



# **Wodgina Direct Shipping Ore (DSO) EPBC Compliance Report 2017**




EPBC 2011/5975

159-LAH-EN-REP-0013

Revision 0



## Authorisation

Rev	Reason for Issue	Prepared	Checked	Authorised	Date
0	Required	E.Wink 	B.Bow 	B.Bow 	31/05/17

*Signatures are required for Revision 0 and above*

© Atlas Iron Limited

Atlas Iron Limited  
PO Box 7071  
Cloisters Square Perth WA 6850  
Australia  
T: + 61 8 6228 8000  
F: + 61 8 6228 8999  
E: atlas@atlasiron.com.au  
W: www.atlasiron.com.au



## 1. Background

Atlas Iron Limited (Atlas) operates the Wodgina Direct Shipping Ore (DSO) Project (the Project) in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. The Project is located approximately 100 kilometres (km) south of Port Hedland.

Due to economic and opportunistic circumstances, the Project has been developed in stages with each assessed and approved individually. Stage 1 comprised of the initial development of the mine (Anson pit), waste rock dump and haul road (Mining Proposal Registration ID: 24522). Stage 2 comprised of three additional pits (Avro, Constellation and Dragon), further development of the Anson pit, low grade ore stockpiles and access roads (Mining Proposal Registration ID: 32697). Stage 3 comprises of an additional two pits (Hercules North and Hercules South), waste rock dumps, low grade ore stockpiles and access roads (Mining Proposal Registration ID: 39579).

In accordance with the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) Atlas submitted a referral to the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (SEWPaC) now the Department of the Environment (DoE) on 24 May 2011 to allow a determination of whether Stage 2 of the Project is a controlled action. On 22 June 2011 SEWPaC advised the proposed action is 'controlled' and required to be assessed by preliminary documentation. Following submission of additional documentation and public notification of the action, approval was granted via EPBC2011/5975 on 15 September 2011.

At the time of reporting, Stage 2 works have been completed and the Project is in Closure with active rehabilitation of disturbed areas.

## 2. Objective

This report is intended to address Condition 3 of EPBC2011/5975 whereby:

*Within 3 months of 30 June each year after the commencement of the action, the person taking the action must publish a report on their website addressing compliance with each of the conditions of this approval over the previous 12 months, including implementation of any management plans as specified in the conditions. Non-compliance with any of the conditions of this approval must be reported to the department at the same time as the compliance report is published.*



### 3. Scope

This report captures the commitments outlined within the EPBC approval document and associated compliance to these commitments for the 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 period.

### 4. Compliance

<b>EPBC2011/5975</b>		
<b>Condition No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Compliance Status</b>
1.	Within 10 days after the commencement of the action, the person taking the action must advise the Department in writing of the actual date of commencement.	Compliant - Atlas commenced Stage 2 of the Wodgina DSO Project on 17 February 2012. The Department were informed on 23 February 2012. Appendix 1.
2.	The person taking the action must maintain accurate records substantiating all activities associated with or relevant to the conditions of approval, including measures taken to implement the management plan, and, agreement required by this approval, and make them available upon request to the Department. Such records may be subject to audit by the Department or an independent auditor in accordance with section 458 of the EPBC Act, or used to verify compliance with the conditions of approval. Summaries of audits may be posted on the Departments website. The results of audits may also be publicised through the general media.	Compliant – Atlas has maintained accurate records relating to activities associated with the conditions of this approval.
3.	Within 3 months of 30 June each year after the commencement of the action, the person taking the action must publish a report on their website addressing compliance with each of the conditions of this approval over the previous 12 months, including implementation of any management plans as specified in the conditions. Non-compliance with any of the conditions of this approval must be reported to the department at the same time as the compliance report is published.	Compliant – This report shall be published and available on Atlas' website. Appendix 2.
4.	Upon the direction of the Minister, the person taking the action must ensure that an independent audit of compliance with the conditions of approval is conducted and a report submitted to the Minister. The independent auditor must be approved by the	Noted – No independent audit of compliance requested by the Minister to date.



