



P O L A R I S
M E T A L S N L

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12 September 2008

Department of Environment Water Heritage and the Arts
GPO Box 787
Canberra
ACT 2601

Dear Sir,

Referral of Proposal: Carina Iron Ore Project

Polaris Metals proposes to develop an open cut iron ore mine in the Yilgarn region of WA.

Polaris wishes to refer the project to the Department of Environment Water Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA), for a decision on possible assessment under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

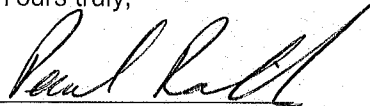
Polaris is referring the Carina Iron Ore Project to DEWHA under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), due to the potential presence of the *Acanthiza iredalei iredalei* (Slender-billed Thornbill (western)) listed as Vulnerable and the *Merops ornatus* (Rainbow bee-eater) listed as migratory. Although not identified in the EPBC Act database search, *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl) listed as Vulnerable, is known to occur in the surrounding area, although fauna surveys to date have not recorded this species in the project area.

Baseline environmental studies are well underway, with further studies scheduled. The fauna survey undertaken in June 2008 did not identify any species of conservation significance. Further surveys are scheduled for October 2008 and will include a targeted Malleefowl search.

On the basis of surveys undertaken to date, Polaris considers the proposed project will not have a significant effect on any species listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Please contact Alan Tough at Polaris Metals with any questions you have on the referral documentation.

Yours truly,



Paul Rokich
Environmental Manager



Australian Government

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

Paul Rokich
Environmental Manager
Polaris Metals NL
PO Box 670
WEST PERTH WA 6872

Date: 5-11-08
EPBC Ref: 2008/4501
EPBC contact: Neisha Burton
02 6274 2147
Neisha.Burton@environment.gov.au

Dear Mr Rokich

Decision on referral Carina Iron Ore Project (EPBC 2008/4501)

This proposed action, to develop the Carina Iron Ore Project, including a mine and associated infrastructure approximately 60km north west of Koolyanobbing, Western Australia, has now been considered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

We have decided that the proposed action is not a controlled action and, as such, does not require assessment and approval by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts before it can proceed.

A copy of the document recording this decision is enclosed.

Please note that this decision relates only to the potential for significant impact on the specific matters protected by the Australian Government under Chapter 4 of the EPBC Act.

There may be a need for separate state or local Government environment assessment and approval to address potential impacts on state, regional or local environmental values.

The Department has an active audit program for proposals that have been referred or approved under the EPBC Act. The audit program aims to ensure that proposals are implemented as planned and that there is a high degree of compliance with any associated conditions. You should be aware that your project may be selected for audit by the Department at any time and all related records and documents may be subject to scrutiny. Information about the Department's audit strategy is enclosed.

If you have any questions about the referral process or this decision, please contact the EPBC project manager and quote the EPBC reference number shown at the beginning of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Cathy Skippington
Assistant Secretary
Environment Assessment Branch



Australian Government

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

**Notification of
REFERRAL DECISION – not controlled action**

Carina Iron Ore Project (EPBC 2008/4501)

This decision is made under Section 75 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

Proposed action

person named in the referral Polaris Metals NL.

proposed action To develop the Carina Iron Ore Project, including a mine and associated infrastructure, approximately 60km north of Koolyanobbing, Western Australia, and as described in the referral received under the EPBC Act on 8 October 2008.

Referral decision: Not a controlled action

status of proposed action The proposed action is not a controlled action.

Person authorised to make decision

Name and position Cathy Skippington
Assistant Secretary
Environment Assessment Branch

signature

date of decision

5-11-08