



## Gum Flat milestone boosts development

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AUSTRALIAN explorer Lincoln Minerals has achieved a significant milestone in the development of its Gum Flat mine following a decision from the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities that the proposed project is not a controlled action.

In an announcement on October 25, the company said the wholly-owned Gum Flat Barns iron ore deposit would not require further assessment and approval under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act).

"The decision means that the Government does not have any concerns that the proposed Gum Flat mine will significantly disturb local fauna and flora, and in particular, any threatened or endangered species," Lincoln Minerals managing director Dr John Parker said.

A Protected Matters Search – which included Port Lincoln harbour and the company's proposed use of the port – identified eight threatened species (five plant and three animal) as potentially present in the general region, but concluded it was unlikely that they would

be present in the actual proposed mine area.

"Although this decision does not affect any requirement for state and local government environmental assessment and approval, it is a significant milestone for the company in its bid to develop a mine at the Gum Flat Barns deposit on South Australia's southern Eyre Peninsula," Dr Parker said.

The major world-class iron province potentially contains more than 10 billion tonnes of iron ore extending from the Middleback Ranges to Port Lincoln. Gum Flat contains a number of priority magnetic targets including Gum Flat Barns, Rifle Range and the Port Lincoln-Tulka site, which are all within 20km of Port Lincoln.

The company recently pegged mineral claims over the Gum Flat Barns deposit and has completed the final draft of a mining lease proposal for submission to the State Government in order to begin mining direct shipping iron ore in mid to late 2012, subject to finance and all approvals.