

**From:** s22 @ga.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thu, 27 Aug 2020 11:14:24 +0000  
**To:** s22 @industry.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s22 @ga.gov.au>; s22 @ga.gov.au>; s22 @ga.gov.au>; s22 @industry.gov.au>; s22 @industry.gov.au>; s22 @ga.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Major Project Status - Consultation with Geoscience Australia  
[SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]  
**Attachments:** GA comments on s22 application to the MPFA.pdf, GA comments on Finiss lithium application to the MPFA.pdf

Dear s22

Please find attached our comments on the applications for Major Project Status for the s22 and the Finiss Lithium, Project. We expect to send you our comments on the s22 Project early next week.

Please let us know if you require any assistance or if anything is unclear. I will be away next week but s22 will be Acting for me and our commodity specialists are happy to help.

Regards,

s22 | Director (A/g): Mineral Resources Advice and Promotion  
Advice, Investment Attraction and Analysis Branch  
Minerals, Energy and Groundwater Division  
t s22 [www.ga.gov.au](http://www.ga.gov.au)



---

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Monday, 17 August 2020 4:49 PM  
**To:** s22  
**Cc:** s22  
**Subject:** RE: Major Project Status - Consultation with Geoscience Australia [SEC=OFFICIAL]

s22

Thank you for your email.



Major Projects Facilitation Office  
Northern Australia and Major Projects  
Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources

27 August 2020

Attn: s22

## Consultation: Application for Major Project Status for the Finniss Lithium Project (Core Lithium Ltd)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the application to the Major Projects Facilitation Agency (MPFA) by Core Lithium Ltd for Major Project status. Geoscience Australia has studied the material supplied, drawn on our own data holdings and industry knowledge, and made comparisons with similar projects as well as world and Australian lithium resources.

### Geology and mineralisation

The Finniss lithium project is located in the Central Domain of the Pine Creek Orogen of northern Australia, and is hosted within multiple pegmatite bodies forming part of the Bynoe pegmatite field. Mineralisation is typically hosted within the lithium-bearing mineral spodumene within the pegmatites. Such pegmatites often occur together in swarms, providing multiple ore bodies within one district. This is also the case for the Finniss project, with the Bynoe pegmatite field (15 km x 70 km in size), hosting the Grants lithium deposit and five other current Core prospects—BP33, Carlton, Sandras, Hang Gong and Lees-Booths deposits—stretching over ~25 km. The Bynoe pegmatites, like other lithium pegmatite deposits in Australia, have had a long history of exploration and mining, commencing in the late 1800s largely for tin and tantalum.

### Resources

The Grants deposit is estimated to host 13.4 kt of lithium in the Economic Demonstrated Category (EDR), which comprises 0.26% of the national total (Table 1). The Grants EDR comprises ~12.1 kt of lithium Ore Reserves reported in compliance with the Joint Ore Reserves Committee (JORC) Code (2012). The Inferred Resource comprises a larger percentage of the national total (Table 1).

Reported grades for the Grants deposit are 1.48% lithium oxide ( $\text{Li}_2\text{O}$ ), towards the upper end of grades at Australian lithium pegmatite deposits (1 to 1.6 wt%  $\text{Li}_2\text{O}$ ; Table 2), with the exception of the higher grade Greenbushes deposit in Western Australia (2+%  $\text{Li}_2\text{O}$ ). Although the critical metals tantalum (and niobium) are commonly present within Australian Li-bearing pegmatites (Table 2), and tantalum has been previously produced from the region, concentrations have not been reported for the Finniss deposits. For comparison, Table 2 shows the tonnage and grade of a number of pegmatite lithium deposits in Western Australia compared to the Grants deposit (Finniss Project). Lithium resources at Finniss form less than 1% of Australia's economically demonstrated resources of the metal, reflecting the dominance and greater size of Western Australian deposits.