

Our ref: OUT26/292

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

27 January 2026

Mr Mathew Johannesen
Specialist – Land & Mineral Rights, Strategy & Development
Rio Tinto Exploration Pty Limited
Mathew.johannesen@riotinto.com

Dear Mr Johannesen

REQUIREMENT NOTICE

RPI25/038: Rio Tinto - Carrier Project

(given under section 44 of the *Regional Planning Interests Act 2014*)

I refer to the assessment application which was properly made on 12 January 2026 under section 29 of the *Regional Planning Interests Act 2014* (RPI Act). The application is seeking a regional interests development approval (RIDA) for a resource activity: mining and other resource activities (not petroleum and gas) for the Carrier Project in the Gulf Rivers Strategic Environmental Area (SEA).

Application details

Applicant	Rio Tinto Exploration Pty Limited
Project	Carrier Project
Description	Resource activity: mining and other resource activities (not petroleum and gas)
Area of regional interests	Gulf Rivers SEA
Proposed disturbance area	55ha

Site details

Real property description	Lot 4 on GY805051, Lot 1 on UN7
Local government area	Mount Isa City Council

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
ABN 29 230 178 530

Information Requirement

Pursuant to section 44 of the RPI Act, you are advised that further information is required to assist in the assessment of the application against the assessment criteria contained in the RPI Act and the *Regional Planning Interests Regulation 2014* (RPI Regulation). The further information required is detailed in **Attachment A**.

The period in which the information must be provided is a maximum of three months from the date of this notice. An extension to this period may be requested if necessary.

A further requirement notice may be given where necessary.

Public notification requirement

Pursuant to section 34(4) of the RPI Act, it has been determined that the application requires notification. The reason for the decision is that the delegate for the chief executive has determined that it is in the public interest for the application to be publicly notified. In accordance with section 35 of the RPI Act, you are required to:

- publish a notice about the application '*at least once in a newspaper circulating generally in the area of the land*' as prescribed in section 13 of the RPI Regulation
- where not the owner of the land, give the owners of the land notice about the application.

Please provide proof of delivery of notice about the application to landowners to RPIAct@dsdip.qld.gov.au

Public notification must be undertaken within 10 business days of providing the response to the requirement notice to the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (DSDIP). The notification period is 15 business days after the notice about the application is first published, with the closing date being a day that is after the end of the notification period. The approved form for public notification is available on DSDIP's website at [RPI regional interests development approval public notification template](#). Please provide a copy of the notice as it appears in the newspaper circulating generally in the area to RPIAct@dsdip.qld.gov.au

You are also referred to the RPI Act Statutory Guideline 06/14 Public notification of assessment applications at [RPI Act - Statutory Guideline 06/14](#) for further information.

If you require any further information, or have any queries, please contact Mr Darren Brewer, Manager – Improvement and Assessment Division, Planning Group, DSDIP on (07) 3452 7472 or by email at RPIAct@dsdip.qld.gov.au who will be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely



Paul Beutel
Director
Improvement and Assessment
Planning Group

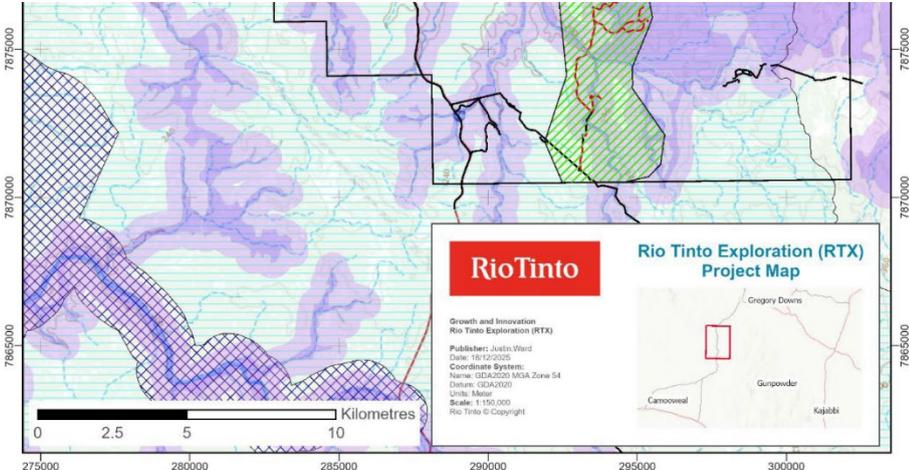
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ATTACHMENT A

Information required for assessment against SEA criteria – Schedule 2, Part 5 of the RPI Regulation

<p>1.</p>	<p><u>Development footprint is unclear</u></p> <p><u>Issue:</u></p> <p>(a) The development footprint for the proposed resource activities (including the location of the proposed ground hole versus surface geophysics) is unclear.</p> <p>The supporting information provided with the RIDA application includes mapping that indicates the proposed drilling activities and access tracks. According to the Department's mapping, multiple access tracks may overlap with either a watercourse or drainage features. It is not clear which features may be intercepted by the proposed disturbance/works.</p> <p>(b) Some of the plans provided in support of the application lack clarity and are not legible.</p> <p><u>Actions:</u></p> <p>(a) Provide the shapefiles for the proposed access tracks and drill lines TRO allow for a clearer interpretation of which watercourses may be impacted.</p> <p>(b) Provide legible plans that clearly define the location and footprint of the resource activities, including geophysics hole references.</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p><u>Erosion and sedimentation</u></p> <p><u>Issue:</u></p> <p>Further information is required regarding the potential erosion and sedimentation risks associated with the proposed exploration activities, including drilling, temporary access tracks, and the campsite.</p> <p><u>Actions:</u></p> <p>To address identified gaps in the provided information regarding potential erosion and sedimentation risks the applicant is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide details on how soil will be stabilised in cleared areas • outline plans for minimising sediment runoff during and after track construction, especially near watercourses or sensitive areas • specify how sediment will be contained to prevent it from entering waterways.
<p>3.</p>	<p><u>Effluent management</u></p> <p><u>Issue:</u></p> <p>Further information is required regarding how effluent will be managed on-site, taking into account the environmental sensitivity of the area.</p> <p><u>Actions:</u></p> <p>Provide detailed information on the proposed measures for managing effluent. This should include an evaluation of any potential environmental risks associated with effluent management, with particular consideration given to the sensitivity of the area.</p>