	Minister prior to the commencement of the audit. Audit criteria must be agreed to by the Minister and the audit report must address the criteria to the satisfaction of the Minister.	
5.	If the person taking action wishes to carry out any activity otherwise than in accordance with the plan and agreement as specified in the conditions, the person taking the action must submit to the Department for the Ministers written approval a revised version of that management plan and agreement. The varied activity shall not commence until the Minister has approved the varied management plan and agreement in writing. The Minister will not approve a varied management plan and agreement unless the revised management plan and agreement would result in an equivalent or improved environmental outcome over time. If the Minister approves the revised management plan and agreement, that management plan and agreement must be implemented in place of management plan and agreement originally approved.	Compliant – All activities being carried out are in accordance with the approved Significant Species Management Plan (SSMP) and agreements.
6.	If the Minister believes that it is necessary or convenient for the better protection of EPBC Act listed threatened species to do so, the Minister may request that the person taking the action make specified revisions to the management plan and agreement for the Ministers written approval. The person taking the action must comply with any such request. The revised approved management plan and agreement must be implemented. Unless the Minister has approved the revised management plan and agreement, then the person taking the action must continue to implement the management plan and agreement originally approved, as specified in the conditions.	Noted – No specified revisions of the approved SSMP and/or agreement requested to date. #
7.	If, at any time after 5 years from the date of this approval, the person taking the action has not substantially commenced the action, then the person taking the action must not substantially commence the action without the written agreement of the Minister.	Compliant – Action substantially commenced in 2012.  In April 2017 operations ceased at Wodgina (depletion of iron ore resource). The mine is now in Closure. Fauna monitoring will be undertaken in accordance with the approved Mine Closure Plan (2016) and include assessment of the Northern Quoll to monitor the change in population dynamics post closure. Monitoring will occur in Year 1 (2018) and Year 8 (2025).
8.	Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister, the person taking the action must publish the management plan referred to in these conditions of approval on their website. Each	Compliant – Significant Species Management Plan (2012) has been published on the Atlas website. Appendix 3.



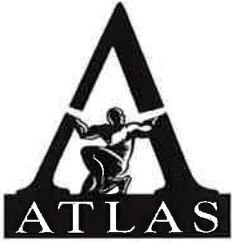
	management plan must be published on the website within 1 month of being approved.	
9.	The person taking the action must not disturb more than 162 hectares of the project area. A report and maps verifying compliance with this condition must be submitted to the Minister within three months after completion of the clearing works.	Compliant – Total disturbance footprint is 93.53 hectares. The clearing permit (CPS4666/1) covering this disturbance expired 14 January 2017. As such, the compliance report and maps provided in 2016 are the final copies.
10.	<p>The person taking the action must prepare a Fauna Management Plan, for the approval of the Minister, that maximises the ongoing protection and long term conservation of EPBC Act listed threatened fauna species. The Plan must be developed by an appropriately qualified expert, in consultation with the Western Australian Department of Environment and Conservation (WA DEC). The Plan must address, but is not limited to, the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Measures to minimise mortality of EPBC Act listed threatened fauna species during construction;</li> <li>b. Measures to protect EPBC Act listed threatened fauna habitat located adjacent to cleared areas;</li> <li>c. Implementation of measures to rehabilitate areas disturbed construction;</li> <li>d. A fauna monitoring program to be undertaken to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Collate baseline population data prior to the commencement of construction, and followed with ongoing annual monitoring of EPBC Act listed threatened fauna species for the life of the project to measure the impacts of the action over time;</li> <li>ii. Measure the success of management measures to inform an adaptive management approach;</li> </ul> </li> <li>e. Reporting on milestones and compliance with this plan annually to the department; and</li> <li>f. The results of the monitoring program and compliance with the plan must be published on the companys website.</li> </ul> <p>The person taking the action cannot commence construction until the plan is approved. The approved Fauna Management Plan must be implemented.</p>	Compliant – A revised Significant Species Management Plan was submitted to the Department on 19 January 2012 and addresses the required criteria. The plan was approved 16 February 2012.
11.	The person taking the action must provide a	Compliant – Atlas confirms



