

Finniss Lithium Project – community FAQ

Project overview and restart

Why was mining paused at Finniss?

Mining at Finniss was paused in early 2024 in response to global lithium market conditions. Core has since reassessed its mine design and operating strategy to ensure the project's long-term viability and is preparing for a restart of the project.

When will the Finniss Lithium Project start operating again?

The Core Lithium Board will decide if the project restarts. Core is engaging with the community and stakeholders before submitting a referral for variation to BP33's approvals in the first half of 2026.

What will be the different about the Finniss Lithium Project if it is restarted?

The proposed restart is similar to the previous operation. The main change would be a move from open pit mining at Grants to underground mining at BP33. The revised strategy would support a longer mine life of approximately 10–12 years, using existing infrastructure and a transition to underground mining.

What does the restart involve?

The restart would involve recommencing mining at Grants to extract remaining ore, transitioning to underground mining at BP33, and using existing processing infrastructure at Grants to process BP33 ore for 10–12 years.

How long will the project operate?

The revised strategy proposes and supports an extended mine life of approximately 10–12 years.

What approvals are required for the restart?

Core is submitting a referral to the NT EPA to vary existing environmental approvals for BP33, reflecting the proposed increased mine depth and extended mine life. This process also includes approval to continue processing BP33 ore at the Grants facility.

BP33 project

What has changed at BP33?

Core discovered additional minable reserves at BP33 which is a key driver for the proposed Finniss Lithium Project restart. Under the revised plan mining would now take place to a depth of approximately 850 metres with an extended mine life of approximately 10 years.

If restarted, a key feature of the proposed BP33 underground mine is the introduction of a paste backfill system. Waste material from the processing facility at Grants would be mixed to form a paste that is pumped back underground to fill mined-out voids.

The paste backfill system redirects waste from tailing dams to increase the geotechnical stability of the underground mine.

What is the mining process at BP33?

Mining at BP33 is proposed to be entirely underground, accessed via a spiral decline. Long hole open stoping would be used to extract the ore while mined voids would be backfilled using a paste backfill system.

Is underground mining dangerous?

The proposed changes to BP33 have been designed with safety in mind. The paste backfill system provides structural support and improves underground stability. Core's updated mine design and operating strategy are focused on safety and long-term viability.

How deep will BP33 be mined?

The proposed mine depth is approximately 850 metres.

How much land will BP33 use?

BP33 is located on unincorporated land and would use a minimal surface footprint. Current environmental approvals for the site allow for 100.9 hectares of surface disturbance and Core expects the restarted project would stay within this same footprint.

There are no planned changes to the existing surface disturbance at Grants, as existing processing infrastructure is proposed to be used, reducing the need for additional land disturbance.

Grants project

What happens to the Grants project as part of the restart?

If restarted, mining would recommence at Grants to extract the remaining ore over 12–18 months. It's proposed that once mining is complete, the open pit would be repurposed for water storage and become a central hub for water management and processing in the Finniss region.

Will new infrastructure be built at Grants?

Yes, as part of the restart Core is proposing to incorporate new infrastructure within the existing Grants processing facility footprint. New infrastructure would include:

- a reflux classification circuit
- a wet high intensity magnetic circuit
- an additional phase of dense media separation

New infrastructure would help recover more product and reduce waste. The Grants processing facility would process ore from BP33 for the next 10-12 years.

Environmental Management

How will Core manage environmental impacts?

Core has a Mine Closure and Rehabilitation Plan, which will be updated as part of the approvals variation.

How will waste and water be managed?

Core has a successful track record of managing water at the Finniss Lithium Project. As part of the restart water management would be enhanced at Grants, with the repurposed open pit providing storage for dry season water security and extreme wet season events. The paste backfill system proposed to be used as part of BP33 mining would return fine waste underground, reducing surface waste storage.

What happens when mining finishes?

All mining infrastructure would be removed and the areas rehabilitated according to Core's Mine Closure and Rehabilitation Plan.

Will Core monitor environmental impacts over time?

Yes. Core will comply with all environmental approvals and regularly update authorities.

Community, culture and heritage

Will BP33 operate on Indigenous land?

The Finnis Lithium Project operates on unincorporated land. As part of previous studies, a recorded Aboriginal archaeological site was found in the north-west corner of the mining lease. This site is protected under the NT Heritage Act, outside the disturbance footprint and will not be impacted by mining.

How will Core engage with local and Aboriginal communities?

Should a restart proceed, Core is committed to ongoing engagement with stakeholders and the community. The BP33 referral process provides formal opportunities for community input, and Core will prioritise Aboriginal employment and encourage head contractors to provide employment and contracting opportunities for Aboriginal people and organisations if the restart goes ahead.

How will the project benefit the local community?

Core aims to be a long-term partner in the Northern Territory and will identify genuine opportunities to contribute enduring community benefits, including local jobs and business contracts if the restart goes ahead.

How will Core manage cultural heritage sites?

The recorded Aboriginal site within the mining lease will remain protected and outside the mining disturbance footprint. No further cultural or heritage studies are anticipated as part of the proposed restart.

Employment and local opportunities

What job opportunities does Core offer?

Core would continue to source its workforce locally where possible, including for BP33. If the project restarts, Core will encourage head contractors to use local businesses and provide Aboriginal employment opportunities.

Will Core hire locally?

Yes. Core aims to maximise local jobs and business contracts.

Why isn't there on-site accommodation for workers?

There is no accommodation camp at Finnis. Workers would travel to and from the site, with specialist FIFO staff staying in local accommodation.

Will there be opportunities for Aboriginal employment and contracting?

Yes. If the project restarts, Core would be committed to maximising Aboriginal employment through direct employment and using Aboriginal contracting organisations. Core would also encourage head contractors to provide as many opportunities as possible.

Transport and roads

How will ore and concentrate be transported?

If restarted, ore from BP33 would travel 3.5 km to Grants for processing, then lithium concentrate would be transported approximately 88 km to Darwin Port via Cox Peninsula Road, Stuart Highway and Tiger Brennan Drive.

How many trucks will be on the road each day?

Core proposes BP33 ore haulage to involve 40 return trips per day between BP33 and Grants. Concentrate haulage to Darwin Port would involve an average of 6 return trips per day.

Will truck haulage affect local traffic or schools?

Core is proposing that concentrate haulage would occur during daylight hours only and continue to avoid Berry Springs school pick-up and drop-off times.

How will Core ensure road safety?

Core is proposing to implement its previous traffic management plan to ensure all road safety risks are considered. In addition, a new slip lane would be created at the BP33 turn-off and site access would be relocated 450 metres west to improve visibility and safety for drivers and the community.

Will roads need to be upgraded for the mine?

If the restart goes ahead, Core is proposing to make road safety improvements, including a new slip lane and relocated site access. No major upgrades would be required.

More information

Will there be regular updates about the project?

Yes. Should a restart proceed, Core is committed to ongoing engagement and providing regular project updates throughout the life of the Finnis Lithium Project.

For more information, visit corelithium.com.au/assets/finnis-lithium-operation.