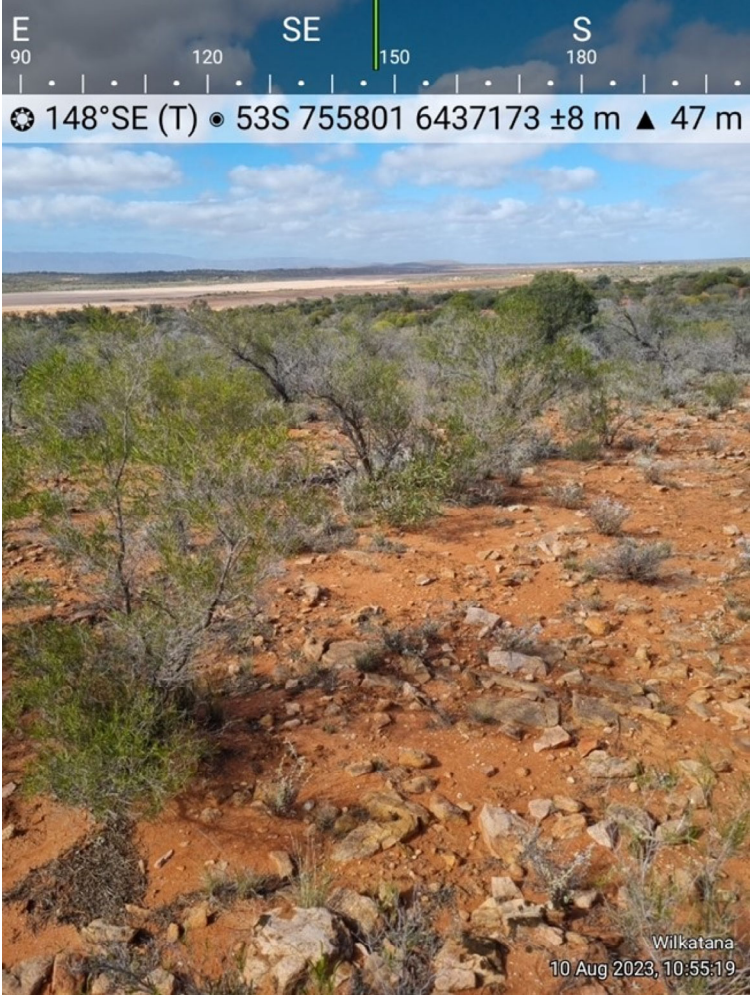
Current Scale:
Selection Size: 0
SEARCH RESULTS

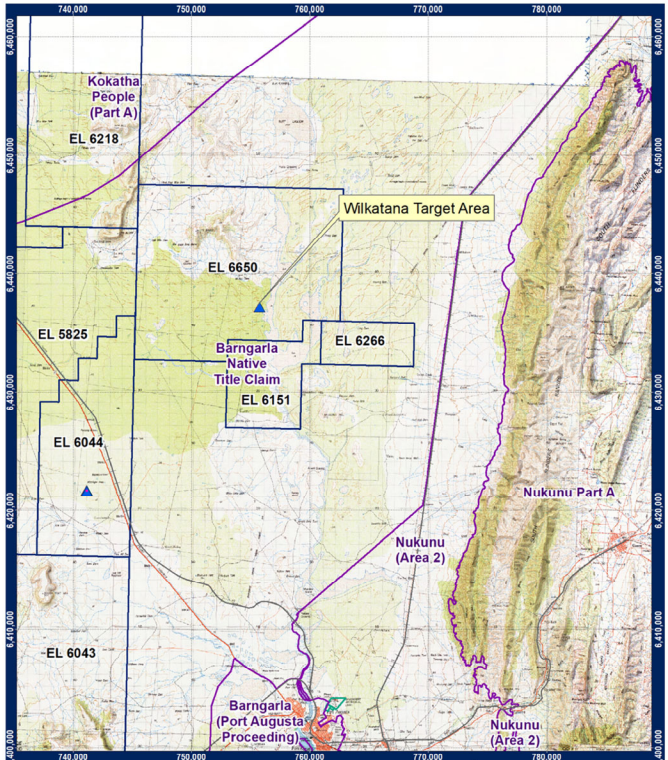


Harris Crossing
Kite Tanks
Existing Station Track
60
27.
Proposed new FMG Access Track
Pinery Da
Proposed new FMG Access Track
11
Salt
40
14
Baker Dam
McBain Dam
Proposed new FMG tracks are to be less than 5m wide
P1 Drill Site
P1 Camp + Laydown Site


755,250
755,500
755,750
756,000
6,437,750
6,437,500
6,437,250
6,437,000
P1 Camp + Laydown Site
EL 6650
P1 Drill Pad
N
0
75
150
225
300
Meters


NW
N
300
330
0
30
335°NW (T) 53S 755773 6437217 ±8 m ▲ 56 m
Wilkatana
09 Aug 2023, 13:11:30


E
90
120
SE
150
S
180
148°SE (T) 53S 755801 6437173 ±8 m ▲ 47 m
Wilkatana
10 Aug 2023, 10:55:19



LOCATION MAP

Legend

- 20230816_SA FY24 Planned Pads v2
- 20230816_SA Planned Collars v5
- els (Active) - FMG Owned
- Native_Title_Determinations
- Railways

