

9.0 CONCLUSION

The Koolanooka/Blue Hills Direct Shipping Ore Project will be undertaken in line with the Environmental Protection Authority's Principles of Environmental Protection. The objectives and principles set out in Section 4A of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* have been incorporated into project planning and development:

- The project has been designed to minimise the environmental footprint through using previously cleared areas: mine pits, haul roads and storage areas, as much as is practicable. Clearing will be kept to a minimum outside these areas.
- Baseline surveys have been undertaken to assess the environmental values of areas that could be impacted by the project.
- Specialist surveys and modelling to assess the existing project environment and determine potential impacts have been conducted.
- Specific management plans will be developed and implemented as part of risk based impact avoidance and management.

Midwest has made a range of formal commitments with respect to the project mine sites to indicate their commitment to constructing and operating in an environmentally responsible manner. The formal commitments will be implemented to the satisfaction of the DEC (Audit Section).

The key environmental issues associated with the development of the mine have been identified as;

- vegetation clearing of the Koolanooka TEC,
- impacts to priority flora at Blue Hills and
- impacts to Mallefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*).

Management and mitigation measures have been incorporated into the project to a minimum where practicable. It is believed that the proposed measures are sufficient to ensure the project complies with relevant legislation and does not have significant environmental impacts.

Midwest is committed to minimising, mitigating and offsetting environmental impacts that cannot be practicably avoided. Midwest will ensure potential impacts associated with construction and operation of the Koolanooka/Midwest DSO Project will be managed through the DSO Environmental Management Plan and other issue specific plans, to be developed for the Project. Midwest will consult with relevant authorities and follow their recommendations to achieve improved environmental standards wherever practicable.

The development of Koolanooka / Midwest DSO project will provide a number of significant benefits including:

- Diversification of employment opportunities at a time of regional drought.
- Local economic benefits.

Midwest believes that the construction and operation of the Koolanooka / Midwest DSO Mining Project will result in net economic and social benefits to the local and regional community and the State as a whole.