

REGIONAL INTERESTS DEVELOPMENT APPROVAL (RIDA)

RPI24/008: Rio Tinto – The Desert Project

(Given under section 53 of the *Regional Planning Interests Act 2014*)

Date: 2 May 2025

Description of the land

Real property description: Lot 4511 on PH1667, Lot 1 on UN7 and Lot 381 on OL27

Area of regional interest: Gulf Rivers Strategic Environmental Area

Local Government Area: Mount Isa City Council

Approved resource activities

The approved resource activities are set out in **Table 1** below.

A summary of the proposed resource activities in the Gulf Rivers Strategic Environmental Area (Gulf Rivers SEA) are provided in **Table 2** below.

This development approval authorises impacts on the Gulf Rivers SEA by the approved resource activities.

Table 1: Approved resource activities

Area of regional interest	Location	Resource activity	Area of disturbance (ha)
Gulf Rivers SEA	Lot 4511 on PH1667, Lot 1 on UN7 and Lot 381 on OL27	Access tracks (existing)	0.8
		Access tracks (proposed)	6.3
		Drill site	0.008 x 30
Total area of disturbance:			7.34ha

Table 2: Description summary of the proposed resource activities in the Gulf Rivers SEA

Resource activity	Description
Access tracks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A maximum of 15 new tracks are proposed, which will be about 14 km in length and about 4.5 meters in width.Existing tracks will be about 1.7 km in length and about 4.5 meters in width.The new access tracks will be cleared with a front-end loader or similar equipment. The machine will clear ground with a minimum disturbance approach, which is with the blade-up to preserve root stocks and going around larger trees wherever possible. Where this is not possible, blades down clearance will be used to clear vegetation and any outcropping rock.

Drill site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A maximum of 30 drill pads each with a surface disturbance area of about 12 metres by 6.75 metres. • The drill depths are up to 40m but could potentially reach 90m depending upon depth to basement found during drilling.
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Regional interests conditions

A person who is the holder of, or is acting under, this RIDA must not contravene any of the conditions related to this approval.

No.	Conditions	Condition timing
1.	Carry out the approved resource activities in the Gulf Rivers Strategic Environmental Area generally in accordance with: (a) the resource activities identified in Table 1: Approved resource activities; (b) the resource activities as described in Table 2: Description summary of the proposed resource activities in the Gulf Rivers SEA; and (c) The Desert Project Map – Rio Tinto Exploration (RTX), dated 1/11/2024, prepared by Rio Tinto.	At all times
2.	The construction corridors of the access tracks must: (a) maximise co-location; (b) be minimised in width to the greatest practicable extent; and (c) be no greater than 4.5 meters in total width.	All times
3.	The construction or maintenance works for access tracks in a watercourse must not result in: (a) ongoing negative impacts to water quality; or (b) bank instability.	During the construction or maintenance works for access tracks
4.	The resource activity must not occur in or have a direct or indirect impact on a wetland of high ecological value, Great Artesian Basin Spring, subterranean cave, Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem (GDE) or wetland.	At all times
5.	The construction or maintenance of access tracks in a water course must be conducted in the following preferential order: (a) firstly, in times where there is no water present; or (b) secondly, in times of no flow.	At all times
6.	Waste contaminants (as defined in Schedule 9 of the Environmental Protection Regulation 2008) from the resource activity must not be directly or indirectly released to a watercourse, wetland, drainage feature or to the bed or banks of a watercourse, and drainage feature or to groundwater.	At all times
7.	No trees with a diameter at breast height (dbh) greater than 20cm are to be cleared during the undertaking of the resource activities.	All times

No.	Conditions	Condition timing
8.	Disturbance from the resource activity must not occur within 200 meters of the banks of a watercourse, lake, spring, or wetland. <i>Note: Disturbance means any impact to the landscape, vegetation, air quality, hydrology, habitat, or water quality that has been directly or indirectly caused by human activity associated with the resource/ regulated activity.</i>	All times
9.	Disturbance from the resource activity must not occur in or within 200 meters of a wildlife corridor. <i>Note: Disturbance means any impact to the landscape, vegetation, air quality, hydrology, habitat, or water quality that has been directly or indirectly caused by human activity associated with the resource/ regulated activity.</i>	All times
10.	Works to maintain access tracks across watercourses must limit interference with watercourses, avoiding erosion, sedimentation, diversion, or otherwise degradation of creek or riverbanks and associated vegetation.	At all times
11.	<p>(a) All complaints received, and resulting actions taken, about the impact of the approved resource activities on the environmental attributes in the Gulf Rivers Strategic Environmental Area must be recorded. The record must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) name, address and contact number of the complainant; (ii) time and date of complaint; (iii) reasons for the complaint; (iv) investigations undertaken; (v) conclusions formed; (vi) actions taken to resolve the complaint; (vii) any abatement measures implemented; and (viii) person responsible for resolving the complaint. <p>(b) Provide records of any complaints received and recorded in accordance with this condition to the chief executive at RPIAct@dsdilgp.qld.gov.au. The records must state the application's reference application reference number, being RPI24/008.</p>	<p>(a) At all times</p> <p>(b) Within 60 business days of receipt of a complaint</p>
12.	A full copy of the regional interests development approval must be kept on-site and available to any person(s) contracted to undertake the approved resource activities.	At all times

General Advice

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure all relevant approvals and licenses are obtained from the applicable Local, State, and/or Federal Authorities prior to works commencing on site.

Attachment 1 – Approved Plan

