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Hurdle cleared for Lincoln Minerals' mine

LINCOLN Minerals' proposed Gum Flat iron ore mine has achieved a significant milestone.

The Commonwealth Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities has declared that the proposed mine or quarry at the Barns iron ore deposit, about 20km west of Port Lincoln, is not a Controlled Action under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act).

This means the proposed mine does not require further assessment or approval under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation

(EPBC) Act.

"The decision means that the commonwealth government does not have any concerns that our proposed mine will significantly disturb local fauna and flora and in particular any threatened or endangered species," managing director John Parker said.

"A Protected Matters search by our environmental consultants only identified eight threatened species - five plant species and three bird species - as potentially present in the general region, but it was unlikely they would be present in the actual proposed mine area.

"There are also several listed migratory birds including marine birds in the region, but

again it was concluded that they would unlikely be present in or disturbed by our proposed mine."

The Protected Matters search also included the Port Lincoln harbour and proposed use of the port.

Although this decision does not affect any requirement for state or local government environmental assessment or approval, it is a milestone for the company in its bid to develop a mine.

Lincoln Minerals has completed the final draft of a mining lease proposal for submission to the state government to start mining direct shipping iron ore in mid to late 2012 subject to approvals.