N

0 4 8 12 16

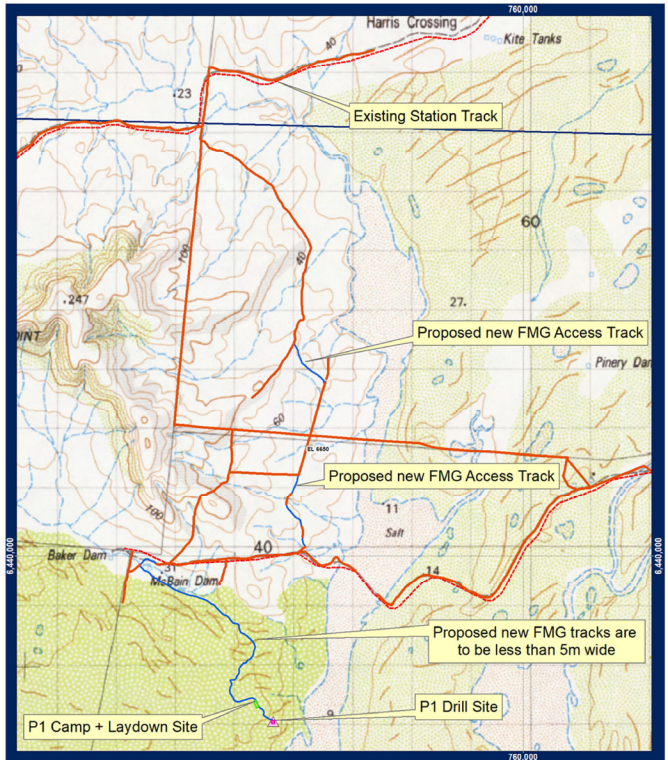
Kilometers

EL6650
Native Title Determination

Drawn By: MST
Scale: 1:200,000
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 53
Document Name: South Australia PCPR template

Date: 21/08/2023
Size: A3L
Revision: 0
Confidentiality: 0

Fortescue Metals Group Ltd
The New Force In Iron Ore



Legend

- Digitised Tracks

GOV Tracks

Class

- Track
- 20230816_SA FY24 Planned Pads v2
- 20230816_FY24 Proposed Camp and Laydown Area
- FY24 Tracks
- 20230816_SA Planned Collars v5
- els (Active) - FMG Owned

N

0 1 2 3 4

Kilometers

EL6650
New Access

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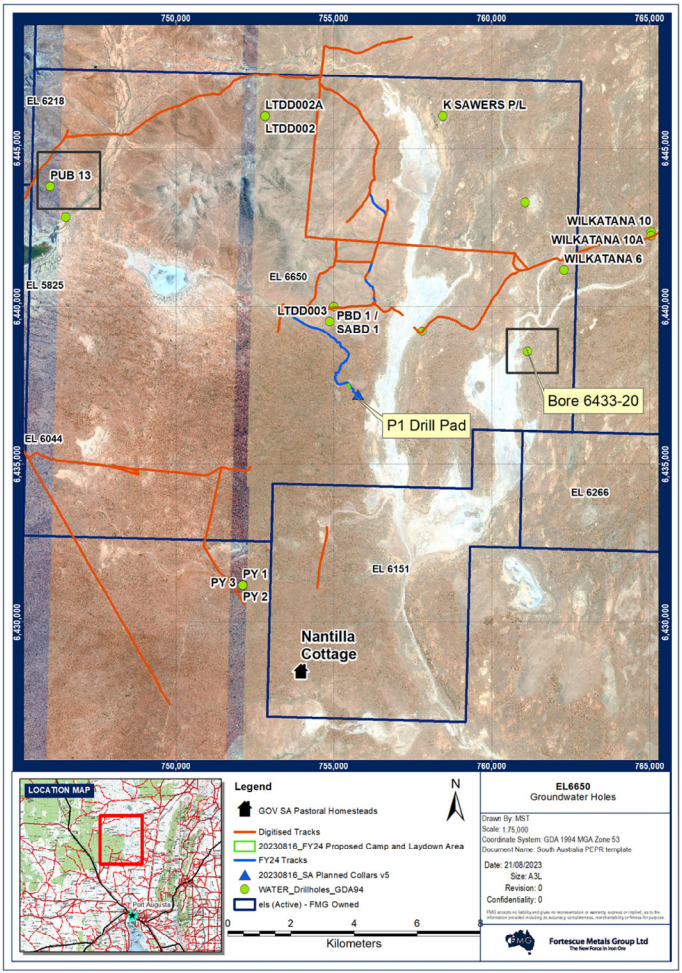
The New Force in Iron Ore


750,000
755,000
760,000
765,000
6,445,000
6,440,000
6,435,000
6,430,000
EL 6218
LTDD002A
LTDD002
K SAWERS P/L
PUB 13
WILKATANA 10
WILKATANA 10A
WILKATANA 6
EL 5825
EL 6650
LTDD003
PBD 1 /
SABD 1
Bore 6433-20
P1 Drill Pad
EL 6044
EL 6266
EL 6151
PY 1
PY 3
PY 2
Nantilla
Cottage
LOCATION MAP
Port Augusta
Legend
GOV SA Pastoral Homesteads
Digitised Tracks
20230816_FY24 Proposed Camp and Laydown Area
FY24 Tracks
20230816_SA Planned Collars v5
WATER_DrillholeS_GDA94
els (Active) - FMG Owned
N
0
2
4
6
8
Kilometers
EL6650
Groundwater Holes
Drawn By: MST
Scale: 1:75,000
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 53
Document Name: South Australia PCPR template
Date: 21/08/2023
Size: A3L
Revision: 0
Confidentiality: 0
Fortescue Metals Group Ltd
The New Force in Iron Ore