	<p>financial contribution of \$400,000 (GST exclusive) for research that will contribute to the better protection and long term conservation of EPBC Act listed threatened fauna species in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. The research must contain, but is not limited to; identifying the key threat management actions required to restore and maintain functioning populations of EPBC Act listed threatened species in the Pilbara, and understanding actions that are required to protect listed threatened species and the habitat they utilise, taking into account the costs and feasibility.</p> <p>a. The person taking the action must enter into an agreement with a research institution to provide the financial contribution. The agreement must include clear timeframes in which financial contributions will be paid. The person taking the action cannot continue construction or operation beyond 31 May 2012 unless the agreement has been formalised. Unless approved by the Minister, the person taking action cannot continue construction or operation of the action if the milestones agreed to by the proponent in the funding agreement are not achieved and the final payment is not made within 30 days of the completion of the research.</p> <p>b. A copy of the agreement must be provided to the Minister within 10 business days of the agreement being finalised. The person proposing to take the action must implement the agreement.</p> <p>c. The person taking the action must provide the research findings to the Minister within 18 months of commencement of the research.</p>	<p>\$400,000 was paid to the CSIRO (\$200,000 in July 2012 and \$200,000 in May 2014)</p> <p>Compliant - 'Pilbara Survey' Agreement entered into with CSIRO on 15 May 2012.</p> <p>Non-Compliant - The agreement was finalised on 15 May 2012. The Minister was notified on 30 June 2012. The agreement has been implemented.</p> <p>Compliant - The research commenced 1 October 2012 with findings provided to the Minister 17 April 2014. The report is also available on the CSIRO website <a href="https://publications.csiro.au/rpr/pub?list=SEA&amp;pid=csiro:EP14416">https://publications.csiro.au/rpr/pub?list=SEA&amp;pid=csiro:EP14416</a></p>
--	---	--

## **Appendix 1 – Notification of commencement of the action**





Thursday, February 23, 2012

Ms. Charmayne Murry  
Mining Section  
Environment Assessment Branch  
Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities  
GPO Box 787  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Ms Murry,

**Wodgina Direct Shipping Ore Project Stage Two, Atlas Iron Ltd, Pilbara, WA: EPBC Ref: 2011/5975**

As per condition 1 of the EPBC approval for the above Project, please be advised that Atlas Iron Limited commenced the action on the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2012.

In relation to the administration of the approval please direct all correspondence to myself in the first instance.

Yours sincerely

Theo Sprenkels

Environmental Advisor

T:08 9476 7961  
E:theo.sprenkels@atlasiron.com.au

**Atlas Iron Limited** ABN 63 110 396 168

Level 9 Alluvion,  
58 Mounts Bay Road Perth WA 6000

PO Box 7071  
Cloisters Square Perth WA 6850

P: +61(0) 8 9476 7900  
F: +61(0) 8 9476 7988

E: atlas@atlasiron.com.au  
W: www.atlasiron.com.au

## **Appendix 2 – Proof of publication of compliance report**



Health and Safety

Environment

Heritage and Traditional  
Owners

Community Relations

Community Investment

Environmental Publications

[Home](#) > [Sustainability](#) > [Environmental Publications](#) >



## Environmental Publications

### FerrAus Pilbara Project

Size

[Ministerial Statement 915 Compliance Assessment Report 2015-16](#)

### Pardoo Direct Shipping Ore Project

Size

[Ministerial Statement 775 Compliance Assessment Report 2016](#)

### Wodgina Direct Shipping Ore Project

Size

[Significant Species Management Plan Part 1](#)

6787 KB

[Significant Species Management Plan Part 2](#)

3808 KB

[Significant Species Management Plan Appendices](#)

5385 KB

[Wodgina Compliance Report 2016 \(EPBC2009/5167\)](#)

[Wodgina Compliance Report 2016 \(EPBC2009/5975\)](#)

[Wodgina Compliance Report 2017 \(EPBC2009/5167\)](#)

[Wodgina Compliance Report 2017 \(EPBC2011/5975\)](#)

## **Appendix 3 – Proof of publication of Significant Species Management Plan**



[Health and Safety](#)

[Environment](#)

[Heritage and Traditional  
Owners](#)

[Community Relations](#)

[Community Investment](#)

[Environmental Publications](#)

[Home](#) > [Sustainability](#) > [Environmental Publications](#) >

[A](#) [A](#)

## Environmental Publications

### FerrAus Pilbara Project

Size

[Ministerial Statement 915 Compliance Assessment Report 2015-16](#)

### Pardoo Direct Shipping Ore Project

Size

[Ministerial Statement 775 Compliance Assessment Report 2016](#)

### Wodgina Direct Shipping Ore Project

Size

[Significant Species Management Plan Part 1](#)

6787 KB

[Significant Species Management Plan Part 2](#)

3808 KB

[Significant Species Management Plan Appendices](#)

5385 KB

[Wodgina Compliance Report 2016 \(EPBC2009/5167\)](#)

[Wodgina Compliance Report 2016 \(EPBC2009/5975\)](#)

[Wodgina Compliance Report 2017 \(EPBC2009/5167\)](#)

[Wodgina Compliance Report 2017 \(EPBC2011/5975\)](#)