



**Queensland  
Government**

Department of  
**State Development,  
Infrastructure and Planning**

Our ref: RPI24/008 (DEPBN25/13)

Your ref: EPM 28700

6 May 2025

Mathew Johannesen  
Specialist - Land and Mineral Rights  
Rio Tinto Exploration Pty Limited  
GPO Box 391  
Brisbane QLD 4001  
Mathew.johannesen@riotinto.com

Dear Mr Johannesen

## **DECISION NOTICE**

### **RPI24/008: Rio Tinto – The Desert Project**

*(Given under section 51 of the Regional Planning Interests Act 2014 (RPI Act))*

The Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (DSDIP) advises that the application made on 2 December 2024 for a regional interests development approval for a mining resource activity: exploration activities for the Desert Project in the Gulf River Strategic Environmental Area (SEA) has been approved. The site is described as Lot on 4511 on PH1667, Lot 1 on UN7 and Lot 381 on OL27.

### **Assessing Agencies**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Area of regional interest</b>
Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers (DLGWV)	Strategic Environmental Area (SEA) - Gulf Country (Gulf Rivers)
Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI)	

### **Reasons for the decision**

DSDIP has determined that the resource activities meet the required outcome for the SEA assessment criteria, as it will not result in a widespread or irreversible impact on an environmental attributes of the Gulf Rivers SEA.

The attached Regional Interests Development Approval confirms the nature and extent of the resource activity the subject of this approval. Conditions include matters relating to the location of the resource activity, linear infrastructure construction corridor, construction or maintenance

1 William Street  
Brisbane Queensland 4000  
PO Box 15009  
City East Queensland 4002  
**Telephone** 13 QGOV (13 74 68)  
**Website** [www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au](http://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au)  
**ABN** 29 230 178 530

works, not allowing the clearing of trees with a dbh greater than 20cm, setbacks to minimise disturbance of a watercourse, lake, spring, or wetland, and not allowing the release of contaminants on water features.

### **Appeals**

- The period in which any appeal under Part 5 of the RPI Act must be started is set out in **Attachment 1**.
- How rights of appeal under Part 5 of the RPI Act are to be exercised are set out in **Attachment 1**.

This decision takes effect when the 'appeal period' for the decision ends. The 'appeal period' means the period ending on the last day on which an appeal against the decision may be started (see s73 in **Attachment 1**).

The Regional Interests Development Approval is enclosed.

If you require any further information, please contact please contact Mr Darren Brewer, Manager, Improvement and Assessment Division, in the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, by telephone on (07) 3452 7472 or by email [RPIAct@dsdilgp.qld.gov.au](mailto:RPIAct@dsdilgp.qld.gov.au), who will be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely



**A/Executive Director  
Improvement and Assessment Division  
Planning Group**

enc.      Attachment 1 – Extract from the *Regional Planning Interests Act 2014*  
Regional Interests Development Approval

## **Part 5 Appeals and declarations**

*In this part—*

**affected land owner**, for a regional interests decision, means an owner of land (**affected land**) that may be adversely affected by the resource activity or regulated activity because of—

- (a) the proximity of the affected land to the land the subject of the decision; and
- (b) the impact the activity may have on an area of regional interest.

**court** means the Planning and Environment Court.

**regional interests decision** means each of the following decisions—

- (a) a decision to grant a regional interests development approval;
- (b) a decision to impose a condition on a regional interests development approval;
- (c) a decision to refuse all or part of an assessment application;
- (d) a decision to make, or refuse to make, a requested amendment to a regional interests development approval.

### **72 Appeal to Planning and Environment Court**

*The following may appeal (an **appeal**) against a regional interests decision to the court—*

- (a) the applicant;
- (b) if the applicant is not the owner of the land—the owner of the land;
- (c) an affected land owner.

*Note—*

*See the Planning and Environment Court Act 2016 for provisions about the powers, processes and procedures of the court.*

### **73 Appeal period**

- (1) An appeal may be started only within 20 business days after—
  - (a) for a person who received a decision notice, or a copy of a decision notice, for the decision—the notice was received; or
  - (b) for an affected land owner for a regional interests decision—notice of the decision was published under section 52.
- (2) However, the court may at any time extend the time for starting the appeal.

### **73A How appeals are started**

- (1) An appeal is started by lodging a written notice of appeal with the registrar of the court.
- (2) The notice of appeal must be in the approved form and succinctly state the grounds of the appeal.

## **74 Respondent for appeal**

- (1) The chief executive is the respondent for the appeal.*
- (2) If the appellant is not the applicant for the decision, the applicant is a co-respondent for the appeal.*
- (3) If the appellant is not the owner of the land for the decision, the owner of the land may apply to the court to be a co-respondent for the appeal.*
- (4) If the appeal is about an assessing agency's response, the assessing agency is a co-respondent for the appeal.*
- (5) If the appeal is only about an assessing agency's response, the chief executive may apply to the court to withdraw from the appeal.*

## **75 Notice of appeal to other parties**

- (3) An appellant must, within 10 business days after starting an appeal, give notice of the appeal to each of the following—*
  - (a) a respondent or co-respondent for the appeal;*
  - (b) if the appellant is not the owner of land for the regional interests decision—the owner of the land.*
- (4) The notice must state—*
  - (a) the grounds of the appeal; and*
  - (b) if the person given the notice is the owner of the land—that the person may apply to the court to be a co-respondent for the appeal.*

## **76 Stay of operation of decision**

- (1) The starting of an appeal does not stay the operation of the decision appealed against.*
- (2) However, the court may stay the operation of the decision to secure the effectiveness of the appeal.*
- (3) A stay—*
  - (a) may be given on reasonable conditions as the court considers appropriate; and*
  - (b) operates until the first of the following happens—*
    - (i) the period fixed by the court ends;*
    - (ii) the appeal is decided, withdrawn or dismissed; and*
  - (c) may be revoked or amended by the court.*

## **77 Who must prove case for appeal**

- (1) In an appeal by the applicant for a regional interests decision, it is for the appellant to establish the appeal should be upheld.*
- (2) In an appeal by either of the following, it is for the applicant for a regional interests decision to establish the appeal should be dismissed—*
  - (a) if the applicant is not the owner of the land—the owner of the land; an affected land owner.*