

14.0 EPBC Act Matters

Following a review of the Environmental Assessment Report prepared by the Northern Territory Government (EPA, 2006), the Australian Government's Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) identified additional information that should be provided in relation to potential impacts of the Open Cut Project.

A copy of the DEH's letter (dated 16 March 2006) outlining the additional information sought is given in Appendix A.2. The additional information sought is:

- A revised description of the potential impacts associated with the realignment of the McArthur River and Barney Creek taking into account the conclusions of Professor Wayne Erskine (Erskine, 2006)
- An assessment of the potential impacts of the proposal on the Freshwater Sawfish, and details of how it is proposed to manage, monitor and mitigate potential impacts on this species.

Both of these issues are addressed in this PER. The means by which the conclusions of Professor Erskine have been taken into account in the realignment of the McArthur River and Barney Creek, and the subsequent impacts, are addressed in Sections 4 and 5. Potential impacts on the Freshwater Sawfish and the proposed aquatic monitoring program are provided in Section 11.

In addition, DEH has noted the degree of community concern about the social and economic impacts of the project. An assessment of these matters is given in Section 13 of the PER.