Strategic Environmental Assessment

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BHP Billiton Iron Ore Environmental Approvals
Overview

• What is a Strategic Assessment?
• What is the scope of this SEA?
• Why do a Strategic Assessment?
• Process and outcomes
• Timing

Copies of the assessment documents can be found at:

http://www.bhpbilliton.com/society/regulatory

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Strategic Assessments Overview

Examples

What is it?

- Resource project
- Urban development
- Infrastructure project
- Natural resource management

Federal strategic assessments
WA strategic assessments
Strategic Environmental Assessment scope

Development of future mine hubs for the next 30 to 100+ years
- All mining and associated infrastructure
- Central Pilbara focus
- Allows for acquisitions/divestments

Considers cumulative impacts (BHP Billiton Iron Ore and others) of current and proposed developments

Excludes:
Existing approved operations - Yandi, Area C and Newman
Recently referred South Flank project
North Pilbara operations – Yarrie
Port operations
A typical iron ore mine
Strategic Environmental Assessment area
Why a strategic assessment?

- Helps guide our long-term options
  - In-principle approval
  - Responsiveness
  - Certainty
  - Flexibility
  - Optionality

- Better Environmental Outcomes
  - Focused on what matters
  - Helps to build alignment with Regulators

- Streamlines compliance
  - Outcomes focused
    - Strategic
    - Structured
    - Consistent
Key environmental features
Conservation significant fauna
Current Pilbara operations
100 year plus development in the Pilbara
A two-step assessment – water example

**Regional Strategic Proposal**

- Understand regional water systems
  - Groundwater
  - Surface water

**Local Derived Proposal**

- Closer look at local water systems around a project area

**Existing Environment**

**Environmental Assessment**

- Hydrological change
- Cumulative effects

**Environmental Management**

- Regional Water Strategy
- Catchment water management plans
- Asset outcomes, indicators and thresholds

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Sensitive receptors – air quality
Groundwater change potential
Species landscape scale cumulative evaluation

Habitat suitability modelling – Greater Bilby

1. Predict habitat suitability for Specified Protected Matters
   - Establish Specified Protected Matters base layer by modeling suitable habitat using recent observations
   - Rank potential habitat suitability

2. Identify threats to Specified Protected Matters
   - Develop threats (potential impact) profile
   - Estimate the relative level of threat from particular activities

3. Quantify the extent of influence
   - Define the area of potential change associated with:
     - Non-mining activities
     - BHP Billiton mining
     - Third party mining
   - for current and future scenarios
Impacts can be managed to meet EPA Factor Objectives

**Business as usual management:**
- Heritage
- Amenity (visual and noise)

**Targeted management in addition to business as usual management:**
- Flora and vegetation
- Terrestrial fauna (including short range endemics and subterranean fauna)
- Hydrological processes and inland waters environmental quality
- Terrestrial environmental quality
- Rehabilitation and decommissioning
- Air quality
Delivery timeline

**Commonwealth**
- Impact Assessment Report & MNES Program

**State**
- Minister endorses proposal ~ May ‘17
- OEPA Report Dec ‘16
- Response to Submissions Aug ‘16
- Public review 12 weeks Mar - June ‘16

**Deliverable timeline**
- March – May ‘16: Public review
- Aug ‘16: Final Program and IAR
- Dec ‘16: Minister endorses Program
- Mar: Minister endorses proposal

**Timeline:**
- **March**: Public review
- **June**: Public review
- **September**: Response to Submissions
- **December**: OEPA Report
- **March**: Minister endorses proposal

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