



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

Mr Mike Chapman
Project Study & Approvals Manager
South32 Manganese Australia

Eastern Leases Project, Groote Eylandt, NT (EPBC 2014/7228) – Biodiversity Offset Strategy

Dear Mr Chapman

Thank you for submitting the GEMCO Eastern Leases Project Biodiversity Offset Strategy for approval in accordance with the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) approval for EPBC 2014/7228.

Officers of the department have advised me on the plan and on the requirements of the EPBC Act conditions of approval. On this basis, and as a delegate of the Minister for the Environment, I have decided to approve the *Groote Eylandt Mining Company (GEMCO) Eastern Leases Project Biodiversity Offset Strategy* dated 25 June 2021, as meeting the requirements of condition 11 of the approval.

The approved strategy must now be implemented. In accordance with condition 7 of the approval, the approved strategy must be published on your website within 20 business days of this approval, and for the period the approval has effect.

The department has an active compliance monitoring program which includes monitoring inspections, desk top document reviews and audits. Please ensure that you maintain accurate records of all activities associated with, or relevant to, the conditions of approval including the implementation and revision of the approved plan, so that they may be made available to the department on request.

Should you require any further information please contact Vaughn Cox, at vaughn.cox@awe.gov.au or postapproval@awe.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim Farrant'.

Kim Farrant
Assistant Secretary
Environment Assessments (Vic, Tas) and Post Approvals Branch
Environment Approvals Division

6 July 2021