4.	<p><u>Riparian Vegetation</u></p> <p><u>Issue:</u></p> <p>The extent of disturbance to riparian vegetation is not clearly outlined in the application.</p> <p><u>Actions:</u></p> <p>Provide detailed information regarding the extent and nature of the riparian vegetation clearing required to facilitate the exploration activities. Such considerations include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identification of riparian corridor locations and details of proposed disturbances or changes • measures to stabilise disturbed areas and mitigate potential impacts • confirmation of buffer distances, with a minimum 100-metre buffer around all watercourses, lakes, wetlands or springs and defined riparian vegetation zones as recommended by Gulf Rivers SEA requirements • steps to minimise vegetation clearing and disturbance • strategies to mitigate impacts on native vegetation and prevent land degradation • assessment of potential short- and long-term environmental impacts.
5.	<p><u>Wildlife corridor</u></p> <p><u>Issue:</u></p> <p>The supporting documentation states the exploration activities are unlikely to impact the wildlife corridor function of the riparian vegetation, as it intends to maintain connectivity for migration, shelter, and habitat, while allowing free movement of aquatic and marine fauna. It also notes that large trees will be preserved where possible to protect breeding habitats.</p> <p>However, the material lacks sufficient evidence on how these outcomes will be achieved, and the specific location of the wildlife corridor has not been identified and potential short and long-term impacts have not been adequately addressed. There is also insufficient information to confirm that a suitable buffer distance is in place to ensure the resource activities remains separated from wildlife corridors and does not compromise their integrity or function.</p> <p><u>Actions:</u></p> <p>Provide further information regarding the following, in order to address the identified gaps in the information provided regarding the wildlife corridors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify how the preservation of the wildlife corridor function of the riparian vegetation will be achieved • identify the wildlife corridor's location and details of proposed disturbances or changes • assess the potential short-term and long-term environmental impacts.

<p>6.</p>	<p><u>Water quality</u></p> <p><u>Issue:</u></p> <p>The proposal states that the resource activities will aim to ‘minimise exploration near rivers and riparian zones’. However, the areas of interest identified in the application appear to be within the 100m buffer required by the Gulf Rivers SEA guideline.</p> <p><u>Actions:</u></p> <p>The applicant is to address the following water quality matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrate how minimising exploration near rivers and riparian zones will support their protection with reference to further mitigation measures to be implemented • provide confirmation of buffer distances, with a minimum 100-metre buffer to be provided around all watercourses, lakes, wetlands or springs and defined riparian vegetation zones as recommended by Gulf Rivers SEA requirements • demonstrate how water quality will be preserved when access tracks cross minor rivers.
<p>6.</p>	<p><u>Area of Disturbance</u></p> <p><u>Issue:</u></p> <p>(a) Table 2 in the submitted application provides a summary of proposed exploration activities and surface disturbance, including existing access tracks with a total area of impact of 33.3 hectares. This figure is included within the overall area of disturbance. It is unclear why this figure has been included given they are existing access tracks.</p> <p>(b) The application material focuses on EPM27951 and EPM27935 over Lot 4 on GY805051. Lot 1 on UN7 is listed as part of the project area with a proposed access road shown partially in Figure 3 of the report. Notably, Figure 3: Carrier Drilling Activity and access track Polygon, indicates that there is a proposed road traversing Lot 1 on UN7. It appears that the proposed road will intersect with the Gulf Rivers SEA designated precinct (refer to red line in the figure below).</p>  <p><u>Actions:</u></p>

	<p>The applicant is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Clarify why the area of existing access tracks has been included in the total footprint of disturbance within the mapped SEA for which the approval is sought. (b) Clarify the area of disturbance involving Lot 1 on UN7 and provide spatial information for assessment. In particular, please confirm if there will be disturbance within the designated precinct of the SEA.
7.	<p><u>GIS data files</u></p> <p><u>Issue:</u> Section 4 of the submitted RPI Assessment Application Form indicates GIS data files were included, however no GIS data files were submitted.</p> <p><u>Actions:</u> Provide the GIS data files.</p>
8.	<p><u>RPI Assessment Criteria</u></p> <p><u>Issue:</u> The application material considers the proposed activities will not result in the widespread or irreversible impact on any environment attribute of the SEA and has provided an assessment against the criteria.</p> <p><u>Actions:</u> Clarify how the application achieves the prescribed solution of Schedule 2, Part 5 of the RPI Regulation, preferably in a tabular format that cross-references relevant sections of the supporting report with respect to how the application complies with the prescribed solutions.</p>
9.	<p><u>Advice:</u> The department notes that the total proposed disturbance of 55ha is contrary to the eligibility criteria that applies to the environmental authority, which constrains disturbance to 10ha. Any area of rehabilitation would need to be progressively certified (undertaken by way of an applicant-driven application and assessment process), before it could be deducted from the disturbance area.